In The Matter Of:

CITY OF CAMDEN ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

City of Camden Zoning Board of Adjustment October 6, 2025

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

1	ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
2	CITY OF CAMDEN
3	
4	
5	Monday, October 6, 2025
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 5:40 p.m.
12	
13	
14	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
15	DARNELL HANCE, CHAIRMAN KAREN MERRICKS
16	YASBEL NUNEZ ALICIA RIVERA
17	URSULA MOSS TAMEEKA MASON
18	A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S
19	A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S
20	KYLE F. EINGORN, ESQUIRE, ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD DEMBO, BROWN & BURNS, LLP
21	EVITA MUHAMMAD, ZONING BOARD SECRETARY
22	
23	Dogino A Franin CCD
24	Regine A. Ervin, CCR Certified Court Reporter Fmail: RegineCSR@gmail gom
25	Email: RegineCSR@gmail.com (609-280-2230)

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2	CASES HEARD:				
3	1)	APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES	4		
4	Τ)	SEPTEMBER 2025	<u> </u>		
5	2.	001 001	-		
6	<pre>2) 901 to 901 S. 3rd Street (Deficient Notice; Not Heard)</pre>		7		
7					
8	3) 543 Mechanic Street (Deficient Notice; Not Heard)		7		
9					
10					
11	4)	1165 Haddon Avenue (Deficient Notice; Not Heard)	7		
12					
13	NEW				
14	5)		7		
15		600 N. 7th Street			
16	6)	ELEIRY MATIAS	11		
17	1505 Kenwood Avenue				
18	7)	MICHAEL ABANYIE	17		
19		2961 Yorkship Square			
20	8)	ARTHUR AVENUE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC	24,44		
21		2810 Arthur Avenue			
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23	9)	ARTHUR AVENUE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC 2812 Arthur Avenue	24,44		
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24			
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```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Good evening ladies and
1
    gentlemen. Welcome to the City of Camden Zoning
2
    Board of Adjustment. I will read the Sunshine Law:
3
    In conformance with the Sunshine Law of New Jersey,
4
    notice of this meeting was posted in the Municipal
5
    Clerk's office on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll call.
    Chairman Hance.
8
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Here.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Still.
10
    Absent. Ms. Merricks.
11
12
                MS. MERRICKS: Here.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. Currently
14
    absent. Ms. Nunez.
                MS. NUNEZ: Here.
15
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
17
                MS. RIVERA: Here.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
19
                MS. MOSS: Here.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
21
                MS. MASON: Here.
22
                MR. EINGORN: The first matter of
    business would be approval of the minutes for
23
    September. Do we a motion to approve the
24
25
    minutes?
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Motion.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Second?
3
                MS. RIVERA: Second.
4
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
5
    Chairman Hance.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
6
                                 Yes.
7
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
8
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
10
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
12
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
14
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
16
                MS. MASON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: So moved.
17
                So good evening everyone. Welcome to the
18
19
    Zoning Board Adjustment. Just a reminder, if you
20
    have a cell phone and I'm assuming you do, it's now
21
    2025, please silence it. I don't know if the
22
    microphone works. So when your cell phone goes off,
    it interrupts and we have trouble hearing as it is.
23
24
    So when you come forward, speak loudly so everybody
25
    can hear you. And please silence your cell phones so
```

```
we can show everybody the respect that they deserve.
1
2
                I'm going to read the list of cases on
    the agenda. If you are here, please let us know and
3
    I'll mark you present. The first matter,
4
    Mary M. Kirk, 600 N. 7th Street.
5
6
                MS. KIRK: Here.
7
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening. Eleiry
8
    Matias, 1505 Kenwood Avenue.
9
                MR. MATIAS: Present.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening.
11
                MICHAEL ABANYIE, 2961 Yorkship Square.
12
                MR. ABANYIE: Here.
13
                MR. EINOGRN: Arthur Avenue Development
14
    Company, LLC, 2810 Arthur Avenue and 2812 Arthur
15
    Avenue.
16
                MR. BRANHAM: Here.
17
                MR. EINGORN: Hope Community Outreach
18
    Services, 1299 Morton Street.
19
                MR. IZZO: Here.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Izzo, how are you?
21
                Next is Telco Group, LLC which has two
22
    matters, 2730 Mitchell Street and 2733 Saunders
    Street
23
24
                MR. IZZO: Here for both of them.
25
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Okay.
```

```
Gamal Hamed, 1750-1754 Filmore Street.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: Ready. Here.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Great. Josefina Henriquez,
    442 Pfeiffer Street.
4
5
                MR. IZZO:
                           Here.
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: Here.
6
                MR. EINGORN: Just some notes for the
7
8
    record. We had some deficient notices. If you're
    here for 901 to 909 S. 3rd Street, that will not be
9
    heard tonight. As well as 543 Mechanic Street.
10
11
    was deficient. I don't know if you're here for that
    or not. It doesn't sound like anybody is. But that
12
13
    will not be heard. Also, 1165 Haddon Avenue will not
14
    be heard by the Zoning Board. If you received notice
15
    for that, it'll eventually be heard by the Planning
16
    Board. So look out for notice on that.
                Let's take the first matter, Mary Kirk,
17
    600 N. 7th Street. Would you raise your right hand,
18
19
    please.
20
                MARY M. KIRK, having first been duly
21
22
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
    follows:
23
24
25
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
```

```
address for the record.
1
2
                MS. KIRK: Mary M. Kirk, 600 -- my real
3
    address?
4
                MR. EINGORN: You can use your business
5
    address.
              That's fine.
                MS. KIRK: 600 N. 7th Street, Camden, New
6
7
    Jersey.
                MR. EINGORN; Great. Ms. Kirk is here
8
9
    tonight. Her appeal for zoning states that the
    property is located at 600 N. 7th Street, Camden, New
10
11
    Jersey, Block 793, Lot 61. It's in the R-2 Zoning
12
    District. There's one building on the lot. It's a
13
    two-story brick building approximately 825 square
14
    feet.
15
                It's presently used as a barber shop on
    the first floor and a 3-bedroom apartment on the
16
    second floor. The applicant would like to continue
17
    the use of the shop on the first floor and the
18
    3-bedroom apartment on the second floor.
19
    applicant is requesting Section 68 relief for
20
21
    non-conforming use; is that correct?
22
                MS. KIRK: Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. Tell us about how
24
    long have you had the barber shop with the
25
    apartments?
```

```
MS. KIRK: I think since 19 --
1
2
                MS. MASON: A very long time.
3
                MS. KIRK: Yeah, super long.
                MR. EINGORN: We need to hear it from the
4
5
    applicant so we can get into the record.
                MS. KIRK: I would say I guess '78.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN; Approximately 1978?
8
                MS. KIRK: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: And since that time, has it
10
    always been a barber shop with an apartment above it?
11
                MS. KIRK:
                          Yes.
12
                               Same condition as when you
                MR. EINGORN;
13
    purchased it? I mean, same uses since when you
14
    bought it?
15
                MS. KIRK: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN; It's never been anything
    but a barber shop and an apartment, right, since
17
    you've owned it?
18
19
                MS. KIRK: Yes, as far as I know.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Great.
21
                The applicant has submitted what looks to
22
    be a couple of hand-drawn floor plans with her
    application. And it sounds to me like the Board has
23
    some familiarity with this property. Ma'am, is there
24
25
    anything you want to add to your application?
```

MS. KIRK: No. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Any questions from the Board? 3 CHAIRMAN HANCE: 4 No. MR. EINGORN: That looks like a 'no.' 5 We're going to open this matter to the 6 7 Is anybody here tonight that would like to public. 8 be heard regarding the application for non-conforming use for 600 N. 7th Street? I don't see anybody from 9 the public that would like to be heard on this 10 11 matter. So we'll close the public portion. 12 The applicant is here tonight requesting 13 Section 68 relief for non-conforming use for a barber 14 shop and apartment that's been in the same condition 15 since 1978. The Board should do a quick discussion 16 and a motion. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Everybody knows 17 Yes. The barber shop has been there forever and the 18 apartment upstairs. She was actually a neighborhood 19 barber. We all loved it. 20 21 MS. RIVERA: Second. 22 MR. EINGORN: It sounded like we had a 23 second. Do we have a motion to go with the second? 24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion. 25 MS. RIVERA: Second.

```
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
1
2
    Chairman Hance.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
3
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
5
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
6
7
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
8
9
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
11
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: And Ms. Mason.
13
                MS. MASON: Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
15
    none opposed, the motion passes. Thank you,
16
    Ms. Kirk. We appreciate your time.
17
                MS. KIRK: Thank you.
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter on the
18
19
    agenda is Eleiry Matias, 1505 Kenwood Avenue.
    Who will be speaking?
20
                MR. DELGADO: My name is Mr. Juan
21
22
    Delgado. She is Ms. Matias. I'm here in the
23
    capacity --
24
                MR. EINGORN: Wait one moment. Are you
25
    going to translate?
```

```
MR. DELGADO: I'm going to be -- I'm the
1
2
    construction advisor for her.
                MR. EINGORN: Great. So this is what
3
    we're going to do. We're going to swear you both in.
4
5
    She's going to call you to testify.
                MR. DELGADO: Correct.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Great. Raise your right
8
    hands, please.
9
                ELEIRY MATIAS; JUAN DELGADO, having first
10
11
    been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified
    as follows:
12
13
14
                MR. EINGORN: Names and addresses for the
15
    record.
                MS. MATIAS: Eleiry Matias, 1505 Kenwood
16
    Avenue.
17
18
                MR. DELGADO: My name is Juan Delgado.
19
    Again, I'm here in the capacity just as a
    construction advisor for Ralf's Plumbing and Heating
20
21
    located at 401 Kaighn Avenue.
22
                               So the applicant is here
                MR. EINGORN:
23
    tonight.
              They have a grocery store and they're
24
    seeking a Section 68 relief for a legal
25
    non-conforming use. So let's ask about the grocery
```

```
store. We have a commercial lease. The lease is
1
2
    dated -- it's a 10-year lease commencing December
3
    1st, 2024. How long has this property been a grocery
    store?
4
5
                MS. MATIAS: Over 68 years.
                MR. DELGADO: As a matter of fact, I
6
7
    looked that up before I came over here.
8
    transferred in 1957. That was a good year. I was
9
    born in that year.
                MR. EINGORN; I was not yet born for the
10
11
    record. And there's some photographs attached to the
12
    application. Quickly, I'm just going to ask about
13
    the photographs. I'll hold them up one at a time.
14
    Is the property with the awning?
15
                MS. MATIAS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: And this is how it
16
    currently looks now?
17
18
                MS. MATIS: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: With the second photo?
20
                MS. MATIS: Yes.
21
                MR. DELGADO: All of them. They were
22
    recently taken.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Did you take the photos,
24
    sir?
25
                MR. DELGADO: No, not myself. One of
```

```
Ralf's people.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. So someone from
3
    Ralf's took the photographs?
4
                MR. DELGADO: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: And they're part of Ralf's
5
    records?
6
7
                MR. DELGADO: That's correct.
8
                MR. EINGORN: And is Rolf's going to do
    some construction at the property, a little
9
10
    spruce-up?
11
                MR. DELGADO: If it's needed.
                                                As we
12
    understand, there is no violation with the building
13
    bureau nor the housing department. So if there is,
14
    we'd be more than happy do what we got to do
15
    according to any codes that apply.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Anything else to add to the
    application?
17
18
                MR. DELGADO: Just for the record, that
19
    they do have two meters. Okay. There's an apartment
20
    upstairs and the grocery store so everyone as their
21
    own meter. Nothing. I don't think there's anything
22
    else I can add up.
23
                MR. EINGORN: It seems pretty
24
    self-explanatory. Does the Board have questions?
25
                MS. RIVERA:
                             How many rooms does your
```

```
apartment upstairs have?
1
2
                MS. MATIAS:
                              Two.
3
                MS. RIVERA: So it has two bedrooms, a
    kitchen, one bathroom?
4
5
                MR. DELGADO: Can you repeat the
    question?
6
7
                MS. RIVERA: Does it have -- it's a
8
    normal --
9
                MS. MATIAS: It's a normal property.
10
    A typical 2-bedroom apartment.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  So you have a separate
12
    hot water heater, separate heater for upstairs?
13
                MS. MATIAS:
                              That's correct.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
15
                MS. RIVERA: How about the parking?
                MR. DELGADO: Did you look --
16
                MS. RIVERA: Off-street parking?
17
                MS. MATIAS: Yes, I have plenty
18
    on-the-street parking.
19
20
                MR. DELGADO:
                               If you look at the
21
    pictures, the pictures can show you that they got
22
    plenty of parking, off-the-street parking.
23
                MR. EINGORN: On-street?
24
                MR. DELGADO: On the street, yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public
```

```
tonight that's here to weigh in on the application,
1
2
    1505 Kenwood seeking non-conforming use for a grocery
3
            Seeing and hearing one, we'll close the
    public portion.
4
5
                The applicant has a grocery store; is
    looking for non-conforming use. It says it has been
6
    a grocery store for 68 years. The Board, it's time
7
8
    to ask any last questions; do a quick discussion;
    make a motion.
9
10
                MS. RIVERA: Is it a grocery store now?
11
                MR. DELGADO: Yes.
12
                MS. MASON: It has always been there
13
    since I've been young. It's right there up the
14
    street from Camden High.
15
                MS. MATIAS: Yes, it's a grocery store.
                            What is the reason she's here
16
                MS. NUNEZ:
    tonight?
17
                MR. DELGADO: The reason why she's here
18
    is because it was a change of ownership. That's the
19
20
    reason.
21
                MS. MATIAS:
                             Thank you.
22
                MR. EINGORN:
                              I have been there today.
    And it's just like the pictures, nice and clean. It
23
    has been there for 68 years. What more can I say?
24
25
                           It looks clean.
                MS. MOSS:
```

```
nice.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: A motion?
3
                MS. MASON: I make a motion to pass.
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Second.
5
                MR. EINGORN: We have a motion and a
    second. We'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman
6
7
    Hance.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
8
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
9
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
12
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
14
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
16
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
17
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
18
                MS. MASON: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
20
    none opposed, the motion passes. Thanks guys.
                MR. DELGADO: We thank the Board.
21
22
                MR. EINGORN: Have a nice night.
23
                The next matter is Michael Abanyie, 2961
24
    Yorkship Square. Good evening, sir. Would you raise
25
    your right hand, please.
```

1 2 MICHAEL ABANYIE, having first been duly 3 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 4 5 6 MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and address for the record. 7 8 MR. ABANYIE: Michael Abanyie, 2961 Yorkship Square. 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Mr. Abanyie made an 11 application for the property at 2961 Yorkship Square. 12 The application is for a zoning permit to allow a 13 second floor photography studio. He needs a use 14 variance for two principal uses on the same lot. And 15 he's cited for off-street parking. This is within the Fairview Redevelopment Plan. Why don't you tell 16 us a little bit about the property? 17 MR. ABANYIE: So there's a doctor's 18 office at the bottom half of the building, 19 Dr. Kleeman who has been there for over 25 years. 20 He 21 rented the top portion to us for a photography It used to be a dance studio. So now we're 22 studio. using -- there's like two levels of the first floor. 23 24 We use the photography studio and then we store 25 equipment and clothes at the top.

```
MR. EINGORN: What kind of traffic do you
1
2
    anticipate?
3
                MR. ABANYIE: So normally on a given day
    since we've been there, a family of let's say about
4
5
    ten maybe taking up two or three cars give or take.
    They all just come in and they're usually there for
6
    no more than an hour.
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: Were you ever there when it
    was a dance studio?
9
10
                MR. ABANYIE: No.
11
                MR. EINGORN:
                               So you can't testify to the
    traffic for the dance studio vis-a-vie the traffic
12
13
    for the photography studio?
14
                MR. ANBANYIE:
                               No.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Did you take these
16
    photographs?
17
                MR. ABANYIE: I did.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Great. Can you, for the
    Board, just show us which building is the you're
19
20
    proposing?
21
                MR. ABANYIE: Our building, the entrance
22
    is on American Road. So that section is right here.
23
    There's an entrance right here that goes up to the
    top floor, upstairs and studio area. Then there's --
24
25
    pretty much, my clients usually have to park on this
```

```
street or the off-street which is -- well, if you go
1
2
    further down, this is the side street. So there's
    plenty of parking there.
3
                There's usually maybe like the most I've
4
    ever had since being there, like maybe three or four
5
    cars that could fit there depending if it's a family
6
                    This is the other side.
    street or not.
7
    doctor's office is here. This road is where the
8
    studio is. So there's plenty of parking in that
9
    square. This is the view from further back.
10
11
    this is the front side of the building.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Thank you. And I'm showing
13
    you a commercial lease agreement. Is this the lease
14
    you have with the owner of the property?
15
                MR. ABANYIE:
                              Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: And you're already open for
    business?
17
18
                MR. ABANYIE:
                              Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: How long have you been
20
    operating?
21
                MR. ABANYIE: We've been in the building
22
    for about five years.
23
                MR. EINGORN: And in that time, have you
24
    ever had any issues about parking or any complaints
25
    of any kind?
```

```
MR. ABANYIE: So we had somebody that was
1
2
    renting space right across from our building.
    they said that somebody parked in their grass somehow
3
    which wasn't anybody from anything that we've had in
4
5
    the studio. So he complained to the township is what
    started this whole process.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Got it. Okay. Any other
8
    questions?
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: What time are you open
10
    and what days are you there?
11
                MR. ABANYIE: So our times are three
12
    until -- I don't have the schedule on me of the
13
    photography studio. So every once in a while, my
14
    wife is there. Every once in a while we're there a
15
    little later but it's only one car. But for the most
16
    part, it's pretty much three to about 10:00 p.m.
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Every day?
18
                MR. ABANYIE: Every day. Saturdays is a
    little bit earlier. We usually open anywhere from
19
20
    eight and usually end around five o'clock on
21
    Saturdays.
22
                MS. RIVERA: Are you a local
23
    photographer?
24
                MR. ABANYIE:
                              I am.
25
                MS. RIVERA: Good luck.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you've been there
1
2
    five years?
3
                MR. ABANYIE:
                               Yes.
                MS. MOSS: And you took these pictures?
4
5
                MR. ABANYIE:
                               T did.
                MS. MOSS: They're absolutely beautiful.
6
    They look like a post card.
7
8
                MR. ABANYIE: Thank you. We do pretty
    much everything, weddings, pictures of their homes
9
    and stuff like that. We do it all.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
                                                     None.
12
    Open to the public?
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody here tonight that
15
    would like to be heard on the application regarding
    2961 Yorkship Square? Hearing none and seeing none,
16
    we'll close the public portion.
17
                The applicant is here tonight seeking a
18
    use variance for two principal uses on the same lot
19
    which would be the doctor's office and the
20
21
    photography studio. And then a bulk variance for
22
    off-street-parking. The applicant has provided
    photographs, a lease and discussed the operations.
23
24
    The Board should do a discussion of the Positive and
25
    Negative Criteria unless there's any other questions
```

```
and make a motion.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So if everyone knows the
3
    Square, it's a bunch of new stores. Constant in and
4
    out.
5
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I was just there on
6
7
    American Street. Got lots of family there. I didn't
    even know notice it, the photography place to be
8
    honest. I saw the doctor's office.
9
                MR. ABANYIE: It's by appointment only.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: There's was plenty of
    parking.
12
              That was on a Sunday.
                MS. MASON: I'm familiar with the
13
14
    location with the dance school being there as well.
15
    It's a pretty well-known dance school in the City of
16
    Camden so it's a lot of traffic there. So as far as
    parking, they made it work and that was some years
17
18
    ago.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Anything else? Anyone want
20
    to propose a motion?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion.
21
22
                MS. MASON: I second.
23
                MR. EINGORN: A motion to what?
                                                  Two uses
24
    on the same lot and parking?
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Motion to pass?
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
3
                MS. MASON: I second.
4
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
5
    Chairman Hance.
6
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
7
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
8
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
10
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
12
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
14
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
                MS. MASON: Yes.
16
17
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
18
    none opposed, the motion passes. Congratulations.
19
                MR. ABANYIE: Thank you so much.
20
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Arthur
21
    Avenue Development Company, LLC, 2810 Arthur Avenue.
22
    Good evening, sir, would you raise your right hand,
23
    please.
24
25
                ALEXANDER BAFFOE-EONNIE, having first
```

```
been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified
1
2
    as follows:
3
4
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
5
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: My name is Alexander
6
    Baffoe-Eonnie, 45 Geraldine Road, East Windsor, New
7
8
    Jersey 08520.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Sir, are you part of the
10
    company?
11
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: I am the architect
12
    representing the company.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Are you an attorney?
14
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE:
                                    No.
                                          T am the
15
    architect.
                MR. EINGORN: Is anybody here tonight
16
    from the applicant?
17
18
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: I'm pretty sure they
19
    are on their way.
20
                MR. EINGORN: We need somebody from the
21
    applicant at the very least before we can hear this
22
    application. So we're going to hold you off and
23
    bring you back up when they arrive. Okay?
24
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: I appreciate that.
25
                MR. EINGORN: You let us know when
```

```
they're here.
1
2
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Thank you very much.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Is counsel coming? I spoke
    to counsel.
4
5
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE:
                                    Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Very good. Sorry about
6
7
           Okay. Hope Community Outreach Services, 1299
    Morton Street. Mr. Izzo, how are you?
8
9
                MR. IZZO: Very good.
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
10
11
    hand, please.
12
                PASTOR ODESSA EDMOND, having first been
13
14
    duly affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:
15
16
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
17
    address for the record.
18
19
                MS. EDMOND: My name is Pastor Odessa
20
    Edmond. My mailing address is 6 Hudson Court,
21
    Somerdale, New Jersey 08083.
22
                MR. IZZO: Pastor Edmond, you're here for
23
    Hope Community Outreach Services. Is that your
24
    organization?
25
                MS. EDMOND: Yes. I'm here for a
```

```
nonprofit organization, Hope Community Outreach
1
2
    Services at 1299 Morton Street in the Whitman Park
3
    area.
                MR. IZZO: Do you describe yourself as a
4
5
    pastor. Is Hope community a religious
    organization?
6
7
                MS. EDMOND: Yes.
                                    It's a nonprofit.
8
                MR. IZZO: What kind of work do you
9
    do?
                             Before the Pandemic, we was
10
                MS. EDMOND:
11
    doing girl scouts, boy scouts, food pantry, Clothes
12
    Closet, family counseling, summer camp, after-school
13
    program, daycare services, computer training, the
14
    Internet, employment training and community worker's
15
    employment training. And also, community gardening.
16
    This was before the Pandemic.
17
                MR. IZZO: When did you start doing all
    of those or some of those activities in the City?
18
19
                MS. EDMOND: Our 501(c)(3) started in
20
    2016.
21
                MR. IZZO: A ten-year period. And you
22
    have the property at 1297 and 1299 Morton Street; is
    that correct?
23
24
                MS. EDMOND: Yes. We consolidated that
25
    property into one, 1299 Morton Street.
```

```
Consolidation.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: So you supplied the nice
    colored photo of the elevation, the front with a car
3
    parked in front. The building has an awning and it
4
    says, Hope Community. This is your building with the
5
    five windows across the front, right?
6
7
                MS. EDMOND: All of that.
8
                MR. IZZO: That comprises both 1297 and
    1299, right?
9
                MS. EDMOND: 1297 is on other side.
10
                                                      It's
    like 1299 and then 1297. But since they're
11
12
    connected, we have an entrance where we can go from
    side to the other and it's consolidated as one
13
    building, 1299 Morton Street.
14
15
                MR. EINGORN: So the one with the five
16
    windows and then the one next to it here, they're one
    building?
17
                MS. EDMOND: All of that is 1299 Morton
18
19
             The building next door 1297, is 1297 is
    another building. I have a picture of that as well.
20
21
                MR. EINGORN: My question is, both of the
22
    buildings in this photograph are your property,
    correct?
23
24
                MS. EDMOND: Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. Thank you.
```

MR. IZZO: Obviously, this is the 1 2 building that you want the Board to consider your mission for; is that right? 3 MS. EDMOND: Yes. 4 5 MR. IZZO: And specifically, what is going to be to happening at 1299 Morton Street in 6 your organization if the Board permits it? 7 8 MS. EDMOND: What we're going to be doing now is, we're only doing -- we already have the 9 church. We have the food pantry. So before the 10 11 Pandemic, COVID-19, we couldn't do all of those 12 activities that I named previously because the public 13 was shutdown. 14 So the community was looking for a space 15 for the homeless people. And it was asking th churches if they could help out. So I had eight 16 rooms available so I was able to let homeless people 17 move into those rooms and out of the COVID-19 and the 18 bad weather. 19 20 MR. IZZO: That's part of your religious 21 mission to supply that type of an accommodation? 22 MS. EDMOND: Yes. We look out for the 23 community and all that we could do to help the 24 community survive and be stabilized. 25 Is this a residential street? MR. IZZO:

MS. EDMOND: Yes. It's around the 1 2 corner. MR. IZZO: How do your activities impact 3 the people that live on that street? 4 5 MS. EDMOND: Well, the people that live there, they have no problems. They say the people 6 that are living on the inside, they're good people. 7 8 And they also help out with the food pantry; deliver food and passing out food. And also, they may help 9 10 make repairs. And we don't have no problems with the 11 community because I guess everybody knows everybody. 12 And there by me being a pastor, I get a lot of 13 respect from the people in the community especially 14 when you give free clothing and food as well. 15 they respect us. 16 MR. IZZO: So sometimes the food pantry will attract people hanging around or put litter down 17 18 and I don't see that around your property. Why not? MS. EDMOND: They come and clean. 19 I have 20 to admit, do have people who still and come and sit 21 on the steps. But you know what, I don't run them 22 away because there's God people. What I do is, I go 23 out there and I have prayer with them. So if they don't want prayer, they won't come. So that's my 24 25 remedy. Talk nice to them cause they're people as

```
well.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: And how was the building
3
    supervised? You got occupants in there. How is it
    managed?
4
5
                MS. EDMOND:
                             I have one individual that
    I have close contact with that would call me if
6
    something goes wrong. We have the fire connection
7
8
    and all that in place and everything.
9
                MR. IZZO; How often are you able to go
    there yourself?
10
11
                MS. EDMOND:
                             I go there -- we have
    services and prayer meetings two times a week.
12
13
    have revival sometimes five days a week. And we have
14
    food pantry. We give out food when the truck comes.
15
    But if they're in an emergency, people can call and
    make an appointment. They could come by and pick up.
16
    And, of course, I'm there for giving out clothing and
17
    also food. No set time. But the moment we put the
18
    sign up saying free food, people that pass by going
19
20
    either direction, they'll stop in and get free food.
21
                MR. IZZO: How is your accommodation for
    and you described as formally, homeless people, how
22
    is that different from a landlord who rents out rooms
23
24
    and earns money on that?
25
                MS. EDMOND: Well, for one thing, we're
```

```
not only just renting rooms out, but we help people
1
2
    to get into drug programs. We encourage them.
3
    help them to make doctor appointments. We also take
    them to places that they need to go, grocery
4
5
    shopping, laundry. And we're just like a supportive
    ministry more or less than just renting. We try to
6
    not to raise the rent too high. The most we get from
7
8
    an individual is like maybe $500 to $525 a month.
    And that includes everything,
9
10
                MR. IZZO: What kind of safety and health
11
    inspections is your property required to adhere to?
12
                MS. EDMOND: Well, we spray for roaches
13
    and kill the mice. We just keep the building up.
14
    And it has already been approved for the safety when
15
    we added the room on the end. That was an addition
    that we added which was in 2019 which was approved by
16
    the City of Camden.
17
                MR. IZZO: You disclosed to the
18
    authorities in this building, Camden City
19
20
    authorities --
21
                MS. EDMOND:
                             Yes.
22
                MR. IZZO: -- that you had occupants in
23
    these rooms?
24
                MS. EDMOND: Yes.
                                   Now I am.
                                               Because
25
    previously we were thinking that by us having a
```

```
501(c)(3), that took care of the people that were
1
2
    living in the room. But I apologized
    to the Zoning Board. And now that I know and I'm
3
    willing to abide by the laws for the City of Camden.
4
                MR. IZZO: And you know that the State of
5
    New Jersey has to --
6
7
                MS. EDMOND: Yes.
                                   And also apply.
8
    the application. I applied with the state. I put
9
    the application in.
                MR. IZZO: Community affairs.
10
11
                MS. EDMOND:
                             Yes.
                                   I had already given
12
    them the downpayment. But they're waiting on me to
13
    get a fire inspection. But I can't get the fire
14
    inspection until I'm approved by the Zoning Board.
15
    Afterwards if the Lord bless, I'll do that.
                MR. IZZO: So even if the Zoning Board
16
    approves you, you still have hurtles to cross?
17
18
                MS. EDMOND: Yes, I do.
                MR. IZZO: It's Community Affairs and the
19
    Code Inspection officers in the City?
20
21
                MS. EDMOND: Right, whatever comes next.
22
    So I have to get this done first.
23
                MR. IZZO: What else did you want to tell
24
    the Board tonight?
25
                MS. EDMOND: Well, I have a letter from
```

```
the tenants. They say, please, please, allow Pastor
1
2
    Odessa to continue to rent to us. We have no other
3
    place to go. It is getting cold outside and I don't
    want to be homeless. And I have eight names written
4
5
    here.
6
                MR. IZZO: Can you read the names,
7
    please?
8
                MS. EDMOND:
                             The names are: Mr. Robert
    Gray; Erica Cutland; Carolyn Cutland; William Davis;
9
    Leonard Fussel; Taheria Cutland; Samuel Jackson; and
10
11
    Clifton Ingram.
12
                MR. IZZO: You recognize these as people
13
    who have taken your services?
14
                MS. EDMOND: Yes. Appreciative, yes, for
15
    having a place to stay. And I also have another,
16
    some more information to submit to you. There is a
    clear demand for affordable housing solution with low
17
    income communities especially in Whitman Park.
18
    rooming house can provide necessary accommodation for
19
20
    individuals and families who may not have a
21
    traditional rental option.
22
                The impact is, operating a rooming house
23
    would help address the shortage of affordable
24
    housing. It would enable residents to have a safe
25
    and stable living arrangement while fostering a sense
```

of community while strengthening their faith in our prayer meeting. Volunteers, their service in the food pantry and free clothes ministry. We also support with drug programs and doctor appointments.

Currently, we have a total of eight tenants and there are many homeless individuals that spend the night sleeping on our porch and handicap ramp daily. Given the significant need of affordable housing in our area. Approving the operation of a rooming house would be a beneficial step for both the resident and the boarders' community. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration and approving a rooming house for the community center. Sincerely, Pastor Odessa Edmond.

MR. IZZO: The Board also has an opportunity to ask you questions and you can address those.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Pastor Odessa has been known throughout Whitman Park and Parkside and actually South Camden, Waterfront South. When I used to work for Camden County OEO, she always donated food to OEO, to our tenants and clothing and also prayer. She's well-known throughout Camden. I have been past the place and it's clean. I didn't see anyone hanging out. It's needed. It's needed in

```
that part of Whitman Park.
1
2
                MS. MOSS: Do you currently take in whole
    families?
3
                MS. EDMOND: We only take one person to a
4
5
    room.
                MS. MOSS: No children?
6
                MS. EDMOND: Unless it's like a mother
7
8
    and a child, maybe a smaller child. But we haven't
9
    had any small kids. Just adults.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So at this time you have
11
    four men and five women?
                MS. EDMOND: We have five men and three
12
13
    females.
              They're on opposite sides of the building.
14
                MS. MERRICKS: So if they're homeless,
15
    you help them get services? So they're homeless at
    the beginning. Do you help them get services?
16
17
                MS. EDMOND: Yes.
                MS. MERRICKS: I'm familiar with you.
18
    know all the things you do in Camden. I'm just
19
20
    trying to get a picture of the rooming houses for the
21
    homeless people. So you get them services so then
22
    they're allowed to pay rent. Because if they're
23
    homeless, maybe they don't have a job.
24
                MS. EDMOND: The people that we had
25
    previously, everybody that came there, you know, and
```

presently as well, they're either on Social Security 1 2 They have their own income. But if they need our support and services, we would help them. 3 MS. MERRICKS: Okay. 4 5 MS. EDMOND: I myself am a social worker for 40 years. I worked at the welfare office so I 6 7 guess it's in me to help people. MS. MERRICKS: I'm familiar with the 8 things you do in Camden which is really awesome. 9 MR. EINGORN: As the Board -- since we 10 11 have new members, so the members might not know, but 12 the Ordinance provides that rooming houses are 13 specifically prohibited throughout City of Camden. 14 And that's why the applicant requires a use variance 15 in order to operate the rooms. The church portion of it would be an inherently beneficial use under the 16 applicable case law. And so that would satisfy the 17 Positive Criteria of the use variance standard. 18 19 The Board has seen multiple requests for rooming houses in the past. Obviously, we can weigh 20 them all on their own merits. And I would encourage 21 22 the Board to do that, is to weigh the merits. A use variance standard is, and everybody knows the 23 24 standard, but is a higher standard of proof than a 25 bulk variance. And would require obviously a site

```
suitability determination. Is this site suitable for
1
2
    a church, a food pantry, and a rooming house?
    sounds like people are familiar with the area
3
    and the building itself so that it's helpful in
4
5
    making that discussion.
                Before we open to the public, does the
6
    Board have any additional questions for the
7
8
    applicant?
9
                MS. RIVERA: How many bathrooms do you
10
    have?
11
                MS. EDMOND: We have one bathroom on the
    ladies' side. Full bathrooms. For the church we
12
13
    have a separate men's and women's bathroom. And on
    the men's side we have a full bathroom on the men's
14
15
    side.
           So it's a total of four bathrooms. Two full
16
    and two for the public.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long have you been
17
    in Whitman Park?
18
19
                MS. EDMOND:
                             Since 2016.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions?
21
                MS. MOSS; What was the other area used
22
    for prior to you wanting to transform into a --
23
                MS. EDMOND:
                             I beg your pardon?
24
                MS. MOSS: What were the rooms used?
25
                             Oh, the rooms are used for
                MS. EDMOND:
```

```
the daycare center and the community summer camp.
1
2
    That's what it's used for. We use both buildings for
3
    that purpose. We had over 50 kids that came in the
    summer time at the school. And then we also was --
4
5
    we worked with the Camden County Board of Social
    Services where the parents had to put in 35 hours to
6
    get their welfare grant so we allowed the parents
7
8
    to come to put in their hours and also they brought
9
    their kids for the community center for their summer
10
    camp activities.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
                                                     We
    will open to the public. Anybody here tonight that
12
13
    would like to be heard regarding the application for
    the property at 1297 to 1299 Morton Street for a use
14
15
    variance for church, food pantry and rooming house?
16
    Hearing none and seeing none, we'll close the public
    portion.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: Did the applicant request a
19
    site plan waiver?
20
                MR. IZZO: We are, yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN:
                               So the zoning permit denial
22
    letter flagged three items, a use variance; a site
23
    plan approval may be needed which the applicant says
    they're requesting a waiver; and Deed of
24
25
    Consolidation which has been provided.
```

```
So the Board tonight is tasked with
1
2
    making a determination on the requested use variance
    and site plan waiver. And so I would suggest the
3
    Board do a discussion of the Positive and Negative
4
5
    Criteria. Let's ask one quick question.
                There are no proposed changes to the
6
    exterior of the property, correct?
7
                             No.
8
                MS. EDMOND:
9
                MR. EINGORN: No lighting changes,
    landscaping changes?
10
11
                MS. EDMOND:
                             No.
                MR. EINGORN: So that would address the
12
13
    site plan waiver portion of it, right, no changes to
14
    the exterior of the property.
15
                MR. EINGORN: But the Board should still
    do a discussion of the Positive and Negative Criteria
16
    and make a determination regarding the request for
17
    use variance for a church food pantry and rooming
18
19
    house.
                MR. IZZO: Again, we are here on a
20
21
    preliminary step. And Pastor Edmond would still have
22
    to convince the State of New Jersey Department of
    Community Affairs, that it's safe to operate a
23
24
    rooming house that way she proposes. She can't even
25
    make that application without the Zoning Board's
```

approval. 1 2 MS. EDMOND: Yes they were saying that all I needed to do was to get a fire inspection. 3 I submitted all the other paperwork that they needed. 4 But I can't get the fire inspection until I meet with 5 you all and get an approval. 6 CHAIRMAN HANCE: To me it's positive for 7 8 the area, if you know the area. And especially helping the homeless to get back on their feet. 9 She's been giving back for a long time. She has the 10 11 experience. I've been to the neighborhood not once, 12 not twice, but many times. And everything seems to 13 be on the up-and-up, clean. And the people that work there volunteer down at the kitchen. 14 So it's a 15 win-a-win for educating them and giving them a little 16 bit of life back that they need. They're homeless for a reason. And the church. The church is also a 17 18 blessing --19 MS. RIVERA: Yes, it is. 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: With prayer. 21 MS. MASON: Yes, I agree with Chair. 22 It's sort of like a hub. It sounds like just the resources. Because a lot times if you're in one 23 24 bucket and there's another need somewhere else. 25 being able to have that hope, that sense of hope with

```
a place to stay with also the availability of food
1
2
    because we know that this is food desert; we know
    that there's a housing crisis. So to be able to work
3
    with the City and being able to provide that, I think
4
5
    is a positive thing as well.
                MS. EDMOND: Thank you.
6
                MS. MOSS: I also agree. I know the
7
8
    neighborhood. I know the need. Homelessness is
9
    very rampant. There's definitely a need for shelter
    for people.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 I'll just say that
12
    I don't see any relief in sight. I try not to watch
13
    the news. Cause every time you watch the news, it's
14
    something always negative. It's never too much
15
    positive. And they're taking welfare; they're taking
16
    Section 8; they're taking so many different things to
    help the people. For someone who is going to stand
17
    up and help the people.
18
19
                MS. MOSS: Right.
20
                MS. MASON: I think overall, she's
    making -- conforming the property into the needs of
21
22
    the community. You mentioned that it was used for,
    one, for the camp in one instance. That was the need
23
24
    of the community. Right now the need of the
25
    community is for homelessness though. I mean, I
```

```
don't know if there's anything else that anybody else
1
2
    wants to say. But I would make a motion to pass it.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Use variance and site
3
4
    plan.
5
                MS. MASON: So for the site plan, there's
    no changes. It's still --
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Right. So they're
8
    requesting a waiver.
9
                MS. MASON: A waiver, yeah.
                MR. EINGORN: So the motion is, use
10
11
    variance and site plan waiver?
12
                MS. MASON: Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
14
                MS. NUNEZ: Second.
15
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
16
    Chairman Hance.
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
19
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
21
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
23
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
25
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
```

```
Ms. Mason.
1
                MR. EINGORN:
2
                MS. MASON: Yes.
3
                              Having six in favor and
                MR. EINGORN:
    none opposed, the motion carries.
4
5
                MS. EDMOND:
                              Thank you.
                           Thank you.
6
                MR. IZZO:
                               The next matter is -- did
7
                MR. EINGORN:
    counsel arrive for Arthur Avenue?
8
9
                MR. YOUSAF: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Great. Let's go back on
11
    for that.
12
                              I want to apologize first
                MR. YOUSAF:
13
    for being late. I was coming from Patterson.
14
    leaving that City alone took me 20 minutes. I guess
15
    that part of New Jersey is a lot more congested than
16
    this part.
                Good evening members of the Board.
17
18
    name is Saeed Yousaf. And I represent the applicant,
    Arthur Avenue Development Company, LLC which owns the
19
    two properties located on 2810 and 2812 Arthur Avenue
20
21
    in the City of Camden. These properties are subject
22
    to the hearing today.
23
                Our application seeks c(1) bulk variance
    relief under N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70 Subsection c(1) to
24
25
    allow construction of two single-family dwellings,
```

one of each lot in the R-2 Residential District. 1 2 Single-family homes are permitted in this zone; however, both lots are only 20 feet wide which is 3 narrower in the bulk standards for side yard and 4 aggregate side yard width. And there is no space for 5 off-street parking. 6 The Zoning Officer denied the zoning 7 8 permit on those dimensional grounds which brings us here tonight. Specifically, we are requesting 9 variance relief for minimum lot width, minimum side 10 11 yard and aggregate side yard width and off-street 12 parking. There are no variances required for height, 13 lot coverage or use. With that, I would like to turn it over to Mr. Alex Baffeo-Eonnie who is 14 15 appearing on behalf of Ms. Alyce Johnson who is the project's architectural consultant. 16 I believe you should have some exhibits 17 18 with you, the zoning permit denial letter, completed zoning application, appeal application, the 19 20 architectural plans which are also present here, the 21 Certificate of Formation, as well as the Affidavit of 22 Service and Publication. 23 MR. YOUSAF: Mr. Baffoe-Eonnie, would you 24 please state your name and tell us who you are and 25 tell us a little bit about the project.

```
MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: My name is Alex
1
2
    Baffoe-Eonnie. I am the architect on the project
3
    represented by IJB. I am the project -- I think I
    gave you my information already. Do I need to do
4
5
    that again?
                THE REPORTER:
6
                               No.
7
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: The project is a
8
    simple four-bedroom duplex; 2000 square feet;
9
    habitable and conditioned space. And based on
10
    everything that you are looking at, we think the
11
    permits that we need are within the required usable
12
           The only thing we need to do has to do with
13
    off-street parking and the side setbacks.
14
                MR. EINGORN: You said duplex. But it's
15
    not really a duplex, right, it's two separate
16
    homes --
17
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE:
                                    Right.
18
                MR. EINGORN: -- that share a party wall,
19
    correct?
20
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Right. So what's
21
    happening is, we just did the detailed one and the
22
    other small one is the detail on a smaller scale.
23
                MR. EINGORN: So each separate house is
24
    two bedrooms?
25
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Four bedrooms.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Each house is four
1
2
    bedrooms?
3
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Yes. They mirror
    each other.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Four bedrooms. How many
    bathrooms?
6
7
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Three.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Three.
9
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Yes. Bedrooms, one
10
    on the ground floor and three on the upper levels.
11
                MR. EINGORN: And each property will only
    have one kitchen, right?
12
13
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: And you said that the
15
    houses will mirror each other; is that correct.
16
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Is there anything currently
17
    there or are these lots vacant?
18
19
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Vacant.
20
                MR. YOUSAF: These are empty right now.
21
    If you Google them, they are just sitting there as
22
    just grass. Nothing there.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Is there any parking
24
    proposed?
25
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Each unit has one
```

```
I think we need two per unit so there's the
1
    garage.
2
    need for some off-street parking in our area.
                MR. EINGORN: So the Ordinance 872-230.F
3
    does require two parking spaces per dwelling unit.
4
5
    So they would be short one space but it is nice to
    see houses with garages being proposed.
6
7
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE:
8
                MR. EINGORN: It's pretty straight
    forward. Does the Board have any questions?
9
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm curious, why four
11
    bedrooms?
12
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Well, I think it's
13
    probably based on the end-user requirements.
14
    looks like based on the research that we did, four
15
    bedrooms was the ideal request.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm just going by the
    limited space so...
17
                MR. YOUSAF: With four bedrooms you can
18
    have a office space especially considering that a lot
19
    of stuff is virtual now. I think it's nice to have a
20
21
    spare bedroom.
22
                MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: Also, we were also
23
    thinking about having an office space on the ground
    floor. But we always want to look at it as it being
24
25
    able to be a bedroom but potentially it could be an
```

office space on the bottom level. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Now, are these for sale 3 or are you going to be living in them or rent? MR. BAFFOE-EONNIE: I think they are 4 5 going to be rented out. For sale? MR. YOUSAF: I have Mr. Ibrahim. He's 6 one of the officers of Arthur Avenue Development. 7 8 If he wants to come up and testify and share some points. 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 11 hand, please. 12 IBRAHIM BRANHAM, having first been duly 13 14 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 15 follows: 16 17 MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and address for the record. 18 MR. BRANHAM: Ibrahim Branham. 19 business address is 227 Market Street, Camden, New 20 21 Jersey 08101. And I'm happy to share any answer to 22 the questions that you have for you. I am a partner 23 in the development company which is actually developing the project. The question was whether or 24 25 not it's for rent or sale. And I mentioned that it

```
was for sale. And I'd be happy to share or answer
1
2
    any questions that you have at this time.
                MR. EINGORN: The question earlier was,
3
    why four-bedroom units? Is there a reason why the
4
5
    applicant chose four bedrooms?
                MR. BRANHAM: Yeah.
                                     We looked at the
6
7
    channels of building the property that is
    constructable and marketable for the cost of
8
    construction relative to the sale values and the
9
    comps that we were looking at, that validated our
10
11
    concept for the property. So we modeled our proforma
    of a project that was done not far from where we're
12
13
    located at in Camden.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions for the
15
    applicant?
16
                MS. MERRICKS: How big are the
    apartments? The diagram is a little small. I can't
17
             I'm talking about the bedrooms.
18
                MR. BRANHAM: The dimensions of the
19
20
    bedrooms themselves? So on average the bedrooms are
21
    8-by-13. And we thought it was important to put a
22
    bedroom on the first floor. During our market
    analysis, we noticed that a lot of people in the area
23
    tend to have an elderly person that they want to keep
24
25
    in the house, a mother. Maybe they're getting older
```

```
and they want to keep them in the house.
1
2
    started with one on the first floor and three
3
    bedrooms upstairs.
                MS. MOSS:
                           There are other homes on that
4
5
    street, correct?
                MR. BRANHAM: Absolutely.
6
7
                MS. MOSS: Have you spoken to anyone on
8
    the street about your development and your plan?
9
                MR. BRANHAM: Absolutely. It's a
10
    beautiful neighborhood. We've developed a rapport
11
    with the neighbors and they were excited about what
12
    we're doing. In fact, one of the adjacent neighbors
13
    said, if you get it done, he wants to move in and
14
    wants us to build his house.
15
                MR. YOUSAF: There's something
    interesting about who is going to build this house.
16
    Mr. Branham, do you want to speak to that? I think
17
    the Board should know. You're excited about this as
18
19
    well.
20
                              I'm sort of a serial
                MR. BRANHAM:
21
    entrepreneur; working with a couple of different
22
    operations that we're running in the City of Camden.
    I'm an electrical contractor. I own a electrical,
23
    construction and engineering firm here in the City as
24
25
    well as a nonprofit where we do trade training and
```

workforce development. We're focused on creating a path for individuals to get into the trades.

And our work around workforce development and the challenges we're finding that getting newly trained individuals experienced on jobs, kind of was the genesis of us looking at getting into leveraging our experience in the trades of construction to get involved in developing our own projects. So we have our own body of work that we have some control of and we have an opportunity to put the individuals coming out of our trade school which is IJB University, a nonprofit located 223 Market Street in Camden and getting those young people to work.

So that let's us acquire a lot of properties in the City and then going down the road and partnering with local initiatives like AJ Design and open up agendas for it and making an opportunity to get young individuals in the community working in the construction trades.

We're currently in collaboration with a number of organizations with Parkside PBCIP and AJ Design and other organizations in the City to do the work; work for our community; work for our residents; and at the end with a legitimate pathway into a career in the trades.

```
These are residents of
1
                MR. YOUSAF:
2
    Camden, right?
                                    Residents of Camden.
3
                MR. BRANHAM: Yes.
    The City gets preference. We do have a few
4
5
    individuals from the surrounding area making it into
    the cohorts. But our focus is on Camden.
6
                MR. YOUSAF: Any other questions?
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: The applicant, I think,
    does have a video presentation if the Board would
9
    like to entertain that. How long is it?
10
                MR. YOUSAFE: I think six minutes.
11
12
                MR. BRANHAM: The video actually, I think
13
    it's instrumental at giving you some insight to the
14
    work that we're doing in our workforce development.
15
    If you would entertain us.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Is this about the
    application or is this about --
17
                MR. YOUSAF: This video is about the
18
    program that trains students to gain skill and apply
19
20
    those skills. It's related to this project in the
21
    sense that it's those students that have graduated
22
    from that program, will apply the skills and the
23
    knowledge that they've learned to start on this
24
    project; help construct this; and pretty much
25
    solidified some of the skills that they've learned in
```

```
that program.
1
2
                MR. BRANHAM: I just wanted to say, with
3
    respect to our projects that we're developing, we
    partner with local contractors and we require that
4
    the local contractors take on to their staff under a
5
    mentorship agreement, individuals coming from our
6
    training program. So that's where we feel like
7
    there's a connection and a relevance to the work that
8
    we're doing in our workforce development.
9
                MR. EINGORN: For the record, the
10
11
    applicant has aired an approximately 6-minute video
12
    presentation which is more fully set forth in the
    record. No need to transcribe the whole video.
13
14
    Is that okay with you, Chair?
15
                MR. EINGORN: Thank you can proceed with
16
    the video.
                 (Proceedings are off the stenographic
17
18
    record. Video being viewed.)
19
                 (Proceedings are back on the record.)
20
                MR. EINGORN: Anything else to add,
    Counsel?
2.1
22
                MR. YOUSAF: Well, not only are we
    seeking a variance, a bulk variance, we hope you guys
23
24
    will approve and grant us this variance. We're
25
    hoping that perhaps if it's possible to also do an
```

```
expedited resolution if that's possible, again.
1
2
    of the reasons is, we do have some graduates from
3
    this program and we want to take them out immediately
    and put them to work.
4
5
                The thing is that, once there is a gap,
    the momentum can sort of hinder or eventually even
6
          So we do want to take out these students and
7
8
    just put them to work. We're hoping if it is
    possible if the Board sees fit, if the Zoning Board
9
    sees fit, we can get an expedited resolution provided
10
11
    that the Board approves and grants the variance, we
12
    would much appreciate that.
13
                MR. EINGORN: So I did speak to
14
    Mr. Yousaf's partner prior to the hearing tonight.
15
    He did provide resolutions, proposed resolutions,
16
    which Evita is holding, for both applications.
    Obviously, they'd have to be amended to some extent
17
    to reflect some of the things that were said tonight.
18
    But I have no substantive objection to the entry of
19
    those resolutions if the Board sees that to be
20
21
    appropriate.
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: We haven't granted the
24
    application yet so...
25
                              It's positive.
                MR. YOUSAF:
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Some positives.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: I got you. Any last
3
    questions for the applicant?
4
                MS. MERRICKS: I have a quick question.
5
    So some of the Camden residents will be working on
    this project?
6
                MR. YOUSAF: Yes, that is my
7
8
    understanding. Some of those students will be
9
    working on the project.
                MS. NUNEZ: All of them?
10
11
                MR. BRANHAM: Yes.
                                    We're very excited.
12
    They're currently working now on other projects, some
13
    in the City of Philadelphia and some over here just
14
    to keep them working. But our objective is to make
15
    sure that we don't have any lull and get them
    engaged in Camden as quickly as possible at this
16
            This will certainly help that.
17
    point.
18
                MS. MERRICKS: I think that's awesome.
    If they do work and build something in their own
19
20
    community that's awesome..
21
                MR. YOUSAF:
                             That's right.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Open to the public?
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody tonight that would
25
    like to be heard on the application regarding 2810
```

Arthur Avenue or 2812 Arthur Avenue which have been presented simultaneously? Hearing none and seeing none, we'll close the public portion.

So the applicant is here tonight seeking bulk variances related to the size of the lots and off-street parking. Bulk variance for one car per each of the lots. There are two applications so you will need two separate votes to the extent that a motion is to pass, or even a motion to deny. We need two separate votes.

So how about the Board starts with 2810

Arthur Avenue, a discussion of the Positive and

Negative Criteria and a motion. If you want to apply
your reasoning from the first to the second, that's

fine. But at least for the first application, let's
get the discussion on the record.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think it's very positive for the young generation to have training and skills that are leaving this area. I do that work. And you don't find masons that know how to lay some bricks the right way. Everything is going to machines. And did I see a couple of older people in the class also or only just young?

MR. BRANHAM: The instructors are seasoned instructors. They got some wisdom to hand

down. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. I agree with that 3 because a lot of that is lost. People don't realize how important that is to work with your hands. 4 5 lost my job. But since my dad was a contractor, I was still able to put money in my hand, food on the 6 table, and pay my bills. It's a win-win. 7 8 I'm realizing why you want four bedrooms. To test their skills which is great. Is that under Rowan or 9 10 iust --11 MR. BRANHAM: Rowan University is Green 12 Jobs Academy through I think a grant from TD Bank was 13 our sponsor. And additionally, you have Excelon 14 Corporation through Atlantic City Electric provides 15 sponsorship to provide the stipend. Without Rowan's 16 charter, we would not have been provided a stipend for the students. We thought it was important. 17 we were able to seek support from them and they 18 19 provided a stipend for us. 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I will say that you have 21 a very good instructor, Tommy, for the record, is my 22 I know that he has the skills. nephew. 23 MR. BRANHAM: We go way back. 24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I haven't seen him 25 around so that's a good thing. We go way back with

```
construction, and that's very important. My dad
1
2
    said, one day when you get your house, you're going
    to save a lot of money. I thought he was just
3
    working me hard, but it's true. So I think it's
4
5
    something positive for Camden and also for the
    younger generation.
6
                MS. MASON: I think also the houses that
7
8
    you're building is comparable to the houses that's on
    that block. I'm familiar with that area as well.
9
    think the homes there are three bedrooms, maybe four
10
11
    bedrooms.
               So it is the same as the rest of the
12
    houses that are on that block.
13
                And as it pertains to the parking, again,
14
    the garage I think is good. And then there's
15
    off-street parking as well. So based off of the
16
    application that they submitted, I think it's
    positive. I think we should vote for it.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: So do we have a motion
19
    related to 2810 Arthur Avenue?
20
                MS. MASON: I make a motion.
21
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
22
    is a motion to approve the requested variances.
23
                MS. MASON:
                           Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
25
                MS. NUNEZ: Second.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
1
2
    Chairman Hance.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
5
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
6
7
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
8
9
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
11
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
13
                MS. MASON: Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
15
    none opposed, the motion passes. And then I assume
    we want for the same reasonings, make a motion on
16
    2812? Can you make that motion?
17
18
                MS. MASON: Yes, I'll make that motion as
19
    well.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. Great. And do we
21
    have a second?
22
                MS. MERRICKS: Second.
23
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
    vote. Chairman Hance.
24
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
1
2
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
4
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
8
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
10
                MS. MASON: Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
12
    none opposed, the motion passes.
                Then we have consideration of the
13
14
    resolutions adopting the decisions of the Board.
15
    Does the Board want to consider those as part of
16
    tonight's proceeding?
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Do you want to make a
19
    motion to adopt the resolutions for those
    applications?
20
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion to
22
    adopt.
23
                MS. MASON: Second.
24
                MR. EINGORN: And a second. Roll-call
25
    vote. Chairman Hance.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE:
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
3
                MS. MERRICKS:
                               Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
5
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
6
7
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
9
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
                MS. MASON: Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Six in favor and none
12
13
    opposed, the resolutions have been adopted. I'll
14
    probably amend them because I did see a couple of
15
    typos. But at least for now you can get moving with
16
    your project. Thanks guys.
17
                MR. YOUSAF: Thank you to the Board and
18
    Mr. Chairman.
19
                MR. BRANHAM: Thank you.
20
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter for the
21
    agenda is Telco Group, LLC, 2730 Mitchell Street and
22
    2733 Saunders Street.
23
                MR. IZZO: Good evening. Charles Izzo
24
    attorney for Telco, the applicant for 2730 Mitchell
25
    Street, an application for a batting cage. I have
```

```
two witnesses.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
3
    hand, please.
4
                FELICIA MARTINEZ, ROLANDO QUINTANA,
5
    having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined
6
7
    and testified as follows:
8
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
9
    address for the record.
10
11
                MS. MARTINEZ: Felicia Martinez for
    27 -- should I say both addresses or just one?
12
13
                MR. IZZO: Your home address.
14
                MS. MARTINEZ: 2822 Carmen Street,
15
    Camden, New Jersey 08105.
                MR. QUINTANA: Rolando Quintana, 36
16
    Country Club Lane, Elizabeth, New Jersey.
17
                MR. IZZO: Ms. Martinez, you're here for
18
    Telco Group concerning this zoning application?
19
20
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
21
                MR. IZZO: What is the property that
22
    we're talking about on Mitchell Street? What kind of
23
    property do you have there now?
24
                MS. MARTINEZ: Right now it's just an
25
    abandoned building. And what we're trying to do is
```

```
create an indoor batting and training facility.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: So you brought in pictures.
3
    And I see a derelict, old building, no windows, no
4
    doors?
5
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Yes. I mean it has broken
    windows. It has doors that are boarded up.
6
7
                MR. IZZO: It's not residential in
8
    nature?
9
                MS. MARTINEZ: As of right now, no.
                MR. IZZO: It's some kind of an old
10
11
    factory or something?
12
                               Right.
                MS. MARTINEZ:
13
                MR. IZZO: Your company proposes to
14
    develop this property into some kind of a
15
    recreational thing?
16
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
17
                MR. IZZO: And you've specified batting
18
    cages?
19
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
20
                MR. IZZO: And why are you going to do
    that?
21
22
                                I will read off my paper.
                MS. MARTINEZ:
    It's a much-needed addition to the City of Camden.
23
24
    This will be a commercial business that provides a
25
    safe year-round space for young athletes to train,
```

```
develop discipline and build confidence. Camden
1
2
    currently has no indoor batting cages, leaving a
3
    major gap for local youth who loves baseball.
                The facility will operate primarily after
4
5
    school and on weekends under adult supervision with
    minimal traffic or noise impact. Beyond sport, this
6
    project will bring positive community impact by
7
8
    promoting healthy activities, skill-building and
    neighborhood pride.
9
                MR. IZZO: Very well-stated. It's aimed
10
11
    at youth baseball players, girls and boys, I'm
12
    assuming?
13
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yes.
14
                MR. IZZO: And you're going to have
15
    equipment in there that pitches baseballs at them and
    they're going to try to hit them?
16
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
                                          There will be
17
    more of this conversation, three batting cages but
18
    it'll be developed for space for them to train and
19
    equipment on the other side, office spaces and so on.
20
21
                MR. IZZO: Before we get down to the
22
    inside, you had an architect prepare plans for the
23
    redevelopment of this property?
24
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yes.
25
                MR. IZZO: And he's shown an opportunity
```

```
to rehabilitate this building and provide parking
1
2
    spaces surrounding the property?
3
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Yes.
                MR. IZZO: Not on the street,
4
5
    correct?
                MS. MARTINEZ:
6
                                No.
7
                MR. IZZO: Did you notice how many
8
    parking spaces he proposes?
9
                MS. MARTINEZ: It can fit up to 12.
10
                MR. QUINTANA: It's 13 parking spaces.
11
    Eleven are on the lot and we're proposing two
12
    on-street parking right in front of the property.
13
                MR. EINGORN: So there's 11 on-site
14
    parking spaces?
15
                MR. QUINTANA:
                                Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: We don't count the ones on
    the street because they don't belong to you.
17
                                                   They
18
    belong to the public.
19
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Okay.
20
                MR. IZZO: And are there any other uses
21
    going to be inside the building besides the
22
    recreational activities you're talking about?
23
                MS. MARTINEZ: It'll only be batting
24
    cages on the ground floor. It's going to have a
25
    reception area and the first floor will be indoor
```

```
turf with netting to divide spaces that could also
1
2
    be, you know, you could take the netting off and have
    a larger space for drills and other baseball-related
3
    activities.
4
5
                MR. IZZO: Any other revenue-generating
    activities? Any pinball machines; snack bars;
6
7
    anything like that?
8
                MR. QUINTANA:
                               No.
9
                MR. IZZO: Any goods being sold at the
10
    property?
11
                MS. MARTINEZ: As of right now, it's not.
    I don't think so.
12
13
                MR. QUINTANA: Maybe the reception area
14
    could have a vending machine, sports drinks, snacks.
15
                MR. IZZO: Ms. Martinez, she talked about
    after school and weekends. And night use also?
16
                MS. MARTINEZ: After the school, yes.
17
    I guess from after school would be three-ish until
18
          Most facilities are open until that time.
19
20
                MR. IZZO: How much is it going to cost a
21
    young person to come in here and practice baseball?
22
                               It all depends. The price
                MS. MARTINEZ:
23
    ranges depending on the age but also the amount of, I
24
    guess, the activity that they will use. Because in
25
    the batting cage, yes, it's a batting cage and people
```

```
will say, okay, they're going to bat but there's
1
2
    also, like he mentioned, different drills.
    might just be organized with whichever package that
3
    particular person or parent chooses from.
4
5
                MR. IZZO: Are you going to be affiliated
    with any sports leagues or athletic associations or
6
7
    anything like that?
8
                MS. MARTINEZ: No. As of a right now,
9
    no.
10
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Quintana, you've described
11
    batting cages on the ground floor?
12
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
13
                MR. IZZO: Which is below grade-level.
14
    You're actually at grade-level?
15
                MR. QUINTANA: It's a ground-floor.
                                                      The
16
    thing about the property is, it's both Mitchell
    Street and Saunders Street. It's one building
17
    divided by a party wall. The side of Mitchell Street
18
    it is a ground floor. But as you go towards Saunders
19
20
    Street, it rises. So it is a ground floor on the
    Mitchell Street side.
21
22
                MR. IZZO: How many batting cages are
23
    going to fit on the ground floor?
24
                MS. MARTINEZ: On the ground floor you
25
    could fit three batting cages.
```

```
MR. IZZO: And on the second floor which
1
2
    you described it as the first floor above the ground
3
    floor, you said that's a training area?
                MR. QUINTANA:
                               Yes.
4
5
                MR. IZZO: What does that mean?
                MR. QUINTANA: It will be indoor turf.
6
7
    So mostly the entire floor will mostly be turf.
8
    it will be divided by netting so you could do
    baseball batting drills. Maybe those three batting
9
    cages will become six at full use. Or if you want
10
11
    to, let's say you have the team coming to practice,
    you could take the netting off and run base-running
12
    drills. You could run fielding drills and make it
13
14
    more versatile.
15
                MR. IZZO: Does your architect propose
    how you're going to protect the outside of the
16
    building; how you're going to make it safe for people
17
    to come up in there in the dark hours?
18
                MR. QUINTANA: So the architect is
19
20
    proposing a six-foot fence around the perimeter of
21
    the property.
22
                MR. IZZO:
                           The driveway or a --
23
                MR. OUINTANA: There's an existing
    curb cut and it leads into the asphalt area that's
24
25
    existing. There are 11 spots proposed with a
```

```
1
    handicap spot.
2
                MR. IZZO: So as with the other
    applicants, I'm going to submit to the Board for
3
4
    questioning. Either one of you can address the
5
    questions.
6
                MR. EINGORN: So you said that there's
7
    two buildings that share a party wall.
8
    spaces, does that service both properties or just
    this one?
9
                MR. QINTANA: Just this one.
10
11
                MS. RIVERA: In here you say you have
12
    gym equipment.
13
                MR. QUINTANA: We're proposing -- so
14
    it'll be turf on one end and then gym equipment or
15
    just a regular area that's not turfed.
16
                MS. RIVERA: When you say gym, what do
    you consider?
17
18
                MR. QUINTANA: We're proposing treadmills
19
    or --
20
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah, like a gym area to
21
    work out to do weights.
22
                MS. RIVERA: So you're going to have two
23
    rooms for that, right?
24
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Yes.
25
                MR. QUINTANA: It will be storage
```

```
equipment rooms, yes, on each floor.
1
2
                MS. RIVERA: But you said gym equipment.
3
    Not storage.
4
                MR. QUINTANA: Oh I see. Also, gym
5
    equipment will be where the treadmills will be or
    where the weights will be. And then there's a
6
    storage equipment room.
7
8
                MS. RIVERA: Okay.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So the building, you
    have one front entrance on Saunders Street, correct?
10
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And then on Mitchell
12
13
    Street there's like a garage door there?
14
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes, there is.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is that one building or
    two buildings? I'm confused?
16
17
                MR. QUINTANA: It's one building but it
    got subdivided.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's one big building,
19
20
    correct?
21
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
22
                MR. QUINTANA: But it got subdivided.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's one big building,
24
    correct?
25
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah.
```

```
MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
1
2
                MS. MARTINEZ: But two different
3
    addresses from --
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Well, one used to be for
5
    storage. When the curb cut that goes into off of
    Mitchell with the garage doors are right there, that
6
7
    used to be storage. And then coming through, is it
    offices?
8
9
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And then it was where
10
11
    they used to put stuff together?
12
                MS. MARTINEZ: Right.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I know cause I used to
14
    work there.
15
                MR. QUINTANA: I actually wanted to do
16
    ask why --
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm showing my age
            It was a long time ago. That's why I was
18
19
    confused with the two separate buildings.
20
                  - - - CHECK WITH TAPE
21
                MS. MARTINEZ: It's one building.
22
    it's going to be splitting into two buildings because
    of the two different addresses.
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: Is there already a party
25
    wall in the building?
```

```
MR. QUINTANA: There's already an
1
2
    existing party wall and there's only a 36-inch door
              It's going to get closed up.
3
4
                MR. EINGORN: And so it has separate
5
    blocks and lots already, correct?
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
6
                MR. EINGORN: And you have a deed, a
7
8
    subdivision deed or anything of that nature that
    shows when or where that was divided?
9
                MR. QUINTANA: I believe we have surveys
10
11
    for each set of plans. So there's a survey for
12
    Mitchell Street and a survey for Saunders Street.
13
                MS. RIVERA: Are you guys going to put
14
    some lighting outside and stuff like that?
15
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
                MS. RIVERA: It looks kind of --
16
                MS. MARTINEZ: Oh, yeah, it's horrible.
17
    The outside appearance is horrible. It's been
18
    abandoned for quite some time like, what, 20, 30
19
20
    years.
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Maybe 40.
22
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah. So it needs a lot
    of work. We think -- like we said, it's a great
23
    thing for the community.
24
25
                MS. RIVERA: Of course.
```

```
MS. MARTINEZ: There's a new park being
1
2
    build across the street.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You mean the park across
4
    the street?
5
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yes.
                        - - - CHECK
6
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: We have a junk yard
8
    which I don't approve of and they're very sloppy.
    I was by there today and they got stuff all over the
9
    place. Yeah, that area is good for something like
10
           There's vacant lot next door. That lot has
11
    that.
    been vacant forever. But I don't know who owns that
12
13
    lot. But it has been vacant and sitting there.
14
    then you got houses on this side.
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct. And the
15
16
    apartments.
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And the apartments.
                                                       Ι
    used to live right on Mitchell Street. You got
18
    Holmes' Lounge which was further down. I grew up
19
20
    right there.
21
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Okay.
22
                                 That would be nice for
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
    the kids in that area.
23
24
                MS. NUNEZ: Would this be like a 'members
25
    only' or open to the community?
```

MS. MARTINEZ: Open to the community. 1 2 MS. NUNEZ: Will you be selling like memberships, yearly memberships, multi-memberships? 3 MS. MARTINEZ: It can be -- it will be 4 5 open to the community. So the way it will work mostly likely, it can be from the memberships. You 6 can do a monthly plan or a yearly plan, whichever the 7 8 customer chooses. 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're going to rent 10 the batting cages out or something like that? Say that again? 11 MS. MARTINEZ: 12 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Renting out the batting 13 cages? 14 MR. QUINTANA: It'll probably be an 15 hourly rate or half-hour rate. And also depending on the amount of cages you're renting or whether you 16 want to use the indoor turf upstairs. It's going to 17 take more space; might cost more money. Those are 18 all about to change depending on --19 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: We used to go to the one 21 out in Pennsauken or Merchantville, The Bat Doctor or 22 something. Many years ago my son was the pitcher for his school. And picture driving all the way out 23 there so he can practice. So something in town would 24 25 be so much better for the kids especially if you

```
don't have car.
1
2
                MS. MARTINEZ: It's needed for kids now
    that are in sports, they have to travel that 20,
3
    30-minute drive to another township and then with
4
5
    traffic. And it just makes it hard for parents to
    even drive that 30 minutes during the traffic hour.
6
    So I think --
7
8
                MS. RIVERA: Do you have people to train
9
    the kids or?
                MS. MARTINEZ: It'll be more of -- we
10
11
    have people but it's also volunteered-based. If you
12
    want to volunteer or sign up. Once again, it's for
13
    the community. We want to be for the community so
14
    that they can see, hey, we need this help these kids
15
    in Camden need to see what can be done here and our
    own community versus going somewhere else. So it'll
16
    be folks that we already have that have that
17
    background in baseball, but we're open to volunteers
18
    and anything like that.
19
20
                MS. RIVERA: What about for the little
21
    ones?
22
                                They're welcome too.
                MS. MARTINEZ:
23
                MS. RIVERA: You know, they start with
    T-ball so...
24
25
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yeah.
                                       So with T-ball
```

```
that's from, what, five to six. My daughter is in
1
2
    T-ball so it can go from five to 18.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I use to coach for
4
    Cramer Hill.
5
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yeah. Once again, it's
    open to the community where it can be like Croc
6
7
    Center that you can go in for a day pass and use the
8
    batting cages.
9
                MS. RIVERA: Now, what about for special
    needs kids? Did you have that in there too?
10
11
                MS. MARTINEZ: That's something that we
12
    can be open to.
13
                MR. QUINTANA: We do have handicap
14
    bathrooms.
15
                MS. RIVERA: No, no.
16
                MS. MARTINEZ: For them to use the
    facility as well.
17
18
                MS. RIVERA: Because you have Down
19
    Syndrome; you have kids in spectrum. Sometimes you
    need the kids to go in and run or whatever.
20
2.1
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Right.
22
                MS. RIVERA: That's why I'm asking.
23
                MS. MARTINEZ: We can be open to that but
    with that question to you, we will also need a
24
25
    certain type of certifications for something like
```

```
that.
1
           Correct?
2
                MS. RIVERA: Okay.
3
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                If it's something that we
    can do, we can promote that too.
4
5
                MS. RIVERA: Because we don't have
    anything in Camden for kids like that. It would be
6
7
    wonderful.
8
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yeah, I agree.
9
                MS. MERRICKS: Are you going to be a
    partner or maybe reach out to the school districts?
10
11
    Because I'm just thinking of indoor batting which
    gives them an opportunity to practice during winter
12
             Is that the whole goal?
13
    months.
14
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
                MS. MERRICKS: I was wondering if you'd
15
    partner with like the school district or some of the
16
    schools?
17
                               Yeah, that would be our
18
                MS. MARTINEZ:
19
    goal to partner with the kids in general.
20
                MS. MERRICKS: I think that would be
21
    great.
22
                               Once again, I'm saying,
                MS. MARTINEZ:
23
    it's open to the public but that means to partner
    with any facility or any type of other department or
24
25
    group that specialize in kids to bring the awareness
```

```
of we need this; we need to be united in Camden.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's positive. Like I
    said, I would check out the land beside it. For the
3
    summer you can do the outside batting cages. And you
4
5
    can add that to what you have. And I'll definitely
    be by to check on that. I always go by. And that's
6
    giving back to Camden.
7
8
                MS. MARTINEZ: Yes.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's needed. You need
    to keep their mind in being a youth.
10
11
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And enjoying their life.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Do you have a separate tax
14
    bill for this property as opposed to the other
15
    property? Because we tried to look up the lot and
16
    block on the tax website. We're not seeing that this
    address for the lot and block exists. Do you have
17
    anything that shows --
18
19
                MS. MARTINEZ: Not on hand right now,
20
    no.
21
                MR. IZZO: So we got one lot on the
22
    application. We'll see what it is. He describes it
    as 83 feet on Mitchell Street.
23
24
                MR. EINGORN: I see what the survey
25
    says. The issue is that we don't see anything in the
```

```
Tax Assessor's website records that show this address
1
2
    or these lot and block numbers. So I think before
3
    the Board weighs in on it and you try to get a permit
    for this property, we may need to confirm the
4
5
    Mitchell Street address. Because you don't want to
    get a resolution or an approval for a property that
6
    doesn't exist and if it's not in the Tax Assessor's
7
8
    records.
9
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.
10
                MR. EINGORN: So I would suggest that the
11
    Board at least table this one matter and we'll hear
    the other matter so just that we can confirm the
12
13
    exact address and block and lot. Because otherwise,
14
    you may not be able to get a permit.
15
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.
                MR. EINGORN: Does that make sense?
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
17
                                 Yes.
                MR. IZZO: The surveyor finds 8,000
18
19
    square feet.
                MR. EINGORN: Yes. I know what the
20
21
    survey says. The issue is the Tax Collector's
22
    website doesn't have anything that shows that this
    address or this block and lot. It goes from Lot 24
23
    to Lot 26. So I think we need to adjourn at least
24
25
    this. We have a record bill, right? We just need a
```

```
little more information to show the exact property.
1
2
                The issue is, let's say for just sake of
3
    argument, if this still is really being taxed as a
    single property, then you may need a different
4
5
    variance for multiple uses on the same lot. And if
    you walk out of here without that, then you may have
6
    to come back any way and it may be a whole new
7
8
    application.
9
                MR. IZZO: I looked up the Assessor's
10
    record and the Assessor describes this as 83-by-106
11
    on Lot 25.
12
                MR. EINGORN: What do you have?
13
                MR. IZZO: I have my application that I
14
    transcribed from them -- the Assessment. Oh, I have
15
    this. I'm sorry.
16
                              What do you have?
                MR. EINGORN:
                MR. IZZO: The dimensions are there on
17
    the right margin.
18
19
                MR. EINGORN: So what counsel has
20
    provided is a Camden County Property Assessment
21
    Search of the property data sheet created on August
22
    27th. I'm assuming it's 2025. It cuts off at 202.
23
    This, however, is from Camden County. It's not from
24
    the City. It says Map page 1701, Zoning R-2 but it
25
    doesn't -- I mean, this isn't from the Tax Assessor's
```

```
Office is the issue. It's from the county.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: It's from the County Tax
3
    Assessor.
                MR. EINGORN: Right. But you're getting
4
5
    a permit from the City, not from the county. So
    maybe that's where the issue is. I don't know.
6
                                                      So
    the Board needs more information regarding the City's
7
    records. Because if there's no lot and block for
8
    this in the City, then why are you getting a permit
9
    for? You're getting a permit for nothing. The
10
11
    property doesn't exist. So there's some kind of
12
    cross-up between the City and the county somehow.
13
                MR. IZZO: This supports it. You're not
14
    thinking it's authoritative enough?
15
                MR. EINGORN: Well, that's from the
16
    county. But what we're talking about is from the
    City.
17
                MR. IZZO: Right. You're talking about
18
19
    the actual City tax bill?
20
                MR. EINGORN: Right. That's the issue
21
    that we need to work out.
22
                MS. MARTINEZ: So with that being said,
23
    you need us to provide it to you guys or?
24
                MR. EINGORN: You need to talk to the
25
    City's Tax Assessor's Office to see what's going on
```

```
with the address and the lot and block and
1
2
    determine. Because we can't find it and we don't
3
    want you to end up with a useless permit for a
    property that doesn't exist.
4
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.
5
                MS. MUHAMMAD: More by chance if this
6
7
    was just all one property.
8
                MS. MARTINEZ: Say that again.
                MS. MUHAMMAD: If this is all one
9
    property; if it's been subdivided illegally or
10
11
    whatever. We just don't know. So you have until
    next month to bring back whatever you need to bring
12
    back so we can make a decision -- then the Board can
13
14
    make a decision at that time --
15
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.
                MS. MUHAMMAD: -- for 2730 Mitchell
16
    Street.
17
                MR. EINGORN: For 2733 Saunders, we can
18
19
                That's something we can locate.
    hear that.
20
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. For that side we
21
    are proposing to develop private office spaces
22
    designed for Camden's growing network of
23
    entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders. We believe
24
    Camden is full of talented people looking for
25
    professional space to expand their ideas,
```

```
organization and small businesses. This project,
1
2
    like we mentioned, it was vacant. The property has
3
    been vacant for over 30 years. So we're transforming
    it into something productive for local innovation and
4
5
    community growth.
                MR. EINGORN: For the record, the 2730
6
    Mitchell Street application is being adjourned to the
7
8
    second monthly meeting in November. And we've now
    moved on to the application of Telco Group, LLC for
9
    2733 Saunders Street. And the applicant has begun
10
11
    testimony on that application.
12
                MR. IZZO: So Ms. Martinez, we're on
13
    Saunders Street. We're going to bring in the tax
14
    bill for Mitchell next month. Saunders is a proposal
15
    also designed by an architect for your
16
    Telco Group?
17
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
18
                MR. IZZO: It proposes to develop this
               It's not recreational but into an office
19
    property.
20
    facility?
21
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yes.
22
                MR. IZZO: Of what magnitude; what size?
23
                MR. OUINTANA: I believe the offices will
24
    be about 2,800 square feet. They will have three
25
    offices, a conference room, a break room, and three
```

```
bathrooms.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: Who do you envision being
    interested in a building like that? Who would use
3
    those offices?
4
5
                MS. MARTINEZ: What was his name earlier?
    Mr. Michael? He's a photographer. He can use that
6
    space or anybody that has any type of business in
7
8
             There's a lot of young females in Camden
    that do hair. If they would like a professional
9
    space to conduct their business from there, they can
10
11
    do something like that.
12
                MR. IZZO: So your floor plan shows as
13
    Mr. Quintana just said reception, large conference
14
    room, common workplace and private offices?
15
                MS. MARTINEZ: Correct.
16
                MR. IZZO: Your organization would
    obviously collect rent from those tenants; is that
17
18
    correct?
19
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               Yes.
20
                MR. IZZO: Did your architect propose
21
    that there's room on this property to do with those
22
    commercial activities and also to park cars for the
23
    people that might end up working there?
24
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
                                      We have nine
25
    proposed spots.
```

```
MR. IZZO: What's the plan to accommodate
1
2
    the people who might want to park and spend the work
3
    day there?
                MR. QUINTANA: Well, I do believe under
4
5
    assembly operations, we are overcompensating for
    parking. So there will be more than enough spaces.
6
7
                MR. IZZO: How many specifically?
8
                MR. QUINTANA: I believe it's 1.25 spots
    per a thousand square feet.
9
10
                MR. IZZO: So how many levels in this
11
    building?
12
                MR. OUINTANA:
                               There are two levels.
    There's a basement and a first floor. The basement
13
14
    will be used for storage for whichever tenants have
15
    anything to store downstairs, as well as
16
    administrative storage for the owner.
17
                MR. IZZO: So your architect has provided
    you elevations which are more or less shows what the
18
    building will look like from the street. And what is
19
20
    on the site right now tonight as we meet here
21
    tonight. What there's now?
22
                MR. QUINTANA: It is currently the way it
23
    has been for the last 30 years, vacant property,
24
    asphalt, pretty dilapidated.
25
                           Is there a building on there?
                MR. IZZO:
```

```
MR. QUINTANA: The building is there.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: Is that building being
    demolished or rehabilitated?
3
                MR. QUINTANA: It is actually the block
4
5
    walls are still sound. The steel components are till
            It is just the roof that has to get replaced,
6
    sound.
    as well as the floor that's made out of wood and has
7
8
    been water-damaged after decades of sitting.
9
                MR. IZZO: And your firm proposes to
    install mechanical systems, plumbing, electric and
10
11
    ventilation, air conditioning, all those things?
12
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
13
                MR. IZZO: And are you proposing to use
14
    the space yourself or is it all going to be available
15
    to professional tenants?
                MR. OUINTANA: Professional tenants.
16
                MR. IZZO: How long would it take you to
17
    build something like this out of what's there right
18
19
    now?
20
                MR. QUINTANA: I would say at least four
21
    to six months. Depending on who we hire.
22
                MR. IZZO: Why do you think this would be
    suitable for this neighborhood over at Saunders
23
    Street and what's around the property now and what
24
25
    it's going to be like if you're able to develop it
```

```
like this?
1
2
                MR. OUINTANA: I believe on Saunders
    Street, on the corner of Saunders Street there are
3
    three homes next to the property. But aside from
4
5
    that, everything else is either commercial or
    industrial. Going back towards -- I'm trying to
6
7
    remember the name of the street on the other end.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So on the other end you
    have a laundromat. You have a little store.
9
10
                MR. QUINTANA: Like a bodega.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And another vacant lot.
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes.
12
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And I think you have
14
    probably about five residents on that side. Across
15
    the street there's two houses and they're vacant, I
16
    believe?
17
                MR. QUINTANA: Okay.
                MR. IZZO: Is this going to be harmonious
18
19
    with the activities that are there now?
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes. It will be
20
21
    definitely better than what's happening right now.
22
                MR. IZZO: Is there a need in the City
    for an office building like this?
23
                MR. QUINTANA: Yes. I don't think we
24
25
    have that many or if we have any like professional
```

```
spaces, professional offices. I don't think as much
1
2
    around in Camden. But that gives the businesses
    around, you know, a little hope.
3
                MR. IZZO: What's all this storage area
4
5
    in your plan? Why all the storage?
                MR. QUINTANA: So the storage will be for
6
    any future tenants that may want to use it as well as
7
8
    for the landlord or the owner to use for personal
9
    storage.
                MR. IZZO: Is this suitable for medical
10
11
    use or just business use?
12
                MR. OUINTANA: Business use.
13
                MR. IZZO: Is there anything else you
14
    wanted to tell the Board about this project on
15
    Saunders, this office building project?
16
                MR. QUINTANA:
                               No.
                MR. EINGORN: Is this how the property
17
    building currently looks? Did you take these
18
19
    photographs?
20
                MS. MARTINEZ: Not me.
21
                MR. QUINTANA: I believe I did, yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: What's your relationship to
    the applicant?
23
24
                MR. QUINTANA: So I work for the
25
    architect who couldn't be here today. I project
```

```
1
    manager.
2
                MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, what's your
3
    relationship to the applicant?
                MS. MARTINEZ: I'm just a representative
4
5
    for the LLC.
                MR. EINGORN: Are you a member or owner
6
7
    of the LLC?
8
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               No, just a
    representative. I'm just here cause she couldn't be
9
10
           She had an emergency so I'm the emergency
11
    number and I came here to speak for them.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Are you an employee or?
13
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                               No.
14
                MR. IZZO: How did you become familiar
15
    with this project?
16
                               Who me?
                MS. MARTINEZ:
17
                MR. IZZO: Yes.
                MS. MARTINEZ: I know the applicant and
18
    she just was telling me about the information, how
19
20
    she acquired the property and everything like that.
21
                MR. IZZO: Have you had a chance to study
22
    these drawings and everything?
23
                MS. MARTINEZ: Not much, no. I just came
24
    in communications with her. I know her. She's a
25
    family friend. And I'm just trying to get in the
```

```
same position as she so we became a representative to
1
2
    her house.
3
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Quintana, so you seem to
    know a lot about the project. What's your
4
5
    involvement from what stage?
                MR. QUINTANA: From the beginning since
6
7
    it was just an idea.
8
                MS. RIVERA: Are you both from Camden?
9
    I know you're not from Camden, Mr. Quintana.
                MS. MARTINEZ: I'm from Camden.
10
11
                MS. RIVERA: And the lady is from Camden
12
    too?
13
                MS. MARTINEZ:
                                Yes.
14
                MS. NUNEZ: I think we need more
15
    information and I think we should table the whole
16
    thing for next month so they can bring everything
    together.
17
18
                MS. MARTINEZ: Okay.
19
                MR. EINGORN: So we'll finish hearing the
20
    whole thing next month. That way we have an idea, is
21
    this one property; does 2730, is it on the tax maps.
22
    Because it's one building and then you're going to
23
    need a use variance for multiple uses on the same
24
    lot. Maybe we can have somebody from the actual LLC
25
    appear. And no offense to you ma'am.
```

```
MS. MARTINEZ: She'll be here next
1
2
    month.
                MR. EINGORN: That works. And we can
3
    tidy up all the remaining issues. That way you'll
4
5
    have some hopefully nonappealable approvalS. Or
    stronger approvals.
6
7
                MS. MARTINEZ: Sounds good.
8
                MR. EINGORN: All right?
9
                MR. IZZO: Sure.
                MR. EINGORN: So we'll be back in
10
11
    November on those matters.
12
                MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.
13
                MR. EINGORN: So for the record, this
14
    Telco Group, LLC, both matters, 2730 Mitchell Street
15
    and 2733 Saunders Street will be adjourned to the
16
    November meeting. Thank you.
17
                MR. QUINTANA: Thank you.
18
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Gamal
19
    Hamed, 1750-1754 Filmore Street.
20
                MR. IZZO: Charles Izzo. I represent the
21
    applicant Hamed. I have a witness coming up.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
23
    hand, please.
24
25
                CHARLES LAWTON, having first been duly
```

```
sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
1
2
    follows:
3
4
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
5
                MR. LAWTON: Charles Lawton, 1750
6
    Filmore, Camden, New Jersey.
7
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Lawton, it's Mr. Hamed
8
9
    that owns the property and not you; is that correct?
10
                MR. LAWTON:
                              That's correct, yes.
11
                MR. IZZO: And are you involved in an
    enterprise with Mr. Hamed at 1750-1754 Filmore
12
13
    Street?
14
                MR. LAWTON: Yes, I am.
15
                MR. IZZO: What is the nature of your
    business down there?
16
17
                MR. LAWTON: We assemble brand new skids
    and we fix existing skids.
18
                MR. IZZO: You used the word 'skids.'
19
20
    You mean pallets?
21
                MR. LAWTON:
                             Pallets, yes. Skids is just
22
    another name for it.
23
                MR. IZZO: So you yourself do that work
24
    there?
25
                MR. LAWTON: Yes, I do.
```

```
MR. IZZO: How long have you been engaged
1
2
    in that type of enterprise?
3
                MR. LAWTON: I have been doing that for
    about 15, 20 years actually.
4
5
                MR. IZZO: Hamed is the property owner.
    You're the industry man who does the work there; is
6
7
    that right?
8
                MR. LAWTON:
                              Yes.
9
                MR. IZZO: And you have been doing it for
    15 to 20 years at Filmore Street; is that correct?
10
11
                MR. LAWTON: No, not at Filmore Street.
    We've been doing at Filmore Street for just over a
12
13
    year. I thought you were just talking about just me
14
    in general.
15
                MR. IZZO: You've submitted some
16
    photographs to the Board that shows a gray stucco,
    one level, industrial building. And this is your
17
    shop; is that right?
18
19
                MR. LAWTON: Yes.
20
                MR. IZZO: You have a company that's
21
    engaged in that business as that shop; is that right?
22
                MR. LAWTON:
                              Yes.
23
                MR. IZZO: What's name of that company?
24
                              JC Custom Pallet.
                MR. LAWTON:
25
                MR. IZZO: And it's a full-time
```

occupation? 1 2 MR. LAWTON: Yes, it is. 3 MR. IZZO: And how does this happen to be located on Filmore Street which I think people 4 understand to be a residential area? How does this 5 shop happen to be sitting there? 6 MR. LAWTON: Well, Filmore Street is 7 8 adjacent to -- if you're standing on Ferry, Filmore Street is to the left of it. It's just a little side 9 street to the left of the building. The building 10 11 actually faces Filmore which is -- I mean Ferry which is the main street there. 12 13 MR. IZZO: And I don't see rowhouses or 14 anything in your picture. 15 MR. LAWTON: Those rowhouses, I'm completely -- to the left and to the right and back 16 of me, there's nothing in the vicinity. Directly in 17 front of the shop, there's just one house there, one 18 big house. And the rowhomes start about -- at the 19 end of my building, the rowhomes start going towards 20 6th Street which is at the end of the building. 21 22 That's where the rowhomes started. So there's really nothing directly in front of the building except for 23 24 one house which is non-vacant right now. It's 25 completely surrounded by no one that lives on either

```
1
    side or nothing in back of me. It's pretty wide
2
    open.
                MR. EINGORN: So JC Custom Pallet has
3
4
    been at the location for about a year?
5
                MR. LAWTON:
                              Yes, sir.
                MR. EINGORN: What was there before?
6
7
                MR. LAWTON: I believe it was a pallet
8
    company before, yes.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Do you know the name of
    that pallet company?
10
11
                MR. LAWTON:
                             No, not off the top of my
    head.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: Do you know about how long
14
    that company was there?
15
                MR. LAWTON: Probably since 2006
16
    maybe.
17
                MR. IZZO: You're applying here tonight
18
    for approval of a preexisting non-conforming use?
19
                MR. LAWTON:
                              Yes.
20
                MR. IZZO: Which means in your
21
    experience, you and your predecessor have been
22
    engaged in assembling pallets on that property?
23
                MR. LAWTON: That's correct.
24
                MR. IZZO: And what do you propose to do
25
    with the property that's different than what you have
```

```
right now?
1
2
                MR. LAWTON: Nothing in general.
3
    just basically just with the pallets. That's pretty
    much all we do. We don't engage in any other
4
5
    activities.
                MR. IZZO: How many people may be working
6
7
    there on a given day.
8
                MR. LAWTON: Right now we have it's four
9
    to five.
              I have a fairly small group of guys that
    help me out that are committed, you know, to working
10
    with us. It's about a four-to-five team.
11
                                                But
12
    there's room for more based on, you know, if we can
13
    get this thing off the ground. It'll be a lot more
14
    room for expansion and growth.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Was this spot picked
16
    because it was previously a pallet company?
17
                MR. LAWTON: I'm sorry?
18
                MR. EINGORN: Was this building picked
19
    because it was previously a pallet company?
20
                MR. LAWTON: Yes.
21
                MR. IZZO: And do your customers call on
22
    you at this building?
23
                MR. LAWTON:
                             Yes.
24
                MR. IZZO: And you do you do any activity
25
    outside the walls of the shop yourself there?
```

```
MR. LAWTON: Outside?
1
2
                MR. IZZO: Yes. Do you work in the yard
3
    or anything like that?
4
                MR. LAWTON:
                             No. It's just for storage
5
    if anything. Everything is done inside. All work
    activities are done inside. We might store a couple
6
    of pallets outside. Once they're done or we have an
7
8
    overflow that's on the inside, we would store them
    outside. But other than that, everything is done on
9
    the inside.
10
11
                MR. IZZO: Do you know if the Board
12
    approves, you have to have a license and a
13
    Certificate of Occupancy in order to work in Camden?
14
                MR. LAWTON: Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions for the
16
    applicant?
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You said you've been
    there a year?
18
19
                MR. LAWTON: Yeah, a little bit of a
    year. A little over, yes, with JC Custom Pallet.
20
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right. I'm very
22
    familiar with it. I live right around the corner.
                                                        Ι
    live on Broadway. I live right by the Heart of
23
24
             I can say that it is kept clean. Even with
    Camden.
25
    the last guy who owned it. I never see you guys
```

```
1
    outside. Maybe a truck.
2
                MR. LAWTON: Yeah, that's my truck.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Other than that --
3
                MR. LAWTON: Basically what I'll do now
4
5
    until we can get up and running is, I do a lot of my
    business on the road.
6
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You may need some more
8
    lights out there at night.
9
                MR. LAWTON: Yeah. Well, that's in
    maintenance.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Because behind you is
    like a vacant lot.
12
13
                MR. LAWTON: Yeah, it's all open.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And that house across
15
    the street, we passed that last year and they never
16
    did anything with it, that big house.
17
                MR. LAWTON: The big house, yes.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That has nine bedrooms
19
    or something?
20
                MR. LAWTON: Yeah.
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Other than that, it's a
22
    pretty quiet area.
23
                MR. LAWTON: Yes, it's a pretty quiet
24
    area.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
                                                     This
```

```
is a request for a Cert of Non-Conforming Use.
1
2
    Anybody in the public tonight that like to be heard
3
    on the application regarding 1750 to 1754 Filmore
    Street, a request for a Cert of Non-Conforming Use
4
    for a pallet company? Hearing and seeing none, we'll
5
    close the public portion.
6
7
                It sounds like this was a pallet company
8
    prior and is a pallet company again. The Board
    should do a quick discussion and a motion.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's very quiet. Like I
10
11
    said, I wouldn't know if anyone was there but you see
12
    them coming in once in a while. The area is kept
13
            There's one house at the red light which I
14
    barely see them there going towards Centerville.
15
    Then the big house on the opposite side.
16
                MR. LAWTON:
                             It's torn down. Next to my
    building?
17
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's across the
19
    street.
20
                MR. LAWTON:
                             Oh yeah.
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's going towards
22
    Broadway.
23
                MR. LAWTON:
                             Yes.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Again, I wouldn't know
25
    that they were there. I'm there all the time.
```

```
you got about five people working there, I guess?
1
2
                MR. LAWTON: Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: The only issue is, put
3
    some lights out there.
4
5
                MR. LAWTON: They're inside just waiting
    for the green light. I have all that stuff
6
7
    already.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're not going to put
    a fence up or anything like that? You're going to
9
    leave it the way it is?
10
11
                MR. LAWTON: No. I don't have any
12
    problems as far as theft or anything like that.
13
    get along with everyone in the area. It's
14
    well-liked. No problems.
15
                MR. EINGORN: A motion?
16
                MS. MASON: Motion to approve for a
    Non-Conforming.
17
18
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Second.
20
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
    Chairman Hance.
21
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
24
                MS. MERRICKS:
                               Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
```

```
MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
3
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
5
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
6
7
                MS. MASON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
8
9
    none opposed, congratulations.
                MR. LAWTON: Thank you.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: The last matter is Josefina
12
    Henriquez, 442 Pfeiffer Street, also requesting a
    Cert of Non-Conforming Use.
13
                MR. IZZO: My applicant is a
14
15
    Spanish-speaking lady. She brought a translator.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Good evening. Would you
    raise your right hand, please.
17
18
19
                JOSEFINA HENRIQUEZ, having first been
    duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
20
    follows:
21
22
23
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
24
    address for the record.
25
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: Josefina Henriquez.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, are you going to
1
2
    translate?
                MS. MEJIAS: Yes.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Raise your right hand.
4
5
                Do you swear or affirm the translation
    you'll provide tonight will be true and accurate to
6
7
    the best of your abilities?
8
                MS. MEJIAS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: State your name and
9
10
    address, please.
11
                MS. MEJIAS: Rosienid Mejias, 728
12
    Browning Road, Pennsauken, New Jersey.
13
                MR. EINGORN: So the --
14
                MR. IZZO: I'm going to ask questions to
15
    Ms. Josefina and you're just going to translate the
    question into Spanish. She's going to answer in
16
    Spanish and you'll translate into English.
17
18
                Ms. Josefina, are you the owner of 442
19
    Pfeiffer Street?
20
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: Yes.
21
                MR. IZZO: What is on that property at
22
    Pfeiffer Street?
23
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: It's a duplex house.
                MR. IZZO: Does that mean you have an
24
25
    apartment upstairs and downstairs?
```

```
MS. HENRIQUEZ: Yes.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: And how long have you owned
    that house on Pfeiffer Street?
3
4
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: More than 20 years.
5
                MR. IZZO: When you acquired it 20 years
    ago, was it already an upstairs-downstairs
6
7
    duplex?
8
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: Yes. Everything was the
9
           I never changed nothing inside the property.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Izzo, we've seen a lot
11
    of these duplexes on this street. So maybe ask the
12
    applicant, was it built as a duplex; are there other
13
    duplexes on the street; are they all built that
14
    way?
15
                MR. IZZO: So the plans -- go ahead.
16
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: The one that they are not
    duplex is the carpenter ones, like the St. Joseph's
17
18
    Carpenter.
19
                MR. EINGORN: The whole block is
    duplexes, right?
20
                                   The whole block -- I
21
                MS. MEJIAS: Yes.
22
    mean, I know her for more than 20 years. But I know
    when she bought that house, the house was a duplex
23
24
    already.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Right. Because they were
```

```
all built that way.
1
2
                MS. MEJIAS: That block there, all the
    houses are duplexes. The one in front of Pfeiffer
3
4
    they are single houses, most of them.
                MR. IZZO: But a different street?
5
                MS. MEJIAS:
                              No.
                                   The same street.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: That's across the street,
8
    right?
9
                MS. MEJIAS:
                             Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Okay.
                I think the Board is familiar with this
11
12
    property and all the ones in the neighboring it,
13
    right?
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Right.
15
                MR. EINGORN: And I think the Board has
    the ability to make the determination. For the
16
    record, we open to the public but nobody is here so
17
    we'll close to the public. I would suggest to the
18
19
    Board that they make a motion to approve.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion to approve.
21
                MS. NUNEZ: Second.
                               I'll take a roll-call vote.
22
                MR. EINGORN:
    Chairman Hance.
23
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
```

```
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Nunez.
3
                MS. NUNEZ: Yes.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Rivera.
5
                MS. RIVERA: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Moss.
6
7
                MS. MOSS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Mason.
8
9
                MS. MASON: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
11
    none, the motion passes.
12
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Izzo, I didn't mean to
13
    step on your toes, but just because we're familiar
    with this one, I figured I'd get you out of here.
14
15
    Thank you guys.
16
                MS. HENRIQUEZ: Thank you.
17
                MR. EINGORN: We don't have any
    resolutions because of the last meeting was so close.
18
19
    So all we need is a motion to adjourn.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion.
21
                MS. RIVERA: Second.
22
                MR. EINGORN: All in favor.
23
                THE Board: Yays.
24
25
            *(Meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.)*
```

1	CERTIFICATION				
2					
3					
4	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a Certified Court				
5	Reporter and Notary Public.				
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