Page 1	Page 2
CITY OF JERSEY CITY PLANNING BOARD THE MATTER OF: TRANSCRIPT Case No. P22-197 124 GLENWOOD HOLDINGS, LLC OF 124 Glenwood Avenue Block 13204, Lot 56 REMOTE PROCEEDINGS Minor Site Plan Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Jersey City, New Jersey Commencing at 7:37 p.m. BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: CHRISTOPHER LANGSTON, Chairman DR. VIJAYA DESAI, Commissioner EDWARDO TORRES, Commissioner VIDYA GANGADIN, Commissioner VIDYA GANGADIN, Commissioner A P P E A R A N C E S SANTO T. ALAMPI, ESQUIRE Attorney for the Board PRIME & TUVEL, BY: BENJAMIN T.F. WINE, ESQUIRE Attorneys for the Applicant PRECISION REPORTING SERVICE Certified Shorthand Reporters (908) 642-4299	TANYA MARIONE, A.I.C.P., P.P. Director of Planning City Planning Division MATTHEW WARD, AICP Senior Planner City Planning Division CAMERON BLACK, A.I.C.P., P.P. Senior Planner City Planning Division TIMOTHY KREHEL, A.I.C.P., P.P. Senior Planner City Planning Division. FRANCISCO ESPINOZA, P.P. Senior Planner City Planning Division City Planning Division
TABLE OF CONTENTS WITNESS: THOMAS LaPORTA Page 9 MARTIN MORENO Page 10 CAROLYN WORSTELL Page 24 EXHIBITS EXHIBITS A-1 Notices Page 5 A-2 3D Rendering Page 12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS SWORN: SANDRA RILEY	CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Let's move on to Item 13. It's Case P22-197. It's a minor site plan for 124 Glenwood Avenue. MR. WINE: Good evening, Mr. Chair. Benjamin Wine of Prime & Tuvel on behalf of the applicant, 124 Glenwood Holdings, LLC. Hope everybody is doing well this evening. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We are. We are. Thank you. Good to see you again. MR. WINE: Good. I'll jump straight in and give the Board the benefit of a bit of background on the property as well as indicate what we're here proposing this evening and I'll let my professionals take it from there. So the address in question is oh, and I should mention to counsel, first, this was a I believe we noticed on this and I hope you have that and have reviewed it and it should be in good form. MR. ALAMPI: You did. Counsel, I am in receipt of your affidavit of publication and proof of mailing with respect to the application at 124 Glenwood Avenue here in the city. It does appear to be in order. Let's mark it as A-1 for the record.

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1 (Whereupon, exhibit is received and marked 2 A-1 into evidence.) 3

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MR. WINE: Thank you, Counsel.

With that the property in question is 124 Glenwood Avenue. That's Block 13204, Lot 56, and we're located in the R-3 zone.

The property currently consists of a three-story single-family residence, and surrounding in the neighborhood are varying uses, various multifamilies and various other uses.

Why we're here this evening is seeking minor site plan in order to construct a four-story four-unit residence with ancillary site improvements as well, which you'll see. What I want to indicate for the record is while -- to be overly conservative, this application was prepared, the plans were prepared, under the R-3 standards prior to the zoning change in November. And to be clear, that's how the plans were prepared. That's how we intended to proceed.

When we were doing our review, we did have an opportunity to notice that -- I was checking the dates again and making sure to see when the new regulations would come into effect. And to be totally conservative, I ran the new R-3 zoning

requirements against our plans as well. And were the new requirements to apply, we would actually be seeking an approximately 4-foot rear yard setback deviation.

So I do just want to be clear. I did not want to, you know, pull the sheets over the Board or anything like that. And, you know, during the course of review with my professionals, this kind of came up and I wanted to just alert the Board to it.

So to be clear, what I'll do this evening is I have two witnesses for you: I have our project architect, Martin Moreno; and then I also have planning testimony from Ms. Worstell, who will speak to that deviation and the zone change.

And, again, the goal here is just to make sure that, should the Board hopefully act favorably, we don't run into any issues down the road.

So that's my presentation this evening, Mr. Chair, to start off with. Unless you have any questions of me, I'm happy to introduce my first witness.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: So, Counsel, just to be clear, are you asking for a deviation for that? Does that apply now?

Page 7

MR. WINE: So I believe that it does under the new ordinance. And, again, this is -- it's one of those, you know, the application was filed, deemed complete right around when the new ordinance would have taken effect. So what I'd like to do is ask for the deviation. If the Board determines it's not necessary, that's fine, but I do want to be on record asking for it, you know, having our planner put on testimony for it. And I can defer to Ms. Marione or Mr. Krehel to that effect as

The staff report, for what it's worth, I believe Mr. Krehel felt that we were compliant under the old standards. Again, if you'll allow me the courtesy of putting the testimony on so that the Board feels comfortable if it is a variance, you know, having testimony on the record.

It's one of those weird ones where you're right around the time change.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Understood. I do want to check your notice, though. Do you have a catchall in there for any variances that are needed?

23 Is that in there? 2.4

MR. WINE: I'd be shocked if it wasn't. 25 MR. ALAMPI: It is, Mr. Chairman. And, again, this is where we get into the time of application rule. So if the application was filed and deemed complete prior to the ordinance adoption changing the zoning, that's obviously where we're at. It's a very time-sensitive type of situation.

So I believe the way counsel wants to proceed is the way I would proceed. Notice for it, talk about it, and just deal with it upfront that we believe we're under the old ordinance; however, here's what it is and here's why we believe we can sustain the variance if it's necessary, and then defer to Planning on the issue of the timing of everything.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Understood. Thank you.

MR. WINE: Yeah. And to echo counsel, that's exactly what I'd like to do.

So with that, Mr. Chair, if you're comfortable, I'm happy to move straight in. And what we'll do, so we have -- our project designer is Martin Moreno, who I see up. Now, he is not a licensed architect. Mr. LaPorta is our licensed architect who signed and sealed the plans. I do see him here as well, but Mr. Moreno has been intimately familiar with this project since day one.

Page 9 Page 10 1 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, sir. So as I know the Board has done in the 1 2 past, if it's okay, what I'd like to do is have 2 You are qualified. 3 3 Mr. LaPorta sworn in and accepted and qualified as And then let's bring Mr. Moreno up to be 4 4 an expert in the field of architecture and then have sworn in. 5 Mr. Moreno speak to the actual plan design, if 5 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 6 that's okay. 6 MR. MORENO: Good evening, everyone. I'm 7 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Absolutely. That's just going to go ahead --8 8 MR. WINE: Martin, you've got to get sworn what we would ask. 9 9 MR. WINE: Okay. So with that, I do see in. 10 10 MR. MORENO: Sorry about that. Mr. LaPorta. 11 If you can unmute yourself, Mr. LaPorta, 11 MARTIN MORENO, having been 12 and I believe the court reporter will get you sworn 12 duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 13 13 follows: in. 14 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. Moreno, I 14 THOMAS LaPORTA, having been 15 duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 15 appreciate your willingness to jump right in. You 16 16 follows: worked under Mr. LaPorta's direction on this 17 17 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. LaPorta, good application? 18 evening. I don't recall if we qualified you in the 18 THE WITNESS: I did, sir, yes. 19 19 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, sir. past. Have we? 20 THE WITNESS: No, you have not. 20 Go ahead. 21 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. So given that 21 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm going to go ahead 22 you're not testifying technically as an expert -- or 22 and share my screen. 23 you're not testifying tonight, your license is 23 So can everyone see my screen? 24 current tonight in the State of New Jersey? 24 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We can, yes. 25 25 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. THE WITNESS: Okay. So, first and Page 11 Page 12 1 1 foremost, thank you all so much for your time this (Whereupon, exhibit is received and marked 2 evening. As mentioned, I'm speaking on behalf of T. 2 A-2 into evidence.) 3 LaPorta Architect, PC, here to present our project 3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you again. 4 4 So if I please may direct your attention located at 124 Glenwood Avenue in Jersey City, New 5 5 to the top middle of the screen, our property is Jersey. 6 If I can direct your attention to the 6 located in the R-3 multifamily mid-rise district of 7 middle, the top middle, of our sheet --7 Jersey City, New Jersey. We are located about 8 8 MR. WINE: Martin, if it's okay, just midway between John F. Kennedy Boulevard and West 9 9 before you do that, and I know -- I'll familiarize Side Avenue. 10 you a little bit with the process, but obviously 10 Down here to the bottom middle is an 11 11 these plans were submitted but I believe you did add aerial view of our site showing the surrounding 12 a rendering since the date of submission. 12 structures. And to the bottom left we have our 13 13 street view of our property. So perhaps just to be clear, I'll defer to 14 14 counsel, but I'd like to have this exhibit, which Right now currently there is a 15 Martin can describe as basically what was submitted 15 two-and-a-half-story two-family building. And as 16 with a 3D rendering on it, if that could be marked 16 previously mentioned, we are proposing a four-story 17 as A-2, that would be appreciated. 17 four-unit building that is completely zoning 18 18 MR. ALAMPI: Let's mark it as A-2. And compliant. 19 19 Here we have our zoning analysis in then if there are any other things during the 20 20 regards to our proposed survey, which I will now testimony that were not submitted or altered for 21 rendering or whatever the purpose may be, you just 21 move down to. 22 22 call it out and we can continue in sequence: A-2, So here in the bottom -- top left-hand 23 23 A-3, A-4, et cetera. corner, I'm sorry, is the existing survey. As 24 MR. WINE: Certainly. 24 mentioned, it's a two-and-a-half-story two-unit 25 Go ahead, Mr. Moreno. 25 building. Here in the middle is our proposed

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building.

coverage diagram to show that we are complying with both lot coverage and building coverage percentages.

survey. We are completely compliant with our front yard setback being 25.8 to match our neighboring properties. We used our front yard setback diagram here located in the bottom right-hand corner to make sure that we are compliant with that.

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On the top right, we have just some more site photos that were taken during our site visit at the beginning of the project with views towards West Side Avenue, as well as towards JFK Boulevard.

And just as a side note, we have a very, you know, large substantial front yard which is not commonly found in Jersey City.

Moving on to our unit design. So as you can see bubbled here, as we mentioned before, the facade was redesigned to comply with a more traditional look per the City's comments. The first unit is 1,280 square feet consisting of two bedrooms and three baths, three full baths. The bedrooms are oriented towards the back with the living and common areas oriented towards the front of the

In regards to our rear yard, which Mr. Ben Wine explained previously, was designed under the previous R-3 standard. So it was assigned under the previous R-3 standards.

> As mentioned, we do have a refuse room here as well as a sprinkler room and our utilities, which are going to be accessed from the outside, which is one of the reasons we wanted to make that side yard just a little bit wider.

The rear yard consists of two exterior spaces that are going to be designated strictly to both Unit 1 and Unit 2. In regards to our side yard setbacks, the minimum were 3 feet on one side and 2 on the other. We do have our 2 on one side. On the other side we have a 3.3 side yard. We decided to make it a little bit bigger just because we figured this was going to be used heavily for circulation. It's not only just going to be used to access the rear yard, but it's also going to be used to access utilities as well as the refuse

Going on to our layout here towards the bottom, both Unit 2 and Unit 3, also third and second floor, are a typical layout. They consist of

Here we have our -- just a standard

Page 15

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four bedrooms and three bathrooms and they are 1,438 square feet with a very similar orientation, with the bedrooms towards the back and the living area towards the front.

Going on to the fourth floor, once again, the facade was redesigned, which is why it's just a

little bit different and why it's bubbled. This unit is around the same size as both Unit 2 and 3, it's 1,437 square feet with very similar bedroom and bathroom count and similar orientation. In regards to the roof, we designated the

roof to be used as an exterior terrace area for Unit 3 and Unit 4, as well as providing some sort of vegetation to serve as an eco roof for water retention amongst other things.

We also have the condenser for both Unit 3 and Unit 4 located on the roof; however, they will not be visible from the street.

Moving on to our facade design, as we previously stated, this was redesigned to have a more traditional look. I'm just going to quickly scroll down two pages to here, to just show how we decided to make something a little more traditional while respecting the existing streetscape.

So we decided to go with a very strong

brick accent which is found a lot throughout Glenwood Avenue. There are some large apartment buildings there as well as a lot of -- there's lots of -- as well as a lot of buildings that serve as dorms for the existing students because the university is right nearby. So we decided to have a strong brick accent, as well as, like, a similar color to match that.

In regards to the top, we decided to go with a sort of triple triangular design, which is very -- which is found right across the street to respect our neighbors. A sort of similar triangle design as well as a sort of dormer design which is found throughout Glenwood Avenue as well.

In regards to the color scheme on the side, we decided to do a sort of light gray, light green siding because, for starters, it complements the brick and it's also found, as you can see here, in some other properties along Glenwood Avenue.

Going back up to -- I just want to present that first because I have the color. So something that should be mentioned was that we decided to do a -- as you can see here, we decided to do a sort of circular bay window rather than your traditional

geometric bay window. The reason for that was because previously existing there was a bay window on our neighbor's property so we wanted to match that. So we decided to go with a more circular bay window to match our neighbor. Also, as mentioned,

6 we went with the strong brick accent.

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In the back elevation, we have just sliding doors and a lot of windows for the units. There's a lot of surrounding trees in the area, so we wanted to make sure we provided a lot of windows to allow for a lot of natural light and a lot of natural ventilation.

Moving on to our side yard elevation, this is the same side of the building where the wider setback is, showing the access to both the sprinkler room, refuse area, and as well as meter utility access should it be needed.

This is the other side of the building which is located on the 2-foot side of the property. No windows there. It's going to have the vinyl siding finish and stucco finish. And a section of our building to just show the nice, comfortable, tall spaces that we are providing, as well as some eco roof and deck details for the roof.

I already went -- I already covered this.

So with that being said, that pretty much concludes my presentation.

DIRECT-EXAMINATION

BY MR. WINE:

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Q. Thank you, Martin. I do just have a couple of follow-ups. And that was very thorough and I know this is one of your first times going this, so thank you for that. It was a very thorough presentation.

I just want to highlight, I know that over the last few months, while there's not a formal, you know, neighborhood association here, you know, we've been going back and forth with Councilman Boggiano's office and his staff to come up with a facade.

So if you could just speak, you know, a little bit to why, you know, perhaps -- you don't need to show the prior facade that the Board might have, but if you could just identify what those changes were that, again, the City had requested.

A. Right. So originally we -- if you give me just one minute, I might be able to pull it up.

Q. Okay.

A. Just one second, please, if you don't mind.

Page 19

Okay. So I'm going to go ahead and share my screen.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: And, Mr. Moreno, we do have to mark this. So if you could, when you bring

that up, just describe what it is, what the sheet

6 number is if there is a sheet number. 7

MR. WINE: This was actually submitted.

8 This is exactly what you have as your submission.

If you'd like to mark it, we can, but this is in

10 your possession.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: No, that's fine then.

12 MR. WINE: Okay.

A. So this was -- I'm sorry, Ben.

Q. No, I was just going to ask if you could just highlight the change, really, and as to

16 how we got there.

> A. Of course. So this was a previous design. It was a little bit more of a, quote/unquote, MAR design with a heavy use of casement windows, the use of brick and a lot of aluminum paneling.

If I scroll down to -- I'm sorry, let me go to -- actually, you know what? Can you still see this or do I have to --

Q. Yep. Yep. No, we can see it.

Page 20

Page 18

A. You can see this. Okay.

So this was a previous one. I'm just going to scroll down. I'm sorry. Here we go. So we can see this screen here?

Q. Yep, we can. We can, yes.

A. Okay. So this was the previous -- the previous materials that we were going to use. We were going to use a sort of, like, beige brick with some sort of metal paneling for our front elevation. From my knowledge, it seemed like the City felt like it was just a little too modern for the existing street because the existing street in itself is a little bit more of a traditional street in regards to the existing facades.

So rather than proposing, you know, more modern casement windows, we went with the more traditional double-hung windows. As mentioned, rather than proposing that sort of brown brick, we went with the red brick because we felt it respected the surrounding neighbors, the surrounding properties, a little bit more.

And instead of paneling, we, again, just kind of took away those sort of modern-like elements and just kept it a little bit more traditional.

Page 21 Page 22 1 I understand we have a little bit of a 1 standards. Correct. 2 2 Q. And given that our front yard is kind wooden board-and-batten siding, but as I specified 3 3 in the sheet towards -- in one of our previous of bound by where our neighbors are, that's how you 4 4 came up with that rear yard? sheets, that sort of dormer design coming off a 5 sloped roof is something that's found throughout the 5 A. That is correct, sir, yes. 6 street. So we just wanted to kind of incorporate 6 Q. Okay. 7 7 MR. WINE: All right. Mr. Chair, I have 8 8 nothing further for Mr. Moreno at this point. So it is -- we just wanted to make it 9 9 something a little more traditional, but also CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you. 10 10 something that stood out but really respected its Great job. 11 sort of surrounding environment. 11 MR. KREHEL: Chairman Langston, may I step 12 12 in for a second? Q. Perfect. Thank you. 13 1.3 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Sure. And then my last question, just so that 14 we can move on to Ms. Worstell and have her address, 14 MR. KREHEL: Considering we were talking 15 you know, the rear yard there. If you can just 15 about time of application, I did a little looking 16 and they will have to ask for a variance this 16 indicate on the site plan what the dimension of the 17 rear yard is that we're proposing. 17 evening. 18 18 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. We understand. A. Of course. So I'll go ahead and I'll 19 19 MR. WINE: And, Tim, thank you for that. zoom in as well. So our rear yard here is 31.1 20 feet. 20 And, you know, I'm sorry I didn't even bring that to 21 21 your attention. It showed up, you know, an hour Q. Okay. And that was based on, you 22 22 before our phone call prepping for the meeting. It know, your understanding, your design, whereby the 23 required combined front and rear yard had to meet a 23 kind of just pegged everyone and we thought, you 24 24 know, maybe it's better to just put it on the certain requirement? 25 25 A. Correct. That was under the old zoning record. Page 23 Page 24 MR. KREHEL: That's fine. CAROLYN WORSTELL, having 1 1 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. I have no 2 been duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 3 questions for Mr. Moreno. 3 follows: 4 4 Anybody else? CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Ms. Worstell, good 5 5 evening. I think we saw you a week ago. I can't All right. Thank you, sir. 6 COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: No. 6 remember. 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Let's move 7 THE WITNESS: Yeah. 8 8 on to Ms. Worstell then. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: I'll double-check with 9 MR. WINE: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I think 9 you. 10 Commissioner Gangadin was trying to ask something, 10 THE WITNESS: It's been so long. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Your license is still 11 but it cut out on my end. 11 12 COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: No, I said I have 12 current as --13 13 THE WITNESS: It is. My license is still no questions. 14 14 MR. WINE: Oh, okay. All right, in good standing this evening. 15 certainly. So with that -- Martin, if you don't 15 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you. You are 16 mind bringing down your screen and we can move 16 qualified. 17 17 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you, on. 18 18 THE WITNESS: Of course. Sorry about everyone. 19 that. 19 So as mentioned, what happened with this 20 MR. WINE: And just stick around in case 20 site is when we originally were looking at it, we 21 there are questions. 21 were looking at it under the old standards. And 22 THE WITNESS: Yeah. And thank you all for 22 with the new standards, there are a number of 23 23 your time. Thank you. changes, only one that really affected this 2.4 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you. 24 development, and that was the rear yard setback 25 MR. WINE: All right. I do see Carolyn. 25 standard.

Page 26

So this property is located in the R-1 -the R-3 district, multifamily mid-rise district.
And under the old zoning, the requirement was
written as a combination. You needed a 35 feet
combined front and rear yard plus an additional when
had you a deeper lot. This is a deeper lot. And
when we did those calculations, what we needed was a
31.1-foot rear yard setback.

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When the project -- with the new requirements, they changed it and now it's no longer a combination. It's a straight requirement based on percentage of lot depth. And that's 25 feet -- or 25 percentage -- 25 percent of your depth. In this case, that equates to 35.9 feet rear yard setback.

So what we're proposing was 31.1 feet, which is what we needed under the old rules, and now it's 35.9 feet, which is what we need under the new rules, so we have a deficit of 4.8 feet.

Overall, this project is still providing 56.9 feet of combined front and rear yard setback and that's because we have such a deep front yard setback. We're over 25 feet set back from the front lot line and that's because the buildings on either side of us are also set back that far.

So it pushes us a lot further back than you would typically find in Jersey City and is not really -- is not typical and is not really what was generally probably anticipated when the requirements were set into place.

Overall, this project is still substantially compliant with the new requirements. You know, we're still -- you know, we've got a front yard setback of 25 feet to match the adjacent. Our side yard setbacks are compliant. We have 3.3 on one side and combined is 5.3 side yard setbacks, which is conforming.

Our building height is 41.9 feet, four stories, which is conforming.

We have a building coverage which is actually substantially less than what is permitted. We're at 48 percent where 60 is permitted.

Our lot coverage as well is under what's permitted. We're at 73 percent where 80 percent is permitted.

And our front yard landscaping is actually more than you find, opposite of what I'm usually here to tell you. We've got 64 percent front yard landscaping where 60 percent is required.

So, overall, this project is substantially

Page 27

compliant. We just have the deviation just for that one rear yard setback.

The building itself is still over 30 feet away from the adjacent building to the rear. And to the rear of us there is actually a structure on the adjacent property to the rear which is right on the property line. So there's really not a substantial detriment from that slightly undersized rear yard setback.

And I think really, overall, here the benefits of this project really outweigh the detriments of that, you know, minimal variance. It's a new four-unit dwelling that's substantially compliant with the updated R-3 standards and we're providing a project that is still well, well under that lot coverage and building coverage.

Again, we're 12 percent under what is permitted on building coverage. So really it is because we have this odd combination of that substantially deeper front yard setback that has created this situation. And with the change, again, where we were compliant, we are now not compliant.

This project will advance and promote the purposes of the Municipal Land Use Law. Consistent

Page 28

with Purpose A, it's an appropriate use. It's a permitted four-family use.

Consistent with Purpose C, it will guide an appropriate use and development, provide adequate light, air and open space. So all of those setbacks are still going to provide adequate light, air and open space.

You know, we have an appropriate population density that is permitted for a multifamily dwelling, consistent with Purpose E.

And we're promoting a desirable visual environment, consistent with Purpose I, with this redesigned facade. As has been testified, you know, we're looking to incorporate those materials and architectural details that are a little more historical and more in keeping with the character of the block.

When looking at the negative criteria, you know, there really isn't a substantial detriment to the general welfare or a substantial impairment to the intent and purpose of the zone plan. As mentioned, this is a conforming, you know, four-family dwelling. It's substantially in compliance with R-3 standards.

We're providing that combined 56.9-foot

Page 29 Page 30 1 1 front and rear yard setback. So that's a Counsel, that's your presentation? 2 substantial setback which results in 48 percent 2 MR. WINE: Yeah. I'll reserve my right to 3 3 coverage where 60 percent is permitted. And we have sum up. And just before I do that, again, I want to 4 4 a 64 percent front yard landscaping. So we're apologize to the Board. It's certainly not my style 5 providing more landscaping in the front yard than 5 to find these last-minute things, but I would rather 6 you would typically find. 6 find them ten minutes before the hearing than ten 7 7 minutes after the hearing. So I just want to put So really I think that that this project 8 8 meets both the positive and the negative criteria that on the record. 9 9 and really the variances can be granted consistent And, again, I'll reserve my right to 10 10 with the requirements. respond to any public. 11 So if anyone has a question, I'm happy to 11 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Agreed. Yeah, 12 12 no worries. You know, you made it under the wire. provide anything else. 13 13 MR. WINE: Thank you, Carolyn. You're fine. 14 14 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you, Okay. At this time let's open it up for 15 Ms. Worstell. Yeah, I have no questions. 15 public comment. If anybody's here from the public 16 16 Counsel, do you have anything else for that wants to comment on this application, please 17 your witness? 17 raise your hand. And if you're calling in, press 18 MR. WINE: Nothing more for my witness at 18 *9. I see a couple of hands raised already. 19 19 SECRETARY BLACK: Promoted Coach MG. this time. 20 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Anybody else 20 MS. RILEY: Good evening. Can you hear 21 from the Board have any questions for Ms. Worstell? 21 me? 22 COMMISSIONER TORRES: No. 22 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We can, yes. Let's 23 COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: No. 23 just get you sworn in and we'll hear your comment. 24 24 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, SANDRA RILEY, having been duly 25 25 everybody. sworn, was examined and/or testified as follows: Page 31 Page 32 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Ms. Riley, good 1 home. We believe there's an incompatibility with 1 2 2 the historic character and charm of the evening. We have three minutes for you. 3 MS. RILEY: Good evening. I'd like to 3 neighborhood. The string of homes located from 120 4 4 to 130 were built in 1895 by William Coffin and even preface my remarks by informing the Board that our 5 5 mom is 104 years old. She's lived in this home named the Maiden Cottages. 6 since 1957, this home at 122 Glenwood Avenue. At 6 We believe that the proposed design is too 7 this point my husband, MG, my sister India and I 7 tall, too big, too long. And we believe it would 8 8 significantly decrease -- not believe, we know it also reside here. 9 9 I want to just say for the record that we will decrease our access to sunlight on the west 10 have a number of concerns, the first being 10 side of the house and extend into the backyard. 11 11 Again, we've been here since 1957. preconstruction damage to our property. In 12 12 December a contractor was hired by the developer to And what about parking? Glenwood 13 13 Avenue already lacks sufficient parking for its dig in the street in front of 124 Glenwood Avenue. 14 14 residents. I just -- you know, this is a big As a result, we had suffered water leakage under the 15 stairs we share with 120 Glenwood, from the stairway 15 problem for us. 16 wall, in the street in front of our homes, around 16 I would like to ask each of you how you 17 the foundation of our homes. 17 would feel if there were construction in your 18 18 neighborhood, construction next door to you which In January we already had determined that 19 19 our sewer line had collapsed, waterlines were was damaging the structural integrity of your home 20 20 causing property as well as psychic damage. leaking and they needed to be replaced. We were not 21 21 aware of these problems until the initial demolition This is just very upsetting to us and I'm 22 22 of 124's sewer line. We do not feel that we should thankful for the opportunity to put our feelings on 23 23 the record. be responsible for these repairs. 24 Our other concerns are the potential for 24 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you, Ms. Riley. 25 continuing damage to the structural integrity of our 25 Counsel, are you aware of any damage to

Page 33 Page 34 1 the property? 1 answer to that. I don't know. I'm not sure if our 2 MR. WINE: I'm not. I certainly take 2 architect knows, but if not -- I don't know. I 3 3 those concerns seriously. You know, all I can don't want to --4 4 indicate -- and, Ms. Riley, I certainly want to make COMMISSIONER TORRES: Well, just to keep 5 clear that anything that would be done would have to 5 in mind, do you -- okay. 6 be done with all permits in place and all 6 The architect, are you going to answer 7 7 inspections in place. You know, if there was work that? 8 8 done on the property, I would like to assume it was MR. MORENO: Yes, Mr. Torres. I'm not the 9 9 done with permits, whether that's, you know, working architect. I'm the lead designer speaking on behalf 10 10 on sewer lines or anything like that. of Mr. LaPorta. 11 I'm not aware, unfortunately, Mr. Chair, 11 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes. Yes. 12 but I certainly share Ms. Riley's concerns and will 12 MR. MORENO: In regards to the existing 13 13 let my client know to take extra care in ensuring survey which was provided by us, there is space in 14 that everything is followed to a T. 14 between each property. 15 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, 15 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay. 16 16 MR. MORENO: They're not attached Counsel. 17 17 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Chairman, I got a buildings, no, sir. 18 question for counsel. 18 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Just to keep in 19 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Go ahead. 19 mind, I seen it happen to another property in 20 COMMISSIONER TORRES: The foundation of 20 Downtown Jersey City and somewhere else where the 21 the old building where they dug up the demolition of 21 traditional type of footings and foundations that 22 the building that was existing, is that adjacent, 22 are supposed to be in place is not. It's just maybe 23 like shared foundation to the other properties or is 23 a bedrock, maybe a shared poured concrete, not 24 there a space between each building? 24 traditional for these older buildings. 2.5 25 MR. WINE: Commissioner, I wish I knew the So just to be careful, I'd say, because Page 35 Page 36 1 1 there are surrounding properties around there. Just part of the comment, Commissioner, we do not have 2 2 to be on the safe side, use a lot of precaution. jurisdiction over that. That would be the Building 3 That's the only thing I have to say. 3 Department. I wish we did, but we do not. 4 4 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you. COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Okay. So maybe for 5 5 the record -- and that's excellent, Board Chairman. Commissioner Lipski, I think you had a 6 6 I love going through you. If we can establish what question, also? 7 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Yeah, or a comment. 7 means that Coach MG -- I forget -- Sandra, whatever 8 8 And this is to you, Chair. I don't know if this her name is. 9 governing body has any jurisdiction or any say in 9 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Ms. Riley. 10 what has happened or allegedly has happened to the 10 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Riley. Excellent. 11 property nearby this applicant's parcel. 11 Thank you, Chairman. Could seek not, you know, to 12 12 But, you know, to hear a family who's been get into an entanglement. Mr. Wine is a great 13 13 here this long and somebody 104 years old in there, attorney. He's been before this Board a number of 14 14 her golden years, and to Mr. Wine's point, if what times. I suspect he would represent to his client 15 he said is accurate, that he had not known about it 15 through his decency what could get done to make this 16 today, fair enough. And then promising that it 16 family whole. I don't know if we could make that a 17 won't happen again is great. But that doesn't, you 17 condition. I don't know. 18 18 MR. WINE: Yeah, Commissioner, at the risk know, give me, as a Jersey City resident, the warm 19 and fuzzies of what has happened. 19 of not knowing what "whole" would look like and I 20 I mean, I would take a lot of comfort if 20 don't know, you know, if it's a matter for the 21 21 Mr. Wine would, on the record, say that he would courts to determine or the Building Department, all 22 22 I can say is, you know, I -- I tell my clients, establish what actually happened and, you know, see 23 23 about making whole this long-term Jersey City whether or not this Board discusses their 24 family. 24 application or another board in another 25 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: And for your first 25 municipality, that, you know, your job as a

Page 37 Page 38 1 developer is to be a good neighbor. It's incumbent through whoever, him or her and/or their 2 representative, ascertain to the extent he or she upon you. I mean, unless you're somebody who plans 3 to develop one development and then escape to may have caused whatever damage and just say, you 4 know, whether it's through insurance or another country, I presume, you know, you want to be a good neighbor. 5 out-of-pocket, here's a good neighborly deed. I'll 6 So I do always advise my clients and I restore you to where you were. 7 will do so now on the record and then behind the If not -- you know what? My mom taught me 8 scenes as well that obviously anything he does you leave a place better than you found it. 9 should be coordinated with all the appropriate CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Agreed. Absolutely 10 agencies. To the extent possible, he should agree. But, once again, that jurisdiction isn't in communicate with his neighbor about, you know, 11 front of us. 12 construction times and that. But, Counsel, we appreciate, you know, 13 your best effort on this and your client's best And I recognize, you know, that, you know, it would be a burden to knock on her door every 14 effort. We do preach being good neighbors, of morning and say construction's starting in ten 1.5 course, but, again, that would fall on the Building 16 minutes, but some type of, you know, notice as to Department to enforce any damages. perhaps when construction might begin and to ensure 17 Let's move on with public comment. I see 18 another hand raised. that it's overseen by the appropriate authorities 19 SECRETARY BLACK: We have Shirin and and professionals. That, I'm certainly happy to do and I 20 Nathan MacCormack. 21 would do that anyways whether or not you put that on NATHAN MacCORMACK, having the record. 22 been duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Excellent. And so 23 follows: 24 MR. McCORMACK: Nathan MacCormack. in my world it's pretty simple without getting 25 overly complicated. Getting whole is your client N-A-T-H-A-N, M-a-c-C-O-R-M-A-C-K. From one court Page 39 Page 40 1 reporter to another, good evening. And so being towards the bottom of this CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. MacCormack, good 2 hill, just a few doors away from this proposed evening. There's another person on the screen with 3 project, my concern is mostly with the permeable 4 you. Is she going to be testifying as well? surface area. And I'm concerned that on this block, MR. MacCORMACK: Yes. 5 as Ms. Riley stated, many people -- parking is very CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Let's 6 tough. Most people who had a front yard chose to handle your testimony separately. So, 7 get rid of it for parking, you know, for a driveway. 8 Mr. MacCormack, we have three minutes from you and So when it does rain, there's really not much area then we'll swear in the other witness. 9 for absorption. MR. MacCORMACK: Thank you for the 10 Being directly downhill from this project opportunity to be heard tonight. 11 is concerning. And, in addition, next Thursday, 12 So my wife, Shirin, and I have restored before the Zoning Board, will be a project by the one of the 1895 homes that Ms. Riley was speaking of 13 same developer right next door to us with, I assume, that are a part of the historic stretch of houses, 14 about the same footprint. one of six houses built in 1895, one of which is up 15 So we are very concerned about the depth 16 of the project and what that would mean for the 17

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for debate tonight basically. So the first point I wanted to make is as much as I understand the need for this property to be put to use and for just that, my -- the first concern that I had when I saw the design was the depth of the building. The setback is the biggest concern to me for the soul reason that Glenwood Avenue on this block is on a hill. And we had about a foot of water in our basement after Hurricane Ida.

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groundwater absorption. But thank you for your time. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, Mr. MacCormack. And let's bring up your other witness. MR. WINE: Mr. Chair, did you want me to address that comment -- because I think it was a

good one and I think we can -- or do you want to

hear from Ms. MacCormack first?

Page 41 Page 42 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Let's hear from 1 on this block of some very intact history with 2 Ms. MacCormack and I assume we may have similar 2 beautiful, you know, locally sourced stone wall and 3 concerns. So let's address them together. 3 the Queen Anne architecture. 4 MR. WINE: Sure. 4 And I do have concerns about the new 5 SHIRIN MacCORMACK, having 5 building. To go over them briefly, higher and 6 been duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 6 deeper proposed plans will mean less sunlight and a 7 7 follows: lot more shadow on our property and neighboring 8 8 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Ms. MacCormack, good properties. 9 evening. We have three minutes for you. 9 I'm also concerned that the height is a 10 MS. MacCORMACK: Good evening. I wanted 10 lot more than 2 feet higher than the existing 11 to thank you for your time tonight and I wanted to 11 structure, to go from two and a half stories of the 12 express some concerns. As a resident of Jersey 12 existing home to four stories. And if you just even 13 City for 14 years now, I love this neighborhood. I 13 look at the images of the proposal, it looks a lot 14 love Jersey City. I lived downtown at the historic 14 taller than that. So I wanted to know about the 1.5 Dixon Mills for many years and then, in more recent 15 height accuracy. 16 years, up here where my husband and I have 16 Also, greater population density with 17 painstakingly, lovingly restored this 1895 treasure 17 this construction would mean more noise and less 18 of a home in a string of homes built by William W. 18 parking. 19 Coffin in 1895. 19 New plans are being claimed to be modern 20 And I find this neighborhood very 20 in a historical style, but they are quite modern. 2.1 beautiful. It has historic integrity. And, you 21 They are not Queen Anne. They will not match the 22 know, in a time when so many people are coming in 22 surrounding historical character of the block and 23 and just razing everything down rather than 23 the neighborhood. 24 restoring beauty that is there already, I just think 24 I'm not sure what the plans are for the 25 it's a shame. We're lucky that we're in this pocket 25 stone wall that is sidewalk front-facing along this Page 43 Page 44 please? 1 row of homes. But to go a little deeper, the 1 2 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Four seconds, please. historic preservation specialist letter did say that 3 this block has a largely intact -- and I'm quoting 3 MS. MacCORMACK: I'd love to see what's 4 4 this "intact historic streetscape with few modern happening with the preservation of the front facade 5 5 intrusions. Staff recommends that any new up at 41 to 45 Highland happen at 124 Glenwood. 6 construction be compatible with the scale, the form, 6 Thank you. 7 the setbacks, the heights, and historic character of 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you. We 8 8 the neighborhood, and the stone wall fronting the appreciate it. 9 row of Queen Anne historic houses should be retained 9 MR. WINE: Okay. So, Mr. Chair, a lot 10 as part of a historic streetscape." 10 to unpack there, but I'm happy to respond and have my team respond. I want to start by suggesting 11 To me, full brick and vinyl siding is not 11 12 12 historical. And I know that, you know, my husband that, first and foremost, you know, the presentation 13 13 and I renovated our own home and we found out when you've seen this evening -- and this is really to 14 we removed the vinyl siding there was beautiful 14 the MacCormacks as well. You know, the bulk of the 15 cedar original wooden shingle and clapboard 15 building -- again, with the exception of that 16 underneath. The existing home at 124 Glenwood still 16 deviation that came to light and that we added 17 has that Palladium window in the attic and the 17 to our application, the bulk of the building

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second story lite window. They're merely just

preserved, which is fortunate if we can retain them,

three minutes, Ms. MacCormack. I appreciate it.

Thank you. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. That was your

MS. MacCORMACK: Can I add one more note,

covered up and actually being protected and

Now, before we can file an application, we do have to apply to the Historic Preservation Commission on any application for demolition in order to receive what's called a determination of

complies with the R-3 standards and that's, you

Board have determined to be appropriate for the

know, what your governing body and this Planning

significance, which, in fact, is what I believe what you were reading from specifically. And that determination of significance comes with the demo permit that allows this property to be demolished.

And with that in mind, you know, this Board and the governing body have felt that the R-3 zone is entitled to have a little bit more density where we're composing a compliant four units, is entitled to have a little more height where you're entitled to, I believe it's 42 feet, and we're underneath that.

Also, you know, they don't want parking. Quite honestly, if you actually read the text of the ordinance, three- and four-families are actually the smallest density permitted in the R-3. There's an argument to be made that one- and two-families are actually not permitted under the new R-3 standards, but, nevertheless, this Board and the governing body felt that parking is not something that they would desire to see.

The goal of this application since the inception, and again with the exception of the one deviation that has come to light at the eleventh hour, the goal was to construct a building that

complies with the R-3 standards.

I want to touch on another couple of issues as well. You know, the design of the facade, to your point, Ms. MacCormack, you're never -- when you do something new, you're never going to get something that is 1895. You know, you can try and get the design, but unfortunately, you know, new is always going to be new and not 1895.

What the architect has done, quite painstakingly, really in the last couple of weeks after multiple rounds of comments from the councilman's office, who shared those design concerns, was to actually pivot and change the facade to better take on the aesthetics and characteristics of some of the neighboring styles, which really are beautiful in and of themselves.

And you saw some of the dormers. You saw the changed material. You saw the window pattern. You saw the bay window that did not previously exist. So I think, you know, this architect has done -- or this designer through the architect has done, you know, everything he can responsive to bring that into focus.

Page 47

And then regarding the wall in the front, it's a good point. I'm glad you brought it up. I think we missed that in our testimony. That's one of the elements as to why we're maintaining that front yard setback. We're not only keeping the wall that's there, that retaining wall, we're actually improving it, restoring it, and bringing that walkway into better condition because it needs a whole lot of repair. And that all takes place within that 25.8-foot setback in the front.

We are doing that. We recognize that that's a nice element that exists today. You know, the topography is something unique on this property. And our goal has always been to do that, not to provide parking.

I think you mentioned people are knocking down -- are just installing front yard parking. The Chairman can correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't think you can do that without filing for a permit or coming before this Board. And it's my understanding that the goal in a lot of areas in the city is to prohibit that type of development in putting parking in the front, both from an aesthetic perspective but also from a drainage perspective, which you mentioned.

Page 48

Page 46

So some of the couple of items that Mr. Moreno mentioned as well to help with the drainage, there's going to be a rain garden on the property. We are well beneath the impervious coverage that's permitted on the property. We have green roof components added to the building. We have stormwater management added to the site.

So these are issues that, I agree, I live downhill myself of some neighbors and am very familiar with flooding issues, but I think the testimony you've heard and the plans that have been really well engineered will only make this a better condition from a drainage perspective than what you see today.

So I think -- and, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry if I missed anything. Those were the notes that I had to respond to the MacCormacks.

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, Counsel. And I do want to agree with you on the front yard parking. It's not something I like to see. You certainly would have to come in front of this Board and ask to have front yard parking added and I don't think that we've ever approved that request.

So that being said, let's move on with

Page 49 Page 50 1 public comment. 1 and a new one being put up, I do have a strong 2 SECRETARY BLACK: Promoted Gia Stafford. 2 health concern as far as my grandma goes, who is 3 3 JULIAN BRANTLEY, having been sitting right next to me, as well as Ms. Edwards, 4 4 duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as who would be my neighbor of Sandra Riley, with all 5 follows: 5 the dust and everything and the breeze. Most of 6 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. Brantley, are 6 them have asthma and breathing problems. So that 7 7 you -- there's another person on your screen. Are does create a big concern for me as far as that 8 8 you both going to be testifying tonight? goes. 9 MR. BRANTLEY: No, just I am. Just I am. 9 Also, just like you said, as far as the 10 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. So we have 10 loud noise and everything else being early, my 11 three minutes for you, Mr. Brantley. 11 grandma -- and I don't know if you want me to 12 MR. BRANTLEY: Okay. Going back to what 12 disclose this -- she has tinnitus. So that will 13 13 Ms. Riley said, the City has, in fact, come in and also create a problem as far as the noise goes. 14 14 uprooted the street with permits and everything So I'm trying to figure out what would be 1.5 being said. However, they also repavement the area, 15 done if that was the case and cleanup goes as well. 16 but now because of the continuation of cars running 16 Thank you for your time. 17 over it -- I don't know if a pipe had burst, but now 17 MR. WINE: Sure, thank you, Mr. Brantley. 18 there's a continuation of water coming from the 18 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you, 19 19 Mr. Brantley. 20 So I'm not sure of -- as she said before, 20 MR. WINE: Again, all very valid concerns. 21 21 circling back to what she said, would they be able Again, it sounds like the City might have done some 22 to do the same thing if that was the case or would 22 work in the street, which might have been what 23 that be the same situation? 23 Ms. Riley was referencing as well. 24 Also moving forward from that, with this 24 I'll just reiterate. Anything done by my 25 25 building being -- if I'm correct, being taken down client will be done under all permits and, to Page 51 Page 52 Commissioner Lipski's point, will be done with the 1 that row of houses are so beautiful and historic. 1 2 2 best possible care and attention towards being a For quality of life, as a neighbor, they're 3 good neighbor, you know. And with respect to some 3 beautiful to see. 4 4 of the health concerns of the dust and noise and all And I understand change. I understand 5 5 that, I mean, unfortunately, construction is going progress. I just looked at the design that you 6 to ultimately cause those issues. 6 presented tonight and wish you could get a little 7 You know, we will, again, do our best to 7 closer to what is already happening there. 8 8 be good neighbors and follow all available protocol. I think my other challenge is the size. 9 And if the Board has any recommendations as to 9 I've been a Jersey City resident for almost 30 years 10 protocol that I'm unaware of, we're certainly happy 10 now. One of the reasons that I moved to this to entertain that. But everything will follow all 11 neighborhood recently was that I lived on 11 12 ordinances of record and comply with the law. 12 Montgomery Street downtown in Van Vorst Park and 13 13 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, the population density is really -- it changes 14 14 Counsel. your quality of life. It just got too crowded, too 15 15 SECRETARY BLACK: I've promoted Eric busy. And when I see a single or two-story house 16 16 moving to a four-story house, I see that change Carter. 17 ERIC CARTER, having been 17 start to happen here and it doesn't make me feel 18 18 duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 19 19 follows: I just wanted to put that out there. I 20 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. Carter, good 20 think that, you know, one of the reasons that this 21 21 evening. We have three minutes for you, sir. neighborhood was desirable to me was that there 22 MR. CARTER: Good evening. I probably 22 weren't a lot of large dwellings. There were still 23 23 won't take three minutes, but I appreciate you single-family homes, two-family homes. It felt like 24 giving me the time. I'm a resident of Glenwood 24 a neighborhood. 25 Avenue. I'm a little bit further down the hill, but 25 And I hate to see more encroachment.

Page 53 Page 54 1 1 There are a few large apartment buildings at the top I just want to point out that we didn't 2 2 of the block, but, you know, I'd love -- I'd love to see any reference to what was happening to the 3 3 see a two- or three-family home there. trees, the hedging, the greenery that is already 4 4 The height of this, you know, when you existing on that site. Obviously, if you're trying 5 talk about your new height, is 41.9. And, yeah, 5 to push back to a lot of the lights from the 6 6 you're allowed 42, but it's still dwarfing the other neighboring properties, it's going to have a deficit 7 7 houses in that historic row. of light that is going to impact the greenery in our 8 8 And that's all I have to say. Thank you neighborhood. There's very few trees in our 9 9 for your time. neighborhood, unfortunately, and you're also going 10 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, 10 to probably impact the tree in front. 11 11 Mr. Carter. So I do want to ask, what is happening to 12 MR. RONAN: I would like to stay on if 12 maintain the greenery of that site? And I do agree 13 13 with what others have said. The building's a little possible. 14 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Sure. If you could, 14 too big for its neighbors. And while I do approve 1.5 Mr. Ronan, please just confirm that you were already 15 of development in this neighborhood, I think it's 16 16 sworn in tonight and are still under oath. got to be managed to be appropriate to the 17 MR. RONAN: Yes, I was already sworn in 17 neighborhood. 18 and I still am under oath. 18 But I also want to point out, some of the 19 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Three minutes for you, 19 addresses, at least the one that depicted our 20 sir. 20 particular house, were incorrect on your documents 21 21 DERMOT RONAN, having been that you showed. 22 previously duly sworn, remained under oath and 22 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, 23 testified as follows: 23 Mr. Ronan. We appreciate it. 24 MR. RONAN: I'm going to be quick. Thank 24 MR. WINE: And Mr. Ronan and Mr. Carter, 25 25 you, all. to that as well, greenery, I'm happy to have our Page 55 Page 56 1 1 architect reshow what we're doing. At the end of don't know. 2 2 the day, the rear yard will be all greenery. It MR. JANEL: I'm happy to be sworn in if 3 will be a combination of lawn and trees and 3 4 4 shrubs. STEVEN D. JANEL, having been 5 5 In the front as well, there's actually not duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as 6 currently much by way of shrubbery at all. We are 6 follows: 7 significantly increasing, as Ms. Worstell and Mr. 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. Janel, good 8 8 Moreno indicated, the landscaping in the front yard evening. We have three minutes for you, sir. 9 as well as just cleaning it up generally. 9 MR. JANEL: Thank you. 10 And, again, you know, concerns are 10 I was brought in at the behest of some of 11 11 heard. But to reiterate, the building massing, the the homeowners on Glenwood Avenue. One of the 12 mass of the building, again, it's permitted under 12 issues that they were concerned about is the 13 13 the R-3 standards. And I don't say that to be integrity of the neighborhood. I think it's been 14 dismissive. I really say that to stress to the 14 established that the neighborhood style is Queen 15 public that, you know, this is ultimately what the 15 Anne. Queen Anne is a Victorian style, but it has 16 R-3 contemplates in terms of scale and mass of 16 more specific and unique features. Queen Anne 17 development. 17 features asymmetrical exteriors with decorative 18 18 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, trim. Wraparound porches are very common, as are 19 Counsel. 19 towers, turrets and multicolored pallets. 20 All right. Let's move on in public 20 When we hear Mr. Moreno testify with 21 comment, please. 21 regard to A-2, which was a rendering he did as to 22 SECRETARY BLACK: Promoted Steven D. 22 the property that's proposed, his comments were 23 23 "it's a more traditional look." He spoke of lots of Janel, Esquire. 24 THE REPORTER: And if you are testifying 24 aluminum panels. He described it as modern. And, 25 as an attorney, I do not need to swear you in, but I 25 more importantly, from my client's perspective, he

Page 57 Page 58 1 1 described it as looking as "something that stood should be retained as part of the historic 2 2 streetscape." 3 3 Well, I would suggest to the panel that it I would suggest to the panel that this is 4 4 certainly does stand out because it doesn't fit in. about as far from the recommendation of the Historic 5 It's a sore thumb. It doesn't look anything like 5 Commission as you could possibly get. Based on that 6 6 Queen Anne architecture and it doesn't look like alone, I can't see this really fitting what was 7 7 intended for this particular property. anything in the particular row of homes in which it 8 would be located. 8 Thank you. 9 9 Without even getting into the size and CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you, Mr. Janel. 10 10 scope of the project, I refer to the memo which was We appreciate it. 11 issued by the Historic Commission which specifically 11 MR. WINE: Thank you, Mr. Janel. And, if 12 says "The building on 124 Glenwood Avenue is a wood 12 I may, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Janel. A lot of 13 13 frame, two-and-a-half story, two-bay single-family what you said, quite honestly, you know, you 14 14 residence with Queen Anne style influences and its referenced a lot of the design characteristics that 15 asymmetrical fenestration, cross-gabled roof, 15 have actually been integrated within this property. 16 staggered front-facing gambles, two-story protruding 16 And I'm just reiterating what you said and what's in 17 17 bay windows and raised entrance." the report that you referenced. 18 The last comment is "The block of 18 For example, we had "asymmetrical 19 Glenwood Avenue between West Side Avenue and JFK 19 fenestration, cross-gable roof, staggered 20 Boulevard has a largely intact historic streetscape 20 front-facing gambles, two-story protruding bay 21 21 window, raised entrance." These are features that with few modern intrusions. Staff recommends that 22 any new construction be compatible with the scale, 22 if you look at the plans, Mr. Moreno through 23 form, setbacks, heights and historic characteristics 23 Mr. LaPorta redesigned because these were some of 24 24 of the neighborhood and that the stone wall the comments that Councilman Boggiano's office had 25 25 fronting the row of the Queen Anne style houses shared with us as well about changing from what we Page 59 Page 60 1 1 had proposed as a -- not that I want to go down the that. But, again, we are open -- if there are 2 2 specific suggestions with that, that is something we road of calling it a "Bayonne box," but something 3 that was more of a straight rectangular, box-shaped 3 can work with. 4 4 building. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, 5 5 These are some of the design features that Counsel. 6 we've integrated. In fact, the City of Jersey City 6 All right. Let's continue with public 7 7 has within its Land Development Ordinance comment. 8 8 residential design standards. And at the risk of SECRETARY BLACK: So we've already 9 9 boring the Board and going through that and promoted Coach MG. Do we want to promote them 10 10 recognizing that they are subjective in a lot of again? 11 11 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: I would because she ways and nature, I believe that we've accomplished 12 12 did mention there were multiple people in the 13 13 But, nevertheless, you know, I have the household. And Ms. Riley's name when we brought her 14 14 ability to text my architect. And if the Board up certainly wasn't Coach MG, so maybe there's 15 15 feels that there's a particular feature or somebody else in there. 16 16 But if it is Ms. Riley again, we can only particular design or particular element to the 17 facade design that is either desirable or not 17 allow you to testify once per application. But if 18 18 there's somebody else on, we certainly can hear desirable, it's fungible. I mean, we can make 19 19 changes to the design. them. 20 20 MR. RILEY: Yes, good evening. We just felt in conjunction -- after 21 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Good evening. making the changes requested by the councilman's 21

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follows:

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office and in conjunction with this report, that

what we came up with was actually satisfactory,

although recognizing fully, as I mentioned before,

it is somewhat subjective. I do -- I do appreciate

GEORGE RILEY, having been

CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Mr. Riley, good

duly sworn, was examined and/or testified as

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evening. We have three minutes for you, sir. MR. RILEY: Okay. I won't take the full three minutes. I just have a question to what

Attorney Wine said. He said that people are not looking for parking? You're proposing a 14-bedroom

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and if it's next to us and on the block and how is that not going to -- I mean, are you saying that

8 nobody's going to come in with a car? We already 9 have issues with parking. We have St. Peter's

10 University here. We have three apartment buildings 11 up the street.

> In fact, the parking is so bad you need a permit to park from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. just for residents. And after that, you know, when everybody comes in, it's just insane.

I was just questioning when you said nobody's looking for parking. You know, I mean, I don't understand that. You know, unless they want to ride bikes, you know. We have the CitiBikes up the street that they can ride, but I'm not sure, you know -- I just question that. Thank you.

MR. WINE: Sure. And, Mr. Riley, I certainly apologize if I misspoke. I don't think that I did. What I suggested is that it's my understanding that the governing body is not looking for parking here in the R-3 zone and so much so that they don't have a parking requirement.

Page 62

It's not prohibited. We could propose parking on this property, although my understanding from working with City Planning on this, and actually hearing some other comments about drainage concerns, about adding driveways and impervious coverage, you know, we have the availability, we have the coverage to play with. It's something we'd be permitted to do.

But ultimately what I intended -- and, again, I'm sorry if I misspoke or if it was misunderstood. I'm not suggesting people in the neighborhood don't appreciate parking. I'm suggesting that what this ordinance looks to do, what the R-3 looks to do, is not necessarily have parking.

MR. ALAMPI: Back to you, Chairman. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: I'm sorry. I've been speaking for, like, 45 seconds and had no idea my camera was off.

So if anybody else is here from the public that wants to comment, please raise your hand. If you are calling in, you can press *9 to raise your hand.

Page 63

COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Chairman, seeing no others wishing to speak from the public, I move to close the public session.

COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: Second. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Public is closed.

I'm not sure whose this was. Tim, do you have anything you want to add?

MR. KREHEL: Yeah. Given the realization of a rear yard setback variance that's required and that City Planning did not receive a rendering until this meeting, I believe, because the plans that -when Mr. Wine -- Mr. Wine's been pretty open in working with City Planning.

However, I think given the way things are presented tonight and seeing the rendering as it is, I think it would be best -- if Mr. Wine would be willing to -- to carry to a future meeting so that City Planning has more time to look at the design of the project again given the rendering that was shown to us tonight.

22 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: I have no problem with 23 that.

24 Counsel, Mr. Wine, are you in agreement? 25 MR. WINE: Yeah. So I'll offer two

Page 64

1 options. That's certainly one of them and on its 2 face, I don't have an issue with that.

> The other option I would offer -- and I wouldn't be advocating on behalf of my client in a good capacity if I didn't at least offer this. Understanding that these residential design standards and hearing the comments from the public which appeared, honestly, all related to the design, we think we accomplished it but recognizing that others may not feel so. You know, there's always going to be a lot of cooks in the kitchen and I don't think at the end of the day, everybody, you know, might look at this and say this is what I had envisioned here.

So what I would request, if it's okay with the Board -- and if not, I'm certainly happy to go with what Mr. Krehel said -- would be if the Board is so inclined to approve the project with respect to the massing and, you know, the one deviation we have. Then I would certainly agree as a condition to work with Mr. Krehel and all of City Planning to come up with a design that they feel is appropriate for this block. I have no issue with that.

24 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Counsel --25 MR. KREHEL: I would have an issue with

Page 65 Page 66 that considering there's no notice on record right 1 time this application came up. Mr. --2 2 now that shows a variance. I think they need to COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Can I just at least 3 3 come back. Currently there's no notice out there ask Councilman Boggiano to reference the record 4 4 that shows a variance being requested. without saying anything? 5 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Mr. Chairman, I 5 MR. ALAMPI: Commissioner, you cannot 6 would also strongly agree with Tim in the sense that 6 speak to anybody regarding the application. 7 7 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yeah, we really I'll reach out to my councilman, who -- I live in 8 Ward C, Boggiano is Pam Andes, see if they can 8 shouldn't be speaking to anybody about it. 9 9 follow up, since Mr. Wine has referenced that, to MR. WINE: Mr. Chair, I think, if I may, I 10 see how we could facilitate good community 10 think a good -- I think what would accomplish what I 11 relationships with the Rileys and making sure that 11 think Commissioner Lipski is trying to do without 12 an assessment of alleged damage is ascertained. 12 causing any potential issue would be if the Board 13 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Commissioner, I would 13 was inclined to work with the stipulation I just 14 14 strongly advise against that unless you are willing made, for example, you know, we can include 1.5 to recuse yourself on the next application that we 15 Councilman Boggiano's office with respect to any of 16 16 have. those design reviews as well. COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: Chairman, I was 17 17 That would be a condition of -- I mean, 18 18 that would be, I think, permitted. I'll defer to just about to say the same. 19 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yeah. We can't have 19 Mr. Alampi, but I think that would be totally 20 conversations about this application outside of the 20 appropriate. And, you know, they could --2.1 21 meeting, Commissioner. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Counsel. Counsel, we are either going to vote or not vote on the 22 COMMISSIONER GANGADIN: We can't. 22 23 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: That would be, you 23 application as presented to us tonight. We are not 24 24 know -- like I said, if you want to have those going to leave this up to chance later on down the 25 25 conversations, you would have to recuse on the next road. Page 67 Page 68 MR. WINE: Fair enough. 1 1 Planning to discuss the architectural elements. 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We approve what's in 2 Now, I am sure one of the things that 3 front of us or deny what's in front of us. 3 counsel is going to do is he's going to reach out to 4 MR. WINE: Fair enough. 4 the neighbor to discuss some issues up to and 5 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: It's not this Board's 5 including the architectural component. But Planning 6 responsibility to design the project for you. So 6 wants to review those and see if, in Planning's 7 with that said, Counsel, you can either roll the 7 opinion, they're appropriate under the rubric. I 8 8 dice tonight on this vote or if you're willing to think that's what Mr. Krehel was articulating. 9 come back at another time with a redesign or not, 9 So this is not going to become a 10 you know. 10 free-for-all where everybody gets to design the MR. WINE: Sure. Mr. Chair, would you 11 11 building. That's not the intent of what's being 12 give me two minutes to call my client and confirm? 12 requested by Planning or what counsel's agreeing 13 MR. ALAMPI: Mr. Wine, before you do that. 13 to. So I want everybody to understand that aspect 14 Chairman, let's be clear on what we're 14 of it. 15 15 asking for. So, first, with respect to the notice, And, Counsel, I would say we'd give you 16 it appeared to be in order. It now is clear that 16 two seconds to talk to your client, but that's where 17 there's a rear yard variance that was not noticed. 17 I am, Chairman. However, there is the catchall language in the 18 18 MR. WINE: Thank you, Counsel. And I'll 19 notice. So counsel has to deal with that issue 19 echo what you said. Regarding notice, you know, 20 however he decides to deal with it before it has 20 that's the reason we have the catchall in the 21 taken jurisdiction and started the application. 21 notice, for situations like this and similar. And 22 22 With respect to carrying the application the Board coming up with variances that weren't 23 23 because the rendering was submitted outside of the flagged or issues coming up, that's why the catchall 24 time frame, as I understood what was being asked was 24 is there. 25 for Planning to look at the rendering and for 25 So I'll defer to Mr. Alampi, but I would

Page 70 Page 69 1 1 suggest that, you know, if we are going to carry is that we would speak with Mr. Krehel regard -- and 2 2 if Mr. Krehel would like to anybody else in, that's this, you know, two weeks, which would not give us 3 3 time to renotice anyways, that I would ask that fine. But regarding this, to kind of keep it, you 4 4 know, level-headed and well-thought-out and a Mr. Alampi be comfortable and this Board be 5 5 productive conversation. comfortable that our notice is, in fact, compliant 6 6 and provides jurisdiction. There's case law on it, CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: All right. Thank you, 7 7 but that's the entire purpose of the catchall, which Counsel. And you're more than welcome to come in in 8 8 two weeks but we will not be here. Our next meeting I believe should satisfy that. 9 9 As to the design element -- and I will ask is on April 4th. 10 10 for just a minute and a half to call my client. But MR. WINE: I meant next week actually. 11 as to the design, again, I agree with Mr. Alampi. 11 I'm sorry. 12 12 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yeah. Next week is To use his term "free-for-all," unfortunately, as I 13 13 indicated before, you're probably never going to out of the question. So, yeah, the earliest we 14 come to a consensus with absolutely everybody as to 14 could get you in is April 4th. 15 how a facade ultimately looks. And ultimately a 15 I would like to give Bridget a 16 16 property owner has some degree of entitlement to five-minute break any minute now. So I'll 17 choose how he feels it is appropriate or she feels 17 address -- I think Commissioner Lipski had a 18 18 it is appropriate to design their building so long question or a comment. 19 19 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: The point that as Planning staff or Zoning staff and the Board feel 20 that it is compliant with the ordinance's 20 Tim brought up about the prompting of a variance. 21 21 So the catchall would be an umbrella or supersede guidelines. 22 So, you know, to counsel's point, I would 22 23 definitely -- assuming my client agrees to carry 23 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: So the catchall is in this, which I would expect, but I'll ask for a 24 24 their notice. An applicant doesn't -- if they don't 25 25 believe they have any variances in their notice, minute, I would ask that what this Board understands Page 71 Page 72 1 around for a little bit of time. We don't design 1 there's a catchall that says if the Board or Planning staff deems that there is a variance in the 2 2 the building. There are standards for that. And I 3 application that they find, that this notice also 3 think this is going all over the place with design 4 4 of the building and not the variance, you know. covers that. 5 5 We're getting off the subject of the variance and on That being said, I like to know personally 6 if there are variances when I'm reviewing an 6 to the design, which they try to do that. 7 application. And, you know, we go through these 7 So let's take that five-minute break and 8 8 let counsel do what he has to do and hopefully after applications before each meeting and it's a heavy 9 9 a five-minute break, we can resolve this today. lift. And if I'm not looking for a variance, I'm 10 10 not digging through your plans to find a variance. CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Sure. 11 COMMISSIONER TORRES: That would be good? 11 It's not my responsibility to do that, especially 12 12 given that we have three meetings in a row, three To get through this would be nice. 13 13 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Yeah, I'm all for it. weeks in a row. I'm not digging through, you know, 14 14 I would hate to waste the last -- I didn't check the the master plan if I don't think I have to, if 15 15 there's no variance listed on the application. So, time we started this. 16 16 you know, I like to know what I'm getting into when COMMISSIONER TORRES: About half hour, 45 17 I review a plan. 17 minutes. 18 18 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We don't have time to But, like I said, Counsel, the ball's in 19 your court. We'll take a five-minute break. If you 19 waste. 20 want to roll the dice, you can roll the dice. 20 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: So just in sum, so 21 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Chairman, this is 21 for this five minutes I can go over it, what exactly 22 22 is the nature of the variance? Commissioner Torres. 23 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Go ahead. 23 MR. ALAMPI: The 4-foot rear yard. 24 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay. Let me just 24 COMMISSIONER LIPSKI: Thank you. Thanks, 25 25 make a suggestion then as we talked about this Counsel.

Page 74 Page 73 1 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. So it's 8:57. 1 would be to carry it to make sure that Mr. Krehel 2 2 has an opportunity to review the facade against the Let's come back at 9:02, please. 3 3 MR. ALAMPI: You're welcome, Commissioner. design standards and make any recommendations giving 4 4 us the opportunity to make that change. (Whereupon, a recess is taken.) 5 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Counsel, the floor is 5 I would hate to see a good application go 6 6 yours. down and have to refile and start from scratch. And 7 7 MR. WINE: Thank you. And I appreciate I'd also risk res judicata issues and have to, you 8 8 know, come back with a substantially different the opportunity to take that break. 9 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: No problem. 9 application all over a facade design. 10 10 MR. WINE: So to echo what Commissioner So I think the intelligent move, much as I 11 Torres said before, I hate to be the one to ask you, 11 would love to go -- you know, I think we have a good 12 you know, after spending time on this to table a 12 application and we've met our burden, I think the 13 13 vote, you know, pending some review of the facade intelligent move for me would be to ask to carry for 14 design ultimately, which seems to be the only 14 that opportunity. 15 outstanding issue, you know, before the Board. 15 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Thank you, 16 16 But, nevertheless, I would hate to see an Counsel. And the Board is neutral on it. It's 17 application that we met, you know, our burden of 17 totally your call. It's not the Board's recommendation to do anything at this point. 18 proof, I would like to think, and been able to 18 19 19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: And we're not here justify with no real push-back as to the single 20 deviation that we had, I would hate to see that 20 to design a building. 21 21 application be denied solely on the basis that the CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: No. No, we're 22 Board isn't comfortable proceeding with design 22 certainly not here to design a building. You 23 standards. 23 know, we're just here to vote on what's presented to 24 So I think the right thing for me to do 24 25 25 here, you know, unless the Board feels differently, Okay. Cam, do you think we can get this Page 76 1 on the 4th? Or, Counsel, you know, you obviously 1 MR. WINE: Yeah, noted. Definitely. 2 have to go back and forth with Tim. I don't know 2 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Tim, are you 3 what time frame you're looking for here. I mean, 3 comfortable with the 4th? 4 4 obviously you're going to ask me for last week, MR. KREHEL: Yeah, I'm comfortable with 5 5 the 4th. I just want to make one more quick but --6 MR. WINE: Mr. Chair, is last week an 6 comment. It's just that this needs to be looked at, 7 option? 7 considering the rendering was revealed basically 8 8 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Last week was way too today. And given the comments by Historic 9 9 late too. Preservation, even though it's just a determination 10 MR. WINE: Yeah. So I would say like 10 of significance, it still has significance. And 11 this. I mean, Mr. Krehel, as he alluded to, we've 11 that's why even though this Board does not decide 12 been an open line of communication this whole way, 12 design, it needs to take into account these kind of 13 you know. We'll send him these plans first thing in 13 situations. That's what we're doing here. We're 14 the morning. You know, I'll work with him. And, 14 doing our due diligence. 15 15 again, if he has any recommendations, I don't In this situation where something is 16 personally see an issue with April 4th, you know, 16 brought up at the last second, it needs to be taken 17 to the extent it's some massive facade design 17 seriously considering there's many people in the 18 18 overhaul that's recommended. You know, I know public that are upset about this and we need to do 19 Martin works pretty quickly. So I'm comfortable 19 due diligence and that's what we're doing right now. 20 with April 4th. 20 I just wanted to say that. 21 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay, Tim --21 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Okay. Understood. MR. ALAMPI: Mr. Wine, I'll leave it to 22 22 So let's carry this with testimony taken, 23 you whether you renotice and call out that variance 23 Case P22-197, minor site plan for 124 Glenwood since you're going out to April 4th with enough time 24 24 Avenue, let's take this to a date certain of April 25 to do it. It's your application. 25 4th with testimony taken.

Page 77 Page 78 1 1 Counsel, it's once again up to you MR. ALAMPI: The matter is carried. The 2 whether you want to renotice for that including the 2 notice is preserved as the notice has been accepted 3 3 variance or not, but that is this Board's action by the Board. However, Counsel will determine, 4 4 because his notice does not have the variance tonight. 5 MR. WINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I 5 identified specifically, if he would like to 6 would just ask that you put on the record if it's 6 renotice. That's for him to determine as the 7 7 okay to preserve notice and I will speak to my applicant. 8 8 client about renoticing. But just if you can MR. WINE: Thank you, Counsel. So I 9 preserve it anyways, that would be, I think --9 appreciate the Board's time this evening. Again, 10 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: We're in an open 10 just to indicate, I certainly did not intend to pull 11 application, Counsel. With testimony taken, we're 11 a fast one on anyone and I appreciate the Board's 12 12 time and look forward to hopefully concluding this carrying this conversation forward. I believe the 13 13 application is legally in front of us right now and positively on April 4th. 14 I don't know that -- you know, notice has already 14 CHAIRMAN LANGSTON: Thank you, Counsel. 15 been entered into -- entered into the record. So I 15 (Whereupon, the hearing on this 16 16 don't know that we would be able to preserve notice application was adjourned to April 4, 2023, 6:30 17 for something that's open currently. 17 18 Santo, do you agree? disagree? I'm not a 18 19 19 lawyer, obviously. 20 MR. ALAMPI: You're doing a good job of 20 21 21 playing one tonight. COMMISSIONER TORRES: He does a good job. 22 22 23 Yes, he does. 23 24 MR. WINE: You're better off for it, 24 25 Mr. Chair. 25 Page 79 CERTIFICATE 1 2 3 I, BRIDGET LOMBARDOZZI, Notary Public 4 and Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State 5 of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the 6 foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of 7 the testimony as taken stenographically 8 remotely by and before me at the time, place 9 and the date hereinbefore set forth. 10 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither 11 a relative nor employee nor attorney nor 12 counsel of any of the parties to this action, 13 and that I am neither a relative nor employee 14 of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not 15 financially interested in the action. 16 17 18 19 20 BRIDGET LOMBARDOZZI, 21 Certified Shorthand Reporter C.S.R. License No. XI01201 22 23 24 25

	l	I	l	
A	adjourned 78:16	ancillary 5:13	10:15 38:12	association
A-1 3:10 4:24	adoption 8:3	and/or 9:15	43:23 44:8	18:12
5:2	advance 27:24	10:12 24:2	51:23 54:23	assume 33:8
A-2 3:11 11:17	advise 37:6	30:25 38:1,22	58:10 59:25	40:13 41:2
11:18,22 12:2	65:14	41:6 49:4	62:14 73:7	assuming 69:23
56:21	advocating 64:4	51:18 56:5	78:9,11	asthma 50:6
A-3 11:23	aerial 12:11	60:23	appreciated	asymmetrical
A-4 11:23	aesthetic 47:23	Andes 65:8	11:17	56:17 57:15
A.I.C.P 2:2,7,9	aesthetics 46:15	Anne 42:3,21	appropriate	58:18
ability 59:14	affidavit 4:21	43:9 56:15,15	28:1,4,8 37:9	attached 34:16
able 18:22 49:21	agencies 37:10	56:16 57:6,14	37:18 44:20	attention 11:6
73:18 77:16	Agenda 3:23	57:25	54:16 64:22	12:4 22:21
absolutely 9:7	ago 24:5	answer 34:1,6	66:20 68:7	51:2
38:9 69:14	agree 38:10 48:8	anticipated 26:4	69:17,18	attic 43:17
absorption 40:9	48:19 54:12	anybody 23:4	approve 54:14	attorney 1:18
40:17	64:20 65:6	29:20 62:22	64:18 67:2	36:13 55:25
accent 16:1,7	69:11 77:18	66:6,8 70:2	approved 48:23	61:4 79:11,14
17:6	Agreed 30:11	anybody's 30:15	approximately	Attorneys 1:20
accepted 9:3	38:9	anyways 37:21	6:3	AUDIENCE
78:2	agreeing 68:12	69:3 77:9	April 70:9,14	3:14
access 13:22,23	agreement	apartment 16:2	75:16,20,24	authorities
17:15,17 32:9	63:24	53:1 61:10	76:24 78:13,16	37:18
accessed 14:20	agrees 69:23	apologize 30:4	architect 6:12	availability 62:8
accomplish	ahead 10:7,20	61:23	8:22,23 11:3	available 51:8
66:10	10:21 11:25	appear 4:23	34:2,6,9 46:10	Avenue 1:6 4:3
accomplished	19:1 21:18	appeared 64:8	46:22,23 55:1	4:23 5:5 11:4
59:11 64:9	33:19 71:23	67:16	59:14	12:9 14:7 16:2
account 76:12	AICP 2:5	applicant 1:20	architectural	16:14,20 31:6
accuracy 42:15	air 28:5,6	4:6 70:24 78:7	28:15 68:1,5	31:13 32:13
accurate 35:15	Alampi 1:17	applicant's	architecture 9:4	39:23 51:25
79:6	4:20 7:25	35:11	42:3 57:6	56:11 57:12,19
act 6:16	11:18 62:18	application 4:22	area 15:3,12	57:19 76:24
action 77:3	66:5,19 67:13	5:16 7:3 8:2,2	17:9,16 40:4,8	aware 31:21
79:12,15	68:25 69:4,11	10:17 22:15	49:15	32:25 33:11
actual 9:5	72:23 73:3	30:16 36:24	areas 14:16	
add 11:11 43:25	75:22 77:20	44:17,22,24	47:21	B
63:8	78:1	45:22 60:17	argument 45:17	B 49:3
added 44:16	alert 6:9	65:15,20 66:1	articulating	back 14:15 15:3
48:6,7,22	alleged 65:12	66:6,23 67:21	68:8	16:21 17:7
adding 62:7	allegedly 35:10	67:22 71:3,7	ascertain 38:2	18:13 25:23,25
addition 40:11	allow 7:14 17:11	71:15 73:17,21	ascertained	26:1 49:12,21
additional 25:5	60:17	74:5,9,12	65:12	54:5 62:18
address 4:15	allowed 53:6	75:25 77:11,13	asked 67:24	65:3 67:9 73:2
21:14 40:23	allows 45:4	78:16	asking 6:24 7:8	74:8 75:2
41:3 70:17	alluded 75:11	applications	67:15	background
addresses 54:19	altered 11:20	71:8	aspect 68:13	4:12
adequate 28:4,6	aluminum 19:21	apply 6:2,25	assessment	backyard 32:10
adjacent 26:9	56:24	44:23	65:12	bad 61:12
27:4,6 33:22	analysis 12:19	appreciate	assigned 13:11	ball's 71:18
27,0 33.22			_	
L	•	•	•	-

_				
based 21:21	biggest 39:21	12:22 13:4	25:24 34:17,24	20:16
25:12 58:5	bikes 61:19	14:24 40:1	53:1 61:10	catchall 7:22
basement 39:24	bit 4:11 11:10	Boulevard 12:8	built 32:4 39:15	67:18 68:20,23
basically 11:15	13:19 14:22	14:8 57:20	41:18	69:7 70:21,23
39:16 76:7	15:7 18:17	bound 22:3	bulk 44:14,17	71:1
basis 73:21	19:18 20:13,21	box 59:2	burden 37:14	cause 51:6
bathroom 15:10	20:24 21:1	box-shaped 59:3	73:17 74:12	caused 38:3
bathrooms 15:1	45:8 51:25	Brantley 3:17	burst 49:17	causing 32:20
baths 14:14,14	72:1	49:6,9,11,12	busy 52:15	66:12
bay 16:25 17:1,2	Black 2:7 3:22	50:17,19		cedar 43:15
17:4 46:21	30:19 38:19	break 70:16	C	certain 21:24
57:17 58:20	49:2 51:15	71:19 72:7,9	c 1:16 24:1 28:3	76:24
Bayonne 59:2	55:22 60:8	73:8	38:21,21,21	certainly 11:24
beautiful 41:21	block 1:6 5:5	breathing 50:6	41:5,5,5 51:17	23:15 30:4
42:2 43:14	28:17 39:23	breeze 50:5	51:17 65:8	33:2,4,12
46:17 52:1,3	40:4 42:1,22	brick 16:1,7,18	79:1,1	37:20 48:21
beauty 41:24	43:3 53:2	17:6 19:20	C.S.R 79:21	51:10 57:4
bedrock 34:23	57:18 61:6	20:8,18,19	calculations	60:14,18 61:23
bedroom 15:9	64:23	43:11	25:7	64:1,16,20
bedrooms 14:13	board 1:2,11,18	Bridget 70:15	call 11:22 22:22	74:22 78:10
14:14 15:1,3	3:23 4:11 6:6,9	79:3,20	67:12 69:10	Certified 1:23
beginning 3:23	6:16 7:6,16 9:1	briefly 42:5	74:17 75:23	79:4,21
14:6	18:18 29:21	bring 10:3 19:4	called 44:25	certify 79:5,10
behalf 4:5 11:2	30:4 31:4 36:5	22:20 40:21	calling 30:17	cetera 11:23
34:9 64:4	36:13,23,24	46:25	59:2 62:24	Chair 4:4 6:20
behest 56:10	40:12 44:20	bringing 23:16	Cam 74:25	8:18 22:7 23:9
beige 20:8	45:7,19 47:20	47:7	camera 62:21	33:11 35:8
believe 4:17 7:1	48:22 51:9	brought 47:2	CAMERON 2:7	40:22 44:9
7:13 8:6,9,10	59:9,14 64:16	56:10 60:13	capacity 64:5	48:15 58:12
9:12 11:11	64:17 66:12	70:20 76:16	car 61:8	66:9 67:11
32:1,6,7,8 45:1	68:22 69:4,19	brown 20:18	care 33:13 51:2	75:6 77:5,25
45:11 59:11	69:25 71:1	bubbled 14:10	careful 34:25	Chairman 1:12
63:12 69:8	73:15,22,25	15:7	Carolyn 3:5	4:1,8 6:23 7:20
70:25 77:12	74:16 76:11	building 12:15	23:25 29:13	7:25 8:14 9:7
Ben 13:9 19:13	78:3	12:17,25 14:2	carried 78:1	9:17,21 10:1
beneath 48:4	Board's 67:5	14:17 17:14,18	carry 63:18 69:1	10:14,19,24
benefit 4:11	74:17 77:3	17:22 26:13,15	69:23 74:1,13	19:3,11 22:9
benefits 27:11	78:9,11	27:3,4,16,18	76:22	22:11,13,18
Benjamin 1:19	board-and-ba	33:21,22,24	carrying 67:22	23:2,7,24 24:4
4:5	21:2	36:2,21 38:15	77:12	24:8,11,15
best 38:13,13	body 35:9 44:19	39:21 42:5	cars 49:16	29:14,20,24
51:2,7 63:17	45:7,19 61:25	44:15,17 45:25	Carter 3:17	30:11,22 31:1
better 22:24	Boggiano 65:8	48:6 49:25	51:16,20,22	32:24 33:15,17
38:8 46:15	66:3	55:11,12 57:12	53:11 54:24	33:19 35:4,25
47:8 48:12	Boggiano's	59:4 68:11	case 1:5 4:2	36:5,9,11 38:9
77:24	18:14 58:24	69:18 72:2,4	23:20 25:14	39:2,6 40:19
big 32:7,14 50:7	66:15	74:20,22	49:22 50:15	41:1,8 43:22
54:14	boring 59:9	building's 54:13	69:6 76:23	44:2,7 47:18
bigger 13:19	bottom 12:10,12	buildings 16:3,4	casement 19:20	48:18 49:6,10

				<u>-</u>
50:18 51:13,20	13:21	67:9 69:14	37:11	condition 36:17
53:10,14,19	CitiBikes 61:19	70:7 73:2 74:8	communication	47:8 48:13
54:22 55:18	city 1:1,1,9 2:3,6	comes 45:3	75:12	64:20 66:17
56:7 58:9 60:4	2:8,10,13 3:21	61:15	community	confirm 53:15
60:11,21,25	4:23 11:4 12:7	comfort 35:20	65:10	67:12
62:18,19 63:1	13:8 18:20	comfortable	compatible 43:6	conforming
63:5,22 64:24	20:11 26:2	7:16 8:19	57:22	26:12,14 28:22
65:5,13,17,19	34:20 35:18,23	17:22 69:4,5	complements	conjunction
65:23 66:7,21	41:13,14 47:21	73:22 75:19	16:17	59:20,22
67:2,5,14	49:13 50:21	76:3,4	complete 7:4 8:3	consensus 69:14
68:17 70:6,12	52:9 59:6,6	coming 21:4	completely	conservative
70:23 71:21,23	62:5 63:11,14	41:22 47:20	12:17 13:1	5:16,25
72:10,13,18	63:19 64:21	49:18 68:22,23	compliance	considering
73:1,5,9 74:15	City's 14:12	Commencing	28:24	22:14 65:1
74:21 75:8,21	claimed 42:19	1:10	compliant 7:13	76:7,17
76:2,21 77:10	clapboard 43:15	comment 30:15	12:18 13:1,5	consist 14:25
78:14	cleaning 55:9	30:16,23 35:7	26:7,10 27:1	consistent 27:25
challenge 52:8	cleanup 50:15	36:1 38:17	27:14,22,23	28:3,10,12
chance 66:24	clear 5:18 6:5,10	40:23 49:1	45:9 69:5,20	29:9
change 5:18	6:24 11:13	55:21 57:18	complicated	consisting 14:13
6:14 7:19	33:5 67:14,16	60:7 62:23	37:25	consists 5:7
19:15 27:21	client 33:13	70:18 76:6	complies 44:18	13:13
46:14 52:4,16	36:14 37:25	comments 14:12	46:1	construct 5:12
74:4	50:25 64:4	46:12 56:22	comply 14:11	45:25
changed 25:10	67:12 68:16	58:24 62:6	51:12	construction
46:20	69:10,23 77:8	64:7 76:8	complying 14:1	32:17,18 37:12
changes 18:20	client's 38:13	Commission	component 68:5	37:17 42:17
24:23 52:13	56:25	44:24 57:11	components	43:6 51:5
59:19,21	clients 36:22	58:5	48:6	57:22
changing 8:4	37:6	Commissioner	composing 45:9	construction's
58:25	close 63:3	1:12,13,13,14	concern 39:20	37:15
character 28:16	closed 63:6	1:14 23:6,10	39:22 40:3	contemplates
32:2 42:22	closer 52:7	23:12 29:22,23	50:2,7	55:16
43:7	Coach 30:19	33:17,20,25	concerned 40:4	CONTENTS
characteristics	36:7 60:9,14	34:4,11,15,18	40:15 42:9	3:1
46:16 57:23	Coffin 32:4	35:5,7 36:1,4	56:12	continuation
58:14	41:19	36:10,18 37:23	concerning	49:16,18
charm 32:2	collapsed 31:19	51:1 63:1,4	40:11	continue 11:22
check 7:21	color 16:8,15,22	65:5,13,17,21	concerns 31:10	60:6
72:14	combination	65:22 66:2,5	31:24 33:3,12	continuing
checking 5:22	25:4,11 27:19	66:11 70:17,19	41:3,12 42:4	31:25
choose 69:17	55:3	71:21,22,24	46:14 50:20	contractor
chose 40:6	combined 21:23	72:11,16,20,24	51:4 55:10	31:12
CHRISTOPH	25:5,21 26:11	73:3,10 74:19	62:7	conversation
1:12	28:25	77:22	concludes 18:1	70:5 77:12
circling 49:21	come 5:24 18:14	common 14:16	concluding	conversations
circular 16:25	45:24 48:21	56:18	78:12	65:20,25
17:4 circulation	49:13 61:8 64:22 65:3	commonly 13:8 communicate	concrete 34:23 condenser 15:16	cooks 64:11 coordinated
CII CUIAUOII	04.22 05.5	communicate	condenser 13:10	coor umateu
	l	l	l	l

37:9	covers 71:4	deems 71:2	76:12	direct 11:6 12:4
corner 12:23	create 50:7,13	deep 25:22	designated	DIRECT-EX
13:4	created 27:21	deeper 25:6,6	13:14 15:11	18:3
correct 21:25	criteria 28:18	27:20 42:6	designed 13:10	direction 10:16
22:1,5 47:18	29:8	43:1	designer 8:20	directly 40:10
49:25		defer 7:9 8:12	34:9 46:23	Director 2:3
	cross-gable 58:19		desirable 28:11	
Cottages 32:5		11:13 66:18		disagree 77:18
councilman	cross-gabled	68:25	52:21 59:17,18	disclose 50:12
18:13 58:24	57:15	deficit 25:19	desire 45:21	discuss 68:1,4
65:7 66:3,15	crowded 52:14	54:6	56:3	discusses 36:23
councilman's	CRUZ 1:14	definitely 69:23	details 17:24	dismissive 55:14
46:13 59:21	current 9:24	76:1	28:15	district 12:6
counsel 4:16,20	24:12	degree 69:16	determination	25:2,2
5:3 6:23 8:6,16	currently 5:7	demo 45:4	44:25 45:3	Division 2:3,6,8
11:14 29:16	12:14 55:6	demolished 45:5	76:9	2:10,13
30:1 32:25	65:3 77:17	demolition	determine 36:21	Dixon 41:15
33:16,18 38:12	cut 23:11	31:21 33:21	78:3,6	documents
48:19 51:14		44:24	determined	54:20
55:19 60:5	D	denied 73:21	31:18 44:20	doing 4:7 5:21
63:24 64:24	D 3:18 30:24	density 28:9	determines 7:6	47:11 55:1
66:21,21 67:7	53:21 55:22	42:16 45:8,16	detriment 27:8	76:13,14,19
67:19 68:3,15	56:4	52:13	28:19	77:20
68:18 70:7	damage 31:11	deny 67:3	detriments	door 32:18
71:18 72:8,25	31:25 32:20,25	Department	27:12	37:14 40:13
73:5 74:16	38:3 65:12	36:3,21 38:16	develop 37:3	doors 17:8 40:2
75:1 77:1,11	damages 38:16	depicted 54:19	developer 31:12	dormer 16:13
78:3,8,14	damaging 32:19	depth 25:12,14	37:1 40:13	21:4
79:12,14	date 11:12 76:24	39:21 40:15	development	dormers 46:19
counsel's 68:12	79:9	DERMOT 3:18	24:24 28:4	dorms 16:5
69:22	dates 5:23	DESAI 1:12	37:3 47:22	double-check
count 15:10	DAVID 1:14	describe 11:15	54:15 55:17	24:8
country 37:4	day 8:25 55:2	19:5	59:7	double-hung
couple 18:6	64:12	described 56:24	deviation 6:4,14	20:17
-	deal 8:8 67:19	57:1	6:24 7:6 27:1	downhill 40:10
30:18 46:2,11	67:20			
48:1	debate 39:16	design 9:5 14:9	44:16 45:24	48:9
course 6:8 19:17	December 31:12	15:19 16:10,13	64:19 73:20	downtown
21:18 23:18	decency 36:15	16:13 19:18,19	diagram 13:3	34:20 41:14
38:15	decide 76:11	21:4,22 32:6	14:1	52:12
court 9:12 38:25	decided 13:19	39:20 46:3,7	dice 67:8 71:20	DR 1:12
71:19		46:13 52:5	71:20	drainage 47:24
courtesy 7:15	15:23,25 16:6	58:14 59:5,8	different 15:7	48:3,13 62:6
courts 36:21	16:9,16,23,24	59:16,17,19	74:8	driveway 40:7
coverage 14:1,2	17:4	63:19 64:6,8	differently	driveways 62:7
14:2 26:15,18	decides 67:20	64:22 66:16	73:25	due 76:14,19
27:16,16,18	deck 17:24	67:6 68:10	dig 31:13	dug 33:21
29:3 48:5 62:8	decorative 56:17	69:9,11,18	digging 71:10,13	duly 3:22 9:15
62:9	decrease 32:8,9	72:1,3,6 73:14	diligence 76:14	10:12 24:2
covered 17:25	deed 38:5	73:22 74:3,9	76:19	30:24 38:22
43:19	deemed 7:4 8:3	74:20,22 75:17	dimension 21:16	41:6 49:4
	1	1	1	ı

56:5 60:23	entertain 51:11	66:14	36:16	fitting 58:6
dust 50:5 51:4	entire 69:7	excellent 36:5	far 25:25 50:2,7	five 72:21
dwarfing 53:6	entitled 45:8,10	36:10 37:23	50:9,13 58:4	five-minute
dwelling 27:13	45:11	exception 44:15	fast 78:11	70:16 71:19
28:10,23	entitlement	45:23	favorably 6:17	72:7,9
dwellings 52:22	69:16	exhibit 5:1	feature 59:15	flagged 68:23
	entrance 57:17	11:14 12:1	features 56:16	flooding 48:10
E	58:21	EXHIBITS 3:8	56:17 58:21	floor 14:25 15:5
E 1:16,16 2:1,1	environment	exist 46:22	59:5	73:5
10:11 24:1	21:11 28:12	existing 12:23	feel 31:22 32:17	focus 46:25
28:10 30:24	envisioned	15:24 16:5	52:17 64:10,22	follow 51:8,11
49:3 51:17,17	64:14	17:2 20:12,12	69:19	65:9
53:21 56:4,4,4	equates 25:14	20:14 33:22	feelings 32:22	follow-ups 18:6
60:22,22,22	Eric 3:17 51:15	34:12 42:10,12	feels 7:16 59:15	followed 33:14
79:1,1	escape 37:3	43:16 54:4	69:17,17 73:25	follows 9:16
earliest 70:13	especially 71:11	exists 47:12	feet 13:16 14:13	10:13 24:3
early 50:10	Espinoza 2:12	expect 69:24	15:2,9 21:20	30:25 38:23
echo 8:16 68:19	3:22	expert 9:4,22	25:4,13,14,16	41:7 49:5
73:10	Esquire 1:17,19	explained 13:10	25:18,19,21,23	51:19 53:23
eco 15:14 17:24	55:23	express 41:12	26:9,13 27:3	56:6 60:24
EDWARDO	establish 35:22	extend 32:10	42:10 45:11	foot 39:24
1:13	36:6	extent 37:10	felt 7:13 20:11	footings 34:21
Edwards 50:3	established	38:2 75:17	20:19 45:7,20	footprint 40:14
effect 5:24 7:5	56:14	exterior 13:13	52:23 59:20	foregoing 79:6
7:10	et 11:23	15:12	fenestration	foremost 11:1
effort 38:13,14	evening 4:4,7,13	exteriors 56:17	57:15 58:19	44:12
either 25:24	5:11 6:10,19	extra 33:13	field 9:4	forget 36:7
59:17 66:22	9:18 10:6 11:2		figure 50:14	form 4:19 43:6
67:7	22:17 24:5,14	<u>F</u>	figured 13:20	57:23
element 47:12	30:20 31:2,3	F 12:8 79:1	file 44:22	formal 18:11
59:16 69:9	39:1,3 41:9,10	facade 14:11	filed 7:3 8:2	forth 18:13 75:2
elements 20:24	44:13 51:21,22	15:6,19 18:15	filing 47:19	79:9
47:4 68:1	56:8 60:20,21	18:18 28:13	financially	fortunate 43:20
elevation 17:7	61:1 78:9	44:4 46:4,15	79:15	forward 49:24
17:13 20:10	everybody 4:7	59:17 69:15	find 26:2,22	77:12 78:12
eleventh 45:24	29:25 61:14	73:13 74:2,9	29:6 30:5,6	found 13:8 16:1
employee 79:11	64:12 68:10,13	75:17	41:20 71:3,10	16:11,14,18
79:13	69:14	facades 20:14	fine 7:7 19:11	21:5 38:8
encroachment	evidence 5:2	face 64:2	23:1 30:13	43:13
52:25	12:2	facilitate 65:10	70:3	foundation
enforce 38:16	exactly 8:17	fact 45:1 49:13	finish 17:21,21	31:17 33:20,23
engineered	19:8 72:21	59:6 61:12	first 4:16 6:21	foundations
48:12	examined 9:15	69:5	10:25 14:12	34:21
ensure 37:17	10:12 24:2	fair 35:16 67:1,4	16:22 18:7	four 15:1 26:13
ensuring 33:13	30:25 38:22	fall 38:15	31:10 35:25	42:12 44:2
entanglement	41:6 49:4	familiar 8:25	39:17,19 40:25	45:9
36:12	51:18 56:5	48:10	44:12 67:15	four-families
entered 77:15	60:23	familiarize 11:9	75:13	45:15
77:15	example 58:18	family 35:12,24	fit 57:4	four-family 28:2
1				

28:23	general 28:20	46:8 48:3 49:8	happen 34:19	57:23 58:1,4
four-story 5:12	generally 26:4	49:12 51:5	35:17 44:5	76:8
12:16 52:16	55:9	53:24 54:6,7,9	52:17	historical 28:16
four-unit 5:13	geometric 17:1	59:9 61:7,8	happened 24:19	42:20,22 43:12
12:17 27:13	GEORGE 3:19	64:11 66:22,24	35:10,10,19,22	history 42:1
fourth 15:5	getting 37:24,25	68:3,3,9 69:1	happening 44:4	Holdings 1:5 4:6
frame 57:13	57:9 71:16	69:13 72:3	52:7 54:2,11	home 31:5,6
67:24 75:3	72:5	75:4,24	happy 6:21 8:19	32:1,19 41:18
FRANCISCO	Gia 49:2	golden 35:14	29:11 37:20	42:12 43:13,16
2:12	give 4:11 18:21	good 4:4,9,10,18	44:10 51:10	53:3
free-for-all	35:18 67:12	9:17 10:6 24:4	54:25 56:2	homeowners
68:10 69:12	68:15 69:2	24:14 30:20	64:16	56:11
front 13:1,3,7	70:15	31:1,3 37:1,5	hate 52:25 72:14	homes 31:16,17
14:16 15:4	given 9:21 22:2	38:5,14 39:1,2	73:11,16,20	32:3 39:13
20:9 21:23	63:9,15,20	40:24 41:8,10	74:5	41:18 43:1
22:2 25:5,21	71:12 76:8	47:2 51:3,8,20	health 50:2 51:4	52:23,23 57:7
25:22,23 26:8	giving 51:24	51:22 52:18	hear 30:20,23	honestly 45:14
26:21,23 27:20	74:3	56:7 60:20,21	35:12 40:25	58:13 64:8
29:1,4,5 31:13	glad 47:2	60:25 64:5	41:1 56:20	hope 4:6,17
31:16 38:11	Glenwood 1:5,6	65:10 66:10	60:18	hopefully 6:16
40:6 44:4 47:1	4:3,6,23 5:5	72:11 74:5,11	heard 39:11	72:8 78:12
47:5,10,17,23	11:4 16:2,14	77:20,22	48:11 55:11	hour 22:21
48:20,21,22	16:19 31:6,13	governing 35:9	hearing 30:6,7	45:25 72:16
54:10 55:5,8	31:15 32:12	44:19 45:7,19	62:6 64:7	house 32:10
67:3,3 77:13	39:22 43:16	61:25	78:15	52:15,16 54:20
front-facing	44:5 51:24	grandma 50:2	heavily 13:20	household 60:13
42:25 57:16	56:11 57:12,19	50:11	heavy 19:19	houses 39:14,15
58:20	76:23	granted 29:9	71:8	43:9 52:1 53:7
fronting 43:8	go 10:7,20,21	gray 16:16	hedging 54:3	57:25
57:25	11:25 15:25	great 22:10	height 26:13	Hurricane 39:25
full 14:14 43:11	16:9 17:4 19:1	35:17 36:12	42:9,15 45:10	husband 31:7
61:2	19:23 20:3	greater 42:16	53:4,5	41:16 43:12
fully 59:24	21:18 33:19	green 16:17 48:6	heights 43:7	<u> </u>
fungible 59:18	42:5,11 43:1	greenery 54:3,7	57:23	
further 22:8	59:1 64:16	54:12,25 55:2	help 48:2	Ida 39:25
26:1 51:25	71:7,23 72:21	groundwater	hereinbefore	idea 62:20
79:10	74:5,11 75:2	40:17	79:9	identified 78:5
future 63:18	goal 6:15 45:22	guide 28:3	higher 42:5,10	identify 18:19
fuzzies 35:19	45:25 47:14,21	guidelines 69:21	Highland 44:5	images 42:13
G	goes 50:2,8,13	H	highlight 18:10	impact 54:7,10
	50:15	H 9:14 38:21	19:15	impairment 28:20
G 60:22,22	going 10:7,21		hill 39:23 40:2	
gambles 57:16 58:20	13:14,20,21,22	41:5 half 42:11 69:10	51:25	impervious 48:4 62:7
Gangadin 1:13	14:20,23 15:5	72:16	hired 31:12	importantly
23:6,10,12	15:21 16:21	hand 30:17	historic 32:2	56:25
29:23 63:4	17:20 18:7,13	38:18 62:23,25	39:14 41:14,21	improvements
65:17,22	19:1,14 20:3,7	handle 39:7	43:2,4,7,9,10	5:13
garden 48:3	20:8 28:6 34:6	hands 30:18	44:23 52:1	improving 47:7
Sarucii To.J	36:6 39:4 46:6	Hands JU.10	53:7 57:11,20	improving T/./
	l	I	I	

	1. 1.57.11	12.7.10.7.10	7010741	N
inception 45:23	issued 57:11	13:7 18:7,10	70:1,2 74:1	LaPorta's 10:16
inclined 64:18	issues 6:17 46:3	18:12,12,16,17	75:11 76:4	large 13:7 16:2
66:13	48:8,10 51:6	19:23 20:15	T	52:22 53:1
include 66:14	56:12 61:9	21:15,22 22:20	$\frac{\mathbf{L}}{\mathbf{L}}$	largely 43:3
including 68:5	68:4,23 74:7	22:21,24 26:8	L 2:1 9:14 24:1	57:20
77:2	Item 4:2	26:8 27:12	24:1,1 30:24	last-minute 30:5
incompatibility	items 3:23 48:1	28:8,13,19,22	49:3,3 56:4	late 75:9
32:1		30:12 32:8,14	60:22	law 27:25 51:12
incorporate	<u>J</u>	33:3,7,9,13	lacks 32:13	69:6
21:6 28:14	J 49:3 56:4	34:1,2 35:8,12	Land 27:25 59:7	lawn 55:3
incorrect 54:20	Janel 3:18 55:23	35:18,22 36:11	landscaping	lawyer 77:19
increasing 55:7	56:2,7,9 58:9	36:16,17,20,20	26:21,24 29:4	layout 14:23,25
incumbent 37:1	58:11,12	36:22,25 37:4	29:5 55:8	lead 34:9
India 31:7	January 31:18	37:11,13,13,16	Langston 1:12	leakage 31:14
indicate 4:12	Jersey 1:1,9,9	38:4,7,12 40:7	4:1,8 6:23 7:20	leaking 31:20
5:14 21:16	9:24 11:4,5	41:22 42:2,14	8:14 9:7,17,21	leave 38:8 66:24
33:4 78:10	12:7,7 13:8	43:12,12 44:12	10:1,14,19,24	75:22
indicated 55:8	26:2 34:20	44:14,19 45:6	19:3,11 22:9	left 12:12
69:13	35:18,23 41:12	45:13 46:3,6,8	22:11,13,18	left-hand 12:22
influences 57:14	41:14 52:9	46:22,24 47:12	23:2,7,24 24:4	legally 77:13
informing 31:4	59:6 79:5	49:17 50:11	24:8,11,15	let's 4:1,24 10:3
initial 31:21	JFK 14:7 57:19	51:3,7 52:20	29:14,20,24	11:18 23:7
insane 61:15	job 22:10 36:25	53:2,4 55:10	30:11,22 31:1	30:14,22 38:17
inspections 33:7	77:20,22	55:15 56:1	32:24 33:15,19	39:6 40:21
installing 47:17	John 12:8	58:13 59:13	35:4,25 36:9	41:1,3 48:25
insurance 38:4	judicata 74:7	61:14,17,18,19	38:9 39:2,6	55:20 60:6
intact 42:1 43:3	JULIAN 3:17	61:21 62:8	40:19 41:1,8	67:14 72:7
43:4 57:20	jump 4:10 10:15	64:10,13,19	43:22 44:2,7	73:2 76:22,24
integrated 58:15	jurisdiction 35:9	65:24 66:14,20	48:18 49:6,10	letter 43:2
59:6	36:2 38:10	67:10 68:19	50:18 51:13,20	level-headed
integrity 31:25	67:21 69:6	69:1,2,22 70:4	53:10,14,19	70:4
32:19 41:21	justify 73:19	71:5,7,13,16	54:22 55:18	license 9:23
56:13	K	71:16 72:4	56:7 58:9 60:4	24:11,13 79:21
intelligent 74:10	K 38:21 41:5	73:12,13,15,17	60:11,21,25	licensed 8:22,22
74:13		73:25 74:8,11	62:19 63:5,22	life 52:2,14
intend 78:10	keep 34:4,18 70:3	74:23 75:1,2	64:24 65:13,19	lift 71:9
intended 5:20		75:13,14,16,18	65:23 66:7,21	light 16:16,16
58:7 62:11	keeping 28:16	75:18 77:14,14	67:2,5 70:6,12	17:11 28:5,6
intent 28:21	47:5	77:16	70:23 71:23	44:16 45:24
68:11	Kennedy 12:8	knowing 36:19	72:10,13,18	54:7
interested 79:15	kept 20:24 kind 6:8 20:23	knowledge	73:1,5,9 74:15	lights 54:5
intimately 8:24		20:10	74:21 75:8,21	line 25:24 27:7
introduce 6:21	21:6 22:2,23	known 35:15	76:2,21 77:10	31:19,22 75:12
intrusions 43:5	70:3 76:12	knows 34:2	78:14	lines 33:10
57:21	kitchen 64:11	Krehel 2:9 3:22	language 67:18	Lipski 1:14 35:5
issue 8:12 64:2	knew 33:25	7:10,13 22:11	LaPORTA 3:3	35:7 36:4,10
64:23,25 66:12	knock 37:14	22:14 23:1	8:22 9:3,10,11	37:23 63:1
67:19 73:15	knocking 47:16	63:9 64:17,21	9:17 11:3	65:5 66:2,11
75:16	know 6:6,7 7:3,8	64:25 68:8	34:10 58:23	70:17,19 72:20
	7:17 9:1 11:9			

72:24	26:18 27:16	8:21 10:8 11:8	MG 30:19 31:7	75:14
Lipski's 51:1	35:2,20 42:7	11:15 18:5	36:7 60:9,14	motion 63:6
listed 71:15	42:10,13 44:9	23:15 75:19	mid-rise 12:6	move 4:1 8:19
lite 43:18	47:9,21 52:22	mass 55:12,16	25:2	12:21 21:14
little 11:10	54:5 58:12,14	massing 55:11	middle 11:7,7	23:7,16 38:17
13:19 14:22	59:10 64:11	64:19	12:5,10,25	48:25 55:20
15:7,23 18:17	lots 16:3 56:23	massive 75:17	midway 12:8	63:2 74:10,13
19:18 20:11,13	loud 50:10	master 71:14	Mills 41:15	moved 52:10
20:21,24 21:1	love 36:6 41:13	match 13:2 16:8	mind 18:25	moving 14:9
21:9 22:15	41:14 44:3	17:3,5 26:9	23:16 34:5,19	15:19 17:13
28:15 43:1	53:2,2 74:11	42:21	45:6	49:24 52:16
45:8,10 51:25	lovingly 41:17	material 46:20	minimal 27:12	multicolored
52:6 54:13	lucky 41:25	materials 20:7	minimai 27.12 minimum 13:16	56:19
72:1	lucky 41.23	28:14	minor 1:7 4:2	multifamilies
live 48:8 65:7	M	matter 1:4 36:20	5:12 76:23	5:10
lived 31:5 41:14	M 9:14 10:11,11		minute 18:22	
	38:21,21 41:5	78:1		multifamily
52:11 living 14:15 15:3	41:5 53:21	MATTHEW 2:5	69:10,25 70:16	12:6 25:2
0	M-a-c-C-O-R	McCORMACK 38:24	minutes 30:6,7	28:10
LLC 1:5 4:6	38:25		31:2 37:16	multiple 46:12 60:12
locally 42:2	MacCORMA	mean 35:20 37:2	39:8 41:9	
located 5:6 11:4	3:16,16 38:20	40:16 42:6,17	43:23 49:11	Municipal 27:25
12:6,7 13:4	38:24 39:2,5,8	51:5 59:18	51:21,23 53:19	municipality
15:17 17:19	39:10 40:20,25	61:7,17 66:17	56:8 61:1,3	36:25
25:1 32:3 57:8	41:2,8,10	75:3,11	67:12 72:17,21	N
LOMBARDO	43:23,25 44:3	means 36:7	missed 47:3 48:16	N 1:16 2:1 10:11
79:3,20	46:4	meant 70:10 meet 21:23		10:11 24:1
long 24:10 32:7 35:13 69:18	MacCormacks	meeting 3:23	misspoke 61:23 62:12	30:24 38:21,21
	44:14 48:17	22:22 63:12,18	misunderstood	41:5 49:3,3
long-term 35:23 longer 25:11	Maiden 32:5	65:21 70:8	62:13	53:21,21 56:4
look 14:12 15:21	mailing 4:22	71:8	modern 20:11	56:4
36:19 42:13	maintain 54:12		20:16 42:19,20	N-A-T-H-A-N
56:23 57:5,6	maintaining	meetings 71:12 meets 29:8	43:4 56:24	38:25
58:22 63:19	47:4	members 1:11	57:21	name 36:8 60:13
64:13 67:25	making 5:23	3:14,21	modern-like	named 32:5
78:12	35:23 59:21	memo 57:10	20:23	Nathan 3:16
looked 52:5 76:6	65:11	mention 4:16	mom 31:5 38:7	38:20,24
looking 22:15	managed 54:16	60:12	Montgomery	natural 17:11,12
24:20,21 28:14	management	mentioned 11:2	52:12	nature 59:11
28:18 57:1	48:7	12:16,24 14:10	months 18:11	72:22
61:5,17,25	MAR 19:19	14:18 16:23	Moreno 3:4 6:12	nearby 16:6
71:9 75:3	March 1:9	17:5 20:17	8:21,24 9:5	35:11
looks 42:13	Marione 2:2	24:19 28:22	10:3,6,10,14	necessarily
62:15,16 69:15	7:10	47:16,25 48:2	11:25 19:3	62:16
lot 1:6 5:5 14:2	mark 4:24 11:18	59:24	22:8 23:3 34:8	necessary 7:7
16:1,3,4 17:8,9	19:4,9	merely 43:18	34:12,16 48:2	8:11
17:10,11,11	marked 5:1	met 73:17 74:12	55:8 56:20	need 18:18
19:20 25:6,6	11:16 12:1	metal 20:9	58:22	25:18 39:18
25:12,24 26:1	Martin 3:4 6:12	meter 17:16	morning 37:15	55:25 61:12
23.12,27 20.1		1110001 17.10		-
	I	I	I	I

65:2 76:18	50:10,13 51:4	49:12 60:4	outweigh 27:11	pegged 22:23
needed 7:22	Notary 79:3	61:2 63:5	overall 25:20	pending 73:13
17:17 25:4,7	note 3:21 13:6	64:15 71:24	26:6,25 27:10	pending 75.15 people 40:5,6
25:17 31:20	43:25	73:1 74:15,25	overhaul 75:18	41:22 47:16
needs 47:8 76:6	noted 76:1	75:21 76:21	overly 5:15	60:12 61:4
76:12,16	notes 48:16	77:7	37:25	62:13 76:17
negative 28:18	notice 5:22 7:21	old 7:14 8:9	overseen 37:18	percent 25:13
29:8	8:7 37:16 65:1	21:25 24:21	owner 69:16	26:17,19,19,23
neighbor 17:5	65:3 67:15,19	25:3,17 31:5	owner 09.10	26:24 27:17
37:1,5,11 50:4	68:19,21 69:5	33:21 35:13	P	29:2,3,4
51:3 52:2 68:4	70:24,25 71:3	older 34:24	P 1:16,16 2:1	
neighbor's 17:3	77:7,14,16	once 15:5 38:10	9:14	percentage 25:12,13
neighborhood	78:2,2,4	60:17 77:1	p.m 1:10 61:13	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5:9 18:12 32:3	noticed 4:17	one- 45:17	61:13 78:17	percentages 14:3
	67:17	ones 7:18	P.P 2:2,7,9,12	Perfect 21:12
32:18 41:13,20 42:23 43:8	Notices 3:10	ones 7:18 open 28:5,7	P22-197 1:5 4:2	
		• ′	76:23	permeable 40:3
52:11,21,24	November 5:18	30:14 60:1	Page 3:3,4,5,10	permit 45:4
54:8,9,15,17	number 19:6,6	63:13 75:12	3:11,15,16,16	47:19 61:13
56:13,14 57:24	24:22 31:10	77:10,17	3:17,17,18,18	permits 33:6,9
62:14	36:13	opinion 68:7	3:19	49:14 50:25
neighboring	0	opportunity	pages 15:22	permitted 26:16
13:2 42:7	O 2:1 9:14,14	5:22 32:22	pages 13.22 painstakingly	26:17,19,20
46:16 54:6	10:11,11 24:1	39:11 73:8	41:17 46:11	27:18 28:2,9
neighborly 38:5	24:1 38:21	74:2,4,14	Palladium 43:17	29:3 45:16,18
neighbors 16:12	41:5 53:21,21	opposite 26:22	pallets 56:19	48:5 55:12
20:20 22:3	60:22	option 64:3 75:7	Pam 65:8	62:10 66:18
38:14 48:9	oath 53:16,18,22	options 64:1	panel 57:3 58:3	person 39:3 49:7
51:8 54:14		order 4:24 5:12	*	personally 71:5
neither 79:10,13	obviously 8:4 11:10 37:8	44:25 67:16	paneling 19:21 20:9,22	75:16
neutral 74:16	54:4 75:1,4	ordinance 7:2,4	panels 56:24	perspective
never 46:5,5	77:19	8:3,9 45:15	panels 36.24 parcel 35:11	47:23,24 48:13
69:13	odd 27:19	59:7 62:15	park 52:12	56:25
nevertheless	offer 63:25 64:3	ordinance's	61:13	Peter's 61:9
45:19 59:13	64:5	69:20		phone 22:22
73:16	office 18:14	ordinances	parking 32:12 32:13 40:5,7	photos 14:5
new 1:9 5:23,25	46:13 58:24	51:12	42:18 45:13,20	pipe 49:17
6:2 7:2,4 9:24	59:22 66:15	orientation 15:2	47:15,17,22	pivot 46:14
11:4 12:7	oh 4:15 23:14	15:10	48:20,22 61:5	place 26:5 33:6
24:22 25:9,18	okay 8:14 9:2,6	oriented 14:15	61:9,12,17	33:7 34:22
26:7 27:13	9:9,21 10:1,19	14:16		38:8 47:9 72:3
42:4,19 43:5	10:21,25 11:8	original 43:15	62:1,2,4,14,17 part 36:1 39:14	79:8
45:18 46:5,8,8	· /	originally 18:21	43:10 58:1	plan 1:7 4:3
50:1 53:5	18:23 19:1,12 20:1,6 21:21	24:20	particular 54:20	5:12 9:5 21:16
57:22 79:5	22:6,9,18 23:2	out-of-pocket	57:7 58:7	28:21 71:14,17
nice 17:22 47:12	23:14 29:20	38:5	59:15,16,16	76:23
72:12	30:11,14 33:15	outside 14:20	parties 79:12	planner 2:5,7,9
nobody's 61:8	34:5,15 36:4	65:20 67:23	parties /9:12 pattern 46:20	2:12 7:9
61:17	43:22 44:9	outstanding	PC 11:3	planning 1:2 2:3
noise 42:17	73.44 77.7	73:15		2:3,6,8,10,13

3:21 6:13 8:12	present 1:11	progress 52:5	protruding	70:13,18
44:19 62:5	11:3 16:21	prohibit 47:22	57:16 58:20	questioning
63:11,14,19	presentation	prohibited 62:3	provide 28:4,6	61:16
64:21 67:25	6:19 18:2,9	project 6:11	29:12 47:15	questions 6:21
68:1,5,12	30:1 44:12	8:20,25 11:3	provided 17:10	23:3,13,21
69:19 71:2	presented 52:6	14:6 25:9,20	34:13	29:15,21
Planning's 68:6	63:16 66:23	26:6,25 27:11	provides 69:6	quick 53:24 76:5
plans 5:17,19	74:23	27:15,24 29:7	providing 15:13	quickly 15:21
6:1 8:23 11:11	preservation	40:3,10,12,16	17:23 25:20	75:19
37:2 42:6,19	43:2 44:4,23	57:10 63:20	27:15 28:25	quite 42:20
42:24 48:11	76:9	64:18 67:6	29:5	45:14 46:10
58:22 63:12	preserve 77:7,9	promising 35:16	psychic 32:20	58:13
71:10 75:13	77:16	promote 27:24	public 30:10,15	quote/unquote
play 62:9	preserved 43:20	60:9	30:15 38:17	19:19
playing 77:21	78:2	promoted 30:19	49:1 55:15,20	quoting 43:3
please 12:4	press 30:17	49:2 51:15	60:6 62:22	
18:24 30:16	62:24	55:22 60:9	63:2,3,6 64:7	R
44:1,2 53:15	presume 37:4	promoting	76:18 79:3	R 1:16 2:1 9:14
55:21 62:23	pretty 18:1	28:11	publication 4:21	10:11,11 24:1
73:2	37:24 63:13	prompting	pull 6:6 18:22	24:1 30:24,24
plus 25:5	75:19	70:20	78:10	38:21 41:5,5
pocket 41:25	previous 13:11	proof 4:21 73:18	purpose 11:21	49:3 51:17,17
point 22:8 31:7	13:12 19:17	properties 13:3	28:1,3,10,12	51:17 53:21,21
35:14 39:17	20:2,6,7 21:3	16:19 20:21	28:21 69:7	60:22,22 79:1
46:4 47:2 51:1	previously 12:16	33:23 35:1	purposes 27:25	R-1 25:1
54:1,18 69:22	13:10 15:20	42:8 54:6	push 54:5	R-3 5:6,17,25
70:19 74:18	17:2 46:21	property 4:12	push-back	12:6 13:11,12
population 28:9	53:22	5:4,7 12:5,13	73:19	25:2 27:14
42:16 52:13	Prime 1:19 4:5	17:3,19 25:1	pushes 26:1	28:24 44:18,21
porches 56:18	prior 5:17 8:3	27:6,7 31:11	put 7:9 22:24	45:7,16,18
positive 29:8	18:18	32:20 33:1,8	30:7 32:22	46:1 55:13,16
positively 78:13	probably 26:4	34:14,19 35:11	37:21 39:19	62:1,16
possession 19:10	51:22 54:10	39:18 42:7	50:1 52:19	rain 40:8 48:3
possible 37:10	69:13	45:4 47:13	77:6	raise 30:17
51:2 53:13	problem 32:15	48:4,5 56:22	putting 7:15	62:23,24
possibly 58:5	50:13 63:22	58:7,15 62:4	47:22	raised 30:18
potential 31:24	73:9	69:16		38:18 57:17
66:12	problems 31:21	proposal 42:13	Q	58:21
poured 34:23	50:6	propose 62:3	qualified 9:3,18	ran 5:25
preach 38:14	proceed 5:20 8:7	proposed 12:20	10:2 24:16	razing 41:23
precaution 35:2	8:7	12:25 32:6	quality 52:2,14	reach 65:7 68:3
PRECISION	proceeding	40:2 42:6	Queen 42:3,21	read 45:14
1:23	73:22	56:22 59:1	43:9 56:14,15	reading 45:2
preconstruction	PROCEEDIN	proposing 4:13	56:16 57:6,14	real 73:19
31:11	1:6	12:16 20:15,18	57:25	realization 63:9
preface 31:4	process 11:10	21:17 25:16	question 4:15	really 19:15
prepared 5:16	productive 70:5	61:5	5:4 21:13	21:10 24:23
5:17,19	professionals	protected 43:19	29:11 33:18	26:3,3 27:7,10
prepping 22:22	4:14 6:8 37:19	protocol 51:8,10	35:6 61:3,21	27:11,18 28:19

29:7,9 40:8	redesigned	repairs 31:23	respond 30:10	40:5 49:13
44:13 46:11,17	14:11 15:6,20	repavement	44:10,11 48:17	50:4,23 60:16
48:12 52:13	28:13 58:23	49:15	responsibility	60:20,25 61:2
55:14 58:6	refer 57:10	replaced 31:20	67:6 71:11	61:22
66:7	reference 54:2	report 7:12	responsible	Riley's 33:12
rear 6:3 13:9,13	66:3	58:17 59:22	31:23	60:13
13:22 21:15,17	referenced	reporter 9:12	responsive	Rileys 65:11
21:19,23 22:4	58:14,17 65:9	39:1 55:24	46:24	risk 36:18 59:8
24:24 25:5,8	referencing	79:4,21	restore 38:6	74:7
25:14,21 27:2	50:23	Reporters 1:23	restored 39:12	road 6:18 59:2
27:4,5,6,8 29:1	refile 74:6	REPORTING	41:17	66:25
55:2 63:10	refuse 13:23	1:23	restoring 41:24	roll 67:7 71:20
67:17 72:23	14:18 17:16	represent 36:14	47:7	71:20
reason 17:1	regard 56:21	representative	result 31:14	Ronan 3:18
39:22 68:20	70:1	38:2	results 29:2	53:12,15,17,24
reasons 14:21	regarding 47:1	request 48:24	retain 43:20	54:23,24
52:10,20	66:6 68:19	64:15	retained 43:9	roof 15:11,12,14
recall 9:18	70:3	requested 18:20	58:1	15:17 17:24,24
receipt 4:21	regards 12:20	59:21 65:4	retaining 47:6	21:5 48:6
receive 44:25	13:9,15 15:11	68:12	retention 15:15	57:15 58:19
63:11	16:9,15 20:14	required 21:23	revealed 76:7	room 13:24
received 5:1	34:12	26:24 63:10	review 5:21 6:8	14:18,19 17:16
12:1	regulations 5:24	requirement	68:6 71:17	rounds 46:12
recess 73:4	reiterate 50:24	21:24 25:3,11	73:13 74:2	row 43:1,9 52:1
recognize 37:13	55:11	62:2	reviewed 4:18	53:7 57:7,25
47:11	reiterating	requirements	reviewing 71:6	71:12,13
recognizing	58:16	6:1,2 25:10	reviews 66:16	rubric 68:7
59:10,24 64:9	related 64:8	26:4,7 29:10	rid 40:7	rule 8:2
recommendati	relationships	res 74:7	ride 61:19,20	rules 25:17,19
58:4 74:18	65:11	reserve 30:2,9	right 4:1 7:4,19	run 6:17
recommendati	relative 79:11	reshow 55:1	10:15 12:14	running 49:16
51:9 74:3	79:13	reside 31:8	14:4 16:6,11	Tunning 17.10
75:15	remained 53:22	residence 5:8,13	18:21 22:7	S
recommended	remarks 31:4	57:14	23:5,7,14,25	S 1:16 2:1,1 9:14
75:18	remember 24:6	resident 35:18	27:6 29:24	24:1 30:24
recommends	REMOTE 1:6	41:12 51:24	30:2,9 35:4	41:5 56:4
43:5 57:21	remotely 79:8	52:9	39:6 40:13,19	safe 35:2
record 4:25 5:15	removed 43:14	residential 59:8	48:18 49:10	Sandra 3:15
7:8,17 22:25	rendering 3:11	64:6	50:3 51:13	36:7 50:4
30:8 31:9	11:12,16,21	residents 32:14	53:10 54:22	Santo 1:17
32:23 35:21	56:21 63:11,16	61:14	55:18,20 60:6	77:18
36:5 37:7,22	63:20 67:23,25	resolve 72:9	65:1 70:6	satisfactory
51:12 65:1	76:7	respect 4:22	73:24 76:19	59:23
66:3 77:6,15	renotice 69:3	16:12 51:3	77:13	satisfy 69:8
rectangular	75:23 77:2	64:18 66:15	right-hand 13:4	saw 24:5 39:20
59:3	78:6	67:15,22	Riley 3:15,19	46:19,19,20,21
recuse 65:15,25	renoticing 77:8	respected 20:19	30:20 31:1,3	saying 61:7 66:4
red 20:19	renovated 43:13	21:10	32:24 33:4	says 57:12 71:1
redesign 67:9	repair 47:9	respecting 15:24	36:9,10 39:13	scale 43:6 55:16
8				
	ı	ı	ı	ı

57:22	serve 15:14 16:4	35:2 57:19	sorry 10:10	22:1 24:21,22
scenes 37:8	SERVICE 1:23	sidewalk 42:25	12:23 19:13,22	27:14 28:24
scheme 16:15	session 63:3	siding 16:17	20:3 22:20	44:18 45:18
scope 57:10	set 25:23,25 26:5	17:21 21:2	23:18 48:15	46:1 55:13
scratch 74:6	79:9	43:11,14	62:12,19 70:11	59:8 64:7 72:2
screen 10:22,23	setback 6:3 13:2	signed 8:23	sort 15:13 16:10	73:23 74:3
12:5 19:2 20:4	13:3 17:15	significance	16:12,13,16,24	standing 24:14
23:16 39:3	24:24 25:8,15	45:1,3 76:10	20:8,9,18,23	start 6:20 44:11
49:7	25:21,23 26:9	76:10	21:4,11	52:17 74:6
scroll 15:22	27:2,9,20 29:1	significantly	soul 39:22	started 67:21
19:22 20:3	29:2 39:21	32:8 55:7	sounds 50:21	72:15
sealed 8:23	47:5,10 63:10	similar 15:2,9	sourced 42:2	starters 16:17
second 14:25	setbacks 13:16	15:10 16:7,12	space 28:5,7	starting 37:15
18:24 22:12	26:10,11 28:5	41:2 68:21	33:24 34:13	State 9:24 79:4
43:18 63:4,6	43:7 57:23	simple 37:24	spaces 13:14	stated 15:20
76:16	sewer 31:19,22	single 52:15	17:23	40:5
seconds 44:2	33:10	73:19	speak 6:13 9:5	stay 53:12
62:20 68:16	shadow 42:7	single-family	18:16 63:2	stenographica
SECRETARY	shame 41:25	5:8 52:23	66:6 70:1 77:7	79:7
30:19 38:19	share 10:22 19:1	57:13	speaking 11:2	step 22:11
49:2 51:15	31:15 33:12	sir 10:1,18,19	34:9 39:13	STEVE 1:14
55:22 60:8	shared 33:23	22:5 23:5	62:20 66:8	Steven 3:18
section 17:21	34:23 46:13	34:17 51:21	specialist 43:2	55:22
see 3:23 4:9 5:14	58:25	53:20 56:8	specific 56:16	stick 23:20
5:23 8:21,23	sheet 11:7 19:5,6	61:1	60:2	stipulation
9:9 10:23	21:3	sister 31:7	specifically 45:2	66:13
14:10 16:18,24	sheets 6:6 21:4	site 1:7 4:3 5:12	57:11 78:5	stone 42:2,25
19:23,25 20:1	shingle 43:15	5:13 12:11	specified 21:2	43:8 57:24
20:4 23:25	Shirin 3:16	14:5,5 21:16	spending 73:12	stood 21:10 57:1
30:18 35:22	38:19 39:12	24:20 48:7	spoke 56:23	stories 26:14
38:17 44:3	shocked 7:24	54:4,12 76:23	sprinkler 14:19	42:11,12
45:21 48:14,21	Shorthand 1:23	sitting 50:3	17:15	stormwater 48:7
52:3,15,16,25	79:4,21	situation 8:5	square 14:13	story 43:18
53:3 54:2 58:6	show 14:1 15:22	27:21 49:23	15:2,9	57:13
65:8,10 68:6	17:22 18:18	76:15	St 61:9	straight 4:10
73:16,20 74:5	showed 22:21	situations 68:21	staff 3:21 7:12	8:19 25:11
75:16	54:21	76:13	18:14 43:5	59:3
seeing 63:1,16	showing 12:11	six 39:15	57:21 69:19,19	street 12:13
seek 36:11	17:15	size 15:8 52:8	71:2	15:18 16:11
seeking 5:11 6:3	shown 63:20	57:9	Stafford 49:2	20:12,12,13
seen 34:19 44:13	shows 65:2,4	sliding 17:8	staggered 57:16	21:6 31:13,16
send 75:13	shrubbery 55:6 shrubs 55:4	slightly 27:8	58:19	49:14,19 50:22
Senior 2:5,7,9 2:12		sloped 21:5 smallest 45:16	stairs 31:15	52:12 61:11,20
sense 65:6	side 12:9 13:6,15	solely 73:21	stairway 31:15 stand 57:4	streetscape 15:24 43:4,10
sense 65:6 separately 39:7	13:16,17,18,18 14:7,22 16:16	somebody 35:13	stand 37:4 standard 13:11	57:20 58:2
sequence 11:22	17:13,14,18,19	37:2 60:15,18	13:25 24:25	stress 55:14
seriously 33:3	25:25 26:10,11	somewhat 59:25	standards 5:17	stretch 39:14
76:17	26:11 32:10	somewhat 39.23	7:14 13:12	strictly 13:14
/0.1/	20.11 32.10	501 C 3 / . 3	/.17 13.12	Surely 13.14
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

				rage 92
string 32:3	49:20 50:17	talked 71:25	58:8,9,11,12	time 7:19 8:1
41:18	53:14 61:20,22	talking 22:14	60:4 61:21	11:1 22:15
strong 15:25	63:7 65:11	talking 22:14 tall 17:23 32:7	68:18 70:6	23:23 29:19
16:7 17:6 50:1	67:11 68:2	taller 42:14	72:24 73:7	30:14 40:18
strongly 65:6,14	72:10 74:1	TANYA 2:2	74:15 77:5	41:11,22 43:24
structural 31:25	surface 40:4	taught 38:7	78:8,14	50:16 51:24
32:19	surrounding 5:8	team 44:11	thankful 32:22	53:9 63:19
structure 27:5	12:11 17:9	technically 9:22	Thanks 72:24	66:1 67:9,24
42:11	20:20,20 21:11	tell 26:23 36:22	thing 35:3 49:22	69:3 72:1,15
structures 12:12	35:1 42:22	ten 30:6,6 37:15	73:24 75:13	72:18 73:12
stucco 17:21	survey 12:20,23	term 69:12	things 11:19	75:3,24 78:9
students 16:5	13:1 34:13	terms 55:16	15:15 30:5	78:12 79:8
students 10.3 style 30:4 42:20	suspect 36:14	terrace 15:12	63:15 68:2	time-sensitive
56:14,15 57:14	suspect 30.14 sustain 8:11	testified 9:15	think 23:9 24:5	8:5
· ·				
57:25	swear 39:9 55:25	10:12 24:2	27:10 29:7	times 18:7 36:14 37:12
styles 46:17	55:25 sworn 3:14,22	28:13 30:25 38:22 41:6	35:5 40:23,24 41:24 46:22	
subject 72:5				timing 8:12
subjective 59:10	9:3,12,15 10:4	49:4 51:18	47:3,16,19	TIMOTHY 2:9
59:25	10:8,12 24:2	53:23 56:5	48:10,15,23	tinnitus 50:12
submission	30:23,25 38:22	60:23	52:8,20 54:15	today 35:16
11:12 19:8	41:6 49:4	testify 56:20 60:17	56:13 61:23	47:12 48:14
submitted 11:11	51:18 53:16,17		63:15,17 64:9	72:9 76:8
11:15,20 19:7	53:22 56:2,5	testifying 9:22	64:12 65:2	tonight 9:23,24
67:23	60:23	9:23 39:4 49:8	66:9,10,10,11	39:11,16 41:11
substantial 13:7		55:24	66:18,19 68:8	49:8 52:6
27:7 28:19,20	T 1:17 2:1 9:14	testimony 6:13	70:17 71:14	53:16 63:16,21
29:2	9:14 10:11	7:9,15,17	72:3 73:18,24	66:23 67:8
substantially	11:2 24:1	11:20 39:7	74:10,11,12,25	77:4,21
26:7,16,25	33:14 38:21	47:3 48:11	77:9	top 11:7 12:5,22
27:13,20 28:23	49:3 51:17	76:22,25 77:11	third 14:24 THOMAS 3:3	14:4 16:9 53:1
74:8 suffered 31:14	53:21 56:4	79:7 text 45:14 59:14		topography
	79:1,1		thorough 18:6,8	47:13 Tarmag 1.12
sufficient 32:13	T.F 1:19	thank 4:9 5:3	thought 22:23	Torres 1:13
suggest 57:3 58:3 69:1	table 3:1 73:12	8:15 10:1,5,19	three 14:14,14 15:1 31:2 39:8	29:22 33:17,20
	take 4:14 33:2	11:1 12:3,3		34:4,8,11,15
suggested 61:24	33:13 35:20	18:5,8 21:12	41:9 43:23	34:18 71:21,22 71:24 72:11,16
suggesting 44:11	46:15 51:23	22:9,19 23:5	49:11 51:21,23	73:11 74:19
62:13,15	61:2 71:19	23:22,23,24	53:19 56:8	
suggestion 71:25	72:7 73:8	24:15,17,17	61:1,3,10	77:22
suggestions 60:2	76:12,24	29:13,14,24	71:12,12	totally 5:25
sum 30:3 72:20	taken 7:5 14:5	32:24 33:15	three- 45:15	66:19 74:17
sunlight 32:9	49:25 67:21	35:4 36:11	three-family	touch 46:2
42:6	73:4 76:16,22	39:10 40:18,19	53:3	tough 40:6
supersede 70:21	76:25 77:11	41:11 43:24,24	three-story 5:8	towers 56:19
supposed 34:22	70.23 77.11 79:7	44:6,7 48:18	thumb 57:5	traditional
sure 5:23 6:16	takes 47:9	50:16,17,18	Thursday 40:11	14:12 15:21,23
13:5 17:10	talk 8:8 53:5	51:13 53:8,10	Tim 22:19 63:7	16:25 20:13,17
22:13 34:1	68:16	53:24 54:22	65:6 70:20	20:25 21:9
41:4 42:24	00.10	55:18 56:9	75:2,21 76:2	34:21,24 56:23
		I		1

transcript 1:4	unaware 51:10	valid 50:20	63:8 65:24	weird 7:18
3:24 79:6	underneath	Van 52:12	68:13 71:20	welcome 70:7
treasure 41:17	43:16 45:12	variance 7:16	76:5 77:2	73:3
tree 54:10	undersized 27:8	8:11 22:16	wanted 6:9	welfare 28:20
trees 17:9 54:3,8	understand 21:1	27:12 63:10	14:21 17:3,10	well-thought
55:3	22:18 39:18	65:2,4 67:17	21:6,8 39:17	70:4
triangle 16:12	52:4,4 61:18	70:20 71:2,9	41:10,11 42:14	went 17:6,25
triangular 16:10	68:13	71:10,15 72:4	52:19 76:20	20:16,19
trim 56:18	understanding	72:5,22 75:23	wants 8:6 30:16	weren't 52:22
triple 16:10	21:22 47:20	77:3 78:4	62:23 68:6	68:22
true 79:6	61:25 62:4	variances 7:22	Ward 2:5 3:21	west 12:8 14:7
try 46:7 72:6	64:6	29:9 68:22	65:8	32:9 57:19
trying 23:10	understands	70:25 71:6	warm 35:18	wider 14:22
50:14 54:4	69:25	various 5:9,10	wasn't 7:24	17:14
66:11	understood 7:20	varying 5:9	60:14	wife 39:12
Tuesday 1:9	8:14 67:24	vegetation 15:14	waste 72:14,19	William 32:4
turrets 56:19	76:21	ventilation	water 15:14	41:18
Tuvel 1:19 4:5	unfortunately	17:12	31:14 39:24	willing 63:18
two 6:11 13:13	33:11 46:7	Victorian 56:15	49:18	65:14 67:8
14:13 15:22	51:5 54:9	VIDYA 1:13	waterlines 31:19	willingness
42:11 63:25	69:12	view 12:11,13	way 8:6,7 55:6	10:15
67:12 68:16	unique 47:13	views 14:6	63:15 75:8,12	window 16:25
69:2 70:8	56:16	VIJAYA 1:12	ways 59:11	17:1,2,5 43:17
two-53:3	unit 13:15,15	vinyl 17:20	we'll 8:20 30:23	43:18 46:20,21
two-and-a-half	14:9,13,24,24	43:11,14	39:9 71:19	58:21
57:13	15:8,8,12,13	visible 15:18	75:13	windows 17:8
two-and-a-hal	15:16,17	visit 14:5	we're 4:13 5:6	17:10,20 19:20
12:15,24	units 17:8 45:9	visual 28:11	5:11 8:4,9	20:16,17 57:17
two-bay 57:13	university 16:6	Vorst 52:12	21:17 25:16,23	Wine 1:19 4:4,5
two-families	61:10	vote 66:22,22	26:8,17,19	4:10 5:3 7:1,24
45:17	unmute 9:11	67:8 73:13	27:14,17 28:11	8:16 9:9 10:8
two-family	unpack 44:10	74:23	28:14,25 29:4	11:8,24 13:10
12:15 52:23	updated 27:14		41:25,25 45:9	18:4 19:7,12
two-story 52:15	upfront 8:8	W	45:11 47:4,5,6	22:7,19 23:9
57:16 58:20	uprooted 49:14	W 24:1 41:18	51:10 55:1	23:14,20,25
two-unit 12:24	upset 76:18	walkway 47:8	67:14 72:5	29:13,18 30:2
type 8:5 34:21	upsetting 32:21	wall 31:16 42:2	74:19,21,23	33:2,25 35:21
37:16 47:22	use 19:19,20	42:25 43:8	76:13,13,19	36:12,18 40:22
typical 14:25	20:7,8 27:25	47:1,5,6 57:24	77:10,11	41:4 44:9
26:3	28:1,2,4 35:2	want 5:14 6:5,6	we've 18:13 26:8	50:17,20 54:24
typically 26:2	39:19 69:12	7:7,20 16:21	26:23 32:11	58:11 61:4,22
29:6	uses 5:9,10	18:10 30:3,7	48:23 59:6,11	63:13,17,24,25
	usually 26:22	31:9 33:4 34:3	60:8 74:12	65:9 66:9 67:1
U	utilities 13:23	37:4 40:22,24	75:11	67:4,11,13
U 49:3	14:19	44:11 45:13	week 24:5 70:10	68:18 70:10
ultimately 51:6	utility 17:16	46:2 48:19	70:12 75:4,6,8	73:7,10 75:6
55:15 62:11		50:11 54:1,11	weeks 46:11	75:10,22 76:1
69:15,15 73:14	V	54:18 59:1	69:2 70:8	77:5,24 78:8
	TT 5 C 4	L (0,0 (1,10		· ·
umbrella 70:21	V 56:4	60:9 61:18	71:13	Wine's 35:14

63:13	25:22 26:9,10	13 4:2	76:3,5,25	
wire 30:12	26:11,21,23	130 32:4	78:13	
wish 33:25 36:3	27:2,8,20 29:1	13204 1:6 5:5		
52:6	29:4,5 40:6	14 1:9 41:13	5	
wishing 63:2	47:5,17 48:20	14-bedroom	5 3:10	
witness 3:2 6:22	48:22 55:2,8	61:5	5.3 26:11	
9:20,25 10:5	63:10 67:17	1895 32:4 39:13	51 3:17	
10:18,21,25	72:23	39:15 41:17,19	53 3:18	
12:3 23:18,22	yeah 8:16 23:9	46:6,9	56 1:6 3:18 5:5	
24:7,10,13,17	23:22 24:7	1957 31:6 32:11	56.9 25:21	
29:17,18 39:9	29:15 30:2,11		56.9-foot 28:25	
40:21	35:7 36:18	2		
witnesses 6:11	53:5 63:9,25	2 13:15,17,17	6	
wood 57:12	65:19 66:7	14:24 15:8	6:30 78:16	
wooden 21:2	70:12,13 72:13	42:10	60 3:19 26:17,24	
43:15	75:10 76:1,4	2-foot 17:19	29:3	
work 33:7 50:22	years 31:5 35:13	2023 1:9 78:16	64 26:23 29:4	
60:3 64:21	35:14 41:13,15	24 3:5	642-4299 1:24	
66:13 75:14	41:16 52:9	25 25:12,13,13	7	
worked 10:16	Yep 19:25,25	25:23 26:9	7:37 1:10	
working 33:9	20:5	25.8 13:2	73 26:19	
62:5 63:14		25.8-foot 47:10	13 20.19	
works 75:19	Z	3	8	
world 37:24	zone 5:6 6:14		8:57 73:1	
worries 30:12	28:21 45:8	3 13:16 14:24	80 26:19	
Worstell 3:5	62:1	15:8,13,16 61:13		
6:13 21:14	zoning 5:18,25	3.3 13:18 26:10	9	
23:8 24:4	8:4 12:17,19	30 3:15 27:3	9 3:3 30:18	
29:15,21 55:7	21:25 25:3	52:9	61:13 62:24	
worth 7:12	40:12 69:19	31.1 21:19 25:16	9:02 73:2	
wouldn't 64:4	zoom 21:19	31.1-foot 25:8	908 1:24	
Wraparound	0	35 25:4		
56:18		35.9 25:14,18		
written 25:4	1	38 3:16		
wrong 47:18	1 13:15	3D 3:11 11:16		
X	1,280 14:13			
x 1:3,8	1,437 15:9	4		
XI01201 79:21	1,438 15:1	4 15:13,17 78:16		
	10 3:4	4-foot 6:3 72:23		
Y	104 31:5 35:13	4.8 25:19		
Y 24:1 30:24	12 3:11 27:17	41 3:16 44:5		
49:3 60:22	120 31:15 32:3	41.9 26:13 53:5		
yard 6:3 13:2,3	122 31:6	42 45:11 53:6		
13:7,9,13,16	124 1:5,6 4:3,6	45 44:5 62:20		
13:18,22 14:22	4:22 5:4 11:4	72:16		
17:13 21:15,17	31:13 43:16	48 26:17 29:2		
21:19,23 22:2	44:5 57:12	49 3:17		
22:4 24:24	76:23	4th 70:9,14 75:1		
25:5,8,15,21	124's 31:22	75:16,20,24		
L	•	·	•	•