In The Matter Of: CITY OF CAMDEN ZONING BOARD

Transcript of Meeting May 6, 2024

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

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2	CITY OF CAMDEN			
3				
4				
5	Monday, May 6, 2024			
6				
7				
8	Transcript of proceedings of the Zoning			
9	Board of Adjustment taken in City Council Chambers,			
10	2nd floor City Hall, 520 Market Street, Camden, New			
11	Jersey 08101, commencing at 5:45 p.m.			
12				
13				
14	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT			
15	DARNELL HANCE, CHAIRMAN CHARLES COOPER, VICE-CHAIRMAN			
16	ISAIAS MARTINEZ KAREN MERRICKS			
17	MARITZA ALSTON YSABEL NUNEZ			
18				
19	A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S			
20				
21	KYLE F. EINGORN, ESQUIRE, ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD DEMBO, BROWN & BURNS, LLP			
22	EVITA MUHAMMAD, ZONING BOARD SECRETARY			
23				
24	Regine A. Ervin, CCR Certified Court Reporter			
25	Email: RegineCSR@gmail.com (609-280-2230)			

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CHAIRMAN HANCE: Good evening. Welcome
1
2
    to the Zoning Board of Adjustment's regular meeting
    scheduled on May 6, 2024. Reading of the Sunshine
3
    Law.
4
                In conformance with the Sunshine Law of
5
    New Jersey, notice of the meeting was posted in the
6
7
    Municipal Clerk's office on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.
    Roll call.
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Chairman Hance.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Here.
11
                 MR. EINGORN: Vice-chairman Cooper.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Here.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
14
                MS. ATWOOD: Here.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
                MS. MERRICKS: Here.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
17
18
                MS. ALSTON: Present.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
                MS. NUNEZ: Here.
20
21
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening everybody.
22
    Welcome to the City of Camden Zoning Board of
23
    Adjustment. Do we have a motion to adopt the minutes
24
    from last month?
25
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Motion to adopt.
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MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
3
4
    Chairman Hance.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
5
                                  Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
8
9
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
10
11
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
12
13
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
15
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Very good. I'm going to
    read the list tonight of the agenda. If you're here,
17
    please let us know and we'll mark the mark the record
18
19
    accordingly.
20
                The first matter of Old Business is, A
    Gift From God Ministries, 2802 Thompson Street.
2.1
2.2
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
                                Here.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
24
                The next matter, Macedonia Baptist
25
    Church, 812-814 Kaighn Avenue has requested an
```

```
adjournment here tonight. If you're here tonight for
1
2
    that matter, please note that it will be adjourned to
3
    the monthly meeting of June.
                                  There's no further
    notice.
             This is the notice of that adjournment and
4
5
    it will not be heard tonight. If you're here for
    that matter, you're free to stay; you're free to go.
6
    Either way, we will not be hearing it tonight.
7
8
                As for the next matter, Jonathan Gabay,
    436 S. 6th Street, this will also be adjourned to
9
           It will not be heard tonight. This is the
10
    June.
11
    notice of the adjournment. If you're here for that
    matter, you're free to stay; you're free to go;
12
13
    otherwise, we'll see you in June.
14
                The next matter, MIG International
15
    Holdings, LLC, 1291 S. Merrimac Road.
16
                MR. GABAY:
                           Present.
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
17
18
                The next matter, Camden County Growth,
    LLC, 3300 Federal Street. This matter will also be
19
    adjourned to June. This is the notice of that
20
21
    adjournment. If anybody is here, you're free to
22
    stay; you're free to go; however, it will not be
23
    heard tonight. No further notice required.
                The next matter, David Lee, 819 S. 5th
24
25
    Street.
```

1		MS. ABED: Here.
2		MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
3		Carlos Supelveda, 509 N. 27th Street.
4		MS. ABED: Here.
5		MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
6		Premier Construction, LLC, 521 Cooper
7	Street.	
8		MR. CALZARETTO: Here.
9		MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
10		3250-3252 River Road, LLC, Southside
11	River 80 E.	Bergen Avenue.
12		MR. CALZARETTO: That's ready.
13		MR. EINGORN: Good evening, Counsel.
14		1060 Bergen Avenue, LLC, 1060 Bergen
15	Avenue.	
16		MR. CALZARETTO: That's ready.
17		MR. EINGORN: All right.
18		Tony Payton, Jr., 2513 Federal Street.
19		MR. PAYTON: Here.
20		MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
21		Elpidio Alcantara, 948 N. 26th Street.
22		MR. ALCANTARA: Here.
23		MR. EINGORN: William Hargrove, 108 N.
24	7th Street.	
25		MR. WILSON: How many members are

```
1
    present?
2
                MR. EINGORN: This is the whole Board.
3
    This is everybody. You're not going to get more.
                MR. WILSON:
                               Okay. Good evening,
4
    Mr. Wilson.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Franklin Abreu, 1903 S. 4th
6
7
    Street.
                MR. ABREU:
8
                             Ready.
9
                MR. EINGORN: German Enterprises Corp.,
    1626 Louis Street.
10
11
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: We're here.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
                Abraham Ituh, 400 Jackson Street.
13
14
    present so we'll second-call that. That's our list.
15
    All right. We got a lot of work to do.
16
                Let's call Old Business, A Gift From God
    Ministries, 2802 Thompson Street. This is a
17
    re-hearing from last month. The Board will recall
18
    the applicant has requested a 6-foot fence and
19
    concrete bollards which will require City Council
20
21
    approval.
22
                We have a new Board member since anybody
    hasn't met her, Ysabel Nunez. I was thinking my next
23
24
    thought which was, this is a recall from last month.
25
    And since you haven't gone over the notes from last
```

```
month, you can't participate in this application.
1
2
    Okay?
3
                MS. NUNEZ: No problem.
                                          Thank you.
                MR. EINGORN: According to my notes, this
4
5
    was adjourned for pictures. This was adjourned for
    pictures. Do you have copies?
6
7
                MS. DAUGHTRY: I made four.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Please raise your right
9
    hand.
10
11
                DARLENE DAUGHTRY, having first been duly
    affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:
12
13
14
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
15
    address for the record.
16
                MS. DAUGHTRY: My name is Darlene
    Daughtry, 205 White Pine Court, Bear, Delaware 19701.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: Very good. Bring forward
    your pictures, please.
19
                MS. DAUGHTRY: I have several ones.
20
21
    did them in different sections and I'll be quick. I
22
    first just wanted to go over really quick, the reason
23
    why I was requesting the six foot. If you look at
    the first page, these are from our digital cameras
24
25
    that are surrounding. But if I printed them all,
```

we'd be here all day. As you see the people walking through, you look on the second page and I'm just going a little fast. If you look at the date of the camera, the first page says 4/01 is the date at 2:06. The second one is 4/01 at 3:47 and they dumped right there near the cars. The third page is all what they dump along back on the back side.

The fourth page is, they allow their pets to come through and lay their feces. The fifth page is, as you can see, it's 9:10 at night. Our home is a transitional home for women and children. And late at night, one, two o'clock in the morning, the women who dwell on the first floor, you have men, people walking past their bedrooms. May 2nd is very interesting. Undercover police swarm our property for illegal activity and drugs that are constantly being hidden on our property.

our property. Five three (5/03), you they're constantly on the property. The next to the last page is once, again, dumping. The very last page, cops were called again because those are all stolen vehicles parked on our property; stolen; no tags on our property. These pictures here shows the actual location which you requested.

MR. EINGORN: So for the record, we'll mark this first packet of photos Exhibit 1. And the second packet of photos we will mark as Exhibit 2.

MS. DAUGHTRY: And then the last packet that I have, these are actual physical photos of houses on my block and behind my block. Some have six feet to the front; some have five feet to the front. And these are corner properties as well.

MR. EINGORN: Thank you. So let the record reflect we received a packet of black and white photographs from the applicant consisting of five sheets. We will mark that Exhibit 3.

MS. DAUGHTRY: The third packet, I just wanted to make mention, this is at the top of my block on the corner. This is a corner resident.

When we had our hearing last month, the suggestion, it was asked if we could do six foot going around the perimeter and four foot to the front. And the argument was that, it would still give the people access to go over that front of the fence if we did that. That very first, that resident said that is a three foot to the front and six foot going around the perimeter. That's how that particular property looks.

The second one is a five foot in the

front of their property. That is five foot in the 1 2 front of her property. The third one is a six foot, 3 six feet on a corner. That's not really the corner but next to the corner in their front house. 4 this one was -- the last one, that is on the corner 5 of my block across the street, a corner residence as 6 They have a five foot to the front; six 7 mine is. 8 foot going all around the perimeter. That is the front of the house that sits on the corner of my 9 block with five foot to the front; six foot going 10 11 around. They said it's five foot. 12 Then you have the picture of the actual 13 house, the front page. There's a gentleman walking That's one of our staff members. 14 15 when we pulled up, the police was checking cause 16 someone was hiding something on the side. But, nevertheless, we're looking to fence the front. 17 There's your front with the sidewalk to the left. 18 19 There's the corner that was the one that was in question. And then there's a corner sidewalk. 20 We 21 were not able to get the simulation because the simulation cost over \$275.00. 22 23 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I have a question.

MS. DAUGHTRY: The bollards, yes.

You said something about concrete bollards.

24

25

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Where are they
1
 2
    going to go?
                               You see -- I sent the
 3
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
 4
    pictures on the first one, but they're in the back of
 5
    the house on the back where all the cars are parked
    on the sidewalk.
 6
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
 7
                                        I thank you for
8
    your pictures. Your pictures are big up here.
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
                                Thanks.
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Your five foot
10
11
    fence in the front and a 6-foot fence on the
    side would be --
12
13
                MS. DAUGHTRY: Suffice it for us.
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
15
    accommodating?
16
                MS. DAUGHTRY: Yes. And that's what I
    wanted to ask the Board if we can just approve -- if
17
    the Board would be so kind and approve us for at
18
    least a five foot in the front and a six foot -- I
19
    don't think the problem was the back. No one had a
20
21
    problem with the six foot in the back and on the side
22
    it was the front. But my concern was still the
23
    front. And giving the people the access that they
    continue to have to go over the fence.
24
25
    Even though they can go over a five foot and a six
```

foot, I just don't want to make it as easy for them to have access to our property, the women, the kids that go out there.

We pay a lot of money to try to maintain the property. We pay a lot of money not to have to keep picking up needles and drugs. Just even having the kids -- the cops there this weekend, was very alarming. They had the entire block swarmed. But this is what we've been going through for 24 years because we've been there for 24 years.

And I just want to say this. When we were here, we talked about beautifying Camden. You said that, sir, to the young lady who was up here before me. I'm doing my due diligence to try to keep my property beautiful for the residents that stay there, but I need help. Because I cannot keep the riff-raff out when it's just an open field.

And you said, Mr. Kyle, you're just not sure a six foot would be attractive, something to that regard for the property. But does the dumping look attractive in the City of Camden? Does all the illegal parking look -- I mean, stolen cars on my property? That doesn't make my home look attractive. That doesn't make the residents across the street any happy that a transitional home which they were not

```
happy with, is across and it's garnishing so much
1
2
    attention.
                MR. EINGORN: Any additional questions
3
    from the Board members?
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How many families are
    living at the home?
6
                MS. DAUGHTRY: Yes, four with children.
7
8
    And they can't -- the goal was, we would like to put
    the fence up so we could put our own playground in
9
    there for the kids. Because the reality is, if
10
11
    you're familiar with the area, the playground across
    the street which the City did a good job of putting
12
13
    in, it is not safe because of the drug activity that
    is across the street. So we would like our kids to
14
15
    be able to play on our property.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions?
                                               No.
    going to open to the public. Is anybody here who
17
    would like to discuss this application either for or
18
    against? Anybody from the public? Hearing none,
19
    we'll close the public portion. So the Board has
20
21
    heard a request by the applicant. She's now
22
    requesting five feet at the front and six feet around
    the sides and the back; is that correct?
23
24
                                That is correct.
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
25
                MR. EINGORN: The applicant requires a
```

```
bulk variance approval for this application.
1
2
    bollard issue is something that will be reserved for
    City Council. So weigh in on the bulk variance;
3
    further comments about the bollards. You could those
4
5
    on the record too. We're looking at Exhibit 3 which
    is a black and white photograph.
6
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
                               Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN: This is not your property,
9
    correct?
10
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
                               No, that is not my
11
    property. They're all on the same block or right
12
    behind me. So I just went around and looked at what
13
    everybody else's fences looked like.
14
                MR. EINGORN: This is the corner of your
15
    lot; is that correct?
16
                MS. DAUGHTRY: That is the corner.
                MR. EINGORN: So this is her corner so
17
    there's no bush there to block.
18
                MS. DAUGHTRY: I did take a picture.
19
    Like I said, there is a house. This house here is on
20
    my block but it's at the other corner and that is a
21
22
    corner house and it does not block the street in
    turning. And that's five foot and six feet.
23
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Which one of the
```

25

houses are hers?

MR. EINGORN: The colored photos. 1 2 black and white photos are of other houses on the 3 So you can see what she's asking is consistent with what's going on. 4 5 MS. DAUGHTRY: Yes. A discussion of the Positive and Negative 6 7 Criteria and a motion. 8 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I think it's a positive. You know, she's trying to beautify her 9 area in any which way we can. And like she said with 10 11 the illegal dumping that's going on behind her 12 property, you should be able to secure your property. 13 So, again, I think it's a good thing that you're 14 trying to secure your property. Do we have other 15 Board members having anything to say? 16 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll piggyback on that. To not only secure your property but, also, protect 17 18 the people within the property especially the women and children. My one condition would be, on that 19 20 corner where the stop sign is, no bushes, no hedges, 21 no decorations, no advertisements. So when someone 22 pulls up to the corner, you're going to look through that fence to see oncoming traffic. 23 24 MS. DAUGHTRY: Yes. 25 MR. EINGORN: A motion?

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion to
1
2
    approve this with contingents on the City Council
    with the bollards. And I make a motion to accept.
3
4
                MR. EINGORN: On the condition that
5
    nothing blocks the sight triangle?
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
6
7
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I second that.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. We have a motion and
               We'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman
9
    a second.
10
    Hance.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
13
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
17
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
19
                MS. ALSTON:
                             No.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Having four in favor and
21
    one opposed, the motion does pass.
22
                MS. DAUGHTRY:
                                Thank you.
23
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter we're going
24
    to hear is 948 N. 26th Street, Elpidio Alcantara.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
```

```
hand, please.
1
2
                ELPIDIO ALCANTARA, having first been duly
3
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
4
    follows:
5
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. DeJesus, are you going
8
    to interpret on this application?
                MR. DEJESUS: Yes.
9
10
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
11
    hand, please.
12
                JOSE DEJESUS, having first been duly
13
14
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
15
    follows:
16
17
                MR. EINGORN: Will you state your name
    and addresses for the record.
18
                MR. ALCANTARA: Elpidio Alcantara, 948 N.
19
    26th Street.
20
21
                MR. EINGORN: So the appeal for zoning
22
    reads as follows: The applicant lives at 948 N. 26th
23
    Street. He is the owner of the property. It's in an
    R-2 Zone with frontage of 100 feet on River Road and
24
25
    26th Street, I think it says, with a depth of 120
```

feet. There are no buildings on the lot. 1 2 use is parking and storage. The proposed use is 3 parking and storage. There's no proposed construction. The use is prohibited in the zone and 4 5 a site plan waiver is requested. Appeal is made: Amendment to the zone and change of use. The lot has 6 been empty for, I think it says, ten years. 7 8 can't really read the rest of it. So we'll ask the applicant about this applicant. So you have a vacant 9 lot; is that correct? 10 11 MR. DEJESUS: If I may, I can explain to 12 you what you're looking at so we can move quicker. 13 MR. EINGORN: Okay. 14 MR. DEJESUS: You have a lot that's on 15 the corner of 26th & River Road. It used to be a long time ago, a bar and a residential property in 16 the back. They have both burned down and then it 17 The previous owner bought the lot and 18 became a lot. was told to apply for zoning for the use of the lot 19 for parking his taxicab cars but he never did. 20 Then 21 he sold the property to Mr. Elpidio Alcantara. He, 22 in turn, applied for the use of the lot for the 23 purpose of parking his -- not parking -- putting in 24 containers to store merchandise that he ships out 25 from Camden to various locations in the Caribbean.

He, basically, he's a shipping company, 1 2 similar like Camden Cargo. He does exactly the same It's strictly for the purpose of storing 3 merchandise. It's inside containers that are parked 4 5 inside the lot. They come on specific days, two or three days out of the week to pick up the merchandise 6 and then ship it out on the ships up in North 7 8 Jersey. The drawings that you look on the architect's drawing is basically the way the layout 9 is made. He has approximately eight containers. 10 11 They're all laying flat on the ground. He uses the 12 front end of the store where you have the plans 13 facing River Road where he parks his trucks which is 14 used for picking up families' merchandise to bring to 15 the containers to be shipped and packaged and sent It's just a holding area basically what it 16 boils down to. 17 18 MR. EINGORN: Any questions? 19 MS. ALSTON: It says trucks and storage. I think something like this came before us before 20 21 like on 27th Street, if you guys recall. And I think 22 some of the issues were the type of truck sizes that are going to be coming into --23 24 MR. DEJESUS: It's 24-footers and 25 Oh, because all he has is those size 26-footers.

```
trucks to pick up the merchandise from the consumers
1
2
    and bring it to his location for the purpose of
3
    putting inside the containers. The only time there
    is maybe a truck and trailer, it's only to pick up
4
5
    what is shipped ready to go into a container that the
    truck picks up and takes with him.
6
                MS. ALSTON: And how often is that?
8
                MR. ALCANTARA: Once a week.
9
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Because the guy
10
    wanted a tractor. That was not a commercial like
11
    River Road. River Road is a commercial area.
                                                    And
12
    they are right around the corner --
13
                MS. ALSTON: I know where it is, the
14
    place.
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: -- where the music
16
    place is.
                MR. DEJESUS: That's a big difference
17
    between the two.
18
19
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes, absolutely.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's not actually on
                 It's off of River Road; a turn off of
21
    River Road.
22
    River Road.
23
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Right.
24
                MR. DEJESUS: But the entrance is on 26th
25
    Street.
```

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REVEREND MARTINEZ: It's on the side.
1
2
    But that's a commercial property there. I've seen it
3
    because I go through there every single day and they
    keep it nice and clean. There's no traffic, trucks.
4
5
    I can speak to that.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
6
                                       What are you
7
    storing?
8
                MR. DEJESUS: Merchandise that consumers
    want to ship to Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico and any
9
    other countries in the area.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       The only reason
    why I'm asking, you can't be storing flammables or
12
13
    something in there.
14
                MR. DEJESUS: There's no flammables.
15
    These are consumers' merchandise. That's the only
16
    stuff that's there. That's why they're metal
    containers with security on the gates that are
17
    closing those containers.
18
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: By owning them, he's
19
    on the Board so he knows better than the -- he's on
20
21
    the Planning Board, so it's -- I mean, I see okay.
22
    For me, it's good. Like I said before, it's nice and
    clean. You don't see no trucks. I've never seen
23
    them. As a matter of fact, I've never seen a truck
24
25
    in there. And an entrance on the side.
                                              It's not
```

```
like on River Road. River Road, you know, it's busy.
1
2
    I see the sign. They have a huge gate.
3
                MS. ALSTON:
                             If you were to park trucks,
    how many trucks can you fit?
4
5
                MR. DEJESUS: He only has two trucks that
    he uses, the 24-footers. And they're already parked
6
    in there sometimes. It's in the front towards facing
7
    River Road.
8
                MS. ALSTON: Okay.
9
                MR. DEJESUS: The right side of the lot
10
11
    further back which is what you see on the drawings,
    is where the containers area at.
12
13
                MS. ALSTON: He already has two trucks
14
    that he has on the property that he owns?
15
                MR. DEJESUS: Yes; that he has to use to
16
    pick up the merchandise from the consumer.
17
                MS. ALSTON: So he is not renting space
    to other trucks to park there?
18
                MR. DEJESUS: No. He can't. He can't
19
    afford it. He needs the space.
20
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So right now he's doing
22
    shipping?
23
                MR. DEJESUS: He's doing only shipping.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Okay.
25
                MR. DEJESUS: There's nothing else.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you just want to
1
2
    ship; you don't want to store anything; you just want
3
    to ship?
                MR. DEJESUS:
                              Yes.
                                     You're storing for
4
5
    the purpose of getting it ready to be shipped.
    You're not storing for the purpose of keeping it like
6
    a warehouse, no. There's nothing to be sold.
7
8
    consumers' merchandise that doesn't belong to him.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long have you
    been -- is he a new owner or is the same owner?
10
11
                MR. DEJESUS: He has been in business for
12
    a good ten years -- three to five years, Mr.
13
    Alcantara?
14
                MR. ALCANTARA: Thirty years.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So he's been at that
16
    spot how long?
17
                MR. DEJESUS: No. He's only been there
18
    about a year.
19
                MR. ALCANTARA: It's only three and half
20
    years.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long has he been
22
    there?
23
                MR. DEJESUS: It's only about three years
24
    because three years ago he's bought it.
25
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: It was an empty lot
```

before and open. 1 MR. DEJESUS: He had to refurbish the lot 2 3 and clean it up and get it ready. I had to talk to Dr. Williams in reference to making sure that he's 4 5 going to comply to what Mr. Williams wants for that location. 6 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you don't remember 7 8 me, right? 9 MR. DEJESUS: Yes, I do. 10 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Not you. This guy right here, Mr. Alcantara. Do you remember me? 11 12 MR. ALCANTARA: (Witness speaking 13 Spanish). MR. EINGORN: Can you interpret what he 14 15 just said for the record? 16 MR. DEJESUS: He said that if he can speak Spanish, he can understand him more. 17 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you've been there how 19 long? You've been there for years, right? 20 MR. EINGORN: Mr. DeJesus, you need to translate back and forth. 2.1 22 MR. DEJESUS: Yes, I know. I will. 23 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm making a point. 24 he's the only one that owns the place. So he runs 25 the whole place?

```
MR. DEJESUS: Yes, sir.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE. So when I saw you three
3
    years ago, you spoke to me in English. Because I was
    the guy who said, that barbed wire shouldn't be
4
5
    there. Do you remember that?
                MR. ALCANTARA: I was told that I had to
6
7
    take off the barbed wires that were on the fence
8
    which I did immediately upon that request.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right. What I'm saying
    is, I was there. And it was clean.
10
                                         We had a
11
    conversation that afternoon. So I know you, Jose.
12
                MR. DEJESUS: A long time. Sufficient.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: My only issue is, no
14
    tractor trailers. We passed one guy.
15
                MR. DEJESUS: No. We already did that.
    We know that song. I was there; which is the one on
16
    North 27th Street, Camden Shipping.
17
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
19
                MR. DEJESUS: Camden Shipping.
20
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: That's a problem.
21
    We pass these things and then they just do whatever
22
    they want to do. And that's why we're trying to
23
    prevent.
24
                MR. DEJESUS: And I understand.
25
    going to tell him what you just said. (Translating
```

```
in Spanish).
1
2
                He just explained that when they do come
    for picking up the merchandise, they're there only
3
    ten minutes. They're in and out.
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're saying that
6
    a --
7
                MR. DEJESUS: It's only once a week.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're saying that the
    tractor trailer is only there for ten minutes to pick
9
    up the merchandise?
10
11
                MR. DEJESUS: That's it. Because he has
12
    to load it. What he does is basically, they'll come
13
    in, back into the back of the container, pick up the
    container and take off.
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
15
                                        The whole
    container goes?
16
17
                MR. DEJESUS: Yes. Correct.
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And then they
    bring in another empty one?
19
20
                MR. DEJESUS: Exactly. They take one and
21
    replace one.
22
                MS. ALSTON: Can he just define consumer
            Is that clothes? Is that --
23
    qoods?
24
                MR. DEJESUS: Yes. Clothes, furniture,
25
    TV sets. Anything that the consumer wants to send to
```

```
1
    anywhere in the world. Household goods. Anymore
2
    questions?
                MR. EINGORN: Do you have questions for
3
4
    the applicant, Karen?
5
                MS. NUNEZ:
                            I have a question. Is Cargo
    Express in that same location as this?
6
7
                MR. DEJESUS: That's the name of his
8
    company.
9
                MS. NUNEZ: Is the company ran from that
    location as well?
10
11
                MR. DEJESUS:
                               I'm sorry.
                MS. NUNEZ: Is the business ran from that
12
    location as well?
13
14
                MR. DEJESUS: That's where he does his
    business.
15
               That's correct. That's the only place he
16
    runs his business, which is the one that he
17
    possesses.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions from
19
    the Board?
                Anybody in the public here that would
    like to be heard on this application either in favor
20
21
    or against? If you have anything you'd like to add
22
    please come forward now. Hearing none, we'll close
    the public portion.
23
24
                So the applicant is here tonight
25
    requesting a use variance related to this storage
```

```
yard shipping business, and a change of use site plan
1
2
    approval.
               I don't know; is a site plan waiver been
3
    requested?
4
                MR. DEJESUS:
                              Yeah.
                                      We need that for the
5
    electricity to put lights in the lot.
                MR. EINGORN:
                               If you're going to light
6
    the lot --
7
                MR. DEJESUS: Yeah, we have to.
8
9
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Right. Then we need a
    lighting plan site plan waiver. Because the
10
11
    applicant is requesting a site plan waiver.
                                                  So we
12
    have some information about you're going to light the
13
    lot. What else?
14
                MR. DEJESUS: Everything else remains the
15
    same.
16
                MR. EINGORN: What's the ground made out
    of?
         Is it gravel; is it asphalt?
17
18
                MR. DEJESUS: It's asphalt.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Was it asphalt when you
20
    purchased it?
2.1
                MR. ALCANTARA:
                                 Yes.
22
                               So the applicant is
                MR. EINGORN:
    requesting site plan waiver and a use waiver to
23
    operate this property as a storage yard for his
24
25
    shipping business. You've heard some testimony.
```

```
Now is your time to ask any last questions and do a
1
2
    discussion of the Positive and Negative Criteria
    regarding the use variance and a discussion of the
3
    requested site plan waiver. That's that.
4
5
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                    I make a motion.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You got to discuss it.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: You got to discuss it a
    little first.
8
9
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: It's positive.
10
    mean, I know the area. I work for the City. And
11
    I know what's good and what is not good. And they
    comply with everything. So to keep our City, that's
12
13
    the most important thing. And they keep that
14
    place nice and clean. That's it.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Any other discussion?
16
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: How do you secure
17
    that area? Do you got cameras or anything or an
18
    alarm system?
                MR. DEJESUS: We can't do that without
19
20
    electricity. We can't put electricity in until we
21
    get zoning approval.
22
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So no electricity
    on that lot at all?
23
24
                MR. DEJESUS:
                              No.
25
                                       Just in the
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
```

```
building?
1
2
                MR. DEJESUS: There's no building.
3
                MR. ALCANTARA:
                                 Just a lot.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Just a lot.
                                                     So
4
5
    you're going to put an office on there?
                MR. DEJESUS:
                               No.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So how is he going
    to conduct business with no office?
8
                MR. DEJESUS: He conducts business
9
    through another location.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Wait a minute.
12
                MR. DEJESUS: That's -- the business is,
13
    the lot is for the purpose of just conducting the
14
    movement of merchandise from one point to another
15
    period. It's not used for anything other than that.
16
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So where is his
    business located?
17
                MR. DEJESUS: It's at his home where he
18
19
    does the paperwork at the location. He doesn't need
    a building or an office to run a warehouse storage
20
21
    place which is what basically this is. Instead of
22
    being a building, it's containers. What is your
23
    concern so I can help you?
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        So, again, at
25
    wintertime, is this going to be standing out there?
```

```
Somebody has to be there on that lot, correct?
1
2
                MR. DEJESUS: Well, they're there every
3
    day of the week because the merchandise has to come,
    move around, clean, organize stuff. There's constant
4
5
    movement because of merchandise coming in and going
          That's how you stay in business. The paperwork
6
    out.
    doesn't necessarily have to be at that location.
7
8
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: You have the lot just
    to operate the business. He does not have an
9
    office. Nothing stays there. Once a truck leaves
10
11
    the property, there's no need for nobody to be there,
12
    right?
13
                MR. DEJESUS: That's where it goes.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Can you hear what he's
15
    saying?
16
                MS. NUNEZ:
                            Me?
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. Can you hear what
    he's saying.
18
19
                MS. NUNEZ: Oh, yes. What happened?
                                                       Is
20
    he asking me?
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
22
                MS. NUNEZ: Like how he is moving or
    managing the business.
23
24
                MR. DEJESUS: Performing the business
25
    activity. The business activity is performed via
```

```
phone, via office location at home which he
1
2
    coordinates with the consumers' information.
                                                   They go
3
    pick it up in the truck to the location, pick up the
    merchandise that's going to be shipped, prepare the
4
5
    package and put it inside a container and get it
    ready for shipping. End of story. It's not
6
7
    something that stays there six months, eight months.
    It's in and out.
8
                                  Open to the public.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                MR. EINGORN: That portion is closed.
10
11
    Now a discussion and possible motion.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Again, he's
13
    already in business; he's operating; he's set up;
14
    he's established.
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Nothing to do.
                              I think the one issue that
16
                MR. EINGORN:
    has been raised, has issues related to flammable
17
    materials or hazardous materials. To the extent you
18
    want to approve this application, there should
19
    probably be a condition, of some sort, related to
20
21
    storage of chemicals or pharmaceuticals or whatever
22
    it may be just to cover the Board's own basis.
23
                MS. ALSTON: So I don't know whether they
24
    would understand that, and I'm not sure, would hair
25
    product be flammable, like hair spray and things like
```

```
that?
           That may still fall under household
1
2
    kind of goods.
                MR. EINGORN: Yeah. But if it's
3
4
    something that could, you know -- there's houses
    around this, right?
5
                             Yes, I mean, I agree.
6
                MS. ALSTON:
                MR. EINGORN: So flammable materials
7
    should be off-limits. It's not like there's like
8
    fire suppression at this empty lot.
9
                MS. ALSTON:
                             Huh-huh.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So no one
12
    regulates what you ship? You just get it from the
    household and put it into the container.
13
                                    There's orders of what.
14
                MR. DEJESUS:
                              No.
15
    can be shipped. It's either clothing, furniture or
16
    any appliances that will be moveable. It's extremely
    rare if there's any personal items as you
17
    mentioned --
18
19
                MS. ALSTON: Flammable.
                MR. DEJESUS: -- it's going to be packed
20
21
    in something that's going to ship out.
22
                MR. EINGORN: He's got to do the talking.
23
    You got to translate. You're not an attorney.
24
    don't want to create the appearance of impropriety.
25
                MR. DEJESUS: I understand.
```

```
MR. ALCANTARA: My statement is, nothing
1
    that I collect contains any flammable or anything
 2
    that can create a fire hazard.
 3
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: May I make a motion?
 4
 5
                MR. EINGORN: A motion to?
 6
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Accept the
7
    application.
                MR. EINGORN: Any condition on what can
8
    be stored here?
9
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Everything that has
10
11
    been said.
12
                MR. DEJESUS: We don't have a problem
13
    with your condition.
14
                MS. ALSTON: I think we should add, to
15
    just insure, that no flammables or no chemicals.
16
    think that should be added. Only because if he
    decides he's going to sell it in the future or he's
17
    going to do something different with it, that there's
18
    like a paper trail of that.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Right. So on the condition
20
    that there's no flammable or hazardous materials.
21
22
    we have a second?
23
                MS. MERRICKS: Second.
24
                MR. EINGORN: We have a second from
25
    Ms. Merricks. I'll take a roll-call vote on the
```

```
motion with conditions. Chairman Hance.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  No.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
5
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
6
                                     Yes.
7
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
9
10
                MS. ALSTON:
                             Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Having five in favor and
13
14
    one opposed, the motion passes. Congratulations.
15
    Have a nice night.
16
                MR. DEJESUS: Thank you very much
    everybody.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: The next application is MIG
19
    International Holdings, LLC, 1291 S. Merrimac Road.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
21
    hand, please.
22
23
                JONATHAN GABAY, having first been duly
24
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
25
    follows:
```

1 2 MR. EINGORN: The applicant tonight, at 3 least on the agenda, says MIG International Holdings, LLC. Are you the sole member? 4 5 MR. GABAY: Sole member. MR. EINGORN: Do you want me to read your 6 7 appeal for zoning or are you prepared to proceed? 8 MR. GABAY: I'm prepared to proceed with 9 what the Board wants to hear --10 MR. EINGORN: The floor is yours. 11 MR. GABAY: Thank you. My name is Jonathan Gabay. My address is 1321 Heartwood Drive, 12 13 Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003. So 1291 S. Merrimac Road is located in 14 15 Fairview. It's actually right behind the Pantry on It's at the corner of Chesapeake & 16 Collings. Merrimac. As it sits right now, it has been blighted 17 and boarded up for a few years already. It's quite a 18 big property. It's north of 2,100 square feet. 19 20 MR. EINGORN: Excuse me, Mr. Gabay. 21 We're hearing a lot of people talking in the 22 background so it's making it hard to hear the 23 applicant. If you have to talk about something, just take it in the hallway, please, and it will be 24 25 greatly appreciated. Thank you.

MR. GABAY: So it has been boarded up for quite some time. The way it's set up at the moment is a multi-unit property. And we're looking to have it reinstated as a three-unit property. As I've mentioned, it has been abandoned for quite some time. And when we posed it in front of -- when we submitted our zoning application, it satisfied every criteria except for a use variance. Because in the Fairview Redevelopment Plan, it does not allow a three-family dwelling. I believe that's outside of it so we would need a use variance. And that was the nature of being denied.

We are proposing a plan that has three enclosed parking units enclosed from Chesapeake. If you look at, it'll be later in the presentation, the outline of where the actual parking space is.

I conducted an OPRA request and pulled the 1959 tax card which shows that it was a multi-family dwelling at some point in the historical data of the property as it is today, so it has been consistent. And then if you look at the proposed floor plan, the first floor being a studio unit with the three enclosed parking garages that are accessible from Chesapeake. The second floor would be a slightly bigger apartment with an enclosed -- well, a

preexisting roof balcony that's existing. And the third floor also has the same layout as the first floor with an additional roof balcony as well.

2.1

In regards to off-street parking, that would be the next slide I have. It shows where the designated spots would be. As you can see, it already has the three meters on it. Everything has been basically set up to how it was. We're just looking to reinstate it. We would also be talking with the Building Bureau as well as the fire marshall to make sure that there's proper means of egress.

Seeing as it is a multi-unit dwelling, we'll be looking for more common fire code that may have not existed when this was originally converted back in the 50's. So that would be at the guidance of the fire marshall, as well as the building bureau. I have a couple street-view pictures that will show you the south side on Merrimac and the north side on Chesapeake. You would see that it's just a blighted property that has been like that for quite some time.

Again, this doesn't pose any parking detriment to the surrounding properties. It's all enclosed in the property itself. This has been a little bit of a delay with getting it here. But we are anticipating if we do get it approved, to have it

```
done through the summer and be ready for Fall.
1
2
    Originally, we wanted it for Spring but there was a
    couple adjournments with getting it to today.
3
                I've attached a few pictures that will
5
    show you the current state of the property that it is
         You can see that it's just neglected.
6
                                                 There's
    mold; there's mildew; there's some distress; there's
7
8
    quite a bit of rebuilding that has to happen and
    we're prepared to do it. And I open it to the Board
9
10
    to ask if they have any question, concerns, comments.
11
    And we hope that by revitalizing this property, it'll
    take a blighted corner out and improve the general
12
    surroundings and the block itself.
13
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Have you started
15
    any construction on this?
16
                MR. GABAY: There has not been any
    construction. The only thing we have done is
17
    reinstated the utilities and put a new roof on the
18
    place so it wasn't further distressing.
19
20
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I see you have
21
    three meters outside?
22
                MR. GABAY: We do have three meters.
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Did you put that
24
    there yourself?
25
                            That was there.
                MR. GABAY:
                                              We just
```

```
reinstated the gas service and we turned on the
1
    electric there to do the roof. We needed temporary
2
    electric, but that was preexisting.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I see you got here
4
5
    pictures here dated back, I guess, it's in the 60's
    of the property.
6
                MR. GABAY: Yes.
                                   I did an OPRA and tried
    to find all the historical data. And there is a
8
    mention on it about there being a multi. I think
9
    it's on page 2. There's a mention and I need to
10
11
    decipher where it is.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
12
                                        1959.
13
                And, again, this property, we're not
14
    doing any major restructuring or subdivision to it.
15
    It's pretty much preexisting. We're just trying to
    get this back. I mean, it has been mismanaged and
16
    blighted for quite some time.
17
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Hey, Kyle, you
19
    wouldn't have a parking issue here either?
20
                MR. EINGORN: I don't believe so.
2.1
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: How long has it been
22
    empty?
23
                MR. GABAY:
                            It has been empty for quite
24
    some time. I wouldn't even be able to tell you.
25
    Based on any map that I've looked at from Google
```

```
Maps, the street view, it has been empty. That being
1
2
    said, specifically when we did do it, when did do our
3
    research, this does not pose -- they did not, per Dr.
    Williams, need a parking variance because it has it
4
    all enclosed. Given the bedroom count and what
5
    I would need, three parking spots, three parking
6
    spots would be provided.
7
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: In each apartment,
9
    it's two bedrooms?
                MR. GABAY: One bedroom.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Okay.
                MR. GABAY: Studios.
12
                MR. EINGORN: It's hard to understand for
13
14
    the court reporter when we're all talking at the same
15
    time.
                So I was going to say, based upon the
16
    bedroom count, he doesn't need a parking variance.
17
    Any other questions?
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right behind the
19
20
    house here, is this parking here or is it the street
    back here or what's back there?
2.1
22
                MR. GABAY: There is an alleyway back
            So RPM has a development on Collings and
23
    there's a restaurant. And that has nothing to do
24
25
    with this property. I don't have a good picture of
```

```
that but that is not parking for this property.
1
2
    more of an old commercial space. If you look on the
    street-view picture, I think it's just one page after
3
    that -- or two pages after that. You could see that
4
5
    there's a white building that's basically, they have
    a little parking alley for themselves. As of right
6
    now, there's a commercial food truck in there.
7
8
    That's a completely different lot. But I quess it's
    sort of adjacent on the other side of the trash
9
10
    alley.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I'm curious.
                                                Does this
    eatery have parking on its own or is it just street
12
13
    parking?
14
                MR. GABAY:
                            Eatery?
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Restaurant or whatever
    used to be back there.
16
                MR. GABAY: It's still there.
                                                There is a
17
18
    commercial space. I guess that's the parking that
    they would use. And it's facing on Collings, the
19
    corner of Collings and Chesapeake, right next to the
20
21
    Pantry 1. I do see cars back there. I don't know if
22
    it's actively used by the patrons or management or
23
    if they have parking up there by their residence.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm curious as to why
25
    you didn't take a picture back there?
```

```
MR. GABAY: Would you like me to pull it
1
2
    up on like a Google Street Map?
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: We can't use your phone.
                MR. GABAY:
                            I understand.
                                            I didn't know
4
5
    that -- historically if it was parking that was going
    to be a concern, I would have done that. I thought
6
    because it was included in the parking with no
7
8
    variance as it's enclosed in the property itself, I
    didn't know it was needed.
9
                MS. ALSTON: Was this a house before?
10
11
                MR. GABAY:
                            No.
                                 This is as it's set, a
    multi-unit property. It was always like that. And
12
13
    that's even why I did the OPRA from the 1959 part to
    show that it was a consistent use.
14
                                        It's a little
15
    pixilated. For that I'm sorry due to my printer.
    The way I had it, if it was something that I needed
16
    off-street parking or on-street, I would have.
17
    there are curb cuts as well so you could see it's
18
    something that's being preexisting. And that is the
19
20
    proposed where you have the yellow squares for the
21
    parking.
22
                                       I think you took
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
23
    these pictures recently, correct?
24
                MR. GABAY: This is recent, yes.
25
    picture of this, I did take as well. However, when I
```

```
say recent, I submitted this application, I want to
1
2
    say, in the fall, end of fall. And then there was
    some lag in me getting here today. But, yes, this is
3
    as recent as it gets. It's not something from 2017
4
5
    or 2018. This is a 2023 picture.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
6
                                       Okay.
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're showing three
8
    garages here. Were they there already or?
9
                MR. GABAY: They are there. They're
10
    boarded but they're there. I highlighted them.
11
    you see in the street view looking, you can almost
    not tell. But if you look over here, it's so
12
13
    weathered.
                They are there.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Any further questions from
15
    the Board?
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 No.
                MR. EINGORN: We'll open to the public.
17
    Is anybody here tonight that would like to be heard
18
    about 1291 S. Merrimac Road either for or against?
19
    Hearing none, we'll close the public portion. Now is
20
21
    the time for the Board to do a discussion of the
22
    Positive and Negative Criteria and a motion on the
23
    requested use variance.
24
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's positive
25
    due to the fact that back there right behind of what
```

```
used to be a 7-11 back there --
1
2
                MR. GABAY: Pantry One.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Pantry One.
3
    that's right behind. There's hardly nothing back
4
5
    there. As a matter of fact, the City has a space all
    the way back there. That's way back in Camden.
6
    That's nice. I mean, they clean it up and they want
7
8
    to do something with it. It has been there so long.
    I think it's great.
9
                                        I think it's a
10
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
11
    good thing too. You're going to convert the
12
    building. And you're trying to put three bedrooms on
13
    one floor. That's the thing. It's one bedroom per
14
    floor so you're not going to over-crowd the property
15
    here. And, again, as long as you can comply with the
    fire department as far as getting egress from the
16
    third and second floor.
17
                MR. GABAY: If you want to put that as a
18
    condition, I would do that. That's going to be done
19
20
    anyway.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I would definitely
22
    add that.
23
                MR. GABAY: Absolutely. And I would be
24
    submitting all of that to Dr. Williams after as
25
    well.
```

```
MS. ALSTON: I also think it's a
1
2
    positive. Renovating that property, it looks like
3
    what he was saying, whether the pictures look like
    stuff is growing out of like out of the building.
4
                                                        So
5
    cleaning it up and making it a liveable space is
    going to be great for that area there.
6
7
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                    Absolutely.
                               I think it's an awesome
8
                MS. MERRICKS:
9
              I heard something about mold. Do you have
    project.
10
    a process to get rid of it?
11
                MR. GABAY:
                            So there was a leaking roof.
12
    We did repair that and we ripped out.
                                            So this is
13
    prior. I wanted to show what it was existing before
14
    we went in there. We remediated all the debris in
15
    there.
            We had to basically get a permit from the
    building bureau to do a roof. And we ended up having
16
    to take everything out anyway. So that would be
17
    remediated, of course.
18
19
                MR. EINGORN: Any other comments?
                                                    Α
    motion?
20
2.1
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Motion to accept with
22
    that condition that we just spoke about.
23
                MR. GABAY:
                            The fire egress?
24
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                    Exactly.
25
                MR. GABAY:
                            It's not a problem.
```

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is the basement
1
2
    area going to be basement storage?
                MR. GABAY: Yes. It's a walk-out.
3
4
    is no basement.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Great.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
6
7
                MS. ALSTON: I second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
8
    Chairman Hance.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
10
                                  Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
14
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
17
18
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
20
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
22
    none opposed, the motion carries.
23
                MR. GABAY: Thank you very much.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Have a great night.
25
                MR. WILSON: May I address the calendar,
```

```
Mr. Eingorn.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: What is going on,
    Mr. Wilson?
3
4
                MR. WILSON:
                              I just found out that our
5
    planner for Hargrove is not available tonight.
    would like to ask for an adjournment to next month.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN:
                              June is packed.
                                                Is there a
8
    chance that we could bump you to July? June is
    really big.
9
                             What will the date be in
10
                MR. WILSON:
11
    July?
12
                MR. EINGORN: It would be the 1st.
13
                MR. WILSON:
                              I'm away on the 1st.
14
    away from the 29th to the 10th.
                MR. EINGORN: The problem is, we have 13
15
    applications already for June. If you can't go in
16
    July then we'll bump you to August. Is August okay?
17
18
                MR. WILSON:
                             Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: So for the record, William
    Hargrove, 108 N. 7th is being adjourned to the August
20
              There will be no further notice required.
21
    meeting.
22
    This is notice of that adjournment. Thank you
    Mr. Wilson.
23
24
                MR. WILSON:
                              Okay.
25
                               The next matter is
                MR. EINGORN:
```

```
David Lee, 819 S. 5th Street.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
3
    hand, please.
4
5
                JOSE OLAVARRIA; FRANCHESCA ABED, having
    first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and
6
    testified as follows:
7
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
10
11
                MS. ABED: Franchesca Abed, 401 Kaighn
12
    Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103.
13
                MR. OLAVARRIA: Jose Olavarria, 1428
    Baird Blvd., Camden, New Jersey 08103.
14
15
                MS. ABED: I'd like to state for the
    Board, that if you look at the original application
16
    it says, David Lee in care of Jose Olavarria because
17
    it's pending this approval whether or not his
18
    sale goes through. And the Agreement of Sale was
19
20
    given.
                MR. EINGORN: So Mr. Olavarria is the
21
22
    proposed buyer?
23
                MS. ABED: Correct.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Let me confirm for the
25
    record.
```

```
MS. ABED: Take your time.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN:
                              I don't have a copy of the
3
    Agreement of Sale in front of me. Do you have a copy
4
    with you?
                           I do not. I emailed the
5
                MS. ABED:
    original and when we were here at the last meeting, I
6
7
    gave my entire packet to Ms. Evita.
8
                MS. MUHAMMAD: No, I don't have it.
9
    Everything you gave me, it would have been in the
10
    packet.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Here is the issue. I don't
12
    have the Agreement of Sale and I don't have a signed
    Consent of Owner.
13
14
                MS. ABED: Do you have the original
15
    application because his signature is on the original
16
    application?
17
                MR. EINGORN: Right. But I would still
    need something. Anybody can fill out an application.
18
19
    You're saying Mr. Lee?
20
                MS. ABED: Yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN: I'm suppose to know that
22
    says, David Lee.
23
                MS. ABED: Huh-huh. Which is why I gave
24
    Agreement of Sale with it.
25
                MS. MUHAMMAD: Do you have a second
```

```
application for this tonight?
1
2
                MS. ABED: Yes, I have another one after
3
    this, Carlos Supelveda.
                MR. EINGORN:
                               I don't want to act on
4
5
    this, have the Board act on this and then there be a
    problem.
6
                MS. ABED: So can we do it contingent on
7
8
    the paper being brought to you cause I can run back
    to my office after I hear from --
9
                MR. EINGORN: We don't even have
10
11
    jurisdiction to hear about something that says, the
12
    applicant has the right to be here. Right?
                                                  And so I
    think it's a bad risk.
13
14
                MS. ABED: Can he run home and get it and
15
    then I'll hear Carlos' case? Can we push it to the
16
    end?
                MR. EINGORN: That's fine. We can
17
    second-call this absolutely. I'm not trying to make
18
    it difficult for you. I just want to make sure that
19
20
    the Board is acting properly.
2.1
                MS. ABED:
                            Just to be clear, you're
22
    looking for the Agreement of Sale with David Lee and
    Jose Olavarria, right?
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: Yes, that'll work.
25
                The next matter is 509 N. 27th Street,
```

```
1
    Carlos Supelveda.
2
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
3
    hand, please.
4
                CARLOS SUPELVEDA, having first been duly
5
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
6
    follows:
7
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
10
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Carlos Supelveda, 7189
11
12
    Rosemont Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey.
13
                MS. ABED: I think Mr. Cooper has all the
14
    pictures also.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Supelveda is here.
                                                        He
    wants a small office with vehicle storage inside of a
16
    garage with an existing fencing. The auto garage for
17
    storage for up to five vehicles; use variance; site
18
    plan approval may be needed; off-street parking may
19
    be needed. We have Mr. Supelveda here. Ms. Abed,
20
21
    you're going to translate?
22
                MS. ABED: Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Great.
24
                MS. ABED: Can I begin?
25
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Please.
```

MS. ABED: Mr. Supelveda is the owner of C&J Towing. He's been a small towing company for a long time. But they started giving him a little bit of grievances for having his tow truck parked in a residential neighborhood in front his personal house. And that would be Licenses & Mercantile. So what we did was, he bought that building which is 509 N. 27th Street.

So this building would be for the storage for the tow truck of the company and whatever vehicles he actually tows. He is small so we put five total because I feel that's all that can fit there. And for office-wise there would be himself in there. There is no clientele coming in and out. His contacts and jobs are most of the time, are pick-up and drop-off at whatever the home the car is being towed to.

The only contract that he has otherwise or the only other thing that he has otherwise, is if, for example, my personal parking lot, if somebody were to park illegally and tell him, hey, pick this up. And then he has that business with the City of Camden. Other than that, there's no real mystery to it. It's just that it was previously if you look at the pictures given to you, it was previously a

```
mechanic shop that was overloaded with vehicles for
1
2
    many years. And he purchased it off the previous
3
    owner.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So is it five vehicles
5
    that are being stored or is one vehicle his?
                MS. ABED: It's the -- the two of them
6
7
    are the tow trucks. He has a black tow truck and a
    red tow truck. So two of them would be the tow
8
9
    trucks.
10
                MR. EINGORN: No changes to the building?
11
                MS. ABED: No changes to the building
    other than updating the bathroom when we get the
12
13
    approvals.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is this the side of the
15
    build where it's located at?
16
                MS. ABED: It's actually this building
    right here, this whole building. It goes from that
17
    corner to here and then there's like an already-made
18
    overhang right here that that's where his truck is at
19
    right now. And right here would be like it's an
20
    overhead door that fits a vehicle too.
2.1
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you have one
23
    entrance going in and --
24
                MS. ABED: One entrance coming in and one
25
    entrance going out. Same entrance.
```

```
MS. ALSTON: What is the name of the
1
2
    towing company?
                MR. SUPELVEDA: CJ Towing.
3
4
                MS. ALSTON: And, normally, someone just
5
    calls you and you pick up the vehicle. Does anyone
    ever abandon it?
6
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Abandoned. Private.
7
8
                MS. ALSTON: And then from there when you
9
    have it in the lot, what do you do for them?
                MR. SUPELVEDA:
                                 I wait for a plan.
10
11
    Sometimes I junk it because nobody ever comes.
12
                MS. ALSTON: Do you ever sell them?
13
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Junk it and scrap the
14
    metal.
15
                MS. ABED:
                            Junk it and not sell it like
    to clientele. He does not have a dealership license.
16
17
                MS. ALSTON: No tags; no selling?
18
                MS. ABED:
                           No.
19
                MR. SUPELVEDA: For 22 years; tow for 22
20
    years.
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is this area lit up at
22
    night?
23
                MS. ABED:
                            So the only thing that we did
24
    do is do a temporary electric service so that he can
25
    have --
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Please translate.
1
2
                MS. ABED: He picked it up.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
                               I know but you're talking.
4
    Someone has got to, right? You're not a lawyer.
5
    can't represent him.
                MS. ABED: Are there lights?
6
7
                MR. SUPELVEDA:
                               Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes, a lighted area?
8
9
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I see cars here now.
10
                                                         So
11
    these are cars that you towed and you're waiting?
12
                MR. SUPELVEDA: That's my private. My
13
    private car.
14
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Are you going to keep
15
    the two tow trucks and maybe a personal car or car
    that you might --
16
17
                MR. SUPELVEDA: My personal car and the
    two tow trucks.
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
19
                                        So it's not a
20
    storage place?
2.1
                MR. SUPELVEDA:
                                 No.
22
                MS. ABED: But for a merchantile
    licensing, for us to get the licensing through
23
    merchantile, I have to have vehicle storage on there.
24
25
    It's merchantile for licensing.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're saying you.
1
2
    Or is it, he has to have storage on there?
                MS. ABED:
3
                            Correct.
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Now, the blue part here,
5
    does it stop here at the garages or does it go all
    the way around? See how you said to the right, does
6
    he own this also?
7
                MS. ABED: No, that's a separate auto
8
    detailer.
9
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Okay.
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So this is all one
    conjoining yard then. So there's no property lines
12
    gathered so far from what I'm looking at.
13
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Between those two cars,
14
15
    there's a fence all the way down to the back.
16
    Between the two garages there's a fence.
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I think I see it.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions?
                MS. ALSTON: I'm just not clear.
19
                                                   So this
    here, there's like a boat back there. Is that part
20
21
    of his property?
22
                MR. SUPELVEDA: That is part of my
23
    property.
24
                MS. ALSTON: So this area here.
                                                  But in
25
    between here there's a fencing so this is two
```

```
properties kind of, right; is that what he's
1
2
    saying?
3
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Yes.
                                       One property
    between two cars. Between these two cars is a fence.
4
5
                MS. ALSTON:
                              There's another fence.
                                                      So
    that's actually two properties?
6
7
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Yes. And then this here,
8
    is this your --
9
                MR. SUPELVEDA:
                                 Yes.
10
                MS. ALSTON: Okay. Thank you.
11
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Any other questions?
12
     Hearing none, we'll open it up to the public.
13
    anybody here that would like to be heard on the
14
    509 N. 27th Street application for a use variance,
15
    site plan waiver, off-street parking, bulk variance
16
    potentially? Hearing none, we'll close the public
    portion.
17
                The Board should do a discussion of the
18
19
    Positive and Negative Criteria related to the
    requested use variance, and a discussion of the
20
21
    requested site waiver.
22
                                        Again, he comes in
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
    front of us and it's already a car lot or storage
23
    area that's already in existence. So I think it's a
24
25
    positive, as long as you keep the area clean --
```

1 MR. SUPELVEDA: It's always clean.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Put some lights up to protect you.

MR. SUPELVEDA: And cameras, TV cameras.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I agree because this is what the City needs to get all these cars, all these abandoned cars. I got one next to my fence at my church. I put a sign in there. A guy ripped it off and I called the police station and he came and he didn't do nothing. So the car has been over a month. And that car is right there. The guy goes there and does whatever he feels like to do. But to keep our city clean, this is one of the things we need, tow trucks guys. You don't know me but I've seen him work around the City. And this is what we're talking about, keeping our City clean, organized and building. Keep the lot clean.

Like I said before, we approve stuff and it comes to us here and we approve it and then a month from there, we go see it and it looks like a junk yard. And that's not right. I don't want to come here and waste my time over here approving something that in a month, it's going to get worse than when they came to us. One thing about coming to us, is maintaining that property or that building

```
like it should be. So I hope you keep that in mind.
1
2
                MS. ALSTON:
                             So there's no change to the
3
    property or the buildings. There's really no
    requirement for a site plan approval? He's not
4
5
    changing anything --
                MR. EINGORN: Right.
6
                MS. ALSTON: -- he's not adding -- some
7
8
    lighting I think maybe.
                MS. ABED: I'm his construction liaison
9
    and we're going to fit-out the inside of the
10
11
    building. And the changes are going to be cosmetic.
12
    The lighting on the interior, switching everything to
    LED lights from now it's the old fluorescent
13
14
    lightbulbs and making an automatic car door garage
15
    versus like rolling it out with a chain, things like
16
           Those are the improvements designated for the
    that.
           Other than that, the building, the four walls
17
    area.
    and the structure itself, is going to stay the same.
18
19
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: So you already have
    electric?
20
                           There is an electric meter.
2.1
                MS. ABED:
22
    We're waiting for this so that we can apply for a
    permit for the inside.
23
24
                                     Okay. Got you.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
25
                                  So he's been a resident
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
```

```
for 23 years, I think you said?
1
2
                MS. ABED:
                            Yes.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And I hope you haven't
4
    been parking that tow truck in front of your house
5
    for 23 years because I would want you to get a
    business too. That would be a sore eye in my
6
    neighborhood. I haven't heard anything bad about it.
7
    And the aerial, when was this taken?
8
                MS. ABED: I think these were taken --
9
10
                MR. EINGORN: This is a Google Maps
11
    photograph.
12
                MS. ABED: Yes.
                                  Google shot.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I drove past there and
14
    it looks the same.
15
                MS. ABED:
                            Yes.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: As long as you keep it
    clean I think it's a win-win.
17
18
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Amen.
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion that we
20
    pass.
2.1
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     I second.
22
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
    Chairman Hance.
23
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
```

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
2
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
                                     Yes.
3
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
4
5
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
6
7
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
8
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
10
11
    none opposed, the motion passes.
                MR. SUPELVEDA: Thank you.
12
13
                MS. ABED: Thank you.
14
                MR. EINGORN:
                               The next matter is Premier
15
    Construction, LLC, 521 Cooper Street. Good evening,
16
    Counsel.
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  My name is John
17
    Calzaretto with the Law Firm of Calzaretto &
18
19
    Bernstein representing this evening Premier
20
    Construction, LLC.
2.1
                Premier is taking a vacant building
22
    that's has been vacant for some time, located at
    521 Cooper Street. The building has had a history
23
24
    of both commercial and residential use over the
25
    years. He had first intended to do student housing.
```

And, in fact, the agenda tonight says proposes
transitional housing. That's not true. He had
already met with, in a preliminary review, the
Planning Director for the City. And they had talked
a lot about the site. They agreed on a use of
basically market-rate housing. They looked at the

building and what it could be put to.

And my client proposed, well, they would like to build nine one-bedroom units basically for a lot of single people that live in the City today and are working at Cooper Hospital, the Federal Building or the post office. There's a lot of workers that, you know, they don't want to commute far to and from work. A lot of people working at least a couple of days a week at home, they could live in these apartments. He has a very nice plan for them.

However, there were some issues that needed to be ironed-out. And during the review, those issues came to light. And those issues included the fact that the approval would require a variance, an amendment to the Camden Redevelopment Plan because there was office use downstairs for some time. Although even as in the past, the building was used for rooming quarters. So it also had residential character to it. However, they would

also need some variances due to the parking. The apartment complex would require 1.2 parking spaces for each unit and we have nine units here and there's only four parking spaces.

Now, the building was built at a time when not everyone had a vehicle. So you're not going to have that. In many, many cities today, you have apartments where there isn't parking. And that's because some of the residents choose not to have a vehicle because they live so close in proximity to their work location. And that's really what he had in mind here because the City really doesn't offer a lot right now.

Although Cooper Hospital recently announced that they're increasing and they may be hiring as many as 9,000 employees. And with that kind of work load, I mean, you would imagine that some people would want to live close to their work location where they can just -- they wouldn't need a vehicle and they could just walk to work and that would be wonderful. I wish I could do that myself. But, anyway, there be would be the normal variances here, the minimum lot area, the minimum lot width, minimum front yard setback, side yard setback, lot coverage. Again, this building was built at a time

and it has existed there for many, many years. 1 2 And you're not going to be able to fit that into the current zoning plans. 3 But my client really believes that 5 there's a real need for this. Like I said, he's worked with the City; wants to turn the building into 6 something viable; something that would add something 7 8 to the community. And he believes that market rate or, you know, available for all types of residents. 9 10 There was an appeal filed to change the use, that's 11 the old, old use that they initially proposed that's 12 on the agenda tonight. That has been changed and has 13 been changed by appeal; appealed form file. 14 Tonight I have with me the owner of Premier Construction, Mr. Kose and Mr. El Donaldo 15 Vid Al. He's an architect, AIA, certified architect, 16 and they could be sworn in and maybe describe the 17 18 project in a little bit more specific terms. MR. EINGORN: Would you both raise your 19 20 right hand. 21 22 HACI KOSE; EL DONALDO VID AL, AIA, having 23 first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 24 25

```
MR. EINGORN: Names and addresses for the
1
2
    record, please.
3
                MR. KOSE: Good evening. My name is Haci
           I'm the managing director for Premier
4
5
    Construction. My address is 1736 Route 70 East,
    Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003.
6
7
                MR. VID: My name is El Donaldo Vid Al,
8
    architect of this project.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Vid Al is here pretty
10
            I think we're safe to accept him as an
11
    architect.
12
                Just before we get started, John, is your
13
    client aware that there is a potential parking fee
14
    for each space you need to get a variance for?
15
                MR. CALZARETTO: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: And that fee can be up to
    $6,000 per space?
17
18
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Thank you.
                                              Our client
    is aware that there is a parking fee for each space
19
    you need to variance for.
20
                MR. VID AL: This is a condensed version
2.1
22
    of the site plan we have enhanced. But basically
    this building is a historical building on Cooper
23
    Street. It used to be a mansion. That's why it has
24
25
    so many rooms. So I imagine that it was a big family
```

in that building. The building evolved into different things.

2.1

I think it was capped for residential from the second and third floors in some commercial through the years like offices. The owner sold the building back then, I think, in the 40's or 50's and then the building evolved into different things, even a rooming house there. Then it was disbanded.

This building, it has the benefit that is fronting Cooper Street. Fortunately, Cooper Street doesn't have parking anymore. The meter was removed. But there's a back street that is like a service street where you have the parking, used to be the horses where horses were to be for all those buildings. But now it's four parking spaces plus the services to the building. This building also has accessibility. It has wheelchair lift in the back so it's fully accessible to the first floor. The basement will serve as the administration for the same building.

The other thing is, the building was equipped with exit stairs in the back. So there is an entrance and an exit from Cooper Street but there's extra stairs on the back. And the building is fully sprinklered. So basically, this building is

equipped with some modifications for the nine apartments which is like a fire separation with the walls. That's basically what we need to achieve nine one-bedroom units.

There are three on the first, floor, three on the second floor, and three on the third floor. They are three apartments per floor. And all of them are connected through stairs from the back and from the front. That's basically the anatomy of the building. One has each apartment. It has that one bedroom, kitchenette, living room and dining room. They're not big but will serve the purpose for one person. So that's basically the anatomy of the project.

As you can see, this is the administration floor of what is called the basement. It's not like a full basement. It looks like a split. And this is the first floor, second floor and third. So it's pretty simple the way it is. And all of them, they have access to the entrances and exits through the main corridor door. So that's how the building is laid out. Most of these, what is called the apartments, they were like rooms. I cannot imagine how these rooms were but I think it belongs to the original house the way it was, the way they

```
So it was easy for us to lay-out those
1
2
    apartments because they were like kind of subdivided
    by rooms, big rooms.
3
                MS. ALSTON:
                             I was wondering, what's the
5
    size of the rooms that are you potentially --
                MR. VID AL:
                             You mean the rooms or the --
6
                MS. ALSTON:
7
                             The apartments --
8
                MR. VID AL:
                             The apartments, okay.
9
                MS. ALSTON:
                             -- that you're hoping for?
10
                MR. VID AL:
                             Basically Apartment A, first
11
    floor, is 477; Apartment 1-B is 495 square feet;
    Apartment C is 429. Second floor is Apartment 2A,
12
13
    520; Apartment 2B, 489; Apartment 2C, 446. The third
    floor is same, 587; 400; 400. They're mostly like a
14
15
    studio but they have those amenities. They have
16
    different amenities like kitchenette.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm looking, the
17
    initial application said that it was a transitional
18
19
            This is here like a rooming house now.
    house.
20
                MR. EINGORN: The denial letter says
21
    transitional house. But if you look at the appeal
22
    for zoning which is the next page: Amended
23
    application requests zoning variances and amendments.
    Use subject variances as one-bedroom apartment units
24
25
    open to all prospective tenants. So that's
```

```
paragraphs 10 and 11 on the appeal. They were denied
1
2
    for transitional housing, but they're coming in for
3
    the just market-rate apartments.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        What's the
    difference?
5
                MR. EINGORN: What's the difference?
6
7
    Well, let's ask the applicant.
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        What's the
    difference between this being transitional and these
9
10
    apartments? In that area, you know, I'm quite sure
11
    we can --
                MR. EINGORN: Let's let him answer the
12
13
    question first. Can you describe to us what
14
    transitional housing is?
15
                MR. KOSE: The property before I
16
    purchased it, that's what they were using or intended
    to use, so we want to go through the same zoning.
17
    And they say it's not.
18
                So transitional housing is where you have
19
20
    one single kitchen for each floor so everybody uses
         So there's like one full bathroom in the
2.1
22
    hallway. Each room has its own powder room.
    how in the building. But the third floor is already
23
    full, three apartments with living area, kitchenette,
24
25
    it's own bedroom and full bath. So we want to do the
```

```
two other floors also as a full one-bedroom
1
2
    apartment.
                MR. VID AL:
                             The difference with the
3
    transitional houses, the way it should be designed is
4
5
    that they share.
                MR. KOSE:
                           They share --
6
7
                MS. NUNEZ:
                            The common areas?
8
                MR. VID AL:
                             They share the amenities,
9
    you know, like kitchen, bathrooms and all of that.
    So these Peter, Louis and Bob, they have their own
10
    door; their own bathroom; and their own kitchen.
11
                                                       So
    basically it's an apartment.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Just to confirm, each unit
13
    will have its own kitchen and bathroom?
14
15
                MR. VID AL: That is correct.
16
                MR. EINGORN: So really it's a nine-unit
    apartment building?
17
18
                MR. KOSE:
                           Yes.
19
                MR. CALZARETTO: Again, you have a lot of
    major employers in the area. You have the courthouse
20
21
    there, the Federal Courthouse. You have the Superior
22
    Courthouse. You have the Cooper Hospital there. You
    have so many supporting buildings there.
23
                                               This is for
24
    people who want to live in the City. Like most of
25
    these people want to live close to their work. A lot
```

of people don't want a vehicle. They don't want to 1 2 deal with the expense of a car, maintenance of a car but they need to live near work. 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'll tell you, I'd 5 be real comfortable renting out a two bedroom apartment up there, you know, looking right there at 6 downtown Camden, two bedrooms instead of having a 7 8 whole bunch of neighbors. MR. CALZARETTO: Sure. And they don't want maintenance; they don't want to maintain. 10 11 There's a lot of people who don't want to maintain a 12 They want an apartment and they want to live 13 close to work. They don't want to have to maintain a 14 vehicle. That's just the way they want to live their 15 lives. By the way, there's tons and tons of 16 apartments like this all over Philadelphia and all over New York. And normally they're near employers. 17 In fact, employers look for them because Cooper 18 Hospital wants to create more and more medical and 19 they're getting busier and busier and they're 20 21 creating all these jobs. I mean, the City really 22 should try to support them and create people that they can draw from. And people who live in the area 23 and can get to the hospital in a moment's notice. 24 25 So, no, the City doesn't want

is really what they want this for young professionals is really what they want that'll help to regentrify the City and make the City more viable, and draw employers to the area. How are you going to draw employers when you don't have the employee base to draw from? It's very, very important. So that's what was proposed and that was proposed after, you know, some review with the planning people who run the planning and direct the planning of the City. So if we can give -- is everybody finished questioning Mr. El Donaldo? Do you have more questions?

MS. ALSTON: Well --

MR. VID AL: I have to add this. I have experience in designing a building in the outskirts of Camden. It was like a combination for two and one bedroom. What happened was, the owner was building the building and were people paying rent to secure the one bedroom apartments because they're rare.

I mean, brand new renovated apartments, they're rare in Camden City. Very expensive. They're becoming very expensive because you cannot find those. A two-bedroom for one person is sometimes too expensive so one bedroom is a good alternative. So I think this is a good opportunity. You're going to find

- tenants in the City of Camden. 1 2 So that's my comment. So I don't have any MS. ALSTON: 3 questions about the apartment and the usage itself. 4 I'm looking a little bit forward. And some of the 5 issues that I've seen downtown in the City of Camden 6 as Camden spends so much money in trying to beautify 7 8 and keep it clean, is the revolving door of the tenants that are coming in and out. That is not the 9 big issue. 10 11 When the tenants are leaving or if they leave against their will, and they leave their 12 13 remaining items in these apartments, the clean-out 14 sometimes land in front of the street not properly 15 disposed of and it becomes an issue. Cooper Street 16 is like a street where you have a lot of traffic. People are coming in and out either down to the 17 Freedom Mortgage. So in thinking that way, is there 18 anything in place to help with the trash removal and 19 keeping with the City of Camden making sure that it's 20 kept clean in this downtown area? 21 22 I mean, luckily, for MR. CALZARETTO:
- MR. KOSE: There is an area designed for

this particular property, there's a service street in

23

24

the rear.

```
trash behind the building. It's already fenced in.
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Do you own that
    trash area?
3
                MR. KOSE: Yes, I own it. It's right
4
5
    behind the building.
                MR. CALZARETTO: I mean, at one time it
6
7
    was probably a horse stable and they brought their
8
    horses to the rear because horses could be messy.
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        So you have trash
10
    pickup. You don't have private removal or?
11
                MR. KOSE: We have a spot for it.
                                                    So
    that's what we're going to have. So there's a spot
12
13
    for the trash can and everything.
                                 Receptacle.
14
                MR. CALZARETTO:
15
                MR. KOSE: To answer your question, I've
    been in business for a long time. I've been an
16
    active real estate broker and managed properties so I
17
    know the market. I've already invest a tremendous
18
    amount of money. I purchased it six years ago.
19
20
    if I don't have a hope that it's going to be a great
2.1
    investment, I wouldn't do it. There's a huge amount
22
    of need for good quality apartments in the area.
23
                MS. ALSTON: I do believe that there is
24
    the need for the one-bedroom apartment.
                                              I'm just
25
    thinking throughout the whole entire process, and
```

```
just knowing the area because I do live in the
1
2
    downtown area. Sometimes right there on that 3rd and
3
    Cooper they have apartment buildings because you have
    Rutgers. So you have the student living and things
4
                Then a lot of, like I said, a lot of
5
    like that.
    their things that they leave behind up on Cooper or
6
    even on the little alleyway in between the homes.
7
8
    And it's just becomes a mess in that area.
                MR. CALZARETTO: 3rd Street doesn't have
9
    that service street. This one does.
10
                MS. ALSTON:
11
                             Okay.
12
                MR. CALZARETTO: So, yes, I understand.
13
    I lived on 3rd Street. There's nowhere to put the
    trash except out front. Obviously, it becomes
14
15
    unsightly especially when, you know, the end of the
16
    semester for the students. They're throwing
    everything at the curb and it looks horrible.
17
                                                    Ι
    understand exactly what you're saying.
18
19
                MR. KOSE: So it's really going to be
20
    marketing to professionals more so than students.
21
    And I've been getting phone calls literally almost
22
    every day that people need --
23
                MR. VID AL: Actually, the moving in and
24
    out is going to happen from the service street.
25
    doesn't have to happen from Cooper Street. We're
```

```
going to leave that alone, the entrance and the
1
2
    exits.
                MR. KOSE:
                           So that's where the parking
3
    are, where they are going to park their car; when
4
5
    they're going to be moving in and out. So it's
    nothing to do with Cooper Street.
6
                MR. CALZARETTO: You want to give a
8
    little bit of background about your history?
9
                MR. KOSE: So I'm in the process of
    refacing the building. I'll pass this out.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Let the record reflect that
12
    the applicant has provided a --
13
                MR. CALZARETTO: Facade rendering --
14
                MR. EINGORN: -- 3-panel rendering of a
15
    proposed facade which we'll mark as Exhibit A to the
16
    application.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So to gain entrance, is
17
    there a push-button; is it a key to get to the front
18
19
    door?
20
                MR. KOSE: We're going to have the key.
21
    But most of all, it's going to be the back entrance.
22
    That's where the people are going to be using.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Does that building have
24
    an elevator or not?
25
                           It doesn't have an elevator
                MR. KOSE:
```

```
but it has I think like a lift along the back.
1
2
    wheelchair elevator to the back of the first floor
    but not inside the building.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Looks very nice.
4
5
                MR. KOSE: We're trying to make it nice
    so that it's appealing. I've been in business for
6
    20-plus years managing property, developing and
7
8
    selling in that manner. It's going to be a good fit
    for Camden and knowing the need. And the location of
9
    20 feet from Rutgers University. One block from
10
11
    here.
12
                MS. ALSTON: Very modern-looking.
13
                MR. KOSE: So we're going to start that
14
    probably in a week. I already ordered everything.
15
    The stuff is coming from Europe, the windows and
16
    everything.
                MS. ALSTON:
                             That was my question, what's
17
    the time frame when do you think the project is going
18
19
    to be done?
                           I would have it done
20
                MR. KOSE:
21
    tomorrow if you guys okay it. I have a full crew and
22
    they will work on it right away.
23
                MR. VID AL: The structure of the
24
    building is already there like the sprinkler system.
25
    Everything is working, lighting.
```

```
MR. KOSE: Heating, air conditioning --
1
 2
                MR. VID AL:
                              It needs the final fire
    separation of the units. I just want to give this
 3
    building life.
 4
 5
                MR. KOSE: So the third floor, we're not
    going to touch it. It's already there. It's already
6
7
    there and we're going to kind of copy them.
    that's how Mr. Vid Al designed it.
8
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Any other
    questions?
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: We'll open this matter to
12
    the public. Is anybody in the public here tonight
    for 521 Cooper Street that would like to heard for or
13
14
    against? Hearing none and seeing none, we'll close
15
    the public portion. Now is the time for the Board to
16
    do a discussion of the Positive and Negative
    Criteria.
17
18
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's
19
    positive.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Wait. So we have a use --
21
    I see a use variance. Is there any bulk variances
22
    requested here?
23
                MR. CALZARETTO: Yes but they were all
24
    for preexisting conditions however.
25
                              I just want to make sure
                MR. EINGORN:
```

```
the record is clear on what we're voting on.
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       I'm surprised our
    City Engineer isn't involved with this project.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
                              I do not know the answer to
4
           Looks like just a use variance has been
5
    that.
    applied for. It's a use variance or an
6
7
    interpretation regarding the Redevelopment Plan.
8
    That's what we got. We have a few checks here for
    eighteen sixty and one for forty-five and five.
9
10
    you own what was actually applied for?
11
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  I'm actually filling in
12
    tonight for Mr. Bernstein. I know that there was
13
    a -- the zone had changed to a US Zone which is the
14
    University Support Zone. And it was for that reason
15
    that the use variance had to be requested and the
16
    amendment to the Redevelopment Plan.
17
                MR. EINGORN: The Board can't give an
    amendment to the Redevelopment Plan.
18
19
    Planning Board thing. And if there's a
20
    Redevelopment Plan we do know that -- I mean, you
21
    applied for an interpretation. We need to know what
22
    the legal issue is regarding what the Redevelopment
23
    Plan provides for; what the interpretation being
24
    requested is.
25
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Well, all the
```

```
Redevelopment Plan provided for is University
1
2
    Support. So anything that would support the
3
    university.
                 I mean, it can be interpreted that, you
    know, the university has professors and they need a
4
5
    place to live.
                MR. EINGORN: Yeah, but the Redevelopment
6
    Plan is going to be way more specific than that.
7
8
    It's going to say what can we put where; what zones
    are applicable, all of those items. If this is an
9
    interpretation, we're going to need that information.
10
11
    If it's a use variance application, it's different.
    But it looks like you applied for -- Mr. Bernstein
12
13
    applied for an interpretation for which we don't have
14
    the information.
15
                MR. CALZARETTO: I'm looking at the
16
    paperwork. I am not sure -- like you said, we might
    have to go before the Planning Board for that
17
18
    amendment.
19
                MS. ALSTON: Kyle, is the amendment being
20
    requested because of the transitional housing?
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: We can't grant amendment.
22
                MS. ALSTON:
                                   T know.
                             No.
                MR. EINGORN: So I think what was
23
    requested was an interpretation of the Redevelopment
24
25
           But we don't have any of that information
    Plan.
```

```
before us. We have a very nice project, but not the
1
2
    legal that we need necessary to make the required --
                              For the transitional homes
3
                MS. ALSTON:
    or the studio apartment or just in general?
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: They didn't apply for
    transitional housing.
6
                MS. ALSTON:
7
                             No.
                                   T know.
8
                MR. EINGORN: They applied for market
9
           And so the issue is, an interpretation
    regarding whether or not market rate is allowable
10
11
    within the US Zone or the Redevelopment Plan that is
12
    currently in affect.
13
                MS. ALSTON: Okay, the market rate.
14
                MR. EINGORN: We don't have the
15
    Redevelopment Plan or the position of the ordinance
16
    to determine whether or not a nine-unit apartment
    building would be something that could be consistent
17
18
    with either the Ordinance or the Redevelopment Plan.
19
                MS. ALSTON:
                              Okay.
20
                MR. CALZARETTO: So I imagine that we'd
21
    have to adjourn tonight and come back with that
22
    information. I looked through his paperwork here and
23
    I don't see where you would have thought that would
24
    have been discussed.
25
                MR. EINGORN: This will be Old Business
```

for next month. All we need is the legal 1 2 interpretation part of this. 3 MR. CALZARETTO: Sure. MR. EINGORN: So we've got all the 4 information about the project. We're going to 5 adjourn this to the June meeting. We're going to put 6 it on Old Business. You'll come back with the 7 8 interpretation information. If you want a use 9 variance or you want to apply for that as opposed to the interpretation, get your notice out there because 10 11 we're not going to hear a use variance if it hasn't been noticed for. 12 13 MR. KOSE: You said the notice but I 14 don't know for what. Didn't we send --15 MR. EINGORN: Right. There was public notice or you wouldn't be here tonight. 16 It's a jurisdictional issue. We have to have public 17 notice or we can't hear you tonight. 18 MS. MUHAMMAD: Just to be clear like with 19 the applications, there's a fee schedule for 20 21 variances, the things that you're applying for. 22 if only an interpretation was paid for, you can't 23 come here and say, I'm requesting a use variance. 24 That wasn't nothing that was applied for prior to so 25 you can't come and present an application for that.

```
MR. KOSE: Again, I don't know.
                                                  That was
1
2
    handled and everything has been --
                MR. EINGORN:
3
                              That's more for
    Mr. Calzaretto.
4
                                        It looks like he
5
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Yes.
    did ask for a use variance. The Downtown Camden
6
7
    Redevelopment Plan is what he asked for that and
8
    I'm looking here. And he noticed everyone within 200
    feet with respect to that variance request.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Right. I think the issue
10
    is that we have a check for an amount that's
11
12
    consistent with an interpretation but not a check
    that's consistent with a use variance. It looks like
13
14
    an interpretation was requested and not a use
15
    variance.
16
                           I sent out so many checks.
                MR. KOSE:
17
                MR. EINGORN: I don't doubt it.
18
                MR. CALZARETTO: Well, let me get
19
    clarification.
20
                MR. EINGORN: We got pretty much
21
    everything in the record. So hopefully next month it
2.2
    won't be an issue. So this is notice that Premier
    Construction, LLC, the balance of the application
23
24
    will be heard at the June meeting.
25
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  Thank you.
```

```
MR. DRUZIAKO: May I address the Board?
1
2
    My name is Victor Druziako. I represent the
    applicant Franklin Abreu, 1903 S. 4th Street.
3
    our witnesses is a nursing mother. She has a young
4
5
    child at home. Her testimony will be very brief.
    Our application is relatively straightforward.
                                                     Ιf
6
7
    the Board would indulge us to allow her to go sooner
8
    than later, we'd appreciate it.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Chair?
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: So let me just deal with --
    what do we have left here?
12
                MR. VID AL: I think it's 3250-3252 River
13
14
    Road. Are you going to skip that?
15
                MR. EINGORN: Yes. We have an issue here
    and we have a short -- this is a nonconforming use,
16
    Cert of Nonconforming Use?
17
18
                MR. DRUZIAKO: Correct.
19
                MR. EINGORN: So we're going to take this
20
    one quickly so that the applicant can get home to
21
    their baby. Is that what --
22
                MR. DRUZIAKO: That's correct.
23
                MR. EINGORN: So we're going to skip to
24
    Franklin Abreu, 1903 S. 4th Street.
25
                MR. DURZIAKO: Again, my name is Victor
```

```
Druziako, counsel for the applicant, Franklin Abreu.
1
2
    We have two witnesses here tonight, Michael Abreu,
3
    the owner of the property and Soo Ho Yi, who is the
    daughter of the previous owner of the property, who
4
5
    would testify very briefly as to the continuous use
    of the mixed use property which is now a -- we seek
6
    clarification about the nonconforming current use.
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: Everybody raise your right
9
    hand.
10
11
                FRANKLIN ABREU, MILSY PELTRE, SOO HO YI,
12
    having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined
    and testified as follows:
13
14
15
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your names and
    address for the record.
16
                MR. ABREU: Franklin Abreu, 2614 Davies
17
18
    Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08109.
                MS. BELTRE: Milsy Beltre, 2137 Scovel
19
20
    Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey.
21
                MS. YI: My name is Soo Ho Yi.
                                                 Му
22
    address is 153 Genesee Lane, Willingboro, New Jersey
    08046.
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: Just for the record, Ms.
25
    Nunez has a conflict on this because she's related to
```

```
the applicant so she's going to recuse herself from
1
2
    this application which is a good idea.
3
                MR. DRUZIAKO:
                                If I may proceed?
                MR. EINGORN: Please do.
4
                MR. DRUZIAKO: Our application has a
5
    number of attachments affixed to it. But I'll cut to
6
    the chase with our witness so she can leave and I'll
7
    come back to them, if I may.
8
9
                Ms. Yi, you are the daughter of the
    previous owner of the property; is that correct?
10
11
                MS. YI:
                         Yes.
                MR. DRUZIAKO: Your father, according to
12
13
    the deed of record, purchased the property back on
    June 22 of 2001; does that sound right?
14
                MS. YI:
15
                         Yes.
16
                MR. DURZIAKO: And at the time the
    property was used as a mixed deli at the time and
17
    single apartment on the top; is that correct?
18
19
                MS. YI:
                         Yes.
20
                MR. DURZIAKO: And you were familiar with
21
    the property at the time they purchased it back in
2.2
    June of '2001; is that correct?
23
                MS. YI: Yes.
24
                MR. DURZIAKO: And as far as you know, is
25
    that property used as a mixed use property with the
```

```
deli on the ground floor and a single apartment on
1
2
    the top floor?
3
                MS. YI:
                          Yes.
4
                MR. DURZIAKO: And the property was sold
    to the current owner, Franklin Abreu in April of last
5
    year, '23, correct?
6
7
                MS. YI:
                          Yes.
                MR. DURZIAKO: And at the time of the
8
9
    sale, is it fair to say that its use and layout
    remain the same as when it was purchased?
10
11
                MS. YI:
                          Yes.
12
                MR. DURZIAKO: And it remains unchanged
13
    as far as you know?
14
                MS. YT:
                          Yes.
15
                MR. DURZIAKO: Does the Board have any
16
    questions for Ms. Yi?
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Did you ever open
18
    that up as a deli or the first floor as the store?
19
                MS. YI:
                          It was previously open as a deli
    so it has been around for about 50 years because
20
21
    Mary Massi used to work there a long time ago than
22
    the prior owners. There's been a number of owners
23
    and my parents are one of the owners.
                                            Sorry.
24
    Previously it was owned by a prior person who ran it
25
    as a deli in a similar way. Prior even to my
```

parents' ownership it has been a deli. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: But it has been 3 closed now for a while, right? MS. YI: Since it has been sold, yes. 4 5 When my dad sold, he stopped operating running the business. And then it passed over. 6 MR. EINGORN: So it hasn't been changed 8 form its -- that's I guess for the applicant. 9 There's been no changes to the --10 MR. DRUZIAKO: The question he would 11 testify, it remains unchanged. We have photographs 12 which we'll go through when we get to his testimony. 13 MR. EINGORN: Any other questions for Ms. Yi? 14 15 MS. ALSTON: So what is it going to be? There's no one there. It was so -- there's no one 16 It's an empty building right now. Anyone 17 there. 18 living in the apartments? 19 MR. DRUZIAKO: I believe someone lives 20 upstairs. Unchanged. It will remain exactly the 21 Only now they call it Bodega because of the 22 change in character of the neighborhood but unchanged since decades ago. 23 24 MS. ALSTON: So they're going to have to 25 store the Bodega downstairs and then the two

```
apartments upstairs?
1
2
                MR. DRUZIAKO:
                               Right.
                             So it'll still be mixed
3
                MS. ALSTON:
4
    use?
5
                MR. DRUZIAKO:
                                There will be no changes
    to use.
6
                MR. EINGORN: So this is a Cert of
7
8
    Nonconforming Use request. The applicants are saying
    this was a deli with an apartment and then the zone
9
    changed and now they're here saying they'd like to
10
11
    keep it that way?
                               Just seeking clarification
12
                MR. DURZIAKO:
13
    because of its currently existing nonconforming use.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  It has been that way for
15
    a long time. Actually it's a block from where I
16
    live.
           I went there a few times. I live right on
    Broadway, Ferry & Broadway. That part of Camden is
17
    right here and you guys are on the street behind
18
19
           I know exactly where you're located.
20
                MR. DRUZIAKO: Mr. Abreu runs -- he's an
21
    experienced Bodega operator running no fewer than
22
    five prior Bodegas, including another one in the City
    of Camden with his brother and sister-in-law, who is
23
24
    here for translation purposes in the event that it
25
    was needed. His English is very good but for
```

```
technical details he might need it to be translated.
1
 2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I want to
 3
    piggyback on the Chairman here. I grew up in the
    area and I would frequent that deli as a child.
 4
    So I know that store has been there and I've been in
 5
    and out of it. It's been a deli.
6
 7
                MR. EINGORN: One unit upstairs?
 8
                MR. DRUZIAKO: One unit.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Did you buy Franks?
9
10
                MR. ABREU:
                             Yes.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you do know my face,
12
    right?
13
                MR. ABREU:
                             Yes.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I can say that he bought
15
    Franks and he keeps it nice and clean in the area.
16
    The store is real nice and the inside a big change.
    Because Franks had it back in 1908. Franks had the
17
                I did come and check you guys out.
18
    best food.
19
    keep an eye on you because I'm only a block from you.
    I'm right down the street. Yes, it has been a store
20
21
    and one apartment since I can remember.
22
                MR. EINGORN: We don't need Ms. Yi
23
    anymore, right, so she can head home?
24
                MS. YI: Can I make one comment?
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
```

MS. YI: My dad really loved the deli and 1 2 the neighborhood and the people there. So it would 3 be very nice to have it open because there were some elderly people there. It's just really a great 4 5 community. And my dad specifically, when he had buyers, chose them because he thought it would be 6 good for the neighborhood. And I came here, away 7 8 from my baby, to support it so that there were no This is the first time I came to a zoning 9 worries. board. So I just wanted to state that they have 10 11 support because my parents really loved Camden. Ιt was a really good place and I look forward to 12 13 everything it can be. 14 MR. EINGORN: Thank you for adding that. 15 That was helpful. I appreciate you coming in. Any other questions for the applicant? Ms. Merricks? 16 17 MS. MERRICKS: No. MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public that 18 would like to be heard on the application for the 19 property located at 1903 S. 4th Street? Hearing none 20 21 we'll close the public portion. 22 The applicant is appearing tonight for a Cert of Nonconforming Use. Sounds like we received 23 some good information both from the applicant and the 24 25 prior owner's daughter and the Board. So a quick

discussion and a motion. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I think it's 3 positive because they're going to reopen the store in that neighborhood. It makes it easier for everybody 4 5 that lives in that neighborhood so they can walk a couple blocks and get to a store and get something 6 good and healthy to eat. I think it's a good thing. 7 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll piggyback on that. There's a lot of seniors around there. And Franks 9 made it a little bit of a walk. And so now come out 10 11 and maybe walk 20 feet going to the store, that is definitely a plus. The area is also a little down. 12 So that should give you a pick up. What time are you 13 14 going to open and close? 15 MR. ABREU: Maybe seven to eight. 16 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We have an ordinance in the City that they have to comply with. 17 18 MR. ABREU: Yes, seven to eight. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Same time that Franks 19 closed? 20 2.1 MR. ABREU: Yes. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That area needs a 23 pick-me-up. I think it's a positive to bring that 24 store back and help out the community. That's a 25 plus.

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So I make a motion
1
2
    to pass.
                MS. MERRICKS: Wait. I have a question.
3
4
    I want to ask whether you guys are going to live
    there or rent it out so someone else can live
5
    upstairs in the residential part?
6
7
                MR. DRUZIAKO: You're referring to the
8
    upstairs apartment?
9
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes. You said it was
    occupied.
10
11
                MR. DURZIAKO: He's going to operate the
12
    Bodega and rent out the upstairs.
                MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to
13
14
    pass. Do we have a second?
                                     Second.
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
16
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
17
    Chairman Hance.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
20
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
2.1
22
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
24
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
```

MS. ALSTON: 1 Yes. 2 MR. EINGORN: Having five in favor and 3 none opposed, the motion passes. Have a great night and thanks for coming in? 4 MS. BELTRE: Thank you very much. MR. ABRUE: Thank you very much. 6 7 MR. DRUZIAKO: And thank you for your 8 courtesy by allowing us to move ahead. MR. EINGORN: Of course. 9 10 We're going to go back on the record for 11 the application which is David Lee, 819 S. 5th 12 Street. Mr. Olavarria is here today and he has 13 brought forward an installment payment agreement for 14 purchase and sale of real estate for the property. I'm just taking a look at it. Do you have a 15 16 purchaser where Mr. Olvarria would be the purchaser and would have a right to come forward today? 17 18 Abed, are you here in your capacity as a construction 19 liaison and as an interpreter? 20 MS. ABED: Yes. So just to be on the 21 record for my presence here today and for the future, 2.2 who have come before the Board as both a certified interpreter and also as a construction liaison. 23 24 this case, I'm just as a construction liaison. Jose 25 speaks perfect English.

```
MR. EINGORN: Very good. This looks like
1
2
    an original.
                           That's fine.
                                         I have it
3
                MS. ABED:
    scanned into our computer.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: So we're going to mark the
    agreement for sale as Exhibit A. Is the applicant
6
    ready to proceed or should I read the --
7
8
                MS. ABED: You could read it for the
    Board if you need to or for the members in the
9
    audience. Or if you want me to proceed.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Why don't you just tell us
12
    what you're trying to do with the property?
13
                MR. OLAVARRIA: As you see the picture,
14
    that building has been closed over 10, 15 years.
15
    I had an opportunity to buy it and do two
16
    apartments. And a got construction business as
           I use two garages on the bottom like for
17
    well.
18
    storage, wood, plumbing stuff. So there's multiple
    pictures that you were presented with from multiple
19
20
    from angles so that you guys can see the difference
21
    like how the building takes up pretty much that whole
22
    block.
23
                MR. EINGORN:
                              So you're seeking to turn
24
    the property at 819 S. 5th Street into a mixed use
25
    building. It's two apartments, a store front, one,
```

two three four five -- six garages and a storage 1 2 unit? MS. ABED: So there's six garage doors 3 right now inside. We broke it up the way -- if you 4 5 look at the plans that were given. We broke it up as such. Originally we were going to try to do parking 6 like for the apartments upstairs but the narrow walls 7 8 doesn't allow for parking. Then we came into some fire prevention issues with the roof. There's 9 certain codes that we would have to meet just in case 10 a car catches fire; that there's no issues above it. 11 12 We weren't going to meet those with the 13 existing structure and still staying under the 14 Chapter 16 Rehab Code. So we would need to stay 15 under Chapter 16 Rehab Code so that we are not told 16 that we have to bring the building down and then bring the building back up under the Building Code. 17 So as a result, this is what we're having. 18 are going to be storage garages which are also going 19 to offered to the tenants upstairs. 20 21 MR. EINGORN: Anything else you want to 22 tell us about the building; about the --23 MR. OLAVARRIA: Right now in the 24 building, I mean, for myself, I'm paying maybe like 25 \$300 in taxes where it will be convenient to the

```
City. Because once I build this up into two
1
2
    apartments, my taxes will go up too. This is an
3
    opportunity for me and an opportunity for the City to
    get more taxes on the property.
4
                MS. ABED: Also please, if you look at
    one of the other pictures, and I don't know exactly
6
    which one is marked what, but you'll see that we took
7
8
    a picture of a building that's kind of diagonally
    across from it that has multiple meters. You can
9
10
    see.
11
                MR. OLAVARRIA: Yes.
12
                MS. ABED: Here's the picture.
13
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Okay.
14
                MS. ABED: So that one already has a --
15
    that's already a four-unit building.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll say that I am
    familiar with the area very much. OEO is all around
17
         In fact, you took a picture of our green
18
    building right there.
19
20
                That building is a sore eye. So it needs
21
    a face lift. They're knocking down a lot of homes
22
    also in that area so it's going to be barren pretty
    soon so it needs some light to come back to it.
23
    I think it's a good move. It's been abandoned for a
24
25
    long time.
```

```
MS. ABED: Absolutely. So just for a
1
2
    point of reference. Diagonal in the other direction
3
    is Mendos Auto Shop. He's been the only commercial
    kind of storefront in that area for quite some time
4
5
    so he's excited also for us building diagonally so
    that we can give each other kind of a little bit of
6
    tech. He's been surrounded by a band of buildings
7
8
    way too long so he's excited.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: The one that fizzled
9
    out, sub shop, they've been on that corner also and
10
11
    kind of fizzled out. I think they died away or
    whatever the case may be. I seen somebody working in
12
13
    there and the City shut them down.
14
                MS. ABED:
                           Yes.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And I haven't seen them
    come back.
16
                MS. ABED: Yep. And then he's gotten all
17
    his materials at least four or five times.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I probably torn his name
19
20
    up but they had some good subs there.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: All right. So you got an
22
    application for a use variance, change of use.
23
    plan approval may be needed and off-street parking.
    So we have the photographs of the off-street parking.
24
25
                           There's plenty of parking
                MS. ABED:
```

```
that's really vacant, that whole area. It's super
1
2
    baron on both sides on the 4th Street side and the
    Ramona Gonzalez side. The street is named Ramona
3
4
    Gonzalez.
5
                MR. EINGORN: And I quess cause you're
    not using the garages for actual parking, you have a
6
    lot of frontage?
7
8
                MS. ABED: We weren't able to stay within
9
    our structured guidelines on the construction
    standpoint and keep it used for parking.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Residents with motorcycles
12
    only?
13
                MS. ABED: Yeah.
                                   I mean -- No.
                                                  I can't
14
    have a fuel-fired equipment.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions from the
            No questions. Anybody in the public that
16
    Board?
    would like to weigh in on 819 S. 5th Street, an
17
    application for multiple uses? Hearing none, we'll
18
    close the public portion. Board want to do a
19
    discussion of the Positive and Negative Criteria and
20
    make a motion?
2.1
22
                                  I think it's positive
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
23
    that a site that big being brought back to help that
24
    community come back. Like I said, Camden is knocking
25
    down a lot of old houses. If not, they're going to
```

```
1
    fall down. So they're going to knock them down and
2
    we need some new life over there. I think it's a
3
    positive move.
4
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I also think it's
5
    a positive. Whenever you can take a building and not
    tear it down and rehab it, bring it back to life,
6
    it's a good thing.
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion that we
8
9
    accept.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I second.
10
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
11
    Chairman Hance.
12
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
15
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
17
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
19
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
2.1
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
23
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
25
    none opposed, the motion passes.
```

MS. ABED: Thank you. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Thanks for coming in. 3 this time, we'll take a short break. 4 5 (The proceedings are off the record at 8:03 p.m.) 6 7 (The proceedings are back on the record 8 at 8:10 p.m.) 9 MR. EINGORN: Let the record reflect that 10 11 Reverend Martinez was not feeling good and had to 12 take leave tonight. So if you require a use variance 13 approval from here on out, you will need five 14 affirmative votes. So that means, a unanimous vote 15 of the Board. Just so we understand that and we're 16 clear. We'll take the next matter on the agenda, 3250-3252 River Road, LLC, SS River 80 E. Bergen 17 18 Avenue. 19 MR. CALZARETTO: Good evening, ladies and 20 gentlemen of the Board. My name is John Calzaretto. I'm with the Law Firm of Calzaretto & Bernstein 2.1 22 representing 3250-3252 River Avenue, LLC. 23 So we're here tonight because my client 24 who lives and grew up right around the corner from 25 this particular property, it was a vacant lot; people

would park on the lot for years; people would dump on 1 2 the lot; there was a lot of trash and debris. he's an investor in the area. He grew up in the 3 He decided to purchase the lot and he cleaned 4 5 up the lot; put a fence around it. He put it to a use for contractor vehicles, small transport buses 6 and small tractors. And he did that because a lot of 7 8 these vehicles would cloq up and congest the They created a safety hazard for a lot of 9 roadways. 10 children playing in the narrow city streets. 11 really worked out good. 12 However, the City came in and said, well, 13 you're going to need a variance to do that. And he 14 found out that the zone he was in, the C-2 Zone, 15 those properties have to be in a C-2 Zone, it wasn't a permitted use. However, it was an accessory use. 16 For that purpose he appealed the zone and said, look, 17 you know, the community needs this. The lot is being 18 kept clean; there's no tracks; there's no debris. 19 The trucks that would congest and clog up 20 21 the roads, these trucks actually create livelihoods 22 for a lot of people in the community. They're 23 painters; they're plumbers; and their electricians and they come home from a hard day's work and, you 24 25 know, they don't really want to park their trucks in

the street. And now they have an alternative.

A lot of communities have acknowledged the fact that you do need parking areas in densely configured neighborhoods like this particular neighborhood. In and around Bergen Road and River Road, there's all rowhomes. It's a high-density area. You need places for these types of vehicles to park. If not, you have a lot of congestion. If you look at other areas, they've all done it. You see a lot of it in Philadelphia. You see a lot of it in Gloucester City, believe it or not. Gloucester City has taken a lot of properties over the years. And instead of re-selling those properties, has committed those properties to parking uses in high-density residential areas.

In Gloucester City, I had spoken to the mayor at one time and he showed me how they're doing that off South King Street which is near parks and stuff like that. And it was just way too congested both North and South King Street. So they said, when we start to take areas because people aren't paying the property taxes on some of the homes and they became old and we knocked them down. We build parking lots now. Behind that whole residential area are areas to park. It has really been a good fit for

the community. 1 2 Anyway, I have here tonight, Mr. El Donaldo F. Vid, Al who everybody knows. And I 3 have the owner, Mr. Baudilio Gomez who wil be 4 5 testifying this evening also. MR. EINGORN: Mr. El Donaldo, you were 6 7 already sworn in so you're good to go. 8 Mr. Gomez, would you raise your right 9 hand, please. 10 11 BAUDILIO GOMEZ, having first been duly 12 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 13 14 15 MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and address for the record. 16 17 MR. GOMEZ: My name is Baudilio Gomez. My address is 1032 Beideman Avenue, Camden, New 18 19 Jersey 08105. 20 MR. CALZARETTO: So Baudilio, why don't 21 you describe what you were able to accomplish with 22 those vacant lots that used to track a lot of dumping and debris? 23 24 MR. GOMEZ: Yes. Well, even some of my 25 tenants -- I have a few rental properties in the

```
area -- some of them, they have like box trucks.
1
2
    They were clogging the residential streets especially
3
    when it's a one-way street. So even my tenants where
    their trucks having issues with all the neighbors
4
5
    because it was taking so much parking spots. And
    that's how the idea came. They asked me as a favor
6
    if they could park in my lot. They wanted to avoid a
7
8
    conflict with the neighbors. I didn't see no issue
              The lot is clear. There's no debris; no
    with it.
9
    trees. It won't interrupt them from parking and it's
10
11
    fenced up. So in the same way, it helps me maintain
    the lot too.
12
13
                Previously before me fencing it up the
14
    parking lot, people used to come in and park anyway.
15
    They trashed it. I heard of people do activities
    down in the parking lot without my consent.
16
    that's how the idea first came with my own tenants.
17
    One of them is a landscaper. He has a trailer and
18
    parking in the street and he always issues with all
19
    the neighbors. So that's how the idea came with me
20
21
    allowing them to park in the lot.
22
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Does anyone have
    questions for Mr. Gomez?
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: Yes. The only picture I
25
    see really is the one in this parking zone permit
```

```
plan. Do you own either the building here or the
1
2
    building here that are adjacent to the lot?
                MR. GOMEZ:
                            I don't own no building over
3
            It's a property in the corner.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: The issue we're going to
    have here is that, if you're going to argue it's an
6
7
    accessory use, it has to be accessory to something.
8
    Right? Otherwise, it's a principal use parking lot
    which wouldn't be permitted. If you have a building
9
    that's attached somehow then the parking lot could be
10
11
    accessory to the building. But it can't be accessory
    to itself. It has got to be accessory to something.
12
13
    So, therefore, you either need a use variance or you
14
    need some kind of building for the parking lot to be
15
    accessory too.
16
                MR. CALZARETTO: He does own the building
    caddy-corner to the lot.
17
18
                MR. GOMEZ: It's 3213-3215 near Miguels
19
    Pharmacy.
20
                MR. CALZARETTO: Well, there's a number
2.1
    of stores there.
22
                MR. GOMEZ: There's four commercial units
23
            I own that property there near Miguel's
    Pharmacy so this lot is --
24
25
                                        Where is it
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
```

```
adjacent?
1
                             I'm sorry?
2
                MR. GOMEZ:
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Where is the
4
    pharmacy adjacent to this lot?
5
                MR. GOMEZ: It's across the street.
                MR. CALZARETTO: It's caddy-corner to the
6
7
    corner.
                MR. EINGORN: But that's not adjacent.
8
    So you have a principal use parking lot.
9
                MR. CALZARETTO: Well, it actually
10
11
    creates parking for that store area too. It's a
    retail area.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: The accessory has to be
14
    part of the lot. Listen, I --
15
                MR. CALZARETTO: Every property owner
16
    owns halfway into the roadway, correct? It's just
    it's a right-of-way.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: That's a real stretch.
19
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: That's a huge stretch.
21
    don't want there to be an issue where somebody finds
22
    out about this and some how you're in appeal and then
    you lose. Right? If you get what you want and this
23
    seems like a great idea - the Board will make that
24
25
    determination -
```

```
1
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  Sure.
2
                MR. EINGORN: - you'd like to be able to
3
    have that stick in the event that there's a problem.
    And my job is to advise the Board of the legality of
4
5
    all of these little bits and pieces, including the
    fact that there's nothing for this to be accessory
6
         That's my issue.
7
    to.
8
                MR. CALZARETTO: My only response to
    that, Mr. Eingorn, is that there is a property that
9
    he owns directly caddy-corner to that property.
10
11
    mean, to argue technically adjacent use, you got to
    remember, everybody owns halfway into the street even
12
13
    though it's a right-of-way, so really those
14
    properties are connected by the corner. So it's a
15
    stretch, I understand. But it's a large commercial
16
    property and it has multiple uses.
17
                MR. EINGORN: You couldn't consolidate
    those two properties under one lot designation.
18
    That's the issue. So I get your argument; it's
19
20
    creative. But I don't think that it passes muster.
21
    That's just my, you know, land use knowledge on this
22
    bit of accessory issue is, it's really not accessory.
23
    It's a stand-alone parking lot.
24
                Not only that, you gave us a -- I'm
25
    assuming, I'm guessing this is Mr. Bernstein's
```

```
application or maybe not. I don't know. But I have
1
2
    the C-2 Commercial Zone Ordinance which is great but
3
    this is in the Cramer Hill Redevelopment Plan.
    does the Redevelopment Plan say about parking lots?
4
    I hate to do this, let's do it.
5
                MR. CALZARETTO: Yes, I provided it right
6
7
    there.
8
                MR. EINGORN: The plan says, "Cramer Hill
    will be a neighborhood for vacant lots or turned into
9
    clean side yards or new housing with modern
10
11
    amenities." I'm looking for the C-2 Commercial Zone.
    The purpose of the zone is create permitted uses,
12
13
    retail stores including but not limited to antiques,
14
    art, dry goods, variety and general merchandise,
15
    clothing fabrics, floor coverings. Personal services
16
    including not limited to barbershops, hairdressers,
    dry-cleaning establishments, photographs, funeral
17
    homes, shoe repairs, tailors, laundromats. Business
18
    services, convenience stores, banks, financial
19
    institutes, insurance offices, clubs, social or
20
21
    fraternal. Professional and private offices,
22
    restaurants sit-down only, shopping centers, public,
    private or parochial education. Building structures
23
    and uses owned and operated by the City of Camden.
24
25
    Parks, single-family dwellings, residential above
```

nonresidential, medical offices. Accessory uses, 1 2 off-street parking lots and parking structures. 3 That's an accessory the same as in the C-2. Any use that is not listed above shall be prohibited in this 4 district. And then it has a list of things that 5 doesn't say parking lot. 6 So based upon the catch-all, it would be 7 8 a prohibited use. 9 MR. CALZARETTO: Unless you build a 10 structure. 11 MR. EINGORN: Well, yeah, but then you have a whole separate application. You came in for 12 13 an interpretation. 14 MR. CALZARETTO: Right. 15 MR. EINGORN: You could come in for a use variance potentially, notice for it and tell 16 everybody, hey, we're going to use this as a parking 17 18 To argue it's an accessory use, really doesn't carry the day when there's no building. If you build 19 20 the building then you're adding expense, time; whole 21 new separate -- I mean, Mr. Vid Al is going to feel 22 great about it because he'll design the building. 23 MR. VID AL: The question is, there's 24 parking already in that plaza that those buildings

The parking caddy-corner which is this one.

25

can use.

```
It's still parking, I mean, but it's accessory to a
1
2
    use.
                MR. EINGORN: Right. It's accessory to a
3
    use that's not here, though, right?
                                         It's --
4
                MR. VID AL: The additional parking.
5
                MR. EINGORN: And the testimony has
6
    already been, we have tenants from all over the City
7
8
    or wherever it may be. I don't mean to characterize
9
    your testimony. But we have tenants elsewhere that
10
    are storing trucks here so instead they're not out on
11
    the street which I think is -- I mean, my personal
    opinion doesn't matter, but we hear about parking all
12
13
    the time here. So it's probably something that the
14
    City needs. The issue is, it's not an accessory use.
15
    It's a principal use. And we don't have an
    application for a use variance. We have an
16
    interpretation related to an accessory use argument.
17
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So if they have
    property, can he use that for his tenants to park on?
19
20
                MR. EINGORN: If he owned the house next
21
    door, he could consolidate --
22
                MR. CALZARETTO: I don't know if he can
23
    do that. What would be the accessory used to owning
    a house next door?
24
25
                MR. EINGORN: It's parking for the house.
```

And you can consolidate the lots and that would be it. I mean, before you put up a -- or you use the house and get a use variance for the house to use it as an office space for the parking lot, to manage the parking affairs. Then it would accessory to that. But it's not accessory to itself and it can't be accessory to something that's off-site. That's not how it works.

MR. CALZARETTO: What if you put up a parking, like you see a lot of parking lots have a parking like a trailer there? You could build a permanent structure and --

MR. EINGORN: Right. But, again, you can just instead of that ask for a use variance and then you don't have to worry about a structure. You don't have a structure yet. I mean, I see people do that for like PODS and stuff like that where they want to store containers, they throw up a shed of some sort and say it's an office for the thing and storage is accessory to the office. We see that. But that really isn't an accessory use.

Parking lots and things like this often people get upset about. So if you want to withstand a potential appeal, and I don't know if that's going to happen; or the fact that it's not really accessory

```
and the Board says no. I think you'd rather do it
1
2
    the right way. That's my personal opinion.
                                                  If you
    want to move forward, the Board will consider it.
3
    But that's my legal opinion.
4
                MR. CALZARETTO: The issue is to ask for
5
    a use variance, that we would have to amend the
6
    Redevelopment Plan too. So it might be better just
7
8
    to put some kind of structure on there.
9
                MR. EINGORN: You may need to talk to the
    Planning Office about that --
10
11
                MR. CALZARETTO: Right.
12
                MR. EINGORN: -- or the Zoning Board
13
    Engineer. But, I mean, I don't think you want the
14
    Board to rule on an accessory structure and then if
15
    you lose then you have an res judicata issue --
16
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Right.
                MR. EINGORN: -- because you're coming
17
    back with another parking lot.
18
19
                MR. CALZARETTO: Right.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Trying to give you the
21
    courtesy.
22
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  I understand.
                                                 All
            So we'll withdraw and come back with another
23
24
    application. Thank you.
```

MR. GOMEZ: Thank you.

25

```
1
                MR. EINGORN: 1060 Bergen Avenue, LLC, is
2
    that already to go?
                MR. CALZARETTO: John Calzaretto with the
3
    Law Firm of Calzaretto & Bernstein representing
4
    1060 Bergen Avenue, LLC. The property is located at
5
    1060 Bergen Avenue, Camden, New Jersey. In this
6
7
    case, the property owner owns a rental property at
8
    1060 Bergen. I'm not sure what occurred with the
    City but the City said, oh, you can't park in your
9
10
    front yard and all the people on that street park in
11
    their front yard.
12
                So they told us: Well, we're going to
13
    have to go in front of the Zoning Board and get a
14
    zoning permit. Because in this particular zone, the
15
    outdoor storage in any residential district, no
16
    residential vehicle shall be parked in no area
    designated for parking. Bulk variance is needed and
17
    license agreement is needed from the City Council if
18
    ZBA approves. The problem with that -- and I'm
19
20
    going to hand out these pictures. The way these
21
    buildings were --
22
                MR. EINGORN: John, do you want to mark
    this Exhibit A?
23
                MR. CALZARETTO: We can mark it Exhibit
24
25
    Α.
```

MR. EINGORN: Exhibit A, colored photo. 1 2 MR. CALZARETTO: So 1060 is actually the one with the red mailbox there on the left. And 1062 3 is the one with the grey car parked. And you could 4 5 see that 1060 also had a gate there for parking and two concrete pads for the car. And that's the way 6 7 everyone utilized that street for years and years and 8 years. 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is there a curb cut 10 there? 11 MR. CALZARETTO: Yes, there's curb cuts 12 too. 13 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Cause when I went 14 down that street, it's a couple of houses, right? 15 understand you got a few houses with cars parked but 16 with some houses, trees are there and they can't get into --17 MR. CALZARETTO: Well, you don't have to 18 But from talking to residents in the area, 19 20 some people say it's been that way for years, years 21 and years. Now, you can take your little pads out 22 and put a garden there if you wanted. 23 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: No, I'm saying on the sidewalk itself, there's trees where they 24 25 couldn't use the curb. They couldn't go up the curb

because a tree is planted there. 1 2 MR. CALZARETTO: Oh, they planted a tree in front of the property? 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The trees are actually planted on the curb that stops them --5 MR. CALZARETTO: But there's also, a lot 6 of the houses there have the cars parked. If you ask 7 8 me why did they do that? Well, they want to eliminate congestion. It's more and more people. 9 10 You got the remember these homes were probably built in the 20's and stuff like that. There weren't a lot 11 of cars on the street. 12 13 MR. GOMEZ: As the actual parking like 14 for example on this property, my tenant owns two 15 vehicles. So when they can put one in and then they put the other one in the street. So as for the 16 tenant, it acts like an actual parking lot. 17 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I just stated that. this picture here, the guy with the silver -- you 19 20 can't make it out cause there's a car parked right 2.1 there --22 It's probably his wife. MR. CALZARETTO: 23 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: What the City is probably getting at here, have you ever seen someone 24 25 park a car here and then somebody pull up on the

```
sidewalk? Now the sidewalk is not accessible.
1
2
    what I'm saying? When you have this like here, if
3
    that person wanted to pull their car behind there?
                MR. CALZARETTO: Well, we couldn't do
4
5
    that because we'd be blocking the right-of-way.
                MR. GOMEZ: I've never seen that.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: You've never see
8
    that?
9
                MR. GOMEZ:
                            No.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: But the only issue we
11
    have here is, there's curb cuts here. And curb cuts
12
    means you can park in there. That's why they do a
13
    curb cut.
               If it was a straight curb where you got to
14
    go on top of it, this is a curb cut.
15
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 Oh no. They've always
16
    been cut.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 It was built for cars to
17
    go up there.
18
                MR. CALZARETTO: And I don't want to say
19
20
    anything even if the argument is, you know, it's a
21
    preexisting nonconforming use because it you look,
22
    these houses were there for a long, long time.
23
    People have been parking their cars there for a long,
    long time. And probably it became more, I guess,
24
25
    utilized as, you know, now everybody has their own
```

```
And back in the 40's and 50's the family had
1
2
    one car. And, you know, we got to change with the
3
    times, I quess.
                MR. GOMEZ: When I consulted with the
4
5
    other neighbors, and I thought it was happening
    with -- I received a letter regarding to the permit.
6
7
    They were over-surprised. And they told me, no, they
8
    never received a letter from the City regarding to
    the parking situation. They were surprised.
9
10
    was the only person that I know of, that received a
11
    letter regarding to the parking.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: What did City
13
    Council --
14
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                 It's almost like spot
15
    zoning.
             I don't want to say anything. For only one
    person to get a letter, maybe they should have given
16
    everybody a letter on the street. I'm sure this has
17
    been going on for some time. But you can see that
18
    the concrete pads preexisted even his purchase of the
19
20
    property.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: What kind of letter did you
22
    receive?
              Do you have a copy?
23
                MR. CALZARETTO: Let me see.
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       What is No. 3,
25
    Kyle?
           It says: License agreement is needed for City
```

```
Council if Zoning Board approves.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN:
                              I don't --
                MR. GOMEZ: He got a violation before
3
    this, though, and then he went to the City.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Right. This is the zoning
    permit denial letter. This is when the -- I want to
6
    know what the City sent him that said --
7
8
                MR. CALZARETTO: He got something from
    the City that said, you know -- hold on. This might
9
    be it. No, this isn't it. You got something before
10
11
    that.
           Grab that. They told him he needed a permit
    so he went and figured out it's just a permit issue.
12
13
    And then they said: No, we're denying your permit.
14
    And that's when it became a zoning matter. I don't
15
    think I have the original letter he received from the
    City that said he had to get a zoning permit.
16
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Sir, when you
17
    bought this house, was this double fence already
18
19
    here?
20
                MR. GOMEZ:
                            I'm sorry?
21
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: When you purchased
    this house, was this double fence already there?
22
23
                MR. GOMEZ: Yes, it was already there.
24
    That's where they use to close it up when you park.
25
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Any questions from
```

```
the Board?
1
2
                MS. ALSTON:
                             This Resolution that's in
3
    here for the Zoning, was it because he didn't come to
    the Zoning Board and it was denied?
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear
6
    you.
7
                MS. ALSTON:
                              There's a letter, a
    Resolution here --
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: So it was on the agenda for
    a few weeks -- few months, and we hadn't heard from
10
11
    anyone so we denied it without prejudice for failure
    to prosecute. That's all. We didn't want to deny
12
13
    them the right to come back, but we didn't also want
14
    them to get automatic approval. So as a courtesy, we
15
    denied it without prejudice.
16
                MR. CALZARETTO: He just wanted to do the
    right thing and come before the Board and try to get
17
18
    some relief here. In that everybody, you know, on
    the street for the most part, are able to park two
19
20
    cars in front of their property.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: What if they have a curb
22
          You can't pull your car up there. That's what
    a curb cut is made for.
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: The only issue is, we can't
25
    see the curb cut in the photo.
```

```
MR. CALZARETTO: Can you testify that
1
2
    there's a curb cuts?
3
                MR. GOMEZ: Yes, there's a curb cut
    there, yes.
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Now, do all the houses
    have curb cuts where cars are pulling up?
6
7
                MR. CALZARETTO:
                                  Yes.
                MR. GOMEZ: Yes, where the gates are.
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Not all of them
9
    cause I rode down there and not all of them have
10
11
    them.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So certain ones have the
12
13
    curb cut?
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
15
                MR. CALZARETTO: I think it was probably
16
    done years and years ago to alleviate congestion on
    the street. I'm not sure what the City did back
17
    then.
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: This is 2022 that
19
    the picture was taken.
20
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: I mean, if there's a
22
    preexisting curb cut, that's one thing. But I think
    the Board needs to see it.
23
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: See it, yeah.
25
    Do we have a picture of that curb cut? Because,
```

```
again, when I went down there, I think the house
1
2
    maybe two doors down that has that tree there where
    they couldn't have a curb cut.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Also, it looks like there's
5
    a sewer meter right here.
                MR. CALZARETTO: Do you have a picture of
6
7
    it?
8
                MR. EINGORN: We can't accept things on
9
             The problem is, we can't keep your phone.
    It has to go into the record.
10
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It's getting late,
11
12
    right? All we need is pictures from him. Can we put
13
    him on the case.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Put you on Old Business and
15
    then you come with the pictures of the curb cut --
16
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Pictures and it's
    a done deal.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: -- then we'll open to the
    public, close to the public and weigh on the
19
20
    application.
21
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Just show us the
22
    curb cut and you're good to go.
23
                MR. GOMEZ: Okay.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Lots and lots of
24
25
    pictures.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Of the whole street.
1
2
    pictures up and down the street of all the cars, all
3
    the curb cuts, and the parking. And then the Board
    will take one look at it and they'll make a
4
5
    determination. Hopefully it will be real quick.
                MR. CALZARETTO: All right. Thank you
6
7
    for your time.
                MR. EINGORN: That will be heard in
8
9
    June. For the record, 1060 Bergen Avenue, LLC that
    application will be continued to the June meeting.
10
11
                Next matter is Tony Payton, Jr., 2513
    Federal Street.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
14
    hand, please.
15
16
                TONY PAYTON, JR., having first been duly
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
17
    follows:
18
19
20
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
2.1
22
                MR. PAYTON: Tony Payton, Jr., 830 Timber
23
    Creek Lane, Wayne, PA 19087.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Payton, why don't you
25
    tell us what you're here for tonight?
```

```
MR. PAYTON: I am here for a use variance
1
2
    for a retail store, a former Dollar Store, to use
3
    that as a Cannabis dispensary.
                MR. EINGORN: The property is located on
5
    Federal Street at 2513?
                MR. PAYTON: Yes, 2513 Federal Street.
6
                MR. EINGORN: This is not within the
7
    Cannabis-related Zone?
8
9
                MR. PAYTON: Yes. So the City when they
    passed their ordinance, created a couple of green
10
11
    zones and that area was not included.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Can you tell us a little
13
    bit about what's near this building whether any
14
    sensitive uses are near by, schools, churches --
15
                MR. PAYTON:
                             No. We had a survey
                There's a church, I would say it's
16
    conducted.
    probably just about 208 feet according to the survey,
17
    away on 26th Street. Other than that, it's your
18
    typical kind of commercial corridor; the number of
19
20
    retail stores up in there.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: This used to a
22
    clothing store?
23
                MR. PAYTON: It was a Dollar Store so it
24
    was Dollar Point so it was a Dollar Store that used
25
    to sell some kind of clothes. It used to be -- what
```

```
are those things called? Manikins out front with
1
2
    clothes on it. There were clothes and other
    knick-knacks.
3
4
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Rainbow?
                MR. PAYTON: Yes. Rainbow is next door.
5
    So it's Rainbow, the former Dollar Point and then
6
7
    that's a -- is that a Metro PCS? I think it's a
8
    Metro PCS.
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I know the area.
10
    I got you now.
11
                MR. PAYTON: I guess across the street is
    Club DuBai or DoHa.
12
13
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, it's a club
14
    across the street from there.
15
                MR. PAYTON: I think it's Dubai, I
16
    believe.
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COPPER: Do you own the
18
    property or are you --
19
                MR. PAYTON: I have it under contract to
20
    purchase. I'll be purchasing the property.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It says that it's
22
    not -- pretty they're saying it's not a permitted in
```

MR. PAYTON: So the areas that the City

included in the Cannabis Ordinance, I believe it's

that area on Federal Street.

23

24

25

```
like -- their Ordinance, I believe, is 5260. You had
1
2
    a university area and then downtown. And then you
3
    had a little on Mt. Ephraim as what they included in
    the back.
4
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        That was --
6
                MR. PAYTON: Those were the green zones
7
    that the City Council created.
                MR. EINGORN: I have the Ordinance here.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Didn't they extend the
9
10
    zone?
11
                MR. PAYTON: So they've changed it a
    couple of times.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: They actually consulted my
14
    office on the wording on it. They didn't take my
15
    advice. They did put something in the affect of:
    Feel free to come in with a use variance application.
16
                So we're outside the Cannabis Zone, the
17
    designated areas for Cannabis. There's not much here
18
    by way of proofs or other items. So this store front
19
    is in the middle of a block?
20
2.1
                MR. PAYTON: Yes.
                                    It's one off of the
22
             And then most of these of stores of this
    corner.
23
    nature require security facilities to maintain the
24
    product in a secured capacity. What can you tell us
25
    about that?
```

MR. PAYTON: Sure. In alignment with the CRC Guidelines, we will have -- the way that sort of your dispensary is laid out is, you have a safe room; you have a prep room where sort of your deliveries are done securely. You'll have both physical security and camera securities at ever angle inside the building.

And within a couple hundred feet outside of the building, we'll have both lighting and security access control points there. Product overnight is stored in the safe which is a pretty -- I think it's about 14 feet high and close to about 10 feet wide. So it's a pretty big safe where all your product is stored, all of that stuff overnight.

Now with Cannabis going from Schedule 1 to Schedule 3, you're going to see a world of changes in that industry particularly around banking being more legalized. So it'll be less sort of cash.

Right now most stores you can go and use your debit card. You'll be able to use your traditional kind of Visa, MasterCard, those kinds of things. So you'll see less cash transacted as in any retail environment now. Not many of us carry cash.

MR. EINGORN: Is there rear access to this building?

MR. PAYTON: 1 Yes. 2 MR. EINGORN: Is that how deliveries 3 would take place? 4 MR. PAYTON: Yes. Deliveries would occur 5 through the rear access at sort of designated -it'll be a designated time but they will be kind of 6 staggered depending on delivery. So we anticipate 7 deliveries about once a week. 8 9 MS. ALSTON: The dispensaries themselves, they're very highly regulated. They require a lot of 10 11 security; a lot of cameras like you said and things like that. 12 13 MR. PAYTON: And before we would open, we 14 would have to pass all the requirements of the New 15 Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. So it is 16 very, very highly regulated. You have to turn over a lot of information. 17 I'm familiar with the whole 18 MS. ALSTON: 19 But I'm also familiar with that Federal process. Street area. And I know that they have like smoke 20 21 shops and vape shops now. And I think some of the 22 concerns and you said you did a survey, would be the, I guess, the religious institutions and the schools 23 and making sure they're within those distance like 24 25 100 feet or 200 feet; and I'm sure you've made --

you've checked on those. 1 2 MR. PAYTON: Yes. MS. ALSTON: I think even if you're going 3 to get a delivery, a Cannabis delivery, it's not 4 5 going to be a boat-load of delivery where you need a whole entire truck. 6 It may be two boxes. 7 MR. PAYTON: 8 of the stuff is prepackaged and either 3 1/2 grams, 7 grams or your ounces. 9 10 MS. ASLTON: Yes. 11 The biggest thing, I think, it's the security. But with the presence of the security 12 13 team, physical and with the cameras, that helps a lot 14 to deter any violence or anyone really trying to --15 and they're armed. There is required to be armed security at those locations? 16 17 MR. PAYTON: I believe so. Like if we're thinking about 18 MS. ALSTON: is it going to bring violent behavior; is it going to 19 be a detriment and things like that? I do not think 20 2.1 that's the case. And I did see, like I said, vape 22 stores and smoke shops coming next to the Jaritza 23 Restaurant which is like right down the street, there is a smoke shop there. Not exactly the same --24 25 I have had some MR. PAYTON:

conversations with the councilman for that area. 1 2 There is sort of an element of addiction that is out on that corridor particularly early in the morning. 3 We talked about some plans to mitigate some of that 4 5 and be proactive about and being part of the community and making sure that that element, No. 1, 6 gets the treatment they need. Number 2, there's a --7 8 you know, we give them something to do like clean that corridor which it needs. 9 MS. ALSTON: So you said you are going to 10 11 be proactive. And how do you see that? 12 MR. PAYTON: Part of it is, you got 13 build a relationship. So you can't address a problem 14 without talking to the people that are causing the 15 problem. That's sort of my approach to it. And then you figure out what people want or need. 16 them are looking for employment. And the perfect 17 opportunity for employment would be to clean that 18 corridor and make it safe. 19 20 MS. ALSTON: Now, do you have experience 21 in this industry? 22 I have a lot of experience MR. PAYTON: in this industry. I've been in the Cannabis 23 industry since 2017; done a lot of work for clients; 24 25 now doing a lot of it myself. So I have got licenses

and helped people in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New 1 2 York, Connecticut, even as far as Australia. Australia is sounds far away but I've lived there for 3 a number of years so that's why Australia. So that's 4 how I'm familiar with Australia. I'm building a 5 cultivation in Australia, so I have a lot of 6 experience in the Cannabis industry. And a lot of 7 8 experience with community development as I'm a former Deputy Secretary for Community and Economic 9 Development in Pennsylvania, and a former elected 10 official. 11 MR. EINGORN: 12 Keep in mind that the 13 Board's obligation is to weigh the Positive and 14 Negative Criteria including site suitability, 15 whether or not this particular location is suitable 16 for this proposed use; whether or not it would impair the Zone Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. Those are 17 the items you need to keep in mind when addressing 18 19 this application. 20 So it sounds like the Board is aware of 21 the location where this dispensary is proposed. 22 Maybe you can chime in as to whether or not this is something that would fit with the character and 23 24 nature of this part of the City. It does seem like

it's a commercial corridor. It's a C-1 Zone so it

25

```
has that going for it.
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The only thing is,
3
    you really have to be proactive because that area is
    not the best area for something like this. There's a
4
5
    lot of drug activity that goes on around there within
    a four-block radius. If you come down towards Dollar
6
    General, you get people hanging in the parking lot.
7
8
    They go to sleep there. I know Cannabis don't cause
    that to happen but, you know, it could be a trigger
9
    for these guys to be a nuisance to you.
10
11
                MR. PAYTON:
                             Absolutely. And I have
12
    dealt with sort of issues like. From my elected
13
    life, I had an office underneath the L so I had an
    office on the 4900th block of Frankford Avenue.
14
15
    it's an element that I have a lot of experience
    dealing with. And I have helped a lot of those
16
    people turn themselves around.
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So what's your
18
19
    hours of operation?
20
                MR. PAYTON: So it would be about -- we'd
21
    open about nine to eight-ish.
22
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So eight o'clock,
23
    right, most corner stores close at eight, right.
    That's the Ordinance, I believe?
24
25
                MR. PAYTON:
                             Yes.
```

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So you're going to 1 2 be in compliance with the corner stores? 3 MR. PAYTON: Yes. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And that store, 4 5 that's all you're going to sell is Cannabis, right? 6 7 MR. PAYTON: Absolutely. That's all that we are licensed to sell is Cannabis. 8 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to back-track 10 to the trigger that Mr. Cooper was saying. Because 11 the sad part is, no matter where you are, it's a I mean, it's so vast that no matter with a 12 trigger. 13 store to the left and to the right or in Cherry Hill 14 or Philadelphia, it's a trigger. Cause between the 15 homelessness and the drug addicts and alcoholics, it's all a trigger. 16 How many liquor stores are you seeing? 17 Just like Chinese food stores, how many do you see? 18 They're all triggers. It's just how you deal with 19 20 the situation and give back to the community. 21 either cushion that trigger or show them the right 22 way. Because if somebody says, well, if you start 23 doing marijuana then you'll try something stronger 24 but that's not true. It's a touchy situation. 25 go to Parkside on Haddon Avenue at the drugstore --

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Miquels Pharmacy.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I frequent that
    place -- not frequent. I went by there and seen
4
5
    that operation and they have a pretty good operation.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: They have an armed guard
6
7
    in there.
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
                                              If you can
9
    mirror your business to what they're doing there, I
    think it'll work.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Cause like you said,
12
    four blocks they're selling drugs over there; five
13
    blocks that way they're selling drugs down there.
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        You're not going
15
    to get around it.
16
                MR. EINGORN: I don't have a say in this
    application, but every time you go by a beer store,
17
    there's 1,000 ads up on the wall. Every time you go
18
    by one of these stores, it's very discreet it seems.
19
     They're usually very-well presented. So least
20
    there's that.
2.1
22
                               I have a question.
                MS. MERRICKS:
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion that we
24
    pass.
25
                                      We haven't opened up
                MR. EINGORN: Wait.
```

```
to the public.
1
 2
                MR. PAYTON: I believe Ms. Merricks had a
 3
    question.
                MS. MERRICKS: I just wanted to ask.
 4
                                                       Is
    it both recreational and medical or it's just
 5
    recreational?
 6
                MR. PAYTON: We will serve both
8
    recreational and medical patients.
                MR. EINGORN: I don't think New Jersey
9
    has medical. It's all recreational.
10
11
                MR. PAYTON: New Jersey still does have a
    medical program. And, actually, if you have a
12
13
    medical card, there's discounts on the product if you
    have a medical card. We do still have a medical
14
15
    program. It's not growing as fast as it once was but
16
    we still --
                MR. EINGORN: Understood. I don't think
17
    it's like Pennsylvania where they have --
18
                MR. PAYTON: Pennsylvania is just
19
20
    medical. We need to get their act together and free
21
    the plant but that's a whole other --
22
                MS. ALSTON: Are you in the beginning of
    the process? Have you secured a license from the CRC
23
    or are you just starting -- and are you going to be
24
25
    set up as a minority or is this going to be like a
```

standard license? 1 2 MR. PAYTON: So we do have a license from We were issued a license for the CRC for a 3 different location. Now we are moving that location 4 5 to this location. We are set up as a minority business enterprise. It'll be a standard license, 6 7 not micro. 8 MS. ALSTON: A standard and not micro, 9 you said? A standard license, 10 MR. PAYTON: Yes. 11 not a micro which means we'll have more than ten 12 employees. 13 MS. ALSTON: And what I've seen in the 14 past is like a lot of the employees that are hired 15 for these positions are not necessarily people from 16 the City of the Camden. Once you go, I guess, standard then you would -- up to 25 employees, would 17 you have to fall under the mayor's or the City rule 18 to report how many Camden City residents you have 19 20 working? 2.1 MR. PAYTON: Very much so. And I've 22 spent a lot of time in Camden over the last couple of This job is not rocket science. I can train 23 24 people to do it and I've done it. I've trained 25 hundreds of people to do this job. All you need to

do is -- the education part of it is easy. But it's 1 2 really customer interface. Anybody can do that. MR. EINGORN: Any other questions? 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: None at all. 4 5 MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public that would like to speak on the application of 2513 6 Federal Street either for or against? Hearing none 7 8 and seeing none, we'll close the public portion. is the time for the Board to weigh in on the Positive 9 and Negative Criteria for the requested use variance 10 and make a motion. 11 12 MS. ALSTON: I think it's a positive. 13 There's nothing in the Ordinance of the Cannabis 14 Ordinance that really says that they cannot do it. Т 15 was a part of that Ad Hoc Committee and that was a 16 group of maybe, I don't know, 15 people. And our original recommendation was to allow the Cannabis 17 Dispensary throughout the entire City. After that, 18 it went towards the City, the Council and they sort 19 of said, these areas. 20 2.1 But just knowing Federal Street, I think 22 knowing that there's smoke shops, knowing that you have two or three liquor stores already on Federal 23 24 Street. You have the club. I know that the hours 25 are regulated. I know there's hours of operations

```
listed. And I know that as far as for the security
1
2
    and making sure everyone is safe, I think having the
3
    product inside and being able to buy the product
    inside of a dispensary, it's safer than buying out in
4
5
    the street where it may be wrapped or even mixed with
    things that it's going to hurt the person that is
6
    using it. Where, you know, these strands are being
7
8
    monitored from babies to when they get into the store
    and we know that the product is safe.
9
                              They're also tested for
10
                MR. PAYTON:
11
    pesticides, mold, heavy metals.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Any other discussion?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll just piggyback and
13
14
    say, you're right. I'd rather go into a store than
15
    go into a dark corner and purchase it because you may
    not come out of that dark corner. And, also, you get
16
    a sense of trust with that customer and the customer
17
    trusts you so they won't go looking somewhere else.
18
    The only thing that I see about dispensaries or
19
20
    stores, that they're high in price and that turns off
2.1
    the customer.
22
                              I think you guys already
                MR. PAYTON:
23
    helped the price part of it by approving the
    cultivation facility which we're about to start.
24
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Okay.
```

```
MR. PAYTON: So if you control the
1
2
    production, you can be the lowest price provider.
                                  I think it's a smart
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
    move.
4
5
                MS. ALSTON:
                              I think the other concern
    is, like he said, having those people that are
6
    actually selling it illegally, sort of want to take
7
8
    you down like: Let's get rid of his dispensary.
    But I think with your background and what you have
9
    said, you've worked in areas like this in that you
10
11
    are prepared to come and try to offer something
12
    harmoniously that's going to work, although not
13
    everything is going to make everyone happy.
14
    you're not coming in here with thinking it's going to
15
    be one thing and it may turn out to be another.
16
    you've already know that this may be a problem in the
    future.
17
                             I've got these big ears to
18
                MR. PAYTON:
19
    listen more than I talk.
20
                MS. ALSTON: Okay. Very good.
21
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                I think it's a good idea
22
    because all the people that are, you know, succumbing
    to a lot of stuff that's on the street. And when
23
    you're doing like marijuana, they might get into it.
24
25
    I think it might save lives because of all the OD's
```

```
and stuff that we do have in the City of Camden; that
1
2
    they can get a hold of something that has been
    monitored. Like you said, check for mold; check for
3
    metals, heavy metals, Fentanyl, all that kind of
4
    stuff. It could be a life-saving situation.
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion to
6
7
    pass.
                              I second the motion.
8
                MS. ALSTON:
                MR. EINGORN: We have a motion and a
9
             We'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman
10
11
    Hance.
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
14
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
17
18
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
20
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN: Having five in favor and
22
    none opposed, the motion passes. Congratulations.
23
                The last next matter is German
24
    Enterprises, Corp., 1626 Locust Street, unless
25
    Abraham Ituh showed up. But I don't see him.
```

```
1
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening, Gentlemen,
2
    please your raise right hand, please.
3
4
                PHILIP VARGAS; FRANCISCO VARGAS, having
5
    first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and
    testified as follows:
6
                MR. EINGORN: Names and addresses for the
8
9
    record, please.
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Philip Vargas, 1269
10
11
    Sheridan Street, Camden, New Jersey.
12
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: My name is
13
    Francisco Vargas and I have the same address.
14
                MR. EINGORN: So here's my question. You
15
    have a corporation here.
16
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Yes.
17
                MR. EINGORN: Who owns the corporation?
18
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: That's mine.
                MR. EINGORN: Is it 100 percent, the
19
    whole thing? Is it a limited liability company?
20
2.1
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Yes. It's an LLC.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Does it say LLC on the --
23
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: I have two
24
    companies.
25
                MR. EINGORN: You have too many
```

```
companies.
1
2
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: That's my company
3
    for construction. And my enterprise for the house,
    personal house.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: You declare this on your
    personal taxes?
6
7
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN: We can accept that.
    go forward with a Cert of Nonconforming Use for a
9
    commercial with apartment.
10
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: I brought a lot of
11
12
    pictures showing the outside.
13
                MS. ALSTON: So, Kyle, did you say:
                                                      Did
14
    you declare this on your personal taxes?
15
                MR. EINGORN: Yes.
16
                MS. ALSTON: So corporations do not get
    declared on personal taxes. I'm sorry. They file a
17
    tax return on its own.
18
                MR. EINGORN: But if he declares it like
19
20
    a sole proprietorship then --
2.1
                MS. ALSTON:
                             If you're a corporation,
22
    you're not a sole proprietor which would go on a
    Schedule C. I do taxes for a living.
23
                                            So a
    corporation actually files an 1120. So you do file a
24
25
    separate return. I just wanted to make sure.
```

```
sorry, Kyle. Because I kind of heard that on the
1
2
    end. So you do file a corporation tax, right?
3
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                        I'm a corporation.
4
                MS. ALSTON: Right, you file the
5
    corporation tax on it too?
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                        Yeah. My English
6
7
    not so good.
8
                MS. ALSTON:
                              Okay. Sorry.
9
                MR. EINGORN: So we have a building, yes.
    And the building is located at 1626 Louis Street; is
10
11
    that correct?
12
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Very good. He's answering
14
    with a yes. I like that. We have a couple of floor
15
    plans?
16
                MS. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: We have the photographs.
17
    Has the Board all had gotten a chance to see the
18
19
    photographs?
20
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: Great. So tell us about
22
    your building?
23
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
                                           My father and I
24
    are planning to extend the rear end of the building.
25
    The bottom of the garage, we want to like put it with
```

```
the house as parking for our personal vehicles for
1
2
    the company. And the second floor, he wants to
3
    extend it. But it's like, extend it but it's part of
    the garage as like a office space. And then in the
4
5
    house where it is originally, he wants the top
    portion as the residential, an apartment, and the
6
    bottom as a commercial, barber shop, salon.
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: Your application is a
    Certification for Nonconforming Use. So you need to
9
    show us that this was a commercial on the first floor
10
11
    and a residential on the second floor dating back as
    far as you can. Do you have the ability to do that?
12
13
    What do you got?
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Do you need pictures
14
15
    or?
16
                MR. EINGORN: Were you here for the
    application where they brought the prior owner's
17
    daughter and they brought --
18
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: No.
                                          It was like a
19
20
    bar.
21
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: It was like a bar
22
    and room on the top and the bottom.
23
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: It was an apartment
24
    before on top and the first floor was a bar.
25
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Okay. It was a bar?
```

```
MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
1
                                        Yes.
2
                MR. EINGORN: Now you want to use it for
           What do you want to put on the first floor?
3
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: On the first floor
    I make it for rent. Maybe a barber shop for me.
5
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: And for the second he
6
7
    wants what looks like an apartment, two-bedroom
8
    apartment.
9
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: With livingroom
10
    and dining room together like an open area and
11
    kitchen open area.
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: The rear is like --
12
13
    the garage, he wants to make it this side, a small
14
    area like part of -- like open with the garage.
15
                MR. EINGORN: So here's what's happening.
    You want a commercial space on the first floor?
16
17
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: You want an apartment on
19
    the second floor?
20
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Yeah.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: And you want to build an
22
    office above the garage where you're going to store
    construction materials?
23
24
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: No.
                                          It's like
25
    personal office because we don't have it right now.
```

```
MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: I don't have
1
2
    office right now.
3
                MR. EINGORN: So you really want three
4
    uses on this lot?
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
5
                                     Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: But that's not a Cert of
6
    Nonconforming Use. A Cert of Nonconforming Use is,
7
8
    it was previously 'X,' right? And I want to keep it
    as that but the Zone Ordinance changed in the
9
    interim. And I just want to confirm that I can use
10
    it for what it was used for before.
11
12
                What you really need is a use variance
13
    for three uses on the same lot. That's really what
    you need. And, so, unless you want to bail on the
14
15
    office space and just go with the apartment and the
16
    commercial on the first floor, you're really not
    asking for the correct relief.
17
18
                MS. NUNEZ: Do you understand what he's
19
    saying?
20
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Not really.
                MS. NUNEZ: Before it was used for a
2.1
22
    certain thing, right?
23
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
24
                MS. NUNEZ: So now what you're trying to
25
    do is use it for that kind thing and then something
```

```
else, and something else. So you need a use
1
2
    variance.
               I'm trying to explain it to them.
                             Why don't we do this.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
    Unless you want to abandon the office space which I
4
5
    don't think you want to do.
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
6
                                    No.
                              Then what you need to do is
7
                MR. EINGORN:
8
    withdraw the application and talk to the Planning
    Office about what you're really looking for.
9
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
10
                                    Okay.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Because asking for this
    doesn't get you the office you want. It only gets
12
13
    you what you already had which was a bar and an
14
    apartment. And you don't even have the stuff here,
15
    to be honest with you, to support that determination
16
    because it's a legal -- you're making a legal
    argument for a Cert of Nonconforming Use. We really
17
    don't have the info for that. So really you need a
18
19
    use variance. Call the Planning Office and see what
20
    you need to get what and where want to go.
21
    right?
22
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Okay.
23
                MR. EINGORN:
                              If you need help, Mr. Vid
24
    Al is here all the time. He creates great plans.
25
    comes here and he explains everything really well.
```

And he'll be able to explain to you what you need. 1 2 So I recommend his services. You don't have to. It's just a suggestion. Seriously. 3 MR. PHILIP VARGAS: He's asking if he can 4 5 maintain how it was like the apartment is just the commercial and not have the office space or the 6 garage, can he continue with the process? 7 8 MR. EINGORN: Do we have the ability to show that it was commercial dating back before the 9 10 zone change? 11 MS. NUNEZ: So he's saying that he not -can we disregard the part of doing the adjacent 12 13 office to that building and just keep it as it is? Or is it still that he needs a use variance for what 14 15 he wants to do with this? 16 MR. EINGORN: No, no. If you just want to keep it as it is and you want to ask for the Cert 17 18 of Nonconforming Use, you can certainly do that. in order to get the office space over the garage and 19 20 all that, you're going to need a use variance. 2.1 MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Okay. 22 MS. NUNEZ: Come back with a separate. 23 MR. EINGORN: Right. This doesn't get you the office. This only gets you what you have. 24 25 Can I see the picture?

```
MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
1
                                       Yes.
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Kyle, can I see
3
    the pictures? The pictures don't show the garage or
    anything.
4
                MR. EINGORN: No, no. I'm not worried
5
    about the garage. Did you get a Stop Work Order?
6
7
    You were working and they told you to stop working?
8
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: I no working. I
9
    just buy it like this.
                MR. EINGORN: You bought it like this?
10
11
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Yes.
                                              That one is
    my material for my company. I no touch. Just clean
12
13
    it out and that's it.
14
                MR. EINGORN: There's nothing left here
15
    to show that there was a bar or a commercial space.
16
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: So we need proof of
    that?
17
                MR. EINGORN: You own this whole building
18
    or just a piece of it?
19
20
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                    No.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: The whole building.
22
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: So you have these roll-ups,
24
    right?
25
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                       That's for the
```

```
door for the second floor, this door.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: For the apartment?
3
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: For the apartment.
                MR. EINGORN: And the front is right here
4
5
    and one on the back.
                MR. EINGORN: And here, is there a
6
7
    large --
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: That's for the
8
9
    glass. Front window.
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: That used to be the
10
    window.
11
                MR. EINGORN: The front window?
12
13
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: Yes. It has one on
14
    the front and one on the side.
15
                MR. EINGORN: So now we're getting
    somewhere. So we have a little something based upon
16
    the pictures to show because generally a house
17
    doesn't have a large window with a roll-up door in
18
    front of it. So like I said, if you want to go
19
20
    forward tonight --
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: This is for the
2.1
22
    front.
23
                MR. EINGORN: That's much more helpful.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I've been by
24
25
            I definitely went by there.
    there.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: So the question is, do you
1
2
    want to go forward with what you already have to get
3
    the permit.
4
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                        It's better for me
    to finish this -- to continue to work. You approve
5
    like that, give me like that.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. And then you can
8
    always come back and ask for the use variance later.
9
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Okay.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So that means you're not
11
    going to get the office.
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
12
                                        No.
13
                MR. EINGORN: You just get what you have
14
    which would be commercial and residential.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you can come back and
16
    apply.
17
                MR. EINGORN: So it has been in this
    configuration since you bought it.
18
19
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: And do you know how old the
21
    building is?
22
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: I buy it in 2019.
23
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: He bought in 2019.
24
    He's not sure old.
25
                MR. EINGORN: And it has been in the same
```

```
condition since you bought it in '19'?
1
2
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                       I buy in 2019.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Now, you put the
    gates up?
4
5
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Oh, and the gates.
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS: The security gates.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Like I said, I've
8
    been through there and I seen what you guys have been
    doing with the property. You cleaned up the front of
9
    it and everything.
10
11
                MR. FRANCISCO: Do you see the fence?
    Is nothing here. That garbage is all the way back.
12
13
    I clean it out and I put the fence. For now when
14
    they go to church it's more garbage that somebody
15
    throws.
             It's no repair. There is no respect; no
16
    nothing.
17
                MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is mainly
    the office space.
18
                MS. NUNEZ: So where is the office space
19
20
    going to be? Here?
2.1
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                        Yes.
                                              The top of
22
    the garage. That would sit on the top of the garage.
23
                MS. NUNEZ: So you would have build up.
24
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: The door is right
25
           I pull right here. Not together.
    here.
                                                The door
```

is here. Is separate door. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: So you have an application 3 for a certification of nonconforming use for commercial on the first floor and apartment on the 4 5 second floor. It looks like based upon the configuration of the building itself, that that's how 6 If the Board has any additional knowledge 7 this was. 8 related to this, it's probably helpful making a determination. 9 10 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Again, I've been 11 by this property. He's cleaned it up. He put the steel doors on it to keep people out of it. 12 has been a commercial use on the first floor back at 13 least when it was Polak Town. 14 15 MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS: Yes, that's Polak 16 Town. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It used to be a 17 commercial. I don't know what it was. 18 T can't recall but I know it was commercial. I'm sorry. 19 20 It's the Whitman Park Section maybe. Is that better? 21 Sorry. Again, I think it's a good thing that they're 22 doing with this property here when you're trying to 23 bring back a structure that's been dilapidated for a 24 few years now.

MR. EINGORN: From the photographs it

```
doesn't appear to be exactly what they're claiming it
1
2
    is. Anybody in the public want to be heard, for or
3
    against.
                MR. FRANCISCO VARGAS:
                                        Nobody here.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: I got to do it anyway.
    Hearing none, I'll close the public portion.
6
                The applicant came for a Cert of
7
8
    Nonconforming Use and appears that the building is a
    commercial first floor with an apartment on the top.
9
    The Board can do a quick discussion and a motion.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I think it's great that
12
    Camden is slowly but surely coming back to ownership
13
    and people are proud to be here. So I think it's a
14
    great idea to bring that piece of land back.
15
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Piggybacking on
    the Chairman there, it's a great thing that you guys
16
    are willing to come into the community and rehab some
17
    of these older properties. I make a motion to
18
19
    accept.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
21
22
    Chairman Hance.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
25
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
1
2
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Ms. Alston.
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Having five in favor and
8
    none opposed, the motion passes.
                You got a Cert of Nonconforming Use. You
9
    can go for your permits for what you have. But if
10
11
    you want more, you got to come back.
12
                MR. PHILIP VARGAS:
                                     Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Thank you very much.
13
                                                      Ιt
14
    was nice meeting you both.
15
                We have Adoption of Resolutions for
16
    March:
            Granting Use Variance Approval for Melanie
    Garcia, NS Sherman 60 E. 28th Street. That was the
17
    parking lot with auto garage.
18
19
                Granting Interpretation for Benson
    Investments, LLC, 620, 622, 624 & 632 Benson Street.
20
2.1
    Those were the townhouses across from Cooper.
22
    Everybody can vote on those except Ms. Nunez.
                                                    Do we
23
    have a motion to adopt the March Resolutions.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I make a motion to
25
    adopt.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
3
4
    Chairman Hance.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
5
                                  Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
8
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
10
11
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: So moved.
12
                Then for April we have the Wash Clean
13
    Sun, Incorporated, 80 S. 27th Street. That was the
14
15
    Cert of Nonconforming Use for the laundromat.
16
                Granting Bulk Variance Approval for
    Katrina Fountain, 442 N. 38th Street. Chairman
17
18
    Hance, Vice-Chairman Cooper and Ms. Alston can vote
19
    on this
20
    Do we have a motion to adopt?
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Motion to adopt.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
23
                MS. ALSTON: Second.
24
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
25
    Chairman Hance.
```

```
1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
2
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
5
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
6
                MR. EINGORN: So moved. Lastly, we need
7
    a motion to adjourn. Do we have a motion to adjourn?
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion to adjourn.
9
                MR. EINGORN: A second?
10
                MS. ALSTON: So moved.
                MR. EINGORN: All in favor?
11
12
                THE BOARD: Yays.
13
                MR. EINGORN: So moved. Have a good
    night.
14
15
           (**Meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.**)
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	
4	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a Certified Court
5	Reporter and Notary Public.
6	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the witness was sworn
7	to testify to the truth.
8	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is, to
9	the best of my ability, a true and accurate
10	transcript of the testimony taken stenographically by
11	me at the time, place, and date hereinbefore set
12	forth.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative,
14	employee, attorney or counsel to any of the
15	parties to the action, nor a relative or employee of
16	such attorney or counsel and that I am not
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