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IN THE MATTER OF: SCI NEW JERSEY FUNEF SERVICES, dba BLOOMF		L
Block 37, Lot 1&2		
	120 Route 522 Manalapan, New Jersey Thursday March 2, 2023 7:45 p.m.	
B E F O R E: Steve Leviton, Chair Robert Gregowicz, Vi Terry Rosenthal, Men Robert DiTota, Membe David Schertz, Membe Joshua Shalikar, Men Basil Mantagas, Alt Daniel Pochopin, Alt Michael Wechsler, Al	ce Chairman per r r per #1 #2	
	 IVAN-HILL & ASSOCIATES	

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    APPEARANCES:
 3
            MARMERO LAW
            44 Euclid Street
            Woodbury, New Jersey 08096
 4
            BY: ALBERT K. MARMERO, ESQ.
 5
            Attorneys for the Board
            SONNENBLICK, MEHR & LICATA, ESQS.
 6
            3 Monmouth Street
 7
            Freehold, New Jersey 07728
            BY: PETER G. LICATA, ESQ.
            Attorneys for the Applicant
 8
 9
10
11
    ALSO PRESENT:
12
       Janice Moench, Recording Secretary
       Brian Boccanfuso, Engineer
13
       Sam Avakian, Planner
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Page 4 1 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Marmero, before we call for the first and only public hearing this 2 evening, would you swear in our professionals. 3 4 MR. MARMERO: Absolutely, Mr. 5 Chairman. 6 (Professionals sworn by the attorney, 7 Mr. Marmero.) MR. LEVITON: Board, you're looking 8 at Mr. Sam Avakian from the Avakian firm. And he's 9 here representing Jen's interests this evening. 10 11 He'll be speaking to the report she wrote. 12 Brian, the last time we were here, you characterized your input as subsidiary, for lack 13 of a better word. But tonight there's an LOI, an 14 15 ESA, an HAP, an EIS, a stormwater management plan and traffic analysis. I hope you had a good dinner. 16 17 MR. BOCCANFUSO: It's quite the 18 alphabet soup, isn't it, Mr. Chairman. 19 MR. LEVITON: Yeah, it is. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Well, you'll be 20 happy to know we've reviewed it all, addressed it in 21 our report, and as I'm sure you're going to hear 22 23 from the applicant and their team, a lot of the 24 items from our report have been addressed. 25 MR. LEVITON: That's fabulous. Okay.

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Page 5 So, speaking of the applicant. The application 1 2 number is 2209 and the applicant is SCI New Jersey Funeral Services, doing business as 3 Bloomfield-Cooper. And they're here regarding the 4 5 construction of a new building. They're requesting preliminary and major final site plan and a use 6 variance. And on behalf, the board recognizes from 7 the professional corporation of Sonnenblick, Mehr & 8 Licata the esteemed Mr. Licata. We also see the 9 principal and president of Engineering Consultant 10 11 Company; is that right, Mr. Ploskonka? 12 MR. PLOSKONKA: Correct. MR. LEVITON: And Mr. Halari, welcome 13 back. Mr. Licata, we accept their credentials. 14 They appeared before this board many times. And 15 there's no need to go over them. 16 17 MR. LICATA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members 18 19 of the board, professionals and staff. Peter Licata on behalf of the applicant. 20 We're here to present to you what is 21 proposed to be the phased replacement of the 22 23 existing funeral home facility, which has been operating since the early 1990s, with a more modern 24 25 facility and expanded facility. It is a project

Page 6 that is taking shape over several months. I think 1 we had three separate informal conferences with the 2 board's professionals, and they were kind enough to 3 indulge us to review our thoughts at various stages 4 5 to address review comments. Our first witness is actually going 6 7 to be Michael Steffaro, who has oversight responsibility for this location, as well as others 8 of the applicant in this geographic region. After 9 he talks about how the funeral home runs now and how 10 they would propose to see that evolve, we'll bring 11 12 up Mr. Ploskonka to review the site details and the more technical aspects of the design. 13 14 We have our architect here, if necessary, for questions. The visual exhibits were 15 submitted some time ago, and unless board members 16 have questions or require further explanation, we 17 don't intend on calling him. 18 19 Then there'll be Mr. Rea. Mr. Rea will speak principally to traffic and parking and 20 particularly with regard to the phasing and how 21 phasing works with parking and visitors and 22 23 families; really that's going to be the crux of his testimony. And then lastly, Ms. Coffin will come up 24 and testify as to the variance relief. Thank you. 25

Page 7 1 MR. LEVITON: You're welcome. 2 Welcome, sir. MICHAEL STEFFARO, sworn by attorney. 3 4 MR. MARMERO: Could you state your 5 name for the record, please. 6 MR. STEFFARO: Michael Steffaro. 7 MR. MARMERO: How do we spell the 8 last name, sir. 9 MR. STEFFARO: S-T-E-F-F-A-R-O. 10 MR. LICATA: Thank you. EXAMINATION BY MR. LICATA: 11 12 0 Michael, how long have you been in the funeral industry? 13 14 I've been in the funeral industry Α since 1994, approximately. 15 And during that time, just generally, 16 Ο 17 where have you worked and what positions have you 18 held? 19 А I started out as a intern in 20 Arlington, Virginia, served my internship there, got licensed as a funeral director. Thank God, met my 21 wife, moved to New Jersey in 1996. Served as a 22 23 funeral director in Sayreville for Maliszewski 24 Funeral Home, then moved to Gutterman & Musicant in Hackensack as a licensed funeral director there. 25 Ι

	Page 8
1	was there for a few years as a licensed funeral
2	director. Then luckily was asked to take on the
3	responsibility to manage Bernheim-Apter-Kreitzman
4	Funeral Home in Livingston, a relatively brand new
5	funeral home at the time. I was there for
6	approximately three years in that role. And then
7	asked to manage the Jewish funeral homes that our
8	company owned in New Jersey and a couple of them
9	that we had had responsibility for in New York. And
10	then in 2007 I moved into the current role of which
11	I'm in now as what's called the market director.
12	So, I'm responsible for all the funeral homes that
13	our company has ownership of in the State of New
14	Jersey.
15	Q And so, is that from 2007 to the
16	present?
17	A Correct.
18	Q And that would include this facility?
19	A That's correct.
20	Q Okay. In terms of your title, what
21	oversight functions, you know, fall within your
22	realm?
23	A So, as a market director, your
24	responsibilities are, you know, financial
25	responsibilities for the success of the funeral

Page 9 homes themselves. A lot of my time is spent with 1 2 dealing with associates, with employees. And handling their -- what's going on in their workload 3 and making sure that we have the right number of 4 people to serve the families we have. We employ 5 6 about 287 people throughout the State. 7 And at the Bloomfield-Cooper location Q on Wilson Avenue, how many people do you employ 8 there? 9 10 А We have nine, nine people. 11 Can you kind of break them down by 0 12 what they do? 13 А So, one of the people that's very important to the location is the person who's 14 running that location, the location manager. We 15 16 have someone who's an office manager. Normally, the location manager is also a funeral director. We 17 have, I believe, four funeral directors that work at 18 19 that location. And we have some people in the community to help out on funerals as well. And then 20 21 we have one person designated to educate people about pre-planning their funerals ahead of time. 22 23 And there are no cremation facilities 0 at the current building, correct? 24 25 А No.

Page 10 1 Go ahead. 0 2 No cremations. In fact, you know, Α funeral homes cannot have a crematory on their 3 property or be anywhere associated with them. 4 5 So, naturally, none is proposed as 0 6 part of this application? 7 Correct. That is correct. А And what are the days of operation? 8 0 9 Α We operate seven days a week. 10 Normally, hours of operation are from eight o'clock 11 to six. There is some activity, of course, that 12 goes on at night, depending on what's going on in the community. We also have people who would be 13 coming into the funeral home to sit with the family, 14 15 sit with the deceased over time, if necessary, as 16 prescribed by the faith. And typically speaking, during the 17 Q years, and specifically years not affected by Covid, 18 19 you know, how many services or families do you service a year and how does that kind of break out, 20 you know, through -- by way of what's a regular --21 22 Right. А 23 -- volume? Your peak volume? 0 24 So, we normally serve anywhere from Α about 310 to 340 families in a given year. We serve 25

Page 11 them traditionally. Most of them are of the 1 traditionally Jewish faith at the funeral home. 2 So, the majority of them are following the traditions 3 that are outlined by their faith. 4 5 Now, of those families, do all or --0 6 what portion of the families will have memorial 7 services at this location versus, say, at this location and at a grave site or only at a grave 8 9 site? 10 А So, traditionally, you know, the normal service would have been, you come to the 11 12 chapel, families come to the chapel a little bit prior to the actual service. They come into the 13 funeral home and they proceed from the funeral home 14 to the cemetery. Due to time constraints and other 15 16 factors, there are other services that people take 17 with us as well. And that's where they bypass the chapel service, bypass using the funeral home for 18 19 the actual service and they go directly to the 20 cemetery. With -- they call that a graveside 21 service. We would -- I would say that it's about half the families, anywhere from 140 to 160 families 22 23 actually choose to be in our funeral home, and the 24 remainder we would have services at, directly at the 25 cemetery.

Page 12 And not here first? 1 0 2 Not, not really coming into the А funeral home at all except for caring for the 3 remains in our building. But no visitors, no one --4 5 not a large service, if that makes sense. 6 Right. Okay. And, now, the current Ο 7 facility has one chapel? 8 А Yes. 9 And as you mentioned, based on 0 tradition and also tradition impacting the operation 10 or the operable hours for the gravesite services, 11 12 how does that result in the scheduling of services during the course of a day? 13 14 So, depending on what cemetery А families ultimately own property in, kind of 15 dictates a lot of the choices that they have to make 16 in our funeral home. Based on where we are and 17 where the cemeteries actually are. So, we're very 18 19 limited to only be able to have three chapel services a day in our current facility. We would 20 have a nine o'clock service, an 11 o'clock service 21 and one o'clock service. 22 23 Now, if a family chose to have a cremation and a memorial service, we could, of course, 24 accommodate a memorial service later on in the 25

Page 13 afternoon simply because there's no need for that 1 2 family to move from the funeral home to the cemetery. But it really -- a ton of it depends on 3 4 what cemetery people actually own property in. Α 5 large percentage of the people we serve in the 6 community of Manalapan actually own cemetery 7 property in Long Island. So, that's quite a distance, any of you had to drive to Long Island, 8 especially in the middle of the day out to 9 Farmingdale, I believe, is the town in Long Island. 10 11 We're limited to only really having nine o'clock chapel service for that family, because by the time 12 they get out to Farmingdale, it's well into that 13 afternoon time frame, so. 14 15 So, then, again, based on your 0 16 operations and the traditions that are adhered to, you could, in effect, at a maximum have four 17 services a day? 18 19 Α Correct. 20 0 Okay. And how would that compare 21 with the proposed facility with the two chapels? How do you plan on running your services, and why 22 23 two chapels, and what does it mean for your business and for the community you serve to have the two 24 25 chapels?

Absolutely. So, I guess, one of 1 Α 2 them, absolute advantages of trying to create this, to help serve the community, is having two chapels 3 would give us the opportunity to still provide very 4 5 focused service on the families, but having services 6 on the break in between. So, if we currently can 7 only do a service at 9, 11 and one, now we could do a service at 9, 10, 11, 12 and one. So, we would 8 9 gain two chapel services to be able to serve two more families. And why that's important to us is, 10 11 where it's natural that some people want to choose 12 just to have the funeral services at the cemetery, not everybody wants that. The faith that most of 13 14 the families are following are encouraging services to happen very quickly. So, it's not like we have 15 16 five or six days to wait till the chapel opens up. 17 By faith, the idea is, you want to have the burial as quickly as possible, if possible. Right. 18 19 So, most circumstances will happen where

families that might not be super, super religious, they may wait a day or they may wait two days. But families that are very, very observant in their faith, they're going to have that funeral almost immediately, to the point where someone could pass away at two o'clock in the morning, and have the

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Page 15 funeral at 11 o'clock that same day. 1 2 So, that's -- so, it's important that we're able to help provide services where people don't 3 have to make a decision, oh, your chapel's busy, so 4 5 we can't actually have our service here. So, we're kind of forced to just go to the cemetery. So, 6 7 that's kind of the real purpose of trying to be able to help serve with two different chapels. 8 And would you envision two services 9 0 happening simultaneously? 10 11 А No. 12 And explain to us how that works and Q 13 why not? 14 I'm not sure if anyone's ever been to А our funeral home or not, but the intent of all of 15 our funeral homes is when families come into our 16 facility, we want to give them full attention. And 17 we don't want to be focused on two different 18 19 families at once. Sometimes people will come in while one family service is going on. But we really 20 want that service, that time, to be something that 21 they remember, that they remember that they didn't 22 23 have to be rushed through or interrupted by someone 24 else that's in the room. So, we really want to focus on creating that environment where they have 25

Page 16 the time to make sure that they could gather as a 1 family, meet some friends as they come prior to that 2 service, have a service led by the rabbi, and then 3 leave in procession to the cemetery, without other 4 5 people being in there, in their way, if that makes 6 sense. 7 No, it does. So, what I'm hearing is 0 that you have more times to offer families. And 8 9 also, I imagine, by having the two chapels, you're not kind of limited where you have to change the 10 arrangements inside one chapel to accommodate a 11 12 different size --13 А Right. 14 -- of attendees. You can stage the 0 15 chapels independently of each other, without having to take time to take it apart and put it back 16 together, basically? 17 18 Α That's correct. If we looked at the 19 some of the plans, it actually is built to really help us be able to accomplish that process. 20 And how do you manage the arrival of 21 Ο the family and then the attendees and then the 22 23 departure of the attendees and the family and then 24 the arrival of the families and the attendees for the next service? I imagine you do some staggering, 25

some direction, so I think the board would be
 interested to hear about that.

So, I'll kind of walk through a 3 Α scenario if there's a nine o'clock chapel service, 4 we would ask the family, the immediate family, to 5 arrive at our funeral home at eight o'clock. This 6 7 way we have some time to spend with them so we can discuss a few of the items that may happen and also 8 enables them to be there prior to family and friends 9 starting to arrive. 10

11 Family and friends will arrive from eight 12 o'clock to nine o'clock. Nine o'clock exactly, the service will start. Services are normally 45 13 minutes. Takes about 15 to 20 minutes to have 14 everyone kind of get to their cars and get out into 15 16 procession or to directly go right out to the 17 cemetery. So, that allows that next family to come in without kind of missing a beat. So, if we had a 18 19 eight o'clock family in, nine o'clock service, by ten o'clock, the funeral home's empty, next family 20 could come in and so on. 21

Q And do you use employees to direct
people leaving and coming in their vehicles? Do you
station them outside to direct the traffic?
A If it's necessary. You know, not all

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Page 18 funerals are super large. I mean, I think we did 1 kind of a study, I think, over a period of time. 2 Some of the services, you know, you may have, you 3 know, maybe 20, 25 cars. I think we had a really 4 5 unfortunate service for a young person in the fall 6 and we had, you know, a hundred and some cars at that funeral. So, that service we needed to make 7 sure that we provided some guidance to the cars. 8 But on a traditional service, you know, we also try 9 to give out directions so the families could make 10 their way to their cemetery, give them GPS 11 12 coordinates, because, unfortunately, one of things, especially driving to New Jersey, trying to keep 13 funeral processions together, is not the easiest 14 thing in the world to do. 15 Right. So, as part of the phasing, 16 17 you would propose to keep the existing building operational until the new building and the parking 18 19 that is directly adjacent to that new building is completed and certified with a CO and permitted to 20 be used; is that correct? 21 That's correct. Mainly, just so that 22 А 23 we could still seamlessly serve the community, we felt that was, if possible, the best thing to do. 24

Q And as part of that design, is it --

Page 19 am I correct in understanding that until the sec --1 I'm sorry -- until the original building is taken 2 down, and where that building now stands, a 3 additional parking area is completed, you would only 4 use one of the two chapels in the new building; is 5 6 that correct? 7 Yes. You know, based on needing to Α be able to provide the proper amount of parking for 8 families and making sure they're not inconvenienced, 9 without question, we would most likely use the 10 chapel where the parking lot will be built --11 12 Q So, as ---- on the right-hand side. 13 А Yeah, as you said on the right-hand 14 0 side, looking at the big viewing screen above us 15 where the building is, it would be the portion of 16 the building that is -- yeah, right that abuts that 17 parking lot? 18 19 Α So, that chapel right there. That chapel there. Okay. And there 20 0 is, behind that portion of the building, there is a 21 smaller detached building that -- what is that? Do 22 23 you see a dimension there of about 12 feet, I think 24 it's --25 Α That --

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Page 20

Q Yeah, go ahead.

A We wanted to make sure if we're going to be building a funeral home, that we have a place for Kohen to be able to at least be under and protected from the elements. And we'd have a television view of what's going on in the service so that they have an actual building.

I'm not sure if you're familiar but a Kohen 8 should not be under the same roofline as a decedent. 9 So, often, some of the funeral homes may have a 10 portion of their funeral home that's built where 11 12 it's under a different roofline, but we felt it probably be best just to carve out a piece of the --13 right behind the chapel and they'd have their own 14 entrance and they could be able to see the service 15 and not worry about the weather, if that makes 16 17 sense.

18 Q And once the new building is up and 19 running, is it your company's plan to quickly move 20 forward with the demolition of the old building?

A Absolutely. Especially if we're only able to use one chapel while we're waiting for that parking lot to be built, we would want to be able to really utilize the building as intended, as quickly as possible. So that we would look to demolish that

1 existing building, make sure that, number one, for 2 appearances and, number two, so we could finish the 3 project and move on.

And have you spoken to construction 4 0 5 companies about a timeline and what factors would 6 impact the timeline so you could have an understanding and, even if required, make a 7 commitment in terms of the time that would be 8 allotted to you to demolish that existing building 9 once the new building is completed and available for 10 11 use?

12 Α I reached out to one builder just to drive by, you know, because, of course, we'd have to 13 14 do some bidding and all that, but I wanted him to take a look at the existing building and to kind of 15 see what the proposed parking lot was that would 16 replace where that existing building was. He was --17 he seemed very earnest in, you know, I guess, trying 18 19 to say that we could do it quickly. So, I think he had shared with us that they could do that in 45 to 20 60 days. And I think we felt that that might be a 21 little, little faster than what would be 22 23 anticipated. So, I believe some of the 24 professionals felt that it might take a little bit 25 longer than that. But I think the important piece

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1	that we'd be willing to do is whatever reassurance
2	that we would need to make, I believe, to let you
3	know that that is truly our intent to take this
4	building down, we would certainly be willing to make
5	sure that is clearly stipulated, there's no intent
6	whatsoever to keep that building standing,
7	especially if it's not going to be used.
8	Q Right. So, in terms of a timeline,
9	in terms of a conservative timeline where you would
10	feel that you would be more than safe or comfortable
11	in meeting, what was your thoughts there?
12	A I think that anywhere from 90 to 120
13	days, I believe. I mean, we would be pushing, of
14	course, to be faster. I think to be fair for the
15	board to have at least a good judgment call on it, I
16	would say 90 to 120 days.
17	Q Okay. As a deadline. And you also
18	mentioned, you know, commitments and security, since
19	we're asking for variance relief, the board may wish
20	to consider other conditions that relate to the
21	demolition of that building. And there are a couple
22	of general ways that that can be dealt with. I
23	think one way you discussed was possibly a temporary
24	CO for the new building, which would be subject to
25	revocation and a direct order to cease if the new

Page 23 building were not torn down by the deadline. 1 2 As I think you've also discussed with your professionals that when towns are required to 3 undertake work on someone else's property, for 4 5 instance, maintenance and other things that the 6 owners have failed to do themselves, the town 7 costs -- incurs costs and they can either have that work performed and impose a lien like taxes or a 8 lien on the property, and that that lien carries a 9 significantly higher rate of interest than is 10 available at banks. And then, of course, there's 11 12 always performance guarantees for general improvements and the like. So, the board may, you 13 know, be considering those kind of conditions, 14 assuming it were to act favorably on this 15 application, and you understand? 16 17 Α Yeah, I truly, I believe, with our intent of knowing what our plans are, whatever 18 19 condition, I think that we could certainly discuss 20 and agree to. MR. LICATA: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I 21 would make this witness available for questions by 22 23 the board's professionals at this point. MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Licata. 24 We're going to ask you to stay, Mr. Steffaro, 25

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Page 24 because we're going to let Mr. Licata put on his 1 entire affirmative case, then we'll go out to the 2 professionals and to the board. 3 4 MR. LICATA: Excellent. Thank you. 5 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, sir. MR. LICATA: I would like to call 6 7 John Ploskonka, our project engineer. John, I know your credentials have 8 9 been acknowledged, but I think you still need to be 10 sworn. JOHN PLOSKONKA, sworn by the attorney. 11 12 MR. PLOSKONKA: John Ploskonka, 13 P-L-O-S-K-O-N-K-A, Manalapan, New Jersey. 14 MR. LEVITON: Welcome back, 15 Mr. Ploskonka. 16 MR. PLOSKONKA: Thank you, 17 Mr. Chairman. 18 EXAMINATION BY MR. LICATA: 19 John, could you give the board an 0 overview of the design as it's presented tonight? 20 I know we have photos on the screen. 21 А I'm an old fashioned guy, I also have these for the 22 23 board members. If they could see easier, or they can look at the screen. If you want to pass these 24 25 out.

Page 25 Sure, I'll be happy to. 1 0 2 They could use. А 3 And these have been premarked, I 0 4 understand? 5 А Yes. This is -- let's do one at a 6 time. 7 With the board secretary. 0 Yeah. The first one is the existing 8 Α 9 conditions map with the survey. That's also what's up on the video 10 0 11 screen now? 12 А Correct. 13 MS. MOENCH: That's A-1, right existing conditions. 14 15 MR. PLOSKONKA: Exhibit A-1. (The Existing conditions map was 16 marked as A-1 for identification.) 17 (Off the record.) 18

19 A You're looking at two lots. Lot one 20 is the lot to the left with the existing funeral 21 home that's been there for about 30 years, with the 22 associated parking behind it and to the north, to 23 the top of the screen. So, that's the existing 24 facility that would be demolished prior to using the 25 second chapel in the new building.

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1	The second lot is a wooded lot that the
2	company purchased a few years ago, and that's lot
3	number two, which is completely wooded. And it's
4	also constrained by wetlands and wetlands buffers on
5	the northerly end where the cursor is showing right
6	now. So, we have that constraint with this property
7	that has to be analyzed in our design. And we've
8	then done that in the next slide, which is the
9	proposed plan.
10	MS. MOENCH: A-2 is proposed,
11	correct?
12	MR. PLOSKONKA: A-2, right.
13	(The Proposed plan was marked as A-2
14	for identification.)
15	A A-2 shows an overview of the entire
16	project as proposed, where you see the two lots
17	being combined, lots one and two. You see the
18	parking up at the northwesterly corner remaining.
19	The parking lot in front of it is where the building
20	used to be, that's coming down, and then the new
21	chapel with the new building with two chapels is in
22	the, basically, center of the property. And then to
23	the right is additional parking and stormwater
24	management is shown next to Mount Avenue in blue as
25	also next to Wilson Avenue, which is on the left,
1	

which is existing stormwater right now, but it's being increased because of the need to meet the DEP requirements.

So, as you look at this plan, you see access 4 5 from Burke Street next to the detention facility into the parking lot and into the building. And you 6 7 see another access, ingress or egress, off of Wilson Avenue, which has been there for 30 years, which 8 remains. So, the intent here is to create this new 9 building and the parking to the right of the 10 11 building and keep the parking next to Wilson Avenue, 12 demolish the building that's there and then add and modify the parking in that, that vicinity. 13

14 Mount Avenue, which is to our right, is a paper street, it's 50 foot wide, it's wooded and 15 16 it's not being touched at all. And you can see the area between the parking lot and the northerly 17 property line is the area that's -- has been defined 18 19 by DEP as wetlands, with a wetlands buffer. And we're honoring that and we're not utilizing any of 20 that property, based on the DEP requirements, unless 21 we have a permit to do some slight modifications 22 which is allowed under the law. 23

24 So, the intent is to construct the new 25 building on the 4.4 acres in the center and to have

Page 28 the building look aesthetically pleasing, as you can 1 see from the architectural rendering on the easel. 2 I think that's one of the slides you have also, the 3 architectural with the --4 5 MS. MOENCH: The board has them. 6 So, the new facility will have new Α 7 landscaping and lighting. Two new signs that conform to the sign ordinance. A stormwater 8 9 management system, which I've outlined before, with the two detention basins. New paving, curbing and 10 site amenities. And two driveway ingresses and 11 12 egress to the property. Will it also have the required EV 13 0 14 charging spaces? 15 It would have 115 parking spaces, Α 16 three EV spaces provided for electric vehicles and it would have parking spaces that are, basically, 17 ten by 18, which are wider than the normal ones 18 19 you'd have for many places. Most of them are nine 20 by 18, but we're going ten by 18, make it easier for bigger vehicles; 80 of them are that. And 30 are 21 the nine by 18, like for the employees, et cetera. 22 23 And there's 115 parking spaces when the project is built out for the entire site. 24 25 There's variances required, because of that

Page 29 wetlands area, we're closer to Burke Street to make 1 2 the project work, so where the front yard of the building is normally 75 feet, we have a 75 --3 50-foot front setback to the property line. So, 4 5 it's about 60 feet to the street. And the parking area in front on both sides is 26 feet from the 6 7 property line versus 50 feet required. These are two bulk requirements because of the condition of 8 the wetlands in the back. 9 We don't have landscape plantings on the 10 11 southerly side of the building, because that's where the driveways are and the access, so that's another 12 variance. And we have two ground signs to make it 13 easier for people to find the location, as opposed 14 to one, that's a required variance also. 15 16 The signs are internally illuminated. They'll be on timers but they will be provided, 17 that's another variance we need. And I think 18 that's --19 20 0 The signs, those free standing signs, will be set back the required distances by 21 22 ordinance? 23 Α Correct. Correct. And we've agreed, we looked at the report from CME, that we would 24 25 provide -- have the lots consolidated, one and two

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Page 30 consolidated, if the board was favorable on the 1 2 application. And we would provide an FAR breakdown, which I think is now on sheet number five. We said 3 there's no cremations on the site and no cremations 4 5 proposed. And there's no basement in this building, just because of the high water table and the 6 wetlands behind us. 7 We also would provide any type of safety 8 measures that the board engineer thought was 9 appropriate during construction of the building and 10 11 the interchange between using the existing chapel 12 and working our way into the new facility. We have looked at the stormwater and we're meeting the 13 requirements of the stormwater management ordinance. 14 And we're conforming to the environmental 15 recommendations of the environmental commission that 16 17 they put forth in their report, except for the solar, but everything else we're going to meet. 18 We 19 also have many shade trees and we have plants, probably 50 or 60 trees being planted, and about 20 maybe a couple hundred plants that's on the 21 22 landscape plan. 23 0 In terms of sidewalk, what is being 24 proposed? 25 We have sidewalk on Burke Street. А

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Page 31 Does that connect to some existing 1 0 2 sidewalk off property? Yes, it will connect to the sidewalk 3 Α from the two family homes to the east. 4 But none is proposed along Wilson 5 0 6 Avenue, given the nature of that? 7 No, there's no sidewalk on Wilson А Avenue at all, so no sidewalk proposed. 8 9 But the applicant would make the 0 required sidewalk fund contribution? 10 11 А That's correct. 12 0 I know -- with regard to the CME report, are there any recommendations or 13 14 clarifications requested in it that the applicant is 15 not prepared to satisfy? No, we've complied with most of them 16 А to date. And whatever is left over, we agree to 17 comply with. 18 19 MR. LICATA: Thank you, John. 20 MR. PLOSKONKA: You're welcome. 21 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, 22 Mr. Ploskonka. Mr. Licata, you can continue, and of 23 course. 24 MR. LICATA: Thank you. 25 MR. LEVITON: The board recognizes

Page 32 the credentials of Mr. Rea and Ms. Coffin as well. 1 2 MR. LICATA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, John. 3 4 MR. REA: Good evening. 5 JOHN REA, sworn by the attorney. 6 MR. MARMERO: Can you state your name 7 for the record, please? 8 MR. REA: John Rea, R-E-A. 9 MR. LEVITON: Welcome back, Mr. Rea. 10 MR. REA: Thank you. EXAMINATION BY MR. LICATA: 11 12 John, can you tell the board what Q you've studied and what analysis has resulted from 13 14 your studies? There are two traffic studies that 15 Α the board has receipt of and that your experts have 16 reviewed. The first study is dated July 15, 2022, 17 and it was based on the testimony that Mr. Steffaro 18 19 gave this evening regarding the typical operation of the funeral home, when the services are held, how 20 long they last. And, basically, I studied the peak 21 hours that were more typical of what happens at the 22 23 facility. And that would be a service starting at 24 11 o'clock, ending at 12 noon. And so, we studied that particular peak hour with respect to traffic 25

exiting from the funeral home and what impact it 1 would have on the intersection of Burke Street and 2 Wilson Avenue. And we ran the traffic out to a 3 design year of 2025 -- or 2026, including background 4 5 traffic growth, with a finding that exiting movements from Burke Street to Wilson Avenue during 6 7 that peak hour when the service ends, would operate at level of service B. I think the board's heard 8 9 traffic testimony before. I know a lot of you have. Level of service B is a very good and acceptable 10 level of service. 11

12 So, the first analysis I did, indicated that 13 the way that the funeral home is generally run and 14 with the way things are normally done, we can still 15 have acceptable operating conditions at the 16 intersection of Burke and Wilson after the expansion 17 is finished.

Subsequently, we discussed, and it came out 18 19 in a review from Mr. Boccanfuso's firm regarding traffic, what would happen if services were held 20 later in the afternoon and coincided with heavier 21 traffic volumes on Wilson Avenue later in the 22 23 afternoon, not between 12 and one, but maybe between three and five in the afternoon. So, what we did in 24 order to respond to that issue is, we looked at a 25

worst case scenario, we installed an automatic 1 traffic recorder across Wilson Avenue. 2 This was done in September of 2022. And we prepared a 3 supplemental traffic analysis, which is dated 4 5 October 10, 2022, which looked at the possibility of services being held in the small chapel that would 6 7 end at three o'clock in the afternoon and services being held in the large chapel, I want to make sure 8 I get these numbers right, services would be held in 9 the smaller chapel running from one p.m. to three 10 11 p.m. and there would be a service in the larger 12 chapel that would run until four p.m., offset by an hour. And what we assumed was that all of the 13 parking spaces that would be required for the 14 service at the larger chapel, which would be 63 15 parking spaces on the right side of the new 16 17 expansion, every parking space would be full. And we also assumed that 50 percent of the attendees at 18 19 the service at the smaller chapel, which ended at three o'clock, would still be lingering behind, 20 probably not going to be the case, but again I 21 wanted to take a look at a worst case scenario, we 22 23 assumed that 50 percent of the service that ended at three clock in the smaller chapel, that parking lot 24 25 holds 48 cars, we assumed there were 48 cars in the

parking lot, 24 of them were left an hour after the 1 2 service ended, and all of those vehicles exited the site at the same time the vehicles from the larger 3 chapel exited the site. And concurrent with all of 4 5 this happening, we also assumed that there was another service starting at four o'clock in the 6 7 smaller chapel, and there would be 48 new cars arriving, just prior to four o'clock. So, we really 8 9 tried to look at a worst case scenario. And so, what the numbers work out to be, between three and 10 four p.m., there would be 48 inbound vehicles, 87 11 12 outbound vehicles, for a total of 135 driveway movements during that three to four p.m. hour. 13

14 We went back, we looked at the automatic traffic volumes that we recorded across Wilson 15 Avenue, we reran the levels of service for the 16 design year of 2025, with a finding that the 17 intersection of Burke and Wilson would still operate 18 19 at a B level of service during that three to four peak hour when we, essentially, had 87 vehicles 20 exiting the site, going through that intersection at 21 the same time 48 vehicles were entering the property 22 for a four o'clock service. 23

24 Realistically, after speaking to my client,25 and I know you've heard the testimony from

Page 35

Mr. Steffaro, that's not what we expect is going to 1 2 happen, but I did want to take a look at a worst case scenario. Brian is very, very good on these 3 traffic things and on top of things and he asked me 4 to, you know, run this worst case analysis. I've 5 6 done that. And I think what the analysis shows is 7 that under any scenario, the capacity at the intersection of Burke and Wilson is there to handle 8 the expansion of the funeral home. And I know 9 Mr. Steffaro testified, too, that there won't be two 10 11 concurrent services run at the larger and smaller 12 chapels, but they could be offset by one hour. And that's what I looked at as far as that worst case 13 14 scenario.

So, that essentially summarizes the two 15 traffic studies I've done for the property. I think 16 they both show that the expansion can be approved. 17 And that traffic conditions will not suffer 18 19 tremendously or significantly from the expansion. We'll still have a good level of service at Burke 20 Street and Wilson Avenue under any of those 21 22 scenarios.

Q Thank you, John. Have you also
studied the plan, and specifically the parking
available, after the new building is completed but

Page 37 before the old one is demolished? 1 2 Yes. It's my understanding, and Α Mr. Steffaro testified, they want to keep the 3 existing building operating and serving the 4 5 community until the new building is up and at least one of those chapels is available to continue 6 7 services. And I think the phasing plan that's been provided to the board is something that will provide 8 for adequate parking and will allow the project to 9 be phased in without any disruption to the community 10 11 and will allow them to keep operating. 12 MR. LICATA: Thank you, John. MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Rea. 13 14 MR. REA: Thank you. 15 MR. LICATA: Next up, and I believe 16 likely our last witness to present, will be 17 Ms. Coffin, our professional planner. 18 MR. LEVITON: Welcome back, Ms. 19 Coffin. 20 MS. COFFIN: Thank you. ALLISON COFFIN, sworn by the attorney. 21 22 MR. MARMERO: If you could state your 23 name for the record, please. 24 MS. COFFIN: Allison Coffin. 25

Page 38 EXAMINATION BY MR. LICATA: 1 2 Q Good evening, Allison. A Good evening. 3 Could you tell the board what you 4 0 5 studied to prepare your testimony and what 6 conclusions you've reached? 7 Sure. I reviewed the plans. I met Α with the applicant. I read the board's professional 8 review letters. I've been to the site. I looked at 9 the zoning ordinance and the master plan. 10 11 Great. 0 12 А Yep. And what did that review result in? 13 0 14 Sure. The property that we're А looking at tonight is a 4.4 acre parcel. 15 It's located at the intersection of Wilson Avenue and 16 17 Burke Street. The property contains a funeral home on lot one and lot two is currently wooded and 18 19 encumbered with wetlands and wetlands buffers. The applicant is proposing to demolish the 20 21 existing funeral home and construct a newer, larger facility with two chapels on the combined two lots. 22 23 Site improvements include expanding the parking to 24 support the larger facility, landscaping, lighting, 25 stormwater management, landscaping and signage and

Page 39 closing one of the -- two of the existing driveways 1 2 on Burke and constructing one new access point. The property is in the LBW Limited Business 3 Wilson Avenue zone. There are a lot of commercial 4 5 uses permitted in this zone, but it does not include 6 funeral homes. And since -- though they're 7 expanding the use, they are demolishing the existing structure and constructing a new structure, this is 8 9 a D1 variance. There is some bulk relief that's requested. 10 11 A front yard setback variance to Burke is proposed, 12 where 75 feet is required and 50 feet is proposed. And that's as a result of the wetlands that pushed 13 the development closer to Burke. There's parking 14 front yard setback of 50 feet required, 26 proposed 15 to Burke, and that's due to the same thing. And a 16 number of signs, one is permitted and two is 17 proposed. One at each access point, because we have 18 19 a corner lot here. And the internal illumination of the signs. 20 It's my opinion that special reasons exist 21 for the granting of that D1 variance and the 22 23 variance can be granted without detriment to the health, safety and general welfare of the public. 24 25 The general welfare in this case is advanced due to

Page 40 the particular suitability of the site to this 1 2 proposed use. The site is particularly suited to the use, as is evident by the fact that the site has 3 been used as a funeral home for at least 30 years. 4 5 The site, again, is operated with a funeral home on 6 it for 30 years. 7 It's my opinion that the site is also particularly suited to the proposed new facility, 8 which is an improvement over the existing site 9 facility and use. The existing site has a funeral 10 11 home located in both required front yards. It is 12 50 feet from both frontages. The proposed conditions make one of these setbacks conforming. 13 14 The existing facility has two driveways accessing Burke, while the proposed conditions reduce this to 15 one, and this one new access from Burke is located 16 further from the intersection than the current 17 driveway, which is an improvement to traffic safety. 18 19 The existing facility has its loading bays with overhead doors facing Burke Street. 20 The proposed conditions eliminate this, having a more 21 attractive architectural facade face that street and 22 23 placing the loading doors outside of public view. This loading area facing Burke also serves as a 24 25 trash collection point on the property. The

Page 41 proposed plan provides for a trash enclosure, moving 1 trash collection out of public view. 2 And lastly, the existing facility has a 3 single chapel, which makes the staging of multiple 4 5 services throughout the day challenging. The proposed facility allows the funeral home to 6 7 accommodate staggered services in two chapels without impacting the privacy of families or having 8 anyone feel rushed within the facility. 9 It's my opinion that there's no detriment 10 that would result from this use variance since the 11 12 site already contains the use, and the expansion of the use into a new structure will provide for a more 13 efficient operation, screen the loading and trash on 14 the site and improve the aesthetic impact. 15 The requested bulk variances can also be 16 17 granted without detriment. The front yard variances for both the building and the parking setback are 18 19 the result of hardship. The site is encumbered by wetlands and wetlands buffers impacting the northern 20 third of the site on lot two. This pushes the 21 development towards Burke, resulting in variances. 22 23 The applicant has mitigated this by proposing landscaping to screen the parking and softening the 24 25 building facade along this frontage, and the

Page 42 architectural treatment of this facade has also been 1 2 designed to treat this as the front of the building and create a higher quality of visual impact. 3 The variances for the signs is necessitated 4 5 by the site being located on the corner lot. Signage is provided at both driveways to ensure safe 6 7 and effective identification of the access points to this property. The signs are separated by more than 8 400 feet and the building itself is between them, so 9 they will not be visible easily at the same time, 10 unless someone is really trying to see both signs at 11 12 once. So, the presence of two signs in this instance on this property will not create visual 13 14 clutter. And the internal illumination in this case is proposed because there is activity on the site 15 overnight and they want to make sure that the site 16 is identified during overnight hours. 17 The proposed variances would not 18 19 substantially impair the intent and purpose of your master plan and your development ordinance. 20 The funeral home is compatible with other permitted uses 21 in the LBW district, and it does not interfere with 22 23 the district's ability to thrive. The funeral home 24 is not a new use to the site or the zone, just an 25 improvement of the existing use on the property.

Page 43 And the proposed expansion modernizes the facility 1 2 and site plan, eliminating one nonconforming setback and providing stormwater management facilities to 3 meet current standards. So, for those reasons, it's 4 5 my opinion that the proposal satisfies both the positive and negative criteria for the requested 6 7 variances. That the variances can be granted without detriment to the health, safety and general 8 welfare of the public. And the application would 9 result in an improvement of the site in a manner 10 11 which does not impair the intent and purpose of your 12 master plan or development ordinance. MR. LICATA: Thank you, Allison. 13 14 Mr. Chairman, my witnesses are available for questioning. 15 16 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Licata. 17 Mr. Avakian, while she's sitting up here, now would be an opportune time for me to ask, do you take 18 19 exception to anything that Ms. Coffin testified to? 20 MR. AVAKIAN: Yes. In regard to the D1 use variance I believe that Ms. Coffin is --21 22 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Avakian, you're 23 going to have to speak into the microphone. MR. AVAKIAN: My apologies. Yes. 24 In regard to the D1 use variance, I believe that the 25

Page 44 applicant has satisfied all of the requirements and 1 2 criterias for the municipal land use law. 3 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Let's go out to the board. Board, do you have any questions for 4 5 Ms. Coffin? David? 6 MR. SCHERTZ: In regards to the 7 parking and possible overflow onto Burke Street, I've been to the chapel numerous times over the 8 years. And more times than not, in its current 9 configuration, I've had to park on Burke Street. 10 11 And I'm wondering if 115 parking spots for two 12 chapels is enough. 13 MR. LICATA: I think that might be a 14 question, if I could ask, Mr. Schertz, if we could 15 have Mr. Rea answer. 16 MR. SCHERTZ: That's fine. 17 MS. COFFIN: My answer's going to be, 18 if John's happy, I'm happy. 19 MR. LICATA: Right. John, do you 20 want to come on up please. 21 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Ms. Coffin. 22 MR. REA: The answer to that is, 23 there will times when there are large services. I think Mr. Steffaro mentioned one before, when the 24 crowd is so large that the parking lot cannot 25

Page 45 contain all 113 cars, there's more. There will be 1 2 times when that happens. You've experienced it. MR. SCHERTZ: And did your traffic 3 study take that into consideration? 4 5 MR. REA: Based on the traffic counts that are on Wilson Avenue, my explanation for that 6 7 is, even if there were twice as many cars as I assume were using that intersection, we have a B 8 level of service under what I consider to be typical 9 operating conditions, even probably worse than 10 typical operating conditions, there's no doubt in my 11 12 mind that we can handle that traffic. And, again, we all need to remember that when there are large 13 services and the funeral staff knows that there are 14 15 going to be, you know, 100, 150 cars, they do provide traffic control. We've all been to funerals 16 large and small. And the large ones do require 17 traffic control from the funeral staff. So, the 18 19 answer is, it's probably still going to happen on some occasions, but not typically. 20 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Rea, make yourself 21 comfortable, sit down, because while you're here 22 23 we're going to let Mr. Boccanfuso, the board's 24 engineer, address his concerns related to traffic, 25 if he has any.

Page 46 1 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I have some 2 questions for Ms. Coffin, though. MR. LEVITON: Oh, then she's 3 available as well. 4 5 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Thank you. Don't go 6 far, Mr. Rea. 7 Hello, Ms. Coffin. MS. COFFIN: Hello. 8 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: In our report, we had identified several variances that were necessary 10 11 for the signage. And I think both you and 12 Mr. Ploskonka touched on the signage relief that's necessary. I just want to make sure that the record 13 14 is clear here. Specific to the signs, relief is needed for the number of signs, one is permitted, 15 whereas two are proposed, one on each frontage. 16 17 MS. COFFIN: Correct. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. And you're 18 19 also seeking relief from the method of illumination, whereby in the LBW zone, only externally illuminated 20 signs are permitted, you're proposing an internally 21 22 illuminated sign that will be on some type of timer --23 24 MS. COFFIN: Correct. 25 MR. BOCCANFUSO: -- is that correct?

Page 47 Okay. Now, we also identified in our report two 1 2 other deviations from the zoning standards, two for each sign. One was a slight exceedance in the area, 3 32 square feet proposed where 30 is permitted, the 4 5 other was a setback, one of the signs was five feet, one was five and quarter feet, whereas ten feet is 6 7 proposed. So, is the representation that the signs are going to be shrunk and shifted to comply? 8 9 MS. COFFIN: Yes. 10 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Understood. Okay. 11 I just wanted to be sure the record was clear. I 12 know that's something we spoke about in our TRC, but I just wanted to make sure I understood. 13 14 The only other question I have is 15 with regard to your testimony about a hardship. And I think that Mr. Ploskonka touched on it as well. 16 17 Obviously, I recognize that there are environmental constraints on the property, which have been 18 19 verified by the DEP. There's also the issue, albeit a lesser one, and I don't think any of you addressed 20 21 this in your direct, that you actually have frontage on two paper streets, which are unimproved, Gordon 22 23 Street and Mount Avenue, which can present 24 challenges, but I think that the wetlands areas are 25 the more critical issue here.

Page 48 1 Even with that, do you think that 2 it's appropriate to classify this as a hardship when you could simply reduce the size of the building, 3 thereby reducing the amount of parking that's 4 5 required and eliminate the front setback variance to both the building and the parking area? Do you 6 7 still think a hardship argument is appropriate? MS. COFFIN: Yes, I do, because in 8 this case, we're not asking for an excessive amount 9 of building coverage or an excessive amount of 10 11 impervious coverage. We're quite, quite below the 12 limits for those. You could have this size building, this amount of impervious coverage on a 13 14 lot in a conforming location but for the wetlands and the wetlands buffers. So, that's what drives 15 the variance relief. 16 17 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Understood. And I'd 18 also note that you're also below your floor area 19 ratio requirement. 20 MS. COFFIN: Yes. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Which in this zone 21 includes parking areas, stormwater management basins 22 23 and the like? 24 MS. COFFIN: Yes. 25 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. Mr. Chairman,

Page 49 I'm not a planner, I'm not licensed as a planner, I 1 don't take any exception to that. I just wanted to 2 understand it, make sure the board understands that 3 in case there was any disconnect. 4 5 MR. LEVITON: The only difference is, in the signage, then is the amount of area and --6 7 they won't need variance relief for the area of the sign and for the infringement into the setback for 8 both signs? 9 10 MR. BOCCANFUSO: That's been the 11 representation, yes. 12 MS. COFFIN: Yes. 13 MR. LEVITON: Okay. 14 MR. BOCCANFUSO: That's all I have for Ms. Coffin. 15 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Avakian, anything 16 17 else? MR. AVAKIAN: Can you just explain 18 19 the reasoning why the signs have to be illuminated internally and not how they should? 20 MS. COFFIN: You know what, I'm going 21 to let the engineer explain why that choice was 22 23 made. But the illumination is to provide for 24 overnight identification of the site. 25 MR. AVAKIAN: Thank you.

Page 50 1 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka, can you 2 illuminate us further on the lighting. MR. PLOSKONKA: Would you repeat the 3 question, please? 4 5 MR. AVAKIAN: Yes, of course. One of the variances still needed is the -- in this zone, 6 7 externally illuminated signs are permitted, whereas, you're proposing the sign to be internally 8 illuminated. Can you just explain the reasoning why 9 you can't conform to the ordinance? 10 MR. PLOSKONKA: I think it's more of 11 a design feature that the funeral home would like to 12 use. And we don't think it's that different than 13 putting spotlights on their sign. And I think 14 illuminating internally, I think, is a better 15 situation. I think if you put on timers so that 16 it's convenient to go off at night and not bother 17 the neighbors. And we can work that out with your 18 19 office or Brian's office as to the timing. 20 MR. AVAKIAN: Understood. So, just 21 aesthetics is really the reason? 22 MR. PLOSKONKA: Yeah. 23 MR. AVAKIAN: Understood. 24 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Avakian. 25 Thank you, Mr. Ploskonka.

Page 51 Board, any other questions for 1 Mr. Ploskonka while he's here? 2 3 MR. MANTAGAS: I have a question, Mr. 4 Chairman. 5 MR. LEVITON: Yes. 6 MR. MANTAGAS: Mr. Ploskonka, this 7 new proposed site is going to have a lot more paved area, I see, parking area, paved area. All the 8 9 runoff water will go towards Mount Avenue retention basin. 10 11 MR. PLOSKONKA: Has more pavement, 12 has a building, it has two stormwater management basins. So, none of the water is going towards 13 Burke Street. It's all going to the north, to a 14 ditch in the middle of the wetlands. 15 MR. MANTAGAS: Towards Gordon Street 16 17 and you're saying the wetlands is north. 18 MR. PLOSKONKA: It's piped to, from 19 that basin, back to a ditch back there. We need a DEP permit for that, which is normally given, and 20 then it runs to the west down that ditch towards 21 Wilson Avenue. So, there's no excess water going 22 23 towards Burke Street. 24 MR. MANTAGAS: Is that the way the property's pitched, towards north or --25

Page 52 1 MR. PLOSKONKA: It's pretty flat, 2 but --3 MR. MANTAGAS: Right. MR. PLOSKONKA: -- it's generally 4 5 pitched from front to back, from Burke to the north, 6 which is pretty flat out there. 7 MR. MANTAGAS: Okay. Thank you. MR. PLOSKONKA: You're welcome. 8 9 MR. LEVITON: Brian, is there a 10 grading plan? 11 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yes, there is, 12 Mr. Chairman. MR. LEVITON: And you've reviewed the 13 grading plan and do you take exception to anything 14 that Mr. Ploskonka testified to just now? 15 16 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Generally, no. I 17 don't take exception to John's testimony. I would point out that although Exhibit A-2, which appears 18 19 to have disappeared now, shows the basins as blue, they are sand bottom basins, both of them. 20 The existing basin up near the intersection with Wilson 21 and Burke is actually currently like an old school 22 detention basin that doesn't have the sand bottom in 23 it. But there will be modifications made to it as 24 part of this project that will basically expand the 25

Page 53 volume of that basin and change the way it 1 2 functions. John and Bhaskar, I think the one 3 stormwater management item that I was looking for 4 5 confirmation on, was your supplemental soils investigation showed that there were some 6 7 challenging soils in that front basin. Do you have any issue with removing those and replacing them 8 9 with permeable material during construction? 10 MR. PLOSKONKA: We do not have any 11 problem with that. 12 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. And just while I'm on that topic, before I get back to my 13 train of thought here, is that something that could 14 be done as part of phase one, just to kind of 15 16 expedite -- we're going to get into the phasing here 17 in a little bit, but just to expedite the process in 18 phase two, is that something you could do in the 19 initial phase of the project? 20 MR. PLOSKONKA: Absolutely. 21 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. Great. So, getting back to my point, Mr. Chairman, although 22 23 these basins are shown as blue, they're going to be 24 sand bottom basins that are going to be dry all of the time, except for immediately following a 25

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rainstorm. And what will happen is, runoff will be 1 collected by a series of inlet catch basins on-site, 2 basically, the right or the east side of the 3 property will discharge into that larger basin to 4 5 the right, the left or west side of the property will discharge into that smaller basin to the left. 6 7 The water during small storm events will simply seep into the ground, into the sand. During very large 8 storm events, the overflow will be controlled by an 9 engineered outlet structure. And the basin to the 10 right will flow into the ditch in that wooded area 11 12 in the rear of the property. The one to the left or west is going to discharge directly into an inlet 13 within the county right-of-way, as it does today. 14 And, ultimately, all the runoff is going to end up 15 going off to the kind of northwesterly direction 16 17 beyond the county roadway. Since the applicant is fronting on a 18 19 county roadway and discharging into the county drainage system, the county will take a look at this 20 as well. In addition, they need DEP permits, so the 21 DEP is also going to take a look at it. 22 23 For my purposes, our office did 24 review it. We had a series of comments in our 25 initial review. Mr. Ploskonka's office revised the

Page 55 plans and they addressed a vast majority of our 1 2 plans. I would say generally, the stormwater management design is pretty clean at this point. 3 Cleaner than we often see at this stage of the 4 5 process. A lot of times an applicant will come in 6 with a stormwater management design that has some technical odds and ends that need to be cleaned up 7 during resolution compliance if there is an 8 approval. In this case, it's mostly done. There's 9 only a few revisions that they need to make to 10 address our comments. So, generally, I am satisfied 11 12 with the grading and drainage plan. MR. LEVITON: Comprehensive answer. 13 And, Mr. Mantagas, that was a good question. And 14 for the public in attendance, if they're concerned, 15 the additional impervious, everything won't result 16 in any runoff to the east and towards Mount Avenue 17 18 or down Burke Street. A lot of eyes are going to be 19 on this. Thank you again, Brian. Anything else for -- Dan -- Mr. 20 Plosonka while he's here? 21 MR. POCHOPIN: So, thank you very 22 23 much. That was a great question. That was a great 24 question. And my answers were answered. 25 As far as the -- as far as the

Page 56 parking. Is there any directional flow or just, you 1 2 could come in and out either way, the old way and then the new way, right? 3 MR. PLOSKONKA: There is directional 4 5 arrows for in and out throughout the parking lots, and we also provide fire marshal input, so that we 6 7 show where fire lanes would be in case there's an 8 emergency. But yes, yes, yes, there is directional 9 flow. 10 MR. POCHOPIN: Very good. And the landscaping, you said it wasn't on here, but I guess 11 12 at the entrances where the signs are, it would be, you know, lower plantings and all for view, for 13 entering and exiting the facility, right? 14 15 MR. PLOSKONKA: Yes, we have a 16 landscape plan that's in the original --17 MR. LICATA: I think it's up on the screen now, John, maybe you want to refer to that. 18 19 MR. PLOSKONKA: As part of the original set that was submitted, that's the 20 landscape plan where there's about 50 trees, some 21 deciduous, some evergreens and a couple hundred 22 23 small plants throughout. And we're asked by the environmental commission to make sure we use native 24 25 species, so we'll go back to them and to

Page 57 Shari Spero, the arborist, and fine tune that plan 1 2 so everyone's happy in terms of CME and the arborist for the town. 3 4 MR. POCHOPIN: Very good. So, 5 there's no nuisance with the neighborhood about the lights on the entrances and all. It's always easier 6 7 to put a photo cell on, this way you're constantly not adjusting a timer or getting complaints or 8 9 anything. MR. PLOSKONKA: Yes, sir. 10 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka, thank 11 12 you for heeding the recommendations of the environmental commission. We appreciate that. 13 14 Can you speak to the recommendations from the fire bureau. They asked that there would 15 be a Knox-Box located at the main entrance. 16 17 MR. PLOSKONKA: Absolutely. 18 MR. LEVITON: They asked that fire 19 lanes will be provided in non-parking areas of 20 driveways. 21 MR. PLOSKONKA: Normally, whatever the fire department wants, we do. We never object 22 23 to what the fire department wants. 24 MR. LEVITON: Including the 25 installation of a fire hydrant?

Page 58 1 MR. PLOSKONKA: Yes. 2 MR. LEVITON: At the entrance of Burke Street? 3 4 MR. PLOSKONKA: Yes. 5 MR. LEVITON: And the police report written by Patrolman O'Brien, he recommended that 6 7 radio transmissions for police, fire and EMS are clear in the proposed building, will they be? 8 9 MR. PLOSKONKA: I'm sorry. MR. LEVITON: Patrolman O'Brien wrote 10 a report. He recommended that radio transmissions 11 12 for police, fire and EMS are clear in the proposed building, I'm asking will they be? 13 14 MR. PLOSKONKA: Whatever the police 15 want, we'll do. 16 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Mr. Licata, he's 17 not here tonight, but I want to give a shout out to Mr. Leatherwood, who wrote your environmental site 18 19 assessment, because he brought to light the fact that this property was agricultural 100 years ago. 20 21 And that was news to me. I like the history. 22 If we could get Mr. Rea back, I'd 23 like to ask him a question or two. 24 MR. LICATA: Sure. 25 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Rea, the impervious

Page 59 coverage that's going to be increasing is 1 2 substantial, but it doesn't have an environmental impact as far as we can tell. I'd like to have you 3 4 quantify how many existing parking spaces there are. 5 MR. REA: Actually, I'm going to have 6 to punt that question to Mr. Ploskonka or Bhaskar. 7 I know how many are proposed, because I looked at the plans that they gave me, but how many are 8 existing --9 10 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Halari, you're 11 sitting right there, do you know? 12 MR. HALARI: I don't know. I don't calculate. 13 14 MR. LEVITON: How about --15 MR. POCHOPIN: 65, 63. MR. LEVITON: Oh, really. I didn't 16 17 think it was that many. 18 MR. REA: Is there an existing 19 conditions plan? 20 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Steffaro, do you 21 know? 22 MR. STEFFARO: Not exactly. Not 23 exactly. 24 MR. LEVITON: Here we go. There's a picture, gentlemen, somebody can count them. 25

Page 60 1 MR. POCHOPIN: Yeah, looks about 40 2 spots. It looks like. MR. LEVITON: I think it's less. I 3 would like them to tell us, though, for the record. 4 5 MR. REA: Give me a minute. (Off the record.) 6 7 MR. REA: 47. 8 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Can you just review for the record, Mr. Rea, what is the level of 9 service that the Bloomfield-Cooper building 10 11 currently enjoys? Are they a B at this time? 12 MR. REA: It would be a B, yes. B is 13 a pretty wide range in there. 14 MR. LEVITON: And for the public, the public's edification, can you define the level of 15 16 service and what --17 MR. REA: Sure. The level of service 18 is based on the average delay that a motorist would 19 encounter entering Wilson Avenue from Burke. So, level of service B is delayed between ten and 15 20 21 seconds on average per vehicle. 22 MR. LICATA: What's a level at A 23 service? MR. REA: Level of service A is less 24 than 10 seconds average delay per vehicle. Very 25

Page 61 hard to get level of service A anywhere in this 1 2 area. 3 MR. LEVITON: So, it's currently a 4 level B and --5 MR. REA: It will stay level B. 6 MR. LEVITON: -- it's going to stay 7 level B? 8 MR. REA: Yes. 9 MR. LEVITON: That's for a car 10 leaving Burke Street and turning left or right onto Wilson Avenue? 11 12 MR. REA: Yes, it's a weighted 13 average of the lefts and the rights. Of course, the left will experience a little bit more delay than 14 15 the right. So, it's a weighted average of the two 16 movements. 17 MR. LEVITON: And who can tell me how 18 many proposed parking spaces there will be in total 19 when phase two is completed? 20 MR. REA: 115, if I'm not mistaken, is that -- 115. 21 22 MR. LEVITON: So, it's going from 47 23 to 115? 24 MR. REA: Correct. 25 MR. LEVITON: And for Mr. Steffaro.

Page 62 You'll need a microphone, sir. 1 2 Earlier when you testified about directional help for folks leaving the facility, you 3 indicated that for most services, it's not required. 4 And I think you said 20, 25 cars, there's no need. 5 And then you talked about a young person whose 6 7 service in the fall necessitated help. You talked about a great number of people. How many was that? 8 9 How many people showed up to that service? MR. STEFFARO: I believe we have --10 11 we did a record of the actual number of cars during 12 that time frame. I think it was approximately over 13 100, correct? 14 MR. REA: Was it September 18? 15 MR. STEFFARO: Yes. 16 MR. REA: There were 147. 17 MR. STEFFARO: 147 cars. 18 MR. LEVITON: Oh, Mr. Rea, your 19 traffic study coincided with that service? MR. REA: I asked for this 20 21 information because I wanted to know, you know, the extent of how often do these large funerals occur. 22 23 And the data that was provided to me, remember I did a supplemental analysis in October of 2022, the data 24 that was provided to me from the funeral home was 25

Page 63 from, 15 services, from September 16, 2022 through 1 2 October 13, 2022, there were 15 services. One of them started after two p.m. As a matter of fact, 3 only one service started after two p.m. The 4 5 overwhelming majority were 11 o'clock in the 6 morning. A couple were at nine in the morning. And 7 a couple were at one p.m. But nine or ten out of the 15 services were 11 a.m. 8 9 And the number of cars, the average 10 number of cars that were parked, there were only two times when the -- no, three times when the capacity 11 12 of the 47 lot was exceeded. The 147 on September 18. There were 60 cars at a service on 13 14 September 27. And 70 cars at a service on October 2. All of the other times, the parking lot 15 16 contained the amount of cars. So, it happens with the 47 space lot. It should happen less frequently 17 with the expanded lot. 18 19 MR. LEVITON: If I extrapolate that 20 number out, it's safe to say that it could happen 20 21 times a year? 22 MR. REA: What could happen 20 times 23 a year? 24 MR. LEVITON: That the existing parking lot cannot handle the number of --25

	Page 64
1	MR. REA: The existing lot?
2	MR. LEVITON: Yes.
3	MR. REA: Correct.
4	MR. LEVITON: And when you questioned
5	Mr. Steffaro regarding the amount of cars or the
6	amount of people that showed up to a service, were
7	you able to ascertain what happened to the overflow?
8	How far back on Burke Street the cars went down?
9	Did they go anywhere else?
10	MR. REA: Yeah, I they were on
11	Burke Street, to the best of my knowledge. I did
12	not ask him for that information. He's on the site,
13	you know, on a regular basis. Perhaps he can
14	provide that information to you. But, presumably,
15	most of those cars were parked on Burke Street. And
16	the only thing I can say is, we have almost 600
17	well, with the property that's been acquired,
18	there's almost 625 feet of frontage along Burke
19	Street. So, a significant numbers of cars can be
20	parked there.
21	MR. LEVITON: Mr. Steffaro, do you
22	know how far back on Burke Street cars park?
23	MR. STEFFARO: I'm not exactly sure
24	how far back they went. I just know that the
25	associates went out and actually just physically

Page 65 counted the cars that were out, not only in the 1 parking lot but on the streets. So, in particular, 2 the very large service, it had to be very far down 3 Burke Street to fit 174 cars, so. 4 5 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Boccanfuso, the testimony this evening talks about two phases. They 6 talk about building their new -- their new building 7 before knocking down their old building. And they 8 were talking about only utilizing the small section 9 and only having one service in their new chapel 10 until the first building, the initial building, is 11 12 knocked down and the parking lot is put in. And they're talking about no matter how much impervious 13 coverage they're increasing the facility by, that 14 there's not going -- their testimony is that it's 15 16 not going to make matters worse in terms of parking, especially as it relates to overflow and cars lining 17 up on Burke Street in parking spaces. Do you take 18 19 exception to that? 20 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Was that one question? 21 22 MR. LEVITON: It was. With the 23 addition that they're proposing? 24 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. So --25 MR. LEVITON: They've represented

Page 66 that it's going to be better for residents who live 1 2 on Burke Street. MR. BOCCANFUSO: So, a couple of 3 things to get to. I think, first of all, let me say 4 5 I think that the phasing, the proposed phasing of the project is the primary concern and the primary 6 7 item that the board needs to consider as they move forward in hearing the application in determining 8 how to proceed. 9 10 I want to first point out what I 11 think was an incorrect statement in that, I guess it 12 was a question that you just posed to me, and that was that the smaller chapel would be in operation. 13 In fact, based upon the testimony tonight, it would 14 be the larger chapel that would be in operation. 15 Mr. Steffaro indicated that the chapel closest to 16 17 the improved parking area, so on the east side of the building, would be the one that was initially 18 19 used. 20 MR. LEVITON: It looks smaller to me, 21 which is why I assumed. 22 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Based upon the floor 23 plan that was submitted, that chapel on the easterly side of the building has approximately 189 seats in 24 it, whereas the smaller chapel to the west has 143. 25

Page 67 MR. LEVITON: You can't argue with 1 2 those numbers. While we're here, Brian, do you know what Kohen is? Because I don't. Mr. Steffaro 3 testified that the Kohen was tangential to the 4 5 chapel but that it's attached. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Before our technical 6 7 review committee meeting, I had absolutely no idea what a Kohen is, but I do enough now to be 8 9 dangerous. With that said, I think Mr. Steffaro 10 would probably be the appropriate witness to explain 11 it to you. 12 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Mr. Steffaro. 13 MR. STEFFARO: So, you're asking about the Kohen building? 14 15 MR. LEVITON: What is it? MR. STEFFARO: So, it is a building 16 that just will allow the Kohen to attend the 17 service, but traditionally as a Kohen --18 19 MR. LEVITON: What is a Kohen? 20 MR. STEFFARO: It's a -- I mean, I know from my version. Hold on. 21 22 MR. PLOSKONKA: I know a little bit 23 about it, even though I'm Polish Catholic. But my 24 friend, Marvin Schmelzer, who's been here a long 25 time, he's a member of the Kohen tribe. It's a

Page 68 tribe in the Jewish religion that's a higher tribe 1 2 than other tribes. And for some reason, they can't go into the funeral home where the body is laid out. 3 They have to be outside. So, he'd go to funeral 4 5 homes and stand outside by the front door and not go in because of his tribe status. 6 7 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Ploskonka, that covers it. I get it now. 8 9 Okay, Brian, so, you were talking about the phasing as the major issue. 10 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yeah. And I don't 11 12 want to say it's an issue. I think it's an open ended item that's difficult to get one's arms 13 14 around. 15 MR. LEVITON: What specifically? 16 MR. BOCCANFUSO: The concern that I 17 have is that, as I indicated, the easterly side of the chapel of the building, the larger chapel, has 18 19 189 seats. So, if we were to apply the township parking requirement to those 189 seats -- and just 20 21 if I can back up a second, the township standards for parking call for one parking space per three 22 23 seats plus one space per vehicle that's operated by the funeral home. So, if we apply the standard to 24 the 189 seats, the requirement would be 65 parking 25

Page 69 spaces, where there are 43 parking spaces that would 1 2 be completed in phase one. So, for that period of time, the site would not comply with the parking 3 requirements. Granted it would be temporary. 4 5 MR. LEVITON: So, that's only for -that's only for the time between their second 6 7 parking lot is completed, and they've asked for between 90 and 120 days to do so? 8 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Correct. Once the site is fully developed, they are fully compliant 10 11 with the township parking requirements. And I'm not 12 going to sit here and say that there will not be events when the capacity of the parking area will be 13 exceeded. Obviously, they will, the applicant has 14 testified to that. Everyone in this room has been 15 16 to funerals, unfortunately, where a young person or someone died due to circumstances that were not 17 expected or it was a popular person in the 18 19 community, where it was tremendously well-attended and there was a lot of people and people parked in 20 the street and there was, you know, a little bit of 21 a traffic issue immediately following the event. It 22 happens. It's just the nature of the business. 23 But what I can say is that based upon our requirements 24 25 in the township ordinance, once the site is fully

Page 70 developed, they will comply with the ordinance 1 2 requirements for quantity. They do need some relief for the dimensions, as I think Mr. Ploskonka 3 indicated earlier. But the quantity of the overall 4 5 development will comply. MR. LICATA: Mr. Chairman, if I could 6 7 just interject, because I think Mr. Rea has some information to add basically in the vein of 8 Mr. Boccanfuso is correct. And in addition to the 9 10 42 or 43 newly constructed spaces, there will be some 20 odd spaces on-site that remain undisturbed. 11 12 They're existing and they will not be affected. They are available for use, but I think John should 13 14 speak to that. MR. REA: I think Bhaskar has the 15 16 cursor. Brian, if you look up in the northwest portion of the property, there's an existing parking 17 area up there that's got 21 parking spaces, which 18 19 will be in an area that's undisturbed when the construction is taking place, and they are usable 20 21 parking spaces. 22 MR. BOCCANFUSO: What about the 23 pathway from those parking spaces to the building? 24 I mean, are you going to be having folks walk 25 through a construction zone there, where you're

Page 71 demo'g and building? 1 2 MR. REA: Yeah, I'm sure the construction zone can be fenced off and, you know, a 3 path can be provided for them to get to the new 4 5 building, if you will. 6 MR. LICATA: So that you would time 7 the building of the vehicle and the pedestrian pathway such that with the construction of the new 8 building, such that it was safe to travel? 9 MR. REA: It will be a lot safer than 10 11 walking in Manhattan these days. 12 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Marmero, you're 13 getting that down as a condition? 14 MR. MARMERO: Yes. So, that parking, is that the northwest corner of the --15 MR. LEVITON: Yes, it's to the north 16 17 and it's adjacent to Gordon Street and Wilson. 18 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Mr. Chairman, that 19 would certainly mitigate the deficiency in phase one. I haven't seen a phasing plan that shows 20 it. I'm a little concerned with, you know, the 21 proximity of demolition and heavy construction 22 23 activity with the walking, but if it's the 24 applicant's representation that they can do it, they'll be bound by that, if there is an approval, 25

Page 72 and we'll just need to see it on a phasing plan that 1 2 it works and that it's safe. 3 MR. LEVITON: So, the transition is 4 going to be important. They've represented that they're going to make a safe pass through the 5 construction area to their parking lot. We take 6 7 them at their word. And we know that you're going 8 to ensure that that happens. 9 But, Mr. Licata, you talked about a 10 temporary CO subject to revocation if the initial 11 building isn't taken down in that timely fashion. 12 And that's in -- that's going to be very important to this board right now, especially in view of the 13 concerns raised by our engineers. 14 15 MR. LICATA: I understand that, as does the applicant. 16 17 MR. LEVITON: You also talked about 18 other measures. I'm not an expert in this area. 19 Albert, is posting a bond something that he alluded 20 to? MR. MARMERO: Yes. I think the 21 options that he alluded to was a temporary CO. So, 22 23 that would be the first option. So, they would get 24 a temporary CO pending whatever that timeline that you agreed to for demolition, then if the demolition 25

Page 73 didn't occur within that timeline, the CO could be 1 2 revoked. That's more of a construction office type 3 thing. The other option you did discuss was 4 5 a performance bond where some type of bond or guarantee would be placed with the township. And 6 7 then when that timeline passed, if, for some reason, the demo hadn't been done, the township could move 8 in and take care of the demo. And they would have 9 the funds to do that based on that guarantee. 10 11 Then the other option that was 12 presented was setting forth the time period and if the demo didn't take place within that time period, 13 the township could go in and do the work and then 14 simply place a lien on the property for the cost of 15 that demolition. So, those seem to be the three 16 17 options that the applicant discussed. I think Mr. Licata kind of told the applicant that the board 18 19 would want to see something like that in place. 20 MR. LEVITON: Let's go out to the board and see what they think. Gentlemen? Terry? 21 22 MR. ROSENTHAL: Now my question's 23 answered. 24 MR. GREGOWICZ: Just for the record, on the floor plans in the building, you have a room, 25

Page 74 it's listed as the cremation viewing room. But I 1 believe you mentioned before there will be no 2 on-site. 3 4 MR. LICATA: There will be absolutely 5 no -- yeah, we're not going to be performing 6 cremations but we'll get Mr. Steffaro to come. 7 MR. STEFFARO: That room will only be used if the family chose to have a cremation as 8 9 their final disposition, just so that they have -the family has a moment to see their loved one 10 11 before we would transport them to the actual 12 crematorium. MR. LICATA: So, it's a viewing area 13 but it's not operationally a crematorium. 14 MR. ROSENTHAL: That leads me to a 15 question. Mr. Steffaro, the cremation, the 16 crematory obviously is not on-site, but is that part 17 of your operation somewhere else? 18 19 MR. STEFFARO: Our company was actually grandfathered in. We do own a crematory in 20 North Bergen, New Jersey, the Garden State Crematory 21 is where we utilize for cremations. 22 23 ROSENTHAL: Thank you. MR. MR. LEVITON: Albert, how would this 24 25 board set a number that they would be responsible

Page 75 for in terms of ensuring that the demolition takes 1 2 place? 3 MR. MARMERO: I don't want to step into Brian's shoes, but I know oftentimes you'll do 4 5 a value of the site improvements. I don't know if that's something you could do in terms of a number 6 7 for demolition. MR. LEVITON: Right, could you give 8 9 it tonight? 10 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I couldn't give you a number tonight, Mr. Chairman. What I could tell 11 12 you is that, what's being discussed here and considered is not unique to this project. The 13 Municipal Land Use Law actually has language, it was 14 15 updated several years ago, to include language that 16 allows for a municipality to bond for incomplete 17 portions of a private site improvement if and when a TCO is requested. 18 19 Now, I haven't seen it in this exact application on a funeral home or anything like that. 20 21 Where I have seen it is on residential properties, where you have a private site that's residential in 22 23 nature, the developer builds a portion of it and 24 they seek a CO for one of the units, but, for example, the top pavement may not be completed or 25

Page 76 all of the drainage improvements may not be 1 competed. At that point, the municipality can and 2 has in Manalapan's case required a performance bond 3 to be posted for the incomplete improvements. And 4 5 what it does is, as Mr. Marmero indicated, it would allow the township to step in and complete the work 6 7 if the developer were to not hold up their end of the bargain. So, there is precedent for this. 8 9 There is actually language in the land use law that describes how it works. How much it would be, I 10 have absolutely no idea. I wouldn't even venture a 11 12 guess at this point. But what I would say is that if this is something that the board imposes as a 13 14 condition of approval, if granted, we, as the municipal engineer at the time of CO request, would 15 prepare an estimate, and the applicant would be 16 responsible for posting whatever that dollar amount 17 is in a form that was acceptable to the township 18 19 attorney, with the township, and then it would just basically sit there until such time as everything 20 was completed in 90 to 100 days. 21 MR. LEVITON: So, when Mr. Steffaro 22

23 testifies that they're going to knock it down, they 24 want to knock it down, I take him at his word. And 25 that wasn't really a winning endorsement for a bond.

Page 77 There is the third option where, if they don't 1 complete the work, the municipality can step in, do 2 the work and then they'll have to pay for that on 3 their own. That's not a legal acumen but I think 4 5 I'm restating what you said Albert, am I? 6 MR. MARMERO: Yeah. 7 MR. LEVITON: Okay. MR. MARMERO: It's like anytime you 8 step in and do work, any kind of property 9 10 maintenance type thing, you can step in and do the 11 work if the property owner isn't doing it, and then 12 the cost of that goes as a lien on the property. So, that would be the type of situation here. 13 14 MR. LEVITON: Okay. I'm good with 15 that. But I definitely want to grant them a temporary certificate of occupancy, if we were to 16 look favorably on the application. And then, of 17 course, it's subject to revocation if they don't 18 19 comply with what they've agreed to do. It's a matter of putting a time frame on the demolition of 20 their existing building after their phase one is 21 22 completed. 23 I think, Brian, is it correct that 24 you recommended 45 to 60 days, is that what they 25 testified to?

Page 78 1 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I mean, it's 2 difficult for me to say, Mr. Chairman. 3 MR. LEVITON: No, no, I'm not asking 4 you what's appropriate. I think they said you 5 and/or other professionals recommended. MR. BOCCANFUSO: I think Mr. Steffaro 6 7 indicated that he had spoken to one builder who said that they could do it in 45 to 60 days. I'm not a 8 9 contractor. That seems pretty aggressive to me. 10 MR. LEVITON: Oh, it does. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yeah. I think the 11 12 60 to 90 days is probably more amenable, more reasonable. With that said, I mean, I don't know --13 what we're doing here is, we're kind of wading into 14 the responsibility of the municipality and the 15 municipal engineer. Now, our office does wear both 16 17 hats in Manalapan, fortunately, for us. But I think 60 to 90 days would be reasonable. The municipality 18 19 could, of course, extend it. Like, let's say that the applicant finished all their phase one 20 21 improvements, they were ready for a CO, the township issued a 90-day CO and on the 80th day we have a 22 23 meeting, we say, look, you guys are not going to be 24 done in ten days but you've made a lot of progress and, you know, we're comfortable with the 25

Page 79 conditions, we can extend it another 30 days or 1 2 something like that. When I say we, I mean the municipality. 3 4 MR. LEVITON: I understand. And we 5 are lucky that you are both this board's engineer and the municipality's, your firm also represents 6 7 the township. 8 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Correct. 9 MR. LEVITON: That's good. Okay. 10 So, if Brian says 45 to 60 is aggressive, and if the applicant has requested 90 to 120, Brian said 60 to 11 12 90 is better, I'm comfortable with 90, that's just me. What are your thoughts? 13 14 MR. SCHERTZ: That sounds fine. But what's the overall time for construction from first 15 16 shovel in the ground to completion? 17 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka. MR. LICATA: Or Michael, if you know. 18 19 MR. PLOSKONKA: I think what may be missing here is the fact that they're building a 20 building for quite a few dollars, several million. 21 And they have two chapels, and they can operate one 22 23 chapel temporarily, and they want to operate the 24 other chapel as soon as they can. So that they're 25 going to move as quickly as they can to knock down

Page 80 that building, get the parking lot in. 1 MR. LEVITON: We take him at his 2 word. I indicated as much. Mr. Schertz wants to 3 know, from shovel into the ground to the completion 4 5 of phase one and then phase two, what kind of time are we looking at? 6 7 MR. PLOSKONKA: At least a year, year and a half. 8 9 MR. LEVITON: How about for the 10 completion of phase one? MR. PLOSKONKA: Phase one should be 11 12 done in six or eight months. (Off the record.) 13 14 MR. PLOSKONKA: Mr. Halari, who's 15 building different things, says a year maybe. MR. LEVITON: For the record, 16 17 Mr. Halari is an associate of yours? 18 MR. PLOSKONKA: Yes. 19 MR. LEVITON: David? 20 MR. SCHERTZ: I'm always concerned about the traffic, and with construction equipment 21 on the property and trucks moving in and out of the 22 23 back portion and then the front portion and running 24 funerals at the same time, it just seems to me that there's unanticipated situations with delays. Not 25

Page 81 only on Burke Street but on Wilson Avenue also. 1 2 MR. LEVITON: Ms. Coffin, is that a 3 legitimate concern? 4 MS. COFFIN: Is that a question about 5 traffic delays? 6 MR. LEVITON: He's concerned about 7 traffic in general while the site is being constructed, because there are now not only services 8 occurring but construction vehicles on-site as well. 9 10 MR. PLOSKONKA: Mr. Chairman, if you look at the exhibit up there, you can see the 11 12 existing chapel and all the parking that we have with the existing chapel. There's no construction 13 14 going on there initially. It's going on on the vacant property. So, all the vehicles are over 15 there building a building and the parking to the 16 right. So, this can operate fully until that first 17 building is built, the new building is built and the 18 19 new parking is built, then knock this down. 20 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Avakian, the testimony is that while phase one is being 21 undertaken, that all construction is going to be on 22 23 what they have indicated is lot two. So, there 24 won't be a concurrence of construction vehicles and 25 funeral attendees. Do you have experience with

Page 82 that? Is that going to be a problem? 1 2 MR. AVAKIAN: Mr. Chair, I do not believe it will be a problem for a majority of the 3 construction. It's when you're meshing into getting 4 5 further into the next phase. I think that's where you might have an issue with logistics. Once the 6 7 construction is getting closer to that lot is where I think is the time. For the majority you won't. 8 9 How about the idea that MR. LEVITON: the construction vehicles would be an attractive 10 11 nuisance, does that happen? 12 MR. AVAKIAN: So, you could -- I think they could definitely put up enough fencing 13 and maybe an access that's off of where the current 14 funeral home is now, that it wouldn't be a nuisance, 15 16 again, for the most part. 17 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka, is that part of your plan, to fence off lot two while it's 18 19 under construction to inhibit folks who may find construction vehicles an attractive nuisance? 20 21 MR. PLOSKONKA: There's no question that we'll have, as part of our phasing, a fence 22 23 plan that shows how we can do it safely to meet all the requirements of the town, OSHA, et cetera. So, 24 we're going to make sure that you don't have any 25

Page 83 deaths here on the construction. 1 2 MR. LEVITON: David? MR. SCHERTZ: I'm okay now. 3 4 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Michael? 5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. 6 Chairman. 7 Mr. Rea, the question I have is, during all the figuring of your studies, how has 8 school bus pickups and dropoffs been addressed when 9 it comes to this? Services coming out, going in, 10 construction, buses, children, is there a plan for 11 12 that? 13 MR. REA: That's really up to the school transportation people. I'm assuming you're 14 15 talking about school bus dropoff and pickup on 16 Burke. 17 MR. WECHSLER: Yep, on Burke. 18 MR. REA: Okay. It hasn't been 19 addressed in our traffic study. It's something we can take a look into and we can coordinate with the 20 21 school transportation people. It seems as though, and I don't know exactly when the buses pick up or 22 23 drop off the children on Burke Street, but it seems as though most of that activity should be taking 24 25 place outside of the hours when the services are

Page 84 held. The 11 o'clock service is the typical 1 service. Now, I'm sure there might be some buses 2 dropping off kids at 12 o'clock half day. 3 4 MR. WECHSLER: Or three o'clock in 5 the afternoon. 6 MR. REA: Yeah. 7 VOICE: Seven or 9. MR. LEVITON: You'll get a turn. 8 Ι promise. It's just not yet. It's coming soon. 9 10 Mr. Rea, just to be clear, 11 Mr. Steffaro testified that services are current, 12 nine, 11 and one, not 12. 13 MR. REA: Correct. And I'm saying based on the data that was given -- and that's all 14 correct and he's right. Based on the data that was 15 16 given to me for that month between the middle of September and the middle of October in 2022, out of 17 the 15 services that were held, one, two, three, 18 19 four, five, six, seven -- eight of them were at 11 a.m. A couple were at nine. A couple were at one. 20 21 And one them was at two p.m. Just it is what it is. But I acknowledge the fact that there may be 22 23 situations where a service is being discharged at the same time a school bus is coming down the 24 25 street.

Page 85 1 My understanding, and I've been 2 driving for how many years now, I don't know, when those lights are on and that bus has stopped to 3 either pick up or discharge children, no traffic can 4 5 be moving. That's why the school buses have lights, 6 have the stop sign. And that's the law. And people 7 have to obey the law. 8 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Rea. Mr. Rea, I 9 apologize, I put an extra vowel there at the end, another syllable. Can you, just for the public who 10 11 are here, tell them, what is the industry standard? 12 What is it that you look to as your guide to determine a level of service? 13 14 MR. REA: It's based on the traffic volume entering the intersection, the traffic on the 15 through street, which in this case would be Wilson 16 Avenue, which is County Route 527. And based on the 17 volume entering the main street, the volume on the 18 19 main street, there's a delay that is anticipated, based on the program we use, and that's how we come 20 up with levels of service. And generally 21 speaking -- I'm really speaking for the public, I 22 23 know the board members have heard this, once you get 24 into a situation where you have a level of service F, you have to start looking at mitigation. And 25

Page 86 mitigation might involve installation of a traffic 1 2 signal, widening of an intersection, restricting left turns, things of that nature. But a B level of 3 service is not something that you have to mitigate. 4 5 C is pretty good, D, even level of 6 service E is generally accepted as an acceptable 7 level of service. Once you get into level of service F, you have to look at mitigation. And 8 level of service F at an un-signalized intersection 9 means delay in excess of, average delay in excess of 10 11 50 seconds per vehicle entering, you know, the main 12 road. MR. LEVITON: And remind us that with 13 the new proposed addition, the amount of time it's 14 going to take to turn left or to turn right. 15 16 MR. REA: It's going to be less than 17 15 seconds, because it's level of service B. 18 MR. LEVITON: Okay. So, for the 19 public, I appreciate your attendance, we're going to 20 appreciate your thoughts and your concerns. And we're going to hear them, as soon as our 21 professionals and as soon as the board has finished 22 23 with their cross-examination, if you will. We're going to allow you to come up to ask questions of 24 25 the professionals, that the applicant has put before

Page 87 the board tonight. And you, as well, can ask 1 2 questions about the testimony that's been entered onto the record, or we're going to allow you to 3 address the board as well. It's coming very 4 shortly. We're almost finished. Gentlemen, 5 6 anything else? 7 MR. SCHERTZ: We're good. 8 MR. LEVITON: Terry? 9 MR. ROSENTHAL: Good. 10 MR. LEVITON: Sooner than maybe even I had anticipated. Professionals? 11 12 MR. AVAKIAN: I'm sorry, I don't want to jump in, especially on top of parking or anything 13 14 like that. But Mr. Steffaro did happen to say that the current services will be at 9, 11 and 1. He 15 said he could have a potential of five services, 9, 16 17 10, 11, 12 and 1. I know that we mentioned a two 18 hour delay. 19 MR. LEVITON: Yes. He also testified 20 that they can happen later in the day, if it's 21 necessary. And Mr. Steffaro, while we're talking 22 23 about what you testified to, you did say that it's your intention to stagger services to have them at 24 perhaps 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 2. Is it your 25

Page 88 intention to go further into the day? 1 MR. STEFFARO: No. I think the 2 intention would be, we wouldn't have a service that 3 would start at eight because then the family would 4 5 need to be there at seven a.m. So, I think a service starting at nine is a reasonable enough time 6 7 for a family to be there for eight o'clock to start 8 the day. 9 The other thing to keep in mind -- to 10 answer your question, we would go till one o'clock 11 chapel service. The only service that may happen 12 after one o'clock a chapel service, which probably happened in the circumstance when we had one at two, 13 14 is if somebody has a memorial service. So, the memorial service would be -- there's no place for 15 16 the family that needs to go after the service 17 themselves. The family might have chosen cremation as the disposition. So, theoretically, they could 18 19 just have their friends and family gather and have that service without the need to go to a cemetery. 20 The majority of our services are 21 chapel service that end at a cemetery. So, we 22 23 wouldn't go past one o'clock with chapel services in our building, where the destination at the end of 24 that is a cemetery. Does that help answer that 25

Page 89 question? 1 2 MR. LEVITON: It does. I have another question. You're the market director for 3 all of the holdings of SCI in New Jersey? 4 5 MR. STEFFARO: That's correct. 6 MR. LEVITON: How much time do you 7 spend on site here at Bloomfield-Cooper? MR. STEFFARO: As of late, I try to 8 be there at least once a week. I do have -- I 9 10 happen to live closest to Manalapan, so it's easy 11 for me to pop in there. During this process, I 12 would be there at least two to three times a week to keep an eye on what's going on. 13 14 Someone asked a very good question, 15 David, I think it might have been you, who said, you 16 know, if the building is going on and there's large -- there's traffic and there's the actual 17 construction vehicles, you have to kind of keep in 18 19 mind, everyone here, that the family's going to be the one that dictates to us everything. We're not 20 going to put them in a position where there's a ton 21 of noise while their family's having a funeral 22 23 service. So, if something like that goes on, there 24 will be some delays in the construction, simply 25 because we'll go tell the contractors that they have

Page 90 to stop working because there's a funeral service 1 going on, so. We will be very considerate to the 2 people because we don't want their service to be one 3 where they have to remember that there was 4 5 construction going on during it. 6 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, sir. Gentlemen, anything else? 7 8 MR. SHALIKAR: Yeah. So, with that 9 statement, though, how are you anticipating an actual project timeline? I imagine every single 10 funeral service would then want a cease of 11 12 operations, right? 13 MR. STEFFARO: It could be. But keep in mind, if we serve 340 families and we only have 14 15 half of them actually currently use our facility, 16 you know, our funeral home is typically empty more 17 than it's filled with people. So, you know, there will be time, you know, in particular, where if I 18 19 ask them to stop, they're going to stop for the hour that the service is going on, so they could go get 20 coffee, you know what I mean. So, I'm not going to 21 tell them to stop for the day. 22 23 MR. SHALIKAR: Okay. 24 MR. WECHSLER: Just to add to that, how many services a day do you have now, currently, 25

Page 91 there? 1 2 MR. STEFFARO: We do chapel services for about 150 of the 340 families we serve every 3 year. There's no consistency to how many we have. 4 5 The most we could have would be the 9, 11 and 1, you know, actual chapel services, it doesn't happen. 6 7 Very rarely. If you looked at the 15 we did in that month, there was, I think, two or three days that we 8 had two services in one day; is that correct? 9 10 MR. REA: Yep. October 2, you had 11 two services, October 9, you had two services, 12 October 10. But there were 15 total services over 13 almost a month. So, an average of, basically, only 14 one every two days. 15 MR. STEFFARO: And most likely, we normally have between 30 to 35 funerals. So, the 16 17 other funerals that went on, they went directly to the cemetery. There weren't services in the funeral 18 19 home. MR. LEVITON: Michael, you're good? 20 21 Dan? 22 MR. POCHOPIN: Very good. Thank you. 23 MR. LEVITON: Basil? 24 MR. MANTAGAS: I'm good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 25

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1	MR. LEVITON: Gentlemen?
2	MR. GREGOWICZ: I'm good.
3	MR. LEVITON: Terry?
4	MR. ROSENTHAL: Still good.
5	MR. LEVITON: Brian, anything else?
6	MR. BOCCANFUSO: I think one thing
7	that I learned in the TRC meeting that may be
8	helpful that I don't think has come out tonight
9	MR. LEVITON: Hold on. Just a second
10	for the public. What he's referencing is that while
11	the applicant was putting together this presentation
12	over the course of how long, Brian, a year?
13	MR. BOCCANFUSO: Roughly.
14	MR. LEVITON: About a year. The
15	applicant's professionals met behind the scenes with
16	this board's professionals at what they call a
17	technical review committee, several times to ensure
18	that the application met the ordinances and the
19	needs of the township. The township's needs have
20	been represented since day one. Is that correct,
21	Brian?
22	MR. BOCCANFUSO: Correct.
23	MR. LEVITON: Okay. Forgive me.
24	Continue.
25	MR. BOCCANFUSO: During those

Page 93 meetings, I learned about the way in which the 1 2 Jewish faith typically operates these events. Where it's common in the Christian faith to have a wake of 3 a couple hours that may be seven to nine o'clock at 4 5 night, that doesn't happen in the Jewish community, at least not typically. And I would ask 6 7 Mr. Steffaro or one of the applicant's representatives to just explain why. Because 8 there's been a lot of discussion about the 9, 11 and 9 9, 11 and 1 p.m., how there's a bit of a rush often 10 times to get out to Long Island. How sometimes 11 12 there's a memorial service, that's atypical. And also -- it also goes into the traffic analysis 13 because Mr. Rea's study, one of the first questions 14 we had is why he didn't analyze the typical p.m. 15 peak hour, which is usually between five and six 16 p.m. And it all comes down to the way these things 17 typically operate. So, I would just ask 18 19 Mr. Steffaro if he could just kind of clarify that for all the board members. 20 21 MR. STEFFARO: Yes. Bloomfield-Cooper is a very traditional Jewish 22 23 funeral home. Typically, in the Jewish faith, there 24 is not a situation where family and friends come to the funeral home with an open casket viewing and 25

Page 94 spend time in the funeral home. The time that is 1 2 spent with family and friends is normally done at shiva, which is normally in someone's home after the 3 service. So, where our -- someone who's not Jewish, 4 5 the services are very different, you know, depending 6 on what their faith kind of dictates. But they 7 just -- there is no viewing in a Jewish funeral home or a Jewish funeral. The viewing typically happens 8 at shiva, which is in the family's home after the 9 case, without the body present. 10 11 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Is there typically a 12 religious tradition that the body's to be buried by sundown or something along those lines? 13 14 MR. STEFFARO: The urgency is that the burial should take place as quickly as possible. 15 16 Depending on how religious most families are, that dictates kind of how important that comment is. A 17 family who might be very, very conservative, very 18 19 orthodox in their beliefs, they'll have that funeral almost immediately. It's almost very much dictated 20 by the faith. They'll have the shomer who will come 21 in and sit with the remains. They'll have a ritual 22 23 washing that takes place, that will happen in the 24 funeral home. Then that burial will take place as 25 soon as possible. Typically could happen within the

Page 95 same day, very often it does, or immediately the 1 2 next day. Depending on how religious the families are, sometimes those -- the length of time for the 3 burial could maybe go out a day or so. But for the 4 5 most part, in the Jewish funeral homes, the burials 6 take place as quickly as possible. 7 MR. LICATA: Michael --8 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Thank you. Ι 9 appreciate the clarification. MR. LICATA: -- also in terms of the 10 11 services where the body is taken to the cemetery, 12 the cemetery closes at certain hours, correct? I'm sorry. The timing of the 13 services at your location is also limited, pushed 14 15 earlier, because you have to accommodate the times 16 during which the cemetery's operate. 17 MR. STEFFARO: Correct. As restrictive as we might be in our time frames of 18 19 actually having services, the Jewish cemeteries themselves typically operate in a very, very tight 20 21 window, which means we have to get to the cemetery while the grave diggers are there to accommodate the 22 23 service. Typically, it runs from like ten to -- it 24 could be ten o'clock to 11:30, then they go to lunch 25 till 12:30. And then depends on what cemetery.

Page 96 Then we have about a two hour window in the 1 afternoon, that's it. It's very, very tight. 2 That's why we're restrictive in how we operate our 3 services. 4 5 MR. LEVITON: Brian? 6 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. 7 MR. LEVITON: Just inviting you to 8 continue. 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. Thank you. And we've kind of -- not kind of, we have jumped 10 11 around quite a bit here during the proceedings here 12 tonight, so there's a few loose ends that I'd like to discuss. Then, obviously, I'm available for 13 questions from the board. 14 15 As it pertains specifically to traffic, what I will offer is that a funeral home 16 17 use is difficult to analyze, in that, first of all, there is a really wide variation. There's no 18 19 defined peak hour. There's no way to really 20 calculate the estimated trip generation associated 21 with the use based upon some independent variable. 22 By way of comparison, if you think 23 about a retail use or an office, the ITE gives you 24 numbers that you could use based upon square footage 25 or number of employees.

Page 97 1 MR. LEVITON: The ITE is what Mr. Rea 2 uses as his industry standard, and it stands for? MR. BOCCANFUSO: The institute of 3 4 Transportation Engineers. 5 MR. LEVITON: Okay. It's universal? 6 MR. BOCCANFUSO: It is. And 7 typically, that is what Mr. Rea would use in the study. However, in this case, when it comes to 8 9 funeral homes, believe it or not, the ITE does not have specific data to cite. The NJDOT does, the 10 11 New Jersey Department of Transportation does have 12 data to cite, however, it does not account for the size of the facility. So, if you had a 2,000 square 13 14 foot or a 20,000 square foot funeral home, DOT would 15 tell you that it generates the same amount of 16 traffic. 17 MR. LEVITON: It's interesting and 18 surprising. 19 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Agree one hundred 20 percent. MR. LEVITON: I'm also surprised that 21 it's not an inherently beneficial use. 22 23 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I can't speak to 24 that. 25 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Avakian can. I'm

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sure Ms. Coffin has some thoughts. But continue,
 Brian.

MR. BOCCANFUSO: So, anyhow, it 3 presents some challenges. And I think that's why 4 5 there was a fair amount of back and forth between our office and Mr. Rea's office during the course of 6 this application. And we kind of bounced ideas off 7 of each other about how we could most conservatively 8 9 estimate the trip generation, when there's no defined data that we could look to. And for that 10 reason, Mr. Rea did what he described in his earlier 11 12 testimony, as far as using the parking on-site as a guideline and assuming that you have one event 13 that's fully parked, that's staggered by one hour, 14 with another event, so you have half of that second 15 event coming in at the same time that the full first 16 event is leaving, that's how he determined the trip 17 18 generation.

19 Normally, it would very easy. You 20 would go to the ITE, plug in the independent 21 variable and it would spit out a number and then he 22 would run that through the process to determine the 23 traffic analysis. But it was a little bit more 24 complicated in this case.

25 MR. LEVITON: And he did that at your

Page 99 behest? 1 2 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yes, absolutely. We requested that they do something additional beyond 3 just using the straight DOT data, which is 4 5 independent of the facility. MR. LEVITON: And they did it with a 6 7 concurrent service in two different chapels and late in the day, four o'clock? 8 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: As late in the day 10 as their operations dictate. They didn't go into 11 that peak hour, as I indicated, because it's been 12 the applicant's testimony and representations that they don't operate during that peak hour on the 13 14 roadway. MR. LEVITON: And then he testified 15 that there would still continue to be a level B 16 17 service. 18 MR. BOCCANFUSO: That's correct. So, 19 even to the extent that there's some errors in the analysis, I find it very unlikely that it would rise 20 to a level of service E or F, where you would have 21 average delays that would warrant mitigation. So, I 22 23 just wanted to point that out, because, obviously, 24 this type of use we've all been, as I mentioned earlier, we've all been to funerals where they're 25

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extraordinarily well attended, sadly, and it's a little bit of an issue for a period of time. But, unfortunately, from an engineering standpoint, you can't really analyze that. It's difficult to analyze.

So, Mr. Rea's office and our office 6 7 have done our best to try to be as conservative as reasonably possible in looking at the impact of this 8 9 use under a worst case scenario, maybe not the 10 worst, but the typical most common worst case scenario, what the impact would be on the roadway 11 12 network. And I think that we've been able to come 13 to some type of common ground on that.

MR. LEVITON: I very much appreciate that and I appreciate your stating it on the record, because I'm fairly certain that the residents who are about to come up and speak have traffic on their minds.

MR. BOCCANFUSO: For sure. So, with that said, obviously, I'm available for questions from the board members about that, as Mr. Rea is as well. And I think he'd concur with the summary that J just provided. But moving off of the traffic for a moment.

The township ordinance requires

Page 101 sidewalk along all frontages of sites in connection 1 2 with any site plan application. Sidewalk is proposed to be completed along Burke Street, but no 3 sidewalk is proposed along Wilson. And I would ask 4 5 the applicant why not? Why is there no sidewalk? 6 MR. LEVITON: They did testify to 7 that. 8 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I think they said 9 they were not proposing it. I don't know --10 MR. LEVITON: Because of the nature of the street and that were going to pay what they 11 12 didn't have to. If we can keep it short. 13 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. 14 MR. LEVITON: Am I characterizing the testimony correctly? 15 MR. REA: My understanding is that 16 17 the applicant is, as an alternative, willing to pay into the township sidewalk fund. 18 19 MR. LEVITON: But it was the reason, Mr. Boccanfuso wants to know the reason that it's 20 21 not being developed on Wilson Avenue. 22 MR. BOCCANFUSO: And to clarify, it 23 is at the discretion of the board. It's an ordinance requirement. 24 25 MR. LEVITON: Yes.

Page 102 1 MR. BOCCANFUSO: The board can 2 absolutely require it. 3 MR. LEVITON: Yes. MR. BOCCANFUSO: If the board elects 4 5 not to, the applicant would be responsible for a payment in lieu provision for whatever sidewalk, you 6 7 know, whatever the length times the unit cost is. MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka, we're 8 trying to get it short. It's running late. Is it 9 fair to say that because Wilson Avenue is a main 10 road, that you're not doing it? Is that what you 11 12 testified to? 13 MR. PLOSKONKA: As you go towards the auction, there is no sidewalk at all as you go that 14 way, so it's a sidewalk to nowhere. So, it might be 15 better for the town to take the money and use it in 16 17 a more productive location. 18 MR. LEVITON: I appreciate you 19 raising that as a concern, Brian. I love the loose ends. I have no problem with it. I wouldn't compel 20 them to put a sidewalk in the front. 21 MR. DITOTA: It's going to be a 22 sidewalk with no other sidewalks around it. 23 MR. LEVITON: Correct. Yeah. 24 25 MR. BOCCANFUSO: You have to speak

Page 103 into the microphone, Ms. Moench said. 1 2 MR. DITOTA: I'm sorry. I said there was going to be a sidewalk in front of the facility 3 with no sidewalks on either side of it, so it 4 5 wouldn't make any sense. 6 MR. LEVITON: This new system we 7 have, and I talked about it at our last meeting, and you were not in attendance on that night. 8 9 MR. DITOTA: I still didn't make that? Why don't you just void my comment. 10 11 MR. LEVITON: No, it's good that you said that. It was terrific. Janice has told us 12 that -- no, you're good now. If you don't speak 13 into it, it doesn't pick things up. And the good 14 15 thing about the system, it no long picks up background conversations, rustling of papers or any 16 other noise. 17 Okay, Brian. 18 19 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 20 One other item that I think is 21 important to get on the record, the ordinance 22 requires street trees within a 20-foot wide minimum 23 24 easement along all frontages of the site. No street trees or easement are proposed along Wilson Avenue? 25

Page 104 Is that something that's feasible or are you seeking 1 a variance for that? 2 3 MR. PLOSKONKA: We agree to do that. MR. BOCCANFUSO: You'll do that. 4 5 Great. Makes it easy. And I think the last item I just want 6 7 to get on the record here is a design waiver that's required. I'll start out by saying I don't take 8 9 exception to it. The township ordinance requires roof leaders from residential and commercial 10 11 buildings to be directed to a dry well, which is 12 basically an underground stormwater management facility. In this case, the runoff is going to the 13 proposed stormwater management basins, which are 14 effectively, they're infiltration basins. They 15 function the same way a dry well would. So, I 16 believe it's a technical waiver that we should 17 include in the ordinance if there -- or in the 18 19 resolution if there is an approval. But I don't take any exception to it. 20 MR. LEVITON: Good stuff. Albert, do 21 22 you have that? 23 MR. MARMERO: Absolutely. 24 MR. LEVITON: Okay. 25 MR. MARMERO: What number comment was

Page 105 that, Brian? 1 2 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Ten G. MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Brian, for 3 4 your thoroughness. Brian? 5 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yes. 6 MR. LEVITON: Thorough. Thank you, 7 sir. MR. BOCCANFUSO: 8 Sure. 9 MR. LEVITON: Most appreciative. Anything else? Sam, anything else? 10 MR. AVAKIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 11 12 The applicant and all their professionals have done a very good job of addressing comments from our 13 14 letter. 15 I did have just one more very small 16 comment. For the trash enclosure you see in the 17 northeast corner, they have no screening. Just wanted to -- as of right now, there's a waiver that 18 19 would be required. I was just wondering why there is no screening. And if you could provide screening 20 21 to just get rid of that waiver. MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka? 22 23 (Off the record.) 24 MR. PLOSKONKA: I mentioned before, 25 that as you -- the wooded area that remains, except

Page 106 for the pipe, and if you go a little bit more to the 1 east, you have a paper street that's 50-foot wide, 2 that's not vacated, that stays as a natural screen. 3 4 MR. AVAKIAN: Mr. Ploskonka, I 5 believe that we're in agreement that the buffer of the wetlands is fine. I'm speaking more so on the 6 7 side of the parking lot area, on the west side and the south side, there's no screening. So, not 8 necessarily -- I know you have a fence or wetlands 9 10 vegetation. Yes, where this gentleman right here is 11 pointing to. 12 MR. PLOSKONKA: We'll add some more 13 screening there, based on input from the environmental commission, as well as Shari Spero, 14 the arborist. 15 MR. AVAKIAN: Perfect. That would 16 17 remove the waiver, for the board to know, if they could do that. Thank you. 18 19 MR. LEVITON: Albert, you got that 20 too? 21 MR. MARMERO: Uh-hum. 22 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Mr. Avakian, 23 thank you, sir. An aesthetic improvement for sure. 24 Anything else, gentlemen? Before we go out to the public, we're 25

Page 107 going to take a two minute recess. 1 2 (Recess was taken.) MR. LEVITON: We're going to call the 3 meeting to order once again. And I am now going to 4 5 go out to public. I'm going to ask that you come up. You'll be sworn in by our attorney, 6 7 Mr. Marmero. I'll ask you to keep your comments to three minutes, if you can be brief. And then 8 subsequent folks that come up, if you can refrain 9 10 from repeating what's already been said, we'd 11 appreciate that too. 12 So if you'd like to, now is the time, 13 please come. Mr. Halari's offering you a microphone. 14 15 MS. McCARTNEY: I don't really need it. 16 17 MR. LEVITON: You do, because the 18 proceedings are recorded for posterity and then 19 they're transcribed. JOELLE McCARTNEY, sworn by attorney. 20 21 MR. MARMERO: Could you state your 22 name for the record, please? 23 MS. McCARTNEY: My name is Joelle McCartney. I live at Six Stanford Street. That's 24 25 my mailbox. My house is actually on Burke Street.

Page 108 1 THE REPORTER: Excuse me. Can you 2 spell your last name. 3 MS. McCARTNEY: McCartney, M-c-C-A-R-T-N-E-Y, like the Beatle. 4 5 First of all, I want to say thank you 6 for hearing us, Mr. Chairman and the board. We're 7 all residents of Burke Street. And I'm pretty sure I speak for most of them. My husband and I have 8 lived at this Six Stanford Street, which is 9 essentially Seven Burke Street. We live next to 10 Nine Burke Street, and we will be facing directly 11 12 across from the facade of the new Bloomfield-Cooper. Our driveways currently face each other. So, we 13 will, I feel, be the most impacted by, aesthetically 14 by you, not in other ways. Other people will 15 address other issues. 16 17 As I was saying -- sorry, lost my spot. My husband and I have lived at this location 18 19 for almost two decades. Our home has been here since 1950. It was once one of the original farms. 20 We've been -- we've never had any issue with 21 22 Bloomfield-Cooper or its parking. It's always been 23 a part of living on Burke Street. It's never 24 impacted us greatly and it's just a part of life. 25 We've lived directly across, having our driveways

Page 109 being directly across from each other, as I said. 1 2 We've known about the parking lot since we moved in in 2004. However, plans are entirely different from 3 what we were expecting. And the current plans 4 impact the residentiality, if I may, of the block. 5 6 The proposal of -- the proposal completely changes 7 the residential feel of this block. And it will bring the residential value of our homes down. If I 8 may, I'd like you to think about your own homes and 9 if you would see this --10 11 MR. LEVITON: Ms. McCartney, I'm 12 going to have to cut you off at that because --13 MS. McCARTNEY: Can I get a ten second warning, at least? 14 15 MR. LEVITON: I just need to let you know that we're not permitted under the Municipal 16 Land Use Law to consider real estate holdings, 17 property values --18 19 MS. McCARTNEY: I understand. 20 MR. LEVITON: -- or monetary --21 MS. McCARTNEY: I understand. Yeah, I understand, you know, the basic of, you want to do 22 23 well for the township. However, we are the ones that are going to be most impacted. That's why 24 we're probably the only ones here. 25

Page 110 1 Just as a sidewalk is not necessary 2 in front of the structure, the current structure, is because the nature of the street and the face of the 3 existing structure is commercial. Our block is 4 5 residential. And this block, although it is mixed 6 commercial use, it is now changed. So, I don't 7 think that the variance should be changed. And finally, the design waiver of the 8 roof leaders to the dry well that runs off, someone 9 10 would like to address that because she's going to be 11 impacted. 12 MR. LEVITON: She will. Typically, this is not a dialogue, but I just want you to be 13 clear and rest assured, there will be a sidewalk in 14 front of your home on the other side of the street. 15 MS. McCARTNEY: There is one there 16 17 already. MR. LEVITON: Okay. Well, there will 18 19 continue to be one. Okay. Who else? Hello. Come 20 on up. Mr. Marmero will swear you in. DOMINIQUE ZADOK, sworn by attorney. 21 MR. MARMERO: Could you state your 22 23 name for the record, please. 24 MS. ZADOK: Dominique Zadok, Z-A-D-O-K. Hi. I live at 16 Burke Street. I will 25

Page 111 be directly facing the new retention pond that 1 you're going to build. So, I'm going to be -- I'm 2 like next door to where Bloomfield-Cooper is. 3 So, basically, my biggest problem is, 4 5 that I'm going to be worried about is, right now we have a retention pond across the street that kind of 6 7 drains into behind where we live right now. And currently, we've lost like a lot of trees in the 8 back over the years. I've lived there since it was 9 10 built. So, I'm living there 28 years now. So, 11 we've lost a lot of trees. I have a picture now, I 12 don't know if you guys want to take --13 MR. LEVITON: We can't -- we have to have it marked. 14 MS. ZADOK: You can't look at it? 15 MR. LEVITON: We can but it needs to 16 17 be marked --18 MS. ZADOK: If you just want to take 19 a quick look at it. 20 MR. LEVITON: No, no, Ma'am. You're 21 not listening. 22 MS. ZADOK: Oh. 23 VOICE: It has to be marked. 24 MS. ZADOK: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. So, we've lost a lot of trees over the years in the 25

Page 112 back and due to that --1 2 MR. LEVITON: We're going to mark it. MR. MARMERO: This will be P-1 for 3 4 public one, and we'll call it photograph of trees. 5 (The Photograph of trees was marked as P-1 for identification.) 6 7 MR. LEVITON: Continue, please. MS. ZADOK: So, we've lost a lot of 8 9 trees in the back over the years and due to that, there -- it just -- there's no -- nothing -- no 10 11 roots back there to suck up any of the drainage 12 anymore. So, due to that, now we get a lot of water coming up in the back. I have never had any water 13 problems in my back anymore. But we, my husband and 14 15 I and people next door to us, who somebody's here right now, and we have a couple of neighbors down 16 further, are starting to get worried and we're 17 worried now with a new retention pond, if that 18 19 starts to come up and overflow, where is that water going to go now. I'm going to be -- that's only 20 going to be 50 feet, maybe 75 feet off of my 21 property line now. So, I'm more worried about that 22 23 than anything else at this point. Where is that 24 water going to go? 25 The water across the street now, when

Page 113 that comes up and overflows, that, I think about two 1 years ago, two cars got ruined from it. So, that 2 doesn't drain properly right now. We've had 3 problems with that over the years. I've never had 4 5 any problems in my house, but people have had problems over the years. But I'm worried if this 6 7 overflows, where is that water going to go? So, 8 that's my biggest property. 9 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Ms. Zadok. 10 I do want, again, it's not a dialogue, but I do want to allay those concerns too because Mr. Boccanfuso 11 12 has studied the stormwater management plan that has been submitted. Over the course of the year, he's 13 worked with the applicant, he assures me, he assures 14 this board, that all of the runoff goes to the 15 north, to the other side of the property, towards 16 17 Gordon Street. Now, all of the runoff goes in that 18 19 direction, Mr. Boccanfuso; is that correct? 20 MR. BOCCANFUSO: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. 21 22 Ms. Zadok, did I pronounce that 23 correctly? 24 MS. ZADOK: Yes. 25 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Could I just ask

Page 114 you, the photo that you submitted, P-1, in which 1 2 direction were you standing and facing? What are we looking at there? 3 4 MS. ZADOK: So, that's from my 5 backyard, it's like diagonal from my backyard. And 6 that water flow comes toward the house. So, that's 7 mine and my neighbor's house. 8 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. First of all, 9 your property's directly --10 MS. ZADOK: So, my --11 (Off the record.) 12 MR. BOCCANFUSO: We can go slowly. 13 We got all night. We can only speak one at a time, otherwise, she'll have our heads and I'm rather 14 attached to my head, so. 15 MS. ZADOK: You see the red truck in 16 17 the driveway? 18 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I do. 19 MS. ZADOK: That's my house. MR. BOCCANFUSO: Got it. Okay. 20 21 MS. ZADOK: Yeah. MR. BOCCANFUSO: So, the picture that 22 23 you presented to the board, you're standing in your 24 rear yard and looking in which direction, towards your backyard or --25

Page 115 1 MS. ZADOK: Yep, backyard. 2 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Okay. What I would tell you is, I'm not surprised to see standing water 3 there because it's wetlands. 4 5 MS. ZADOK: Yep. 6 MR. BOCCANFUSO: It's regulated 7 areas. And the applicant has defined those wetlands and the DEP has confirmed that they're there. So, I 8 am not surprised that you're seeing wet conditions 9 back there, nor am I surprised that there's trees 10 11 dying back there because it is wet. 12 What I would tell you is that the applicant will not and cannot touch anything in 13 14 those wetlands areas unless they get a permit from 15 the DEP. That stormwater management basin, in my 16 opinion, will not have any impact on the conditions 17 in the area. Because any discharge from that basin, as the chairman indicated, is going to head off to 18 19 the west, which is to the left, away from your property. All the runoff is flowing in that general 20 direction, albeit slowly, because it is wetlands. 21 You're not looking at a running river, a brook or 22 23 anything of that nature. It's just kind of a 24 gradual flow. So, I don't believe that this 25 proposal will have any impact on the conditions that

Page 116 you're experiencing currently. 1 2 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Boccanfuso. And thank you, Ms. Zadok. 3 4 MS. DIDOMENICO: Hi. 5 MR. LEVITON: Hello. We'll get to you, sir, don't worry. 6 7 MARSHA DIDOMENICO, sworn by attorney. MR. MARMERO: If you could state your 8 name and address for the record, please. 9 MS. DIDOMENICO: Marsha Didomenico. 10 11 I live at 15 Burke Street. D-I-D-O-M-E-N-I-C-O. 12 I've lived in Manalapan 20 years. I've raised three children. They're grown now. 13 14 This is my second home. I've lived here, I'm the 15 original homeowner. It was my first home I bought 16 on my own. I have never seen a building built on a residential street in 20 years. There's kids that 17 play in front of this street. There's a bus stop on 18 19 my corner. There's three schools that come, Manalapan High School, the middle school and 20 elementary school, that pick children up all day 21 22 long. 23 The main street is never used for 24 this, for any funeral. Have you even been there? We're talking about, you know, traffic and things. 25

Page 117 Has anyone even been on my block? Have you been on 1 2 my block and witnessed the amount of traffic that's there now? Now you're going to put a monstrous 3 building in the middle of a residential street. And 4 5 it's just -- it's mind boggling. I've never experienced this. I've lived here 20 years. I 6 7 can't believe that this is going to be across the street in a residential block, dead smack in the 8 9 middle of a block. It doesn't make any sense. 10 It's a business property. It was 11 always fine when it was more towards Wilson Avenue, 12 Street, whatever that street is. Even then, it's been a nuisance with the amount of cars. And 13 14 there's just not cars on Burke Street. They go blocks. They go to Pension. And this is with a 15 smaller facility. I can't imagine the amount of 16 people and traffic and dangerous conditions. And 17 kids could no longer play on that street because of 18 19 this monstrosity. It's -- I'm speechless. 20 And we weren't notified correctly. We weren't notified by certified mail. It was a 21 letter stuck in our mailbox. That's why no one's 22 23 here, because half the people didn't even get the notice. We didn't know. I thought it was garbage. 24 25 I was ready to throw it out.

Page 118 1 MR. LEVITON: So, first, it's not a 2 dialogue, but let's just make sure. Mr. Marmero, do we have jurisdiction 3 to hear this case? Was notice improper? 4 5 MS. DIDOMENICO: It was a letter stuck in my mailbox in between just regular mail. 6 7 It didn't even look important. It looked like junk mail. 8 9 MS. ZADOK: It was not sent out 10 correctly. MR. LEVITON: We cannot entertain 11 12 anyone calling out. Please try to refrain from doing so. And everybody who wants to, will be 13 heard. And our attorney is looking at the noticing 14 15 right now to ensure it was proper. 16 Mr. Licata, any thoughts? MR. MARMERO: Yes. With respect to 17 this specific individual speaking, there is a 18 19 certified receipt from February 16, to 15 Burke Street. And then just looking at the remainder of 20 the list --21 22 MR. LEVITON: So --23 MS. DIDOMENICO: I have it in my car if you want to see it. I never signed for it. 24 25 MR. LEVITON: There's a receipt. We

Page 119 have a receipt. 1 2 MS. DIDOMENICO: No one signed for it. It was stuck in my mailbox. 3 MR. MARMERO: The applicant, what 4 5 he's obligated to do is get it to the post office and get the post office to stamp it with the date 6 that the post office took it for certified. What 7 happens once it gets to delivered to you, whether 8 it's signed or accepted, that's not something the 9 applicant controls. What they control is getting it 10 out and getting it stamped on that date. So, he met 11 12 his obligation with respect to the noticing requirement. 13 14 MR. LEVITON: We have jurisdiction 15 then. And just so you -- you know, you moved in, it's a limited business district. That's what this 16 17 is. It was existing when you purchased your home. MS. DIDOMENICO: So, it's not a 18 19 residential street? 20 MR. LEVITON: It's both. It's both. 21 MS. DIDOMENICO: So, I mean, you're the board, right, you can take that all into 22 23 consideration. I've never seen it in 20 years in 24 Manalapan. That's what keeps me here. That's what 25 keeps all the residents here, because of the zoning,

Page 120 because I can't put a fence that's not proper. I 1 couldn't put a shed that's not proper. Is my taxes 2 going to go down? This is just -- it's not why we 3 4 live here. 5 MR. LEVITON: I hear you. The board 6 hears you. And we understand. 7 MS. DIDOMENICO: The amount of traffic down that block -- take a ride down there. 8 9 Go look at it. There's not even construction yet. Go look at it when there's a funeral. Go look at 10 11 the blocks and blocks of cars that are there, the 12 school buses that come at all different times. 13 There's seven a.m., there's eight a.m., there's nine 14 a.m. You know, one o'clock they're dropping off. There's kids that are playing there. Just take that 15 into consideration. It's Manalapan. This is why we 16 live here. This should not be on that block. 17 18 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, 19 Ms. DiDomenico. Anybody else? Welcome, sir. NAGESH PULAVARTHI, sworn by attorney 20 21 MR. MARMERO: Again, can you state your name and address for the record, please. 22 23 MR. PULAVARTHI: I'm Nagesh 24 Pulavarthi, N-A-G-E-S-H, P-U-L-A-V-A-R-T-H-I. 25 MR. LEVITON: I need you to go slower

Page 121 on your last name. P-U-L. 1 2 MR. PULAVARTHI: P-U-L-A-V-A-R-T-H-I. So, you can call me Nagesh. 3 So I live at Nine Burke Street. I 4 5 will be just exact opposite to the second parking 6 lot. Right there. Yeah, that's the one. Okay. 7 So, I understand the commercial needs and everything. So, I mean, there is investment 8 9 going on into this and everything. So, my problem is not anything about that, but that is something is 10 very painful. So, I mean, when a funeral home, 11 12 somebody is performing there, something coming out, going in, I'm just exactly opposite to that thing. 13 14 So, I can't even keep my door open and then stay outside, you know. There is always something coming 15 out and going in. Not always, I'm not saying that 16 17 every minute, every day this happening. But it does happen. Right. So, it puts a lot of mental trauma 18 19 onto us. Right. So, all I'm saying is like, there is a funeral home in the beginning, right, so why 20 can't it be there, and then the rest of thing be 21 parking lot. Why you need to have to be in the 22 middle of the lot and then that is how it does. The 23 24 only reason I'm asking is, like, every day you see 25 this, every time you see this.

Page 122 I mean, somebody investing so many 1 millions of dollars, they're not going to say that, 2 okay, the same kind of traffic will be there, same 3 amount of people will be there. So, do the 4 business, right, it is all business. So somebody is 5 6 going to bring in more people, more things, more, 7 more, more, right. They have to do the break even point, their investment, right. So, to do that, 8 more number of people are going to come. The 9 residents on that block are going to have a mental 10 trauma. When you are considering about approving 11 12 this, please think about the situation about the existing people. 13 14 And also, the Milford Brook school, 15 the elementary school that's exactly -- I mean, it's not here, but you can see all the buses going in and 16 out through this road. And Milford Brook school 17 starts at 9:05 in the morning, I think, 18 19 approximately. Guy, s, you can help me. Right. And closes around 3:30, something like that. 20 The buses fly around that road exactly during that times which 21 is, they mentioned about. Right. So, traffic 22 23 considerations, no, there won't be much traffic, 24 there won't be this. No, it's not going to happen. It is going to be there. There are so many times I, 25

Page 123 myself, I could not pull my car out because so much 1 2 cars are parked in front of my home. They're not blocking my parking way, I know that, but it is not 3 4 easy, both sides people parking, two sides of the 5 road. It's not going to work. Right. Now, what are we talking about? Two 6 7 services can happen at the same time. Right. When two services are happening at the same time, just 8 9 imagine some popular guy, something, God forbid something should not happen, but it can happen, 10 right. We're talking about what 120, 130 parking 11 12 spots. It's not going to work. So, please consider these things, the mental trauma, what we are going 13 14 to face, the amount of traffic that's going to come in. I mean, all I'm asking is, like, why can't --15 16 instead of staying in the middle of the lot, why can't the building be there where it is. And then 17 things can be a parking lot and then the in and out 18 19 can be through Wilson Avenue. You don't have to be 20 through Burke Street. Simple. 21 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Nagesh. 22 Anyone else? Hello, ma'am. 23 MS. BONETT: Hi. 24 MR. LEVITON: Welcome. 25 MIKI BONETT, sworn by attorney.

Page 124 MR. MARMERO: And then like the 1 2 others, can you state your name and address for the 3 record, please. 4 MS. BONETT: Miki Bonett, 5 B-O-N-E-T-T, 18 Burke Street. Am I allowed to ask 6 questions or --7 MR. MARMERO: What was the address again, ma'am? 8 9 MS. BONETT: Eighteen Burke. 10 MR. LEVITON: Yes, Ms. Bonett, you 11 may. 12 MS. BONETT: Okay. So, how come the traffic study was done in July and not in September, 13 14 October when school was in session? MR. REA: No, it was done in 15 16 September. You misunderstood. It was done in 17 September. 18 MS. BONETT: I thought it was done 19 July 15. MR. REA: No. I testified the 20 traffic counts were done in September 2022, schools 21 22 were open. 23 MS. BONETT: Then how come it was 24 just a study towards Wilson and not Pension, because 25 a lot of the funerals leave towards Pension Road.

Page 125 1 MR. REA: Yeah, because Wilson is the 2 more heavily traveled street. It's a county road, 3 major county road. MS. BONETT: So, would it take into 4 5 consideration going towards Pension Road? 6 MR. REA: There's more of an impact 7 on Wilson. We have a driveway on Wilson. The impact on Pension Road is limited. 8 MS. BONETT: By opinion or fact? 9 10 MR. REA: By both. MS. BONETT: Well, you didn't do a 11 12 study on it, so how can it be --MR. REA: I've done traffic counts on 13 14 Pension Road. I've done numerous traffic studies in 15 Manalapan up by the auction in this area. Pension 16 Road is not as heavily traveled as Wilson Avenue. It's a major county arterial. We have an access on 17 Wilson. It's the more heavily traveled and more 18 19 important street to analyze. It will have a very limited impact on Pension Road. 20 21 MR. LEVITON: Ms. Bonett, Mr. Rea has testified before this board on numerous occasions. 22 23 We accept him as an expert. And our own engineer, 24 who we pay to represent all of our interests here in Manalapan, has worked with Mr. Rea and his firm and 25

Page 126 asked them to do -- to go beyond what they initially 1 did. To go for worst case scenario, as they 2 characterized it. And while Mr. Boccanfuso said 3 4 that there's no industry standard in the IT what, 5 Brian? 6 MR. BOCCANFUSO: TTE. 7 MR. LEVITON: In the ITE, that he's satisfied that the level of service that you enjoy 8 now will not decrease. And when he tells me that, 9 when Mr. Rea testifies to that, that is what we 10 11 accept. So, we're not going to argue. You asked, 12 it was answered. Continue, please. MS. BONETT: Did we take into account 13 also the new development with traffic and the water 14 flow from the auction development that's being 15 16 built? 17 MR. LEVITON: Brian, did their stormwater management plan reference other 18 19 construction projects? 20 MR. BOCCANFUSO: The stormwater 21 management plan would not be required to account for the auction analysis. That design was such that all 22 23 of the runoff was actually going to the north 24 towards the Pine Brook, basically, under the auction 25 property. It's off-site. You're not going to see

Page 127 it here. But the stormwater management impact of 1 that development would have no impact on this site 2 in the immediate proximity of the site. It would be 3 a substantial distance, if not miles downstream, 4 5 before there was any confluence of the outflow. As for the traffic, the traffic would 6 have been accounted for in Mr. Rea's background 7 growth. What they do is, they count traffic and 8 9 then they apply an increasing factor over a period of years. So, that would have accounted for the 10 11 impact of the Pine Brook Crossing development, now 12 known as Manalapan Grove. MS. BONETT: And one more question. 13 What guarantee do you have that that water basin's 14 going to really hold the water? What's going to be 15 later down the road when we have floods? 16 MR. LEVITON: Well, Mr. Ploskonka has 17 built this town. He's been here for 55 years. 18 This 19 board recognizes his thumbprint over a good percentage of everything that you see, every single 20 21 day. He has our upmost respect. He has put together this plan. And our engineer has signed off 22 23 on it. That is the only guarantee that I need. I don't know that I can satisfy what you do. 24 25 Anything else, Ms. Bonett?

Page 128 1 MS. BONETT: Thanks for your time. 2 MR. LEVITON: You're welcome. Thank you for your concerns. Anyone else? 3 4 MS. McCARTNEY: Can I readdress? 5 MR. LEVITON: It's not typically 6 allowed, but sure. We're not going to argue. 7 MS. McCARTNEY: No, I won't argue. 8 MR. LEVITON: Okay. 9 MS. McCARTNEY: My name is Joelle 10 McCartney. So, first thing, the notification, 11 12 I'm just curious how we know that we were notified properly, because we got an envelope. 13 14 MR. LEVITON: Our attorney has --15 MR. MARMERO: Yeah, so --MS. McCARTNEY: I know he addressed 16 17 it. But when he says certification, to me, that's a different definition than --18 19 MR. MARMERO: We don't know if you 20 received it. We know that the applicant took it to 21 the post office and got it stamped, because that's what his legal obligation is. 22 23 MS. McCARTNEY: Just stamped. That's 24 not certified mail, though. 25 MR. MARMERO: But it's a certified

Page 129 mail. He has a receipt that's stamped. They 1 2 postmarked it. 3 MS. MOENCH: It's certified, it's not 4 return receipt. 5 MS. McCARTNEY: So, if we show that we didn't get certified mail, does that give no 6 7 notification? 8 MR. LEVITON: No. 9 MR. MARMERO: No. He has to show 10 that he brought it to the post office and got it 11 postmarked by them. He's provided that. 12 MS. McCARTNEY: So, just a postmark. That's the thing, I don't understand. From what I 13 understand, certified mail is the green postcard, 14 15 green postcard. MR. MARMERO: Yeah, but a lot of 16 17 times people don't get them or they don't get there on time. He has no control over that. He has to 18 19 meet the law, legal requirement, which is to get it there ten days before this hearing. He beat that. 20 His are marked February 16, so you're, I guess, 15 21 or so, or maybe even more, before the hearing. 22 23 MS. McCARTNEY: So, then he would 24 have a little slip, yeah? 25 MR. MARMERO: Yeah, he has slips.

Page 130 They're all here. 1 2 MS. McCARTNEY: If we show that our envelopes were stamped with the date, that date, but 3 4 don't have the postmark on the back, that's not 5 certified mail. 6 MR. LEVITON: No, Ms. McCartney, you're not getting it. But you can rest assured 7 that this is --8 9 MS. McCARTNEY: No, I don't get it. Because, to me, the definition is different from 10 11 what I was taught when I worked in a law firm. 12 MS. MOENCH: The tax assessor provides a 200-foot list, which the applicant is 13 provided to ask for, and that 200-foot list is sent 14 to the applicant. The applicant then has to send 15 certified mailings, not return receipt, not the big 16 17 green card on the back where you sign for it, but the little green card. So, when he brings these to 18 19 the post office with the list that our tax assessor gave him, which is a certified list, and has to put 20 21 it -- has to address it to every one of those and send it in a timely manner, according to the 22 23 Municipal Land Use Law. He can't control whether it 24 is signed -- whether they get it or not. Do you understand? 25

Page 131 1 MS. McCARTNEY: I do understand, but 2 typically, that is coupled with a postcard on the back of an envelope. 3 4 MS. MOENCH: That's return receipt. 5 This is just certified mail. So, there's certified mail and then there's certified mail with return 6 7 receipt. Make sense? 8 MS. McCARTNEY: Got it. 9 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, 10 Ms. McCartney. MS. McCARTNEY: The other thing that 11 12 I wanted to address was the timing, the level B mitigation. I think if he did his study at a 13 14 different time, the mitigation level would be risen at least to a C or a D. The fact that the other 15 things that my neighbors brought up was like Milford 16 Brook, also Englishtown. I have a landscaper who 17 won't even come to our address because of the 18 19 traffic that keeps him from coming when he comes from the other side of Englishtown. 20 21 MR. LEVITON: Traffic is a legitimate 22 concern this board cares about. We don't want to do 23 anything that's going to make things worse. 24 MS. McCARTNEY: May I make a 25 suggestion in the alternative of having -- because

Page 132 when we moved in, we were told that they would build 1 a parking lot, however, the building would remain 2 where it was and it would just the parking lot. We 3 were fine with that, because we don't have this 4 5 funeral home facing our property. But if this does come to pass, may I suggest that the traffic go 6 7 through Burke Street and out Wilson. They don't do that. So, we are an expert, just like you addressed 8 9 this man here, I'm sorry. MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka. 10 11 MS. McCARTNEY: And he's got his 12 thumbprint, like you said, on this town, and he's been here and he's an expert because he's been here 13 14 for 55 -- we've lived on that block, some of us, for 15 20 years. So, we're the expert on our block. So, 16 we know how they operate. I know exactly how 17 Bloomfield-Cooper operates, because they live across the street from me. It's doesn't impact me because 18 19 I live on a flag lot, so I turn and I go the other 20 way. MR. LEVITON: Mr. Steffaro, is there 21 anyone at your facility who manages the funeral home 22 23 other than yourself? 24 MR. STEFFARO: Yes. 25 MR. LEVITON: Would they be receptive

Page 133 to input from the local residents? 1 2 MR. STEFFARO: Yeah. I mean, based on her recommendation, I could easily just tell the 3 location to go out that direction. You know, it 4 5 really depends on what cemetery they are going to dictates which route they take. 6 7 MS. McCARTNEY: Most of the time going to Adelphia is going up toward Pension. 8 9 MR. LEVITON: It doesn't matter. Mr. Steffaro, if you could direct traffic away from 10 11 the residences, it would always be appreciated. 12 MR. STEFFARO: Without a question. 13 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, sir. 14 MS. McCARTNEY: I'd like to readdress 15 the residentiality, my new word, of the block. It 16 has changed. The block has changed. Our house was 17 the only house in the block. As a matter of fact, I don't even like the new light post that we have, I 18 19 hate it, but it's part of the -- it's part of life and it moves on, yeah. But this completely changes 20 the way that we're going to live on this block. 21 22 We just recently had a block party 23 for the first time. We're joining, bringing our block together, that's what we're trying to do. But 24 that really, like Nagesh said, is going to put, you 25

Page 134 know, I forget the wording that he used. But it 1 2 really does put a mental trauma, it really does. I'm sorry. I apologize. 3 If you look at my house, it's the one 4 that has -- it's the second house from the left. 5 So, our house actually faces the wrong way, because 6 7 it was the first house in the entire area. So, that's why we have a flag lot, too, because it's an 8 9 old easement, but the flag lot allows us access out that way. But it also shows you why our house faces 10 11 the wrong way. So, our backyard is now being 12 imposed upon by this building. I'm going to look in my backyard and I'm going to be looking at a funeral 13 14 home. It's that right there, that fence that comes 15 down like a U shape, that's my backyard. MR. LEVITON: Mr. Halari, can you put 16 17 up the grading plan -- not the grading plan. What do you call it with the trees? Is there a proposed 18 19 tree line along that fence to mitigate what she's going to see from her backyard? There is not. 20 There's some mitigation. What kind of trees are 21 22 those? 23 They've agreed to work with our environmental commission who made recommendations to 24 use native plants. Brian, can we ensure that there 25

Page 135 are some evergreens there, as well, to mitigate that 1 2 view? 3 MS. McCARTNEY: If I may. 4 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Mr. Chairman, are 5 you asking if -- first of all, I think we would need to ensure that the applicant is agreeable to it. 6 7 MR. LEVITON: Of course. MR. BOCCANFUSO: If they're not, the 8 9 board can certainly weigh that, but --10 MR. LEVITON: I'm thinking that the 11 board cares that what she's going to see out of her 12 backyard is changed. What hasn't changed, is the district. 13 14 Mr. Avakian, this is a limited business Wilson Street district. It's like unique. 15 It's a zone made specifically for this street, and 16 that's consistent with what it's always been. 17 MR. AVAKIAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So, 18 19 just to reiterate what was originally said, we're also here for a D1 use variance. And just so the 20 whole board knows, in order to fulfill and satisfy 21 all the criteria of the Municipal Land Use Law, 22 23 there's four parts. You have to have two positive parts, which is suited for the use. And like you 24 25 just said, it's been the use there currently.

Page 136 Special reasons, which Ms. Coffin had touched on. 1 2 And there is negative criteria. A part of negative criteria is, the variance can be granted without 3 substantial detriment to the public good. 4 5 MR. LEVITON: So, that is the 6 standard that this board is charged with meeting. 7 This board has to apply the Municipal Land Use Law of New Jersey, which you've just heard from 8 Mr. Avakian, the board's planner, that there are two 9 10 prongs, a positive and a negative. And the negative 11 criteria talks about there being no substantial 12 detriment to the public. So, even if we take into account all of your concerns, we need to weigh that 13 against the entire community and see if it rises to 14 the level of substantial. 15 Now, granted, it's subjective. But 16 17 the man has the right to improve his property. That's what the MLUL says, that he has the right to 18 19 develop his property. And if they put the proofs on 20 the record, that's what we have to go by. Thank 21 you, Mr. Avakian. Go on, please. 22 MS. McCARTNEY: And the last thing is 23 the fact that it's going over wetlands. So, how did 24 that --25 MR. LEVITON: They're not touching

Page 137 the wetlands. Not only did they come through us, 1 2 they went through the Department of Environmental Protection for New Jersey. They're not allowed to 3 touch it. 4 5 MS. McCARTNEY: But they're going 6 right over it. 7 MR. LEVITON: They're not. MS. McCARTNEY: So what is --8 9 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka, ensure her that the wetlands won't be disturbed. 10 11 MS. McCARTNEY: But then it's going 12 back 75 feet. 13 MR. LEVITON: Mr. Ploskonka. 14 MR. PLOSKONKA: As I pointed out before on the Exhibit B, the wetlands in the back 15 16 there is being preserved. The buffer for the wetlands touches the edge of the parking lot. 17 MS. McCARTNEY: That's what that 18 19 black line is, buffer? 20 MR. PLOSKONKA: Correct. 21 MS. McCARTNEY: Right. 22 MR. PLOSKONKA: Let me finish. And 23 the buffer can be averaged with DEP regulations, and 24 that would be another permit we go back for, so that 25 we don't have any -- we don't have any plans that

Page 138 interferes with the blacktop. So, we'll buffer 1 average the back of it to make that work and get the 2 DEP permits. 3 4 We could also do some plantings 5 across the street on the side of your property so that we then block off your backyard, but we've 6 7 done -- have you seen the McDonald's on Wilson? 8 MS. McCARTNEY: Oh, yes, smell it 9 too. 10 MR. PLOSKONKA: Across the street there's three giant arborvitaes that grow about 11 12 15 feet high, 20 feet high. 13 MS. McCARTNEY: Will they block the signs too? That's the other thing. 14 15 MR. PLOSKONKA: Again, we'd be 16 willing to meet you at the property with our arborist and do something that would do buffering 17 18 for you. 19 MR. LEVITON: And we appreciate the concerns. Mr. Ploskonka, are you saying that the 20 applicant is willing to buffer her backyard with a 21 22 living fence? 23 MR. PLOSKONKA: Normally, that would be her front yard, but her house faces the alleyway. 24 25 MR. LEVITON: Yes. Yes.

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1	MR. PLOSKONKA: So, we, to give her
2	some privacy, we would do buffering on her side.
3	MR. LEVITON: Thank you, sir.
4	MR. BOCCANFUSO: Mr. Chairman, I just
5	want to make sure, first of all, I'm understanding.
6	John, is the proposal to provide landscaping on the
7	opposite side of the street from the site or on your
8	site to screen on the opposite side?
9	MR. PLOSKONKA: On the opposite side,
10	on her property with her permission.
11	MR. BOCCANFUSO: Understood. And
12	then just one other thing, so that the record is
13	clear and there's no misrepresentations with regard
14	to the wetlands. What Mr. Ploskonka indicated is
15	correct, they are proposing to average the wetlands
16	buffer. But they are proposing disturbance in the
17	wetlands for a basin outfall. So, it's just going
18	to be it's just going to be a pipe that comes
19	from the basin through the wetlands. It requires a
20	permit from the NJDEP. The NJDEP would review the
21	application, as well as their entire stormwater
22	management system design, and they're subject to
23	very strict scrutiny, as well as a stormwater
24	management regulation. So, to that extent, they
25	will be touching the wetlands, but there's no

Page 140 impervious improvements that are proposed in there, 1 2 no parking areas, no buildings, nothing of that nature. It's just really some minor clearing, 3 excavation and then a pipe that would be buried once 4 5 it's completed. 6 MS. McCARTNEY: However, you're able 7 to do that only because you have a variance of the front, the frontage of the property is back 25 feet 8 instead of 75, like it's supposed to be. 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: I don't think it's 10 11 appropriate for us to engage in a debate here. 12 MR. LEVITON: Or a dialogue. 13 MR. BOCCANFUSO: If you have a question, we can certainly, either myself or the 14 15 applicant's engineer can answer it, but it's not appropriate for us to get into a dialogue. 16 17 MS. McCARTNEY: I understand that. 18 MR. LEVITON: Your concerns have been 19 registered. 20 MS. McCARTNEY: Thank you. 21 MR. LEVITON: You're welcome. Mr. Boccanfuso, thank you for 22 23 fielding questions. Mr. Licata, to your entire team, thank you. Just let me check. Is there 24 anyone else from the public who wants to address the 25

Page 141 board? 1 2 MS. ZADOK: Quick question. 3 MR. LEVITON: Quick question, sure. 4 This is Ms. Zadok, she's coming, she understands 5 she's still under oath. 6 MS. ZADOK: Yes. I just have one 7 quick question. So, on Mount between where your -the retention pond is, are you taking down any trees 8 there? So, it's between my house and the --9 10 MR. PLOSKONKA: In the paper street, the answer is no, we're not touching the paper 11 12 street, no. MS. ZADOK: Okay. 13 14 MR. PLOSKONKA: That 50-foot natural buffer remains. 15 MS. ZADOK: That natural buffer 16 17 remains. Okay. Thank you. 18 MR. LEVITON: For the public, 19 Mr. Ploskonka is not just the engineer -- he is not 20 just an engineer, he is also a planner. And I believe he's an attorney who passed the New Jersey 21 board in 1920. You remember the bar here in our 22 23 store, right, Mr. Ploskonka? MR. PLOSKONKA: Mr. Sonnenblick likes 24 25 to change places years ago.

Page 142 1 MR. LEVITON: Okay. Board, is there anything else from you? 2 3 Seeing no more interest from the 4 public, I'm going to close public at this time. 5 Board, is there anything else from you? Sam? Brian? 6 7 MR. AVAKIAN: No, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair. 8 9 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Nope, not unless 10 there's any questions, Mr. Chairman. MR. LEVITON: Albert, can we review 11 12 conditions. 13 MR. MARMERO: Yeah. So, let's first review the relief that's required. So, the 14 applicant requires several things. They're seeking 15 a use variance, a D1 variance, to allow the funeral 16 17 home, the funeral home is an existing use, but the funeral home is not technically a permitted use. 18 19 Since they're going to be demo'ing and rebuilding or having a new structure, technically they do require 20 a use variance. They're also seeking preliminary 21 and final site plan approval. And then they're 22 23 seeking several bulk variances that go along with 24 the site plan. So, they do need front yard setback variance approval. They are proposing 50 feet where 25

Page 143 75 feet is required. They need a front yard setback 1 2 variance for the parking area. They are proposing two signs instead of the one sign that is permitted. 3 They are proposing to internally illuminate the sign 4 5 where external illumination is what's permitted in this zoning district. Then they're seeking a waiver 6 to allow a direct connection of roof leaders into 7 the inlets, which is ordinance 95-8B(j)(2). So, 8 those are the areas of relief that are sought? Did 9 I miss anything, Mr. Licata? 10 MR. LICATA: I think there's one side 11 of the building where we don't have foundation 12 plantings. 13 14 MR. MARMERO: Okay. 15 MR. BOCCANFUSO: And parking space dimensions as well. 16 17 MR. MARMERO: Okay. And that's a design waiver for the parking space dimensions? 18 19 MR. BOCCANFUSO: Yep. 20 MR. MARMERO: Okay. So, we have that 21 covered. So, any motion that the board would want to entertain would be a motion to grant the relief 22 23 that we just discussed. And then the conditions that have been discussed tonight, obviously, they 24 would comply with all of the comments in the reports 25

1 of our professionals. They've agreed to consolidate 2 the lots. Currently, it's two lots, but they would 3 consolidate the lots.

They've agreed on the record that 4 5 only one chapel would be operational until the demolition of the existing building. They've asked 6 7 for permission to not put sidewalk along Wilson, the board seemed amenable to that and they would make a 8 contribution to the township sidewalk fund. There 9 was discussion at phase one, removing the thick clay 10 11 layer and replacing it with material acceptable --12 of acceptable permeability rate, that was Brian's comment about the soils in the basin. They've 13 agreed on the record to comply with the report from 14 the fire department, with the report from the 15 police. And they also, obviously, have to comply 16 with all other outside agencies. 17

We did discuss during the hearing 18 19 that during phase one, they would provide a clear and safe pedestrian access from what I call the 20 northwest parking lot to the chapel that would be 21 operational during phase one. There was discussion 22 23 with the phasing and the demolition of the existing 24 building of providing a TCO that could be revoked if 25 the existing building was not demolished within 90

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Page 145 days of completion of the new building. We talked 1 2 about street trees along Wilson, per Brian's report. And the applicant seemed to agree to that. 3 There was some discussion of the 4 5 screening of the trash enclosure. There was going to be a waiver required, but the applicant seemed to 6 7 indicate that the trash enclosure could be screened, at least where it faces the parking lot. 8 Then, finally, there was discussion 9 10 where the applicant seemed to agree to meet with the 11 arborist at Six Sanford to determine an appropriate buffer and to install screening on the property 12 owner's property, obviously, with the permission of 13 14 the property owner. 15 MR. LICATA: That's correct. Thank 16 you. 17 MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Mr. Marmero. 18 And thank you, Mr. Licata. 19 Will someone make a motion? MR. GREGOWICZ: I'll make the motion 20 21 to grant the relief that the applicant is seeking, along with the conditions set forth by the board 22 23 professionals on the zoning board. MR. LEVITON: Will someone second 24 25 that?

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Page 146 1 MR. DITOTA: Can I add something to 2 that motion with a bond? 3 MR. LEVITON: I don't know. Albert, can he? 4 5 MR. MARMERO: Yeah, I mean, you can ask --6 7 MR. DITOTA: If I ask you to amend 8 your --9 MR. LEVITON: Speak into the mike. MR. DITOTA: With a bond that will 10 hold the owner accountable to demolition of the 11 12 building in the appropriate amount of time. MR. LEVITON: Hold on. I don't --13 I'm amenable to that, but I thought we were going to 14 just take over and finish it ourselves. When they 15 said that they wanted to demolish the existing 16 building, I believe them. They want their business. 17 They want their two chapels. I didn't think it was 18 19 necessary, but if you do, I'm willing to go with 20 that. What does everyone think? MR. DITOTA: That would be a tax 21 22 lien, then right? 23 MR. LEVITON: It would be a tax lien. 24 That's the third option Albert --25 MR. DITOTA: Then they would only be

Page 147 obligated to pay if they sold it. 1 2 MR. LEVITON: That's true. MR. MARMERO: So, the way the motion 3 is framed right now is, the condition that I had, it 4 5 sounded like you guys were discussing the option of the TCO, which would have the revocation after 90 6 7 days if the building wasn't demolished. And then like Brian said, of course, if there was progress 8 9 that was being made, the township could then opt to extend that TCO if they saw fit. So, that's the 10 11 control that you have in the motion that exists as 12 of now. MR. LEVITON: Rob wants to add to it 13 to have them put up a bond as well. Gentlemen? 14 15 MR. SCHERTZ: I'm okay with that. 16 MR. WECHSLER: Okay. 17 MR. LEVITON: I like it. MR. MARMERO: The bond? 18 19 MR. LEVITON: Yeah. MR. GREGOWICZ: I'll revise the 20 motion to include the bond that was just mentioned. 21 MR. DITOTA: And I'll second it. 22 23 MR. LEVITON: And to be clear, that would happen when we meet with Brian, and he'll 24 25 determine a monetary value for it, correct?

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1	MR. BOCCANFUSO: The way it would
2	work, Mr. Chairman, is at the time a TCO is
3	requested, my office, in our capacity as the
4	township engineer, not the zoning board's engineer,
5	would calculate the construction cost of the
6	remaining improvements. And that would be the
7	required bond amount.
8	MR. LEVITON: Mr. Licata, can you
9	check with your client to ensure that they're
10	willing to comply with the condition?
11	MR. LICATA: I've had an opportunity
12	to consult with my client, both before this meeting
13	and at this time. And they understand the concern
14	and they would comply with that condition of
15	approval.
16	MR. LEVITON: Thank you, Robert.
17	Okay.
18	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Ditota?
19	MR. DITOTA: Yes.
20	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Gregowicz?
21	MR. GREGOWICZ: Yes.
22	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Rosenthal?
23	MR. ROSENTHAL: Yes.
24	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Schertz?
25	MR. SCHERTZ: No.

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1	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Shalikar?
2	MR. SHALIKAR: No.
3	MS. MOENCH: Mr. Mantagas?
4	MR. MANTAGAS: Yes.
5	MS. MOENCH: Chair Leviton?
6	MR. LEVITON: Yes.
7	This was a use variance that required
8	five affirmative votes. How many do they have?
9	MR. MARMERO: Five.
10	MS. MOENCH: Five.
11	MR. LEVITON: Then congratulations,
12	Mr. Licata.
13	MR. LICATA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14	I thank you all for your time and consideration.
15	MR. LEVITON: You're welcome.
16	(Matter concluded.)
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2	CERTIFICATE
3	
4	I, LINDA SULLIVAN-HILL, a Notary
5	Public and Certified Court Reporter of the State of
6	New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is
7	a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as
8	taken stenographically by and before me at the time,
9	place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.
10	
11	
12	
13	/s/ Linda Sullivan-Hill
14	Notary Public of the State of New Jersey
15	My Commission expires January 26, 2026
16	Dated: March 14, 2023
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