CITY OF JERSEY CITY PLANNING BOARD In the Matter of: : Transcript CASE P19-194 : of BJ. PWER, LLC : of BJ.	Page 2
In the Matter of: CASE P19-194 CASE P19-194 Senior Planning Tuesday, April 26, 2022 Zoom Remote Videoconference Commencing at 9:04 p.m. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: CHRISTOPHER LANGSTON, Chairman DR, ORLANDO V, GONZALEZ, Vice Chairman JOYCE WATTERMAN, Council President EDWARDO TORRES, Commissioner DR, VIJAY DESAL, Commissioner DR, VIJAY DESAL, Commissioner DR, VIJAY DESAL, Commissioner DR, VIJAY DESAL, Commissioner APPEAR A N C ES: SANTO T, ALAMPI, ESQUIRE Attorney for the Board MICHAEL LOMBARDOZZI, Certified Shorthand Reporter PRECISION REPORTING SERVICE CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS (908) 642-4299 Page 3 TABLE OF CONTENTS WITNESS PAGE Carolyn Worstell 25 Counsel, we finally got you here.	
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7 MD O'CONNELL. Vos good even	
PUBLIC SWORN 6 MR. O'CONNELL: Yes, good eveni 7 Chairman and commissioners. It's nice to be	_
8 CHAIDMAN ANGETON ARE I	
NAME PAGE 8 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right 9 ahead, Gene. The floor is yours.	
Valeriy Verkhovskiy 30 10 MR. O'CONNELL: Okay. So this	
EXHIBITS 11 application is for a four-story mixed-use buil	ding
11 with 48 dwelling units. It has very it only	
NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE 13 two variances: one for maximum number of states.	-
12 A-1 Notice 5 15 Crond Street and Bishon, It's a property on the co	
13 Grand Street and Bishop. It's an old gas state	
16 that's going to be reused for a mixed-use buil 15 I have four witnesses tonight:	anig.
16 18 Our engineer is Calisto Bertin, I hope	
17 19 he's out there	;
18 19 20 Our architect Jasvinder Arjani.	;
20 21 I have Lee Klein, our traffic engineer	;
21 22 in case the board wants to hear traffic.	
22 23 And Carolyn Worstell is my planner.	.,
24 So those are my four witnesses.	.,
25 And the is a notice case, so I guess w	,

Page 5 Page 6 1 1 have to mark the notices, and then we'll be set to MR. BERTIN: Yes. 2 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you. 3 3 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Please. Thank you. You're qualified. 4 4 MR. ALAMPI: Thank you, Mr. O'Connell. MR. O'CONNELL: Thank you, Chairman. 5 Chairman, I am in receipt of the 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 6 affidavit of publication, proof of mailing. It's BY MR. BERTIN: 7 7 noted for purposes of the record that this matter was So, Calisto, if you could just share 8 8 originally scheduled back in February, and has been your screen and just go through the site plan for 9 carried with preservation of that notice through 9 the board. 10 today's meeting. So I've had the opportunity to 10 A. Okay. We have a set of site plans 11 review it; all appears to be in order. We're going 11 that were submitted. The drawings are dated June 12 to mark those as A-1 for the record. 12 11, 2021. I have before you the cover sheet. So 13 (Whereupon, Exhibit A-1 is marked for 13 just to get an orientation of the property, we are 14 identification.) 14 on Grand Street. We're four blocks east to 15 MR. ALAMPI: Okay, Counsel. 15 northeast of Communipaw Avenue, you can see 16 16 MR. O'CONNELL: Yep. My first witness Communipaw Avenue. The site -- I'm showing you, 17 17 will be Calisto Bertin. He's our engineer, and he'll also, an aerial photograph. The site is outlined 18 do our site plan. 18 in a -- in a solid line here. We have Bishop 19 CALISTO BERTIN, having been 19 Street on the right side, Grand Street below us, 20 duly sworn, testified as follows: 20 and State Street on our right. 21 21 MR. BERTIN: Calisto Bertin, Just from this photograph, you can see 22 C-A-L-I-S-T-O, Bertin, B-E-R-T-I-N. 22 there is one house behind the site, off of Bishop 23 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: And, Mr. Bertin, is 23 Street, and the rest of the site behind us is 24 your license current in the Garden State of New 24 really used for parking buses and trucks, and that 25 25 Jersey tonight? sort of thing. Page 7 Page 8 1 1 Opposite this site on State Street is Street, heading up in a northeasterly direction, or 2 2 -- well, this shows an old building, but it's under northwesterly direction. 3 construction and being redeveloped as a mixed-use 3 There are -- for the gas station, 4 4 building, similar to this. there are three driveways, just to point that out. 5 5 So the site is in the Morris Canal Almost the entire -- almost its entire frontage on 6 Redevelopment Area, and it's in the mixed-use B 6 Grand Street is a driveway, as is the case with 7 7 Bishop Street, and there's one driveway for the zone. 8 8 Okay. I'm now showing you our drawing apartment building. 9 9 C-2.1, which is the existing conditions plan. I'll go to the next page, it's drawing 10 Again, you can see the site is somewhat triangular 10 C-2.2, our site plan. And we're going to show the 11 11 in shape. It is comprised of two lots: proposed building. This is a four-story, mixed-use 12 Lot 12 is the lot on the right side. 12 building. It'll be three levels of residential 13 13 It consists of the former gas station; it has been above the ground floor, which is shown here in 14 14 closed. But the site is completely paved. The this -- in the site plan. It'll be a total of 48 15 remnants of the tank -- well, the tanks have been 15 apartments: 12 of them will be studios, 24 would be 16 removed. The islands are still there, but like I 16 one-bedroom -- so that's 75 percent of the units 17 said, the tanks have been removed. 17 will be one-bedroom or studios -- and then there'll 18 And Lot 14, there is a three-story 18 be nine two-bedroom units and three three-bedroom 19 19 units. mixed-use building, retail on the ground floor and 20 20 apartments above. That building, too, is empty. The ground floor -- and the architect 21 And as I mentioned, the site is about 100 percent 21 will get into this in more detail, but I just 22 22 paved. The total lot area is 20,598 square feet. thought we'd orient ourselves. The ground floor 23 23 I just should note here that Grand does contain two retail spaces near the 24 Street is a two-way road, as is State Street, but 24 Bishop/Grand Street intersection. You can see 25 Bishop Street is one way heading away from Grand 25 there's Retail A and B; they total about 2,600

Page 9

square feet. The rest of the ground floor -- well, the rest of the ground floor, we have transformer room, we have electrical room, we have meter rooms, and we also have a parking lot, and a lobby, and an amenity space.

2.5

But just staying with the outside of the building, the front yard happens to be State Street. So that means the side yard is the lot --our rear yard, which is the lot line to the north, and we meet the 10-foot required setback, but our other side yard is Grand Street. And we meet the 0-foot setback for a street, but we have a variance for the side yard setback, since Grand Street is a side yard. And there's no rear yard, and so we have the 0-foot setback on Bishop Street.

In addition to the building, we will redo the curbs and pavements on all three of our site frontages. In the front of the building, we have a courtyard, which -- with an amenity space, benches, and that sort of thing, and a paver walkway that we proposed, to add an amenity to the building, an exterior amenity.

So what I'd like to do is I'm just going to jump, I have it here, it's a rendering the architect will talk about more. This is a rendering looking northerly at the site. So we see the building. It's an L-shaped building. Bishop is on the right, State is on the left, and Grand is on the bottom, and you can see the courtyard. And then, again, we are renovating or upgrading all the street frontages.

So I would like to point out here that, for -- our access is off of Bishop Street, and we have a garage door towards the back of the building with 22 parking spaces in it. Going through our parking requirement, the retail requires one space per thousand square feet above 5,000, and we have less than 5,000, 2,600 square feet of retail, so there's no parking required for that. The studio and one-bedrooms do not require parking. So the two and three-bedrooms do require parking. So there's 12 units, one quarter space per unit, which is three. So our parking requirement is three spaces, but this parking lot has 22 parking spaces. So we've tried to provide as much parking as we can on-site.

Not shown here, because we produced these plans a while ago, haven't revised them, is electric vehicle parking. And we will provide four electric vehicle parking spaces on the site.

Page 11

entrance off of Bishop Street would be the main pedestrian access. There's a second pedestrian access off of that courtyard in the middle of the property, in the middle of grand. And you'll see there's a sidewalk that goes to a doorway leading to the lobby. And then, we have a third pedestrian access. This is a staircase that comes up to a landing in the parking lot. I'll explain why we have the staircase and the landing. And then, the

retail buildings have access directly off of Grand

Street. And then, I mentioned there's an amenity

Pedestrian access, we do have an

room, and that has access out to the courtyard.

So we'll go to the next sheet, C-2.3.

And this is the grading plan. And I'll get into why we have those landings. You can see the spot elevations around the perimeter of the property; it's around 9, elevation 9, but the flood hazard elevation is 12. So what we've done is, as you come into the building, say you drive in with a car, the first area is flat, but then the parking lot slopes up to a higher elevation, which is 13, 1 foot above the flood hazard elevation. So that's why we have this landing off that higher area, to

have access at 1 foot above the flood elevation, so

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in the event that the place floods, and we have to evacuate people, they can walk down this staircase and get out of the building above the flood elevation.

We have proposed -- and there's details for this -- flood gates for all of the doors, so that we can secure the building, so it doesn't get -- it won't get flooded. So this is called dry floodproof. But the stores are at elevation 9. We've elevated the electrical room, so it's at 13. And then, we have a recycling room and water service room; it doesn't matter if they get wet. I just mention one other room here, it's off the lobby, it's a bicycle storage room, and we have room for 24 bicycles in that room.

The site is, as I mentioned, 100 percent paved. And you can see we've got a 10-foot landscaped area behind the building, and we've got a courtyard where we've tried to have some landscaping. And any walkway would be pervious pavement. So we've actually reduced the amount of impervious coverage, but we're still going to be providing a rooftop detention under the building, to further reduce the runoff.

And then, our utilities, some are

Page 13 Page 14 1 1 attached to go out to Grand Street, and the other So we will be lighting the sidewalk all around the 2 2 building. There are three streetlights in front of utilities to go out to Bishop Street. 3 3 I'm going to go to our next street, the site, and a streetlight across the street, but 4 4 we will provide lighting all around the building. which is 2.5 -- well, 2.5, yeah, our landscape 5 5 So I tried to make that quick. plan. So the area behind the building is on the 6 north side of the site. We do propose to put in 6 There's a quick summary of the site plan, if 7 7 some trees and make the rest of the area lawn. there's any questions. 8 8 That area is accessed by both Bishop and State Thank you, Calisto. 9 9 Street. There's no access directly from the MR. O'CONNELL: Chairman, if there's any 10 10 questions for Calisto Bertin, you want to hold them building, although we can make it to the utility 11 room, but there's really no sense in doing that. 11 until I put my architect on? 12 12 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: I have no questions. So, that, we would have for general purposes. It could be used, in part, for dog run behind the 13 13 Anybody else? building. 14 14 VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: No. 15 So the courtyard is landscaped. We 1.5 MR. BERTIN: I should just mention that 16 16 have ground cover. We have shrubs in that area. we do have a letter from engineering, and it's a very 17 There's a little triangle next to the amenity room, 17 brief letter, which I like to see, and we can comply 18 18 with all the comments they have. They're very minor which is fully landscaped, no lawn. And then, we 19 19 will replace -- we will install street trees on all in nature. 20 three street frontages. 20 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Go ahead, Counsel. 21 21 Let's move on. Lastly, we'll go to the landscape 22 plan, which is C-2.6 -- I'm sorry, lighting plan. 22 MR. O'CONNELL: Jasvinder Arjani, our 23 And we propose to have wall lights all around the 23 architect, will share his screen, and he can be sworn 24 building. That's this symbol B that's there. And 24 25 25 it's a down-light proposed all around the building. Page 15 Page 16 JASVINDER ARJANI, having 1 1 The first floor is 16,743 square feet, which covers 2 2 been duly sworn, testified as follows: approximately 81 percent of the site. And as 3 MR. ARJANI: Jasvinder Arjani, 3 Mr. Bertin mentioned, 2,604 square feet is retail 4 4 J-A-S-V-I-N-D-E-R, last name A-R-J-A-N-I. space facing Grand Street. Slightly at the angle 5 5 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Good evening, sir. bottom, it's Grand Street, on the left side is 6 Is your license current in the state of New Jersey 6 State Street, and on the right side is Bishop 7 tonight? 7 Street. So the two spaces, retail space A and B 8 8 MR. ARJANI: Yes, sir. together, are 2,604 square feet. 9 9 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. You're And rest of the footprint is for the 10

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10 qualified again. 11 MR. O'CONNELL: Thank you, Chairman. 12 DIRECT EXAMINATION 13 BY MR. BERTIN: 14 O. Jasvinder, can you share your screen 15 and just go through the architectural details of the 16 building? 17 A. Yes. 18 Can you see the plan on your screen? 19 Q. 20 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We can, yes. 21 So Mr. Bertin did describe the 22 building briefly, so I will straight away go into 23 the floor plan. What you have on the screen is

C-4.1, which is part of the set that was submitted

with the application, and it shows the first floor.

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residential use; that includes garage, amenity space, utility rooms, and bike parking. As Mr. Bertin mentioned, there are 24 bike parking spaces. There's this amenity room for the residents, with this walkout door and courtyard. Then, behind -- inside the lobby, there is a mail package room, a trash recycling which opens to Bishop Street directly, and, of course, there's a transformer room, and electrical room -- electrical room is raised to above the

22 corner is the water room. Behind the parking spaces, there's a leftover space that we're using for utilities, and storage, and some maintenance areas.

flood hazard elevation, while the transformer is

lower, and that can be. And in the upper right

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Page 20

So going to the next sheet, which is the typical floor plan for three floors, and I want to make sure you're looking at the floor plan.

Q. Yes.

2.5

A. So as Mr. Bertin mentioned, it's a mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two- and three-bedroom, and each floor has 16 units, for a total of 48 on three stories.

Inside, near the core, are studio apartments, on either side of the core and across the stairs. And the square footage of the studio is 580 square feet and 608 square feet.

One-bedroom -- the two-bedroom apartments are -- at the top right corner is one and the bottom two apartments are two-bedrooms, and they are 1,153 square feet, and the larger one is 1,337 square feet.

At the top left corner is a three-bedroom apartment, which has an area of 1,692 square feet.

And the rest of them are one-bedrooms, which is total of eight units per floor and they range 719 square feet to 726 square feet.

Besides that, there are two elevators, two sets of stairs, some utility space, and a trash

chute, on the typical floor. And the floors above are the same as this, so total of three stories.

On the roof, there are -- there is some rooftop equipment. And we have just shown them -- showing them as blocks. When we prepare the mechanical drawings, we will have exact locations of the equipment, but what is shown here is an area for mechanical equipment, an elevator room, which is actually closer to the edge of the building, which requires a variance, because there is an ordinance that says any bulkhead or rooftop structure has to be 10 feet from the edge of the building. While the elevator room is very close to the corner of the building, it's away from the property line, but it's within 10 feet, so that will require a variance.

Now, the next -- instead of using the elevations, we'll go straight to the renderings. But before I do that, we did submit -- prepare a shadow analysis. Now, the building across Grand Street is a three-story building; across State Street is a five-story building, as Mr. Bertin was testifying to; and across Bishop Street is one-story. And behind the property is -- I'll straight away go into the shadow study -- that's --

Page 19

street view that shows the comparison.

So the building across is a red brick,

so the building across is a red brick, and we have -- we are trying to mimic the brick from across Grand Street. The colors don't -- the rendering and the picture doesn't show exactly what -- our plan is to match the color, brick color, of the building across. The bands -- horizontal bands will match as well; they're limestone color.

And the windows are different, which are similar to the windows across State Street, which will be a bronze colored finish.

I'll go back to the aerial, which shows the brick window fenestrations, the courtyard, a fence, and the brick pilasters. The top -- rooftop equipment will be screened. And the two -- this shows the two retail stores with the storefront, and storefront windows, and this is a typical window with louvres below which will be used for air conditioning units.

I think that that, really, is the finishes.

Now, in terms of -- there are certain design standards in the Mixed-Use B Zone. And we've tried to meet all the requirements of the design standards, like screening the parking, not

across Grand Street is a three-story mixed-use building, and across State is a five-story building that is being built, and on the -- across Bishop is a one-story warehouse, behind is a parking lot, and a -- two residential buildings.

Based on the shadow study, I guess the shadow study is required when the building is more than 40 square feet, and we've done a study for a 53-foot -- sorry, 40-foot-high building. So our shadow analysis is based on a 53-foot-high building with a 3-foot-6 parapet. And I'll summarize this, and the worst case would be the December, where the sun is the lowest. And the shadow travels from the State Street side, behind the parking, and on the Bishop side. So it'll affect the rear parking lot the most, but on the three sides, it has minimal effect, and Grand Street as well.

Going to the exterior finishes of the building, I'll use the rendering that Mr. Bertin had started sharing, which is we've tried to take the element from the buildings adjacent tower property. The building across, the three-story building, is brick construction with the top story, which is, like, a stucco type of finish, and then it has bands, and I have an elevation that shows —

Page 21 Page 22 providing a freestanding sign, having mixed-use 1 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Anybody else, 2 2 retail on first floor, brick as a predominant any questions? 3 3 MR. O'CONNELL: I have one. finish, providing 15 percent landscape in front, 5 4 4 BY MR. O'CONNELL: percent facing Grand Street. Then, the curb cut is 5 on the lowest order street, which is Bishop Street, 5 Jasvinder, are you going to talk about 6 and the parking is enclosed. So we've tried to 6 the signage or do you want Carolyn to do that? 7 7 Yeah, I can do that. meet all the design requirements of the mixed-use There are -- that was on the building 8 8 business and the redevelopment plan. 9 9 If there are any questions, I can elevations. Let me go back to --10 10 answer, but that summarizes the building that we Yeah, I just want to put that out. 11 11 are proposing. So we are proposing, our plans show 12 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, 12 four signs. One is for the apartment. But we have 13 1.3 counted the address as a sign as well. Therefore, sir. 14 14 Okay. Anybody, any questions? there are four signs where three are permitted. So 1.5 COMMISSIONER DESAI: Yeah, I have a 15 although we call this as a sign, this will not be a 16 16 sign; it's just an address, street address number. question. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Go ahead, Doctor. 17 So other than that, there are two retail signs 17 18 COMMISSIONER DESAI: How many apartments 18 proposed. So there are three signs total, two for 19 you have and how many parkings you provide? 19 retail and one for the building on Bishop Street. 20 MR. ARJANI: There are 48 units and 20 Q. Thank you. MR. O'CONNELL: Okay. That's my 2.1 21 there are 22 parking spaces and 24 bicycle parking 22 spaces. Based on the zone, we exceed the 22 testimony from my architect. Do you want me to go 23 requirement; Mr. Bertin had testified to that. We 23 on -- Lee Klein wants to just give a quick traffic 24 24 have more than what we need based on the ordinance. report, if you can hear him next. 25 25 COMMISSIONER DESAI: Okay. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Sure. And let's Page 23 Page 24 just ask everybody: Any other questions, given the 1 1 they'll have a traffic signal at Grand Street to 2 2 signage testimony? make access out. 3 VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: No. 3 Based on 48 units, and 2,600 square 4 4 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Go ahead, feet of retail space, during the a.m. peak hour, 5 5 we're looking at about 18 trips, about six in counsel. 6 MR. O'CONNELL: Thank you. 6 twelve out in the morning, and about 12 -- about 29 7 LEE KLEIN, having been duly 7 trips total, about 11 -- 18 in and 11 out. And 8 8 sworn, testified as follows: then, there'll be pedestrian, bicycle, and transit 9 9 MR. KLEIN: Lee D. Klein, K-L-E-I-N. My trips as well. 10 license is current and in good standing, and my 10 As the architect said, we exceed the 11 11 national certification is current and in good parking requirement; we're proposing 22 where only 12 standing. 12 four are required. And we've got the bicycle 13 13 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Excellent. Thank parking spaces as well, to give people that option. 14 14 you, Mr. Klein. You're qualified. There's mass transit along Grand Street, so people 15 15 MR. KLEIN: Thank you. can afford themselves of mass transit to get to and 16 I just want to go briefly over the 16 from work, or to and from other nodes of 17 trip generation, and the circulation, and access to 17 transportation. 18 the site. 18 That's really all I have to say about 19 19 As you heard Mr. Bertin say, Bishop is the traffic and parking. 20 one way from Grand, so people entering the site 20 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Anybody, any 21 21 will enter via Bishop Street, making either a left questions for Mr. Klein? 22 turn or a right turn off of Grand Street. And when 22 All right. Thank you, sir. 23 they leave, they'll go down to Cornelison, and then 23 MR. KLEIN: Thank you. 24 either make a right or a left and go out to 24 MR. O'CONNELL: My last witness is 25 Johnston, or go down make a left Summit Avenue, and 25 Carolyn Worstell, our planner, and she'll get our

Page 26 Page 25 1 planning testimony. 1 there is a 0-foot front setback along Grand Street, 2 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Sure. treating it as a front yard rather than a side 3 CAROLYN WORSTELL, having 3 yard, which probably was intended by the 4 4 been duly sworn, testified as follows: redevelopment plan. And so this really, sort of, 5 MS. WORSTELL: Carolyn Worstell, 5 reinforces the streetscape and the corridor where 6 W-O-R-S-T-E-L-L. 6 the other buildings that are being designed across 7 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Ms. Worstell, your the street, and on the corner -- on the opposite 8 8 license is current in the state of New Jersey corner both have 0-foot setbacks on Grand. 9 9 tonight? So it's really, sort of, completing 10 MS. WORSTELL: It is. 10 the corridor, and consistent with the character of 11 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thanks. 11 the corridor, and with the intent of the 12 12 redevelopment plan, to have Grand Street, which You're qualified again. 13 MS. WORSTELL: Great. Thank you. 13 would be your typical front, to have a 0-foot 14 14 Good evening, everyone. As mentioned, setback. 15 this is a project -- we're in the Mixed-Use Zone B 15 We have a variance for the extra sign 16 of the Morris Canal Redevelopment Plan. We're here 16 on Bishop Street. We do have the two tenant signs 17 seeking a couple of variances this evening: That 17 for the retail spaces, one per tenant, and then the 18 minimum side yard setback, maximum number of signs, 18 two building signs, one for the building and one, 19 and from the Jersey City LDO for the minimum 19 specifically, for the numbers. So we are asking 20 required setback for rooftop appurtenance. 20 for a minor -- for a variance there for that extra 21 21 As discussed, this site is both a 22 corner lot and a through lot, and based on the 22 And then, finally, we're seeking a 23 definitions of the Jersey City LDO, Grand Street is 23 variance for rooftop setback of the appurtenance. 24 technically a side yard. 24 Specifically, there is a stairwell -- no, it's an 25 25 The building has been designed so that elevator bulkhead that's right at the corner of the Page 27 Page 28 building. Per the LDO, for every appurtenance, 1 1 station. 2 2 This will not have a detrimental you're supposed to have a 1-foot 1-inch setback 3 from the facade of the building for every foot in 3 impact in the public welfare. The proposed setback 4 4 height. We're right at the corner, we don't have along Grand Street is consistent with other 5 5 any setback, but the -- due to the design of the development along the corridor. The additional 6 building, it is set back from the street frontage. 6 numerical sign on the building will not have a 7 In addition because we are not 7 negative impact; in fact, it'll provide additional 8 8 providing rooftop access, this is a very short wayfinding for people looking for the building. 9 9 And the project has significant frontage along bulkheads. So it will only be about a foot or so 10 visible above the parapet. So it is going to be 10 three streets. So the signage, as with the extra 11 11 set back from the street, and it's going to be much sign, is part of the cohesive package for the whole 12 12 shorter than a typical bulkhead that we would see overall building. 13 13 on a rooftop. And the deviations and variances will 14 14 So, overall, this project proposes -not result in a substantial impairment to the 15 15 advances the purposes of the Municipal Land Use zoning ordinance or zone plan, and it actually 16 16 accomplishes the purposes of the Mixed-Use Zone B 17 It's an appropriate use and 17 to provide shopping to restaurant facilities at a 18 18 development of the site, consistent with purpose A. pedestrian scale for nearby residents. 19 19 It's a -- will provide adequate light, And to place these uses along Grand 20 air, and open space, consistent with purpose C, by 20 Street, a buffer of retail uses will be created 21 providing appropriate front and side yard setbacks. 21 between Grand Street and the Industrial Zone A, and 22 22 And it will promote a desirable visual will likely have -- and it will also avoid

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environment, consistent with purpose I, by

currently a vacant site that was formerly a gas

constructing this new mixed-use building on what is

disrupting the flow of traffic, if by removing the

to parking off the secondary street off of Bishop

curb cuts along Grand Street, and providing access

Page 29 Page 30 1 Street. However, the building is still oriented to 1 We have three minutes for you, please. 2 2 Grand Street. MR. VERKHOVSKIY: Of course. Of course. 3 3 And the applicant and -- and that's This is actually the application I was waiting for. 4 the end of my testimony. 4 I have to say that I have great 5 Thank you. 5 excitement for this proposal. There are a few 6 MR. O'CONNELL: And that completes our 6 comments I would like to point out and add. 7 7 application. First and foremost, I would like to see 8 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you. 8 a little more green roof, since, you know, there's no 9 Any questions for Ms. Worstell? 9 access to the roof, to add a little bit more greenery 10 10 VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: No. that this area desperately needs. Also, I think it 11 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you 11 would be appropriate to add some, you know, public 12 very much. 12 seating in the front courtyard, if possible, for the 13 13 members of the community, such as myself. And, Counsel, you stated that was the 14 conclusion of your testimony, so, at this time, let's 14 You know, I also would like for more 1.5 open it up for public comment. If anybody's here 15 attention to be brought to the flooding that occurs 16 from the public that wants to comment, please raise 16 in this area. It does get hit with water coming down 17 17 your hand. I see Val's hand raised already. from the hill where I live and reside, especially 18 MR. BLACK: Promoting Val. 18 along with the rainwater that's accumulated. 19 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: And anybody else, if 19 Other than that, I think it's a perfect 20 you'd like to comment, please raise your hand; if 20 proposal. I think it's great. It's exactly what the 21 21 you're calling in, you can press star 9 to raise your area needs. You know, I thought five stories would 22 hand for this application. 22 probably be more appropriate than four, since all the 23 VALERIY VERKHOVSKIY, 23 new development is five stories, but I guess that 24 having been duly sworn, testified as follows: 24 doesn't really matter. 25 25 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Val, good evening. Other than that, I think it adds Page 31 Page 32 1 greenery when it's needed, lighting when it's needed, 1 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yes. and, of course, walkability, since -- you know, since 2 2 MR. WARD: Mr. Bertin already testified 3 those sidewalks are just terrible, in terrible 3 that they're going to be meeting the Jersey City 4 condition. 4 Engineering comments. 5 5 Besides that, I'm really excited about We do have six recommended staff 6 6 conditions from city planning. I just wanted to ask this proposal. 7 Thank you so much. 7 if Mr. O'Connell has reviewed that with his client, 8 8 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yeah, thanks, Val. and if they agree to comply with those. 9 And yeah, I agree on those sidewalks. 9 MR. O'CONNELL: We have, and we do 10 Anybody else, if you'd likes to comment, 10 agree. 11 11 please raise your hand; if you're calling in, you can MR. WARD: All right. I think the 12 press star 9 to raise your hand. Anybody else from 12 applicant's team did a good job of describing this 13 the public? 13 application. Staff's satisfied with the planning 14 VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: Mr. Chair, I'd 14 testimony given by Mrs. Worst. 15 15 like to make a motion to close public. I just wanted to add two things: This application was submitted in 2019; 16 COMMISSIONER HORTON: Second. 16 17 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Motion is 17 in fact, this is -- and it's been relatively in this 18 18 made and seconded. configuration. Early on, I think the COVID had 19 (Whereupon, a voice vote is taken; a 19 delayed this project from coming before the -- before 20 chorus of "ayes" heard.) 20 our city -- the planning board for some time, and 21 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Public is closed. 21 then there was a change in some professionals on 22 22 Matt, do you have anything to add? their team. This does not trigger the IZO because of 23 23 MR. WARD: I just wanted to, I guess, that fact. 24 first start off with we provided the applicant and 24 Beyond that, I don't know if there's any 25 the board with a memo, dated February 28, 2022. 25 questions that the board may have for me. Staff

	Page 33		Page 34
1	recommends approval.	1	MR. WARD: Council President Watterman?
2	CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thanks,	2	COUNCILWOMAN WATTERMAN: Aye.
3	Matt.	3	MR. WARD: Commissioner Gangadin?
4	If nobody has any questions, I'll	4	COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: Aye.
5	entertain a motion.	5	MR. WARD: And Chairman Langston?
6	VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: Mr. Chair, I'd	6	CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Aye.
7	like to make a motion at this time to approve case	7	MR. WARD: Motion carries, all in favor,
8	P19-194, as presented to the board here tonight.	8	on a motion to approve with conditions.
9	COMMISSIONER TORRES: Second.	9	CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you.
10	COMMISSIONER HORTON: Second it.	10	(Whereupon, the hearing concluded at
11	CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Motion is	11	9:44 p.m.)
12	made and seconded for approval.	12	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
13	MR. WARD: Okay. On a motion to approve	13	
14	with conditions, Vice Chairman Dr. Gonzalez?	14	
15	VICE CHAIRMAN GONZALEZ: Aye.	15	
16	MR. WARD: Commissioner Torres?	16	
17	COMMISSIONER TORRES: Aye.	17	
18	MR. WARD: Commissioner Allen?	18	
19	COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Aye.	19	
20	MR. WARD: Commissioner Horton?	20	
21	COMMISSIONER HORTON: Aye.	21	
22	MR. WARD: Commissioner Green?	22	
23	COMMISSIONER GREEN: Aye.	23	
24	MR. WARD: Commissioner Dr. Desai.	24	
25	COMMISSIONER DESAI: Aye.	25	
	COMMISSIONER BESTA. Tyc.		
	Page 35		
1	CERTIFICATE		
2	02.1.1.10.1.12		
3			
4			
5	I, Michael Lombardozzi, a Notary Public		
6	and Certified Court Reporter of the State of New		
7	Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a		
8	true and accurate transcript of the testimony as		
9	taken stenographically by and before me at the time,		
10	place, and on the date hereinbefore set forth.		
11	I do further certify that I am neither a		
12 13	relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither		
13	a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel		
15	and that I am not financially interested in this		
16	action.		
17			
18			
	Michael Lombardozzi,		
19			
19	Certified Court Reporter, State of New Jersey		
19 20	Certified Court Reporter, State of New Jersey CERT #: 30X100239700		
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20 21 22	CERT #: 30X100239700		

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