## SAYREVILLE PLANNING BOARD

# MINUTES OF September 4, 2024

The meeting of the Sayreville Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Tighe and opened with salute to the flag. Chairman Tighe announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Law P.L. 1975, c231, Public Law, 1975.

Members of the Planning Board present were: Mr. Allegre, Mr. Kandel, Ms. Lahrman, Mr. Muller, Mr. Shah, Mr. Volosin, Councilman John Zebrowski and Chairman Tighe

Absent Members: Mr. Bolton and Mr. Ellmyer

Also present were: Mr. Cornell, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Sordillo, Esq,

## AT THIS TIME, THE MEETING WAS OPENED:

Chairman Tighe asked the Planning Board Secretary if the board meeting was being conducted under the Sunshine Law and if all publications were notified, the secretary had stated, yes.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Muller made a motion to accept the minutes from August 7, 2024; seconded by Councilman Zebrowski. Motion Carried.

#### SITE PLANS/SUBDIVISION HEARING:

Andrew & Deborah Wallentine Minor Subdivision 43 Pershing Av., Sayreville Blk 83.17, Lot 2

Atty: Mr. Casper Boehm, Esq.

Law office of Casper P. Boehm, Jr.

155 Harrison Road, Jacobstown, NJ 08562

Mr. Boehm, Esq is present this evening to represent his clients, Andrew & Deborah Wallentine with an application for subdivision. This property is within R-10 zone and fully complies in size, more than 10,000 sf. Mr. Boehm stated across the street and at the end of the street properties are located in the R-7 zone. The plans were developed, providing for dedication of 13' right away which was suggested by the Borough Engineer. This would create a variance for the existing garage. The existing garage would be 20.4' from the

road. If they don't dedicate, they would not need to variance. Another alterative, is to dedicate 3.7' - 9.3' easement for the Borough. They would comply with the set back of 30'.

He has stated upfront there are no plans to develop these lots.

Mr. Kurtz was sworn in. Mr. Kurtz, PE provided his credentials and they were accepted by the board.

The property is located on the southside of Pershing Avenue, it's a 1.1-acre wooded property and has some steep slope with an existing dwelling. The proposed lots are 12.01, 16,000 sq ft lot; 12.02 approx. 16,000 sq. ft and 12.03 13,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Kurtz reviewed the report of CME dated 9/4/24. Item #2, no sidewalks were proposed and would consider a waiver. Existing driveway this can be addressed if there is an issue. Access to 12.03 could consider a share driveway or leave it as is on the plan.

The number of bedrooms, there is no plans to develop this property yet. They would meet the requirement of RSIS and provide adequate parking for bedroom in the proposed dwellings.

Mr. Cornell asked, how many bedrooms are currently in the existing dwelling? Mr./Mrs. Wallentine answered, three (3) bedrooms. Mr. Cornell stated two (2) parking spaces are required.

Mr. Kurtz continues with number 5. If the board acts favorable on this application meet and bounds would be provided for all easements and lot and filed by deed.

The existing grades on the property. Lot 12.01 has a 45% slope; Lot 12.03 20% slope. There would be grading needed to provide the required 10% slop for the driveway, this would need retaining walls. That would be reviewed by the Borough's Building Department and they would comply with this request.

Mr. Cornell asked about the shared driveway on the westerly side on the proposed lot, that would be acceptable to the applicant.

Chain link fence that would be in the right away and would be removed

#8, the drainage design and report would be submitted for review. He would recommend engage with an engineer for a drainage study. #9, they will comply.

Mr. Kurtz reviewed the Planner Report of 9/4/24 and would commit that all comments can be addressed in a condition of approval.

Mr. Cornell comments to the board regarding the front yard set back variance that is created by the right away dedication requirement of the Master Plan. There is a small portion of property that does not meet this requirement. Regarding the waiver on the side

walk. As stated, majority of the area does not have sidewalk, CME is ok with this request. And same thing with the 5' driveway waiver. Mr. Cornell also informed the board, there will be grading, soil and stormwater water run off issues and as a condition they are requiring soil erosion, grading plan, drainage and tree save plan that is submitted prior to any permits being issued.

Mr. Wallentine was sworn in and testified that all conditions noted in CME and Michael Fowler's reports will be met. Mr. Wallentine informed the board there are no plans currently to develop the properties.

Public portion was opened.

Mr. Robert McGowan, Esq representing the neighbor, Mr. Bernie Bailey. His concern is there will be no driveway closer to his house, then the existing house. The recommendation of a shared driveway coming off the existing driveway would satisfy his concern. He would feel that his property would not be disturbed.

Mr. McGowan would like clarification that the shared driveway would come off the existing driveway for the proposed lots. Telephone pole, 8' to the fire hydrant and then the driveway. If that driveway serves as the common driveway, our concern has been met.

Mr. Cornell states that they will still need two (2) off street parking spots for the existing home. Mr. Cornell agrees it will not encroach past the existing hydrant. Mr. Boehm, Esq. stated he has no objection to this request.

Mr. McGowan, Esq. asked Mr. Kurtz about the parking. Mr. Kurtz can provide evidence that one (1) car will be able to park in the driveway without encroaching.

Mr. Daniel Taylor, 9 Creamer Drive

Mr. Taylor has great concern about the future of the development on this site. Proposed lot 12.01 abuts my property with a steep slope of 51% (45-51%). Removal of trees will cause flooding into my property and neighbors. We are approx. 21' below Bailey Place Street level. Mr. Taylor recites Borough of Sayreville, Ordinance Chapter 30 purpose statement, as well as, Ordinance 242-92 subsection 1.

After reviewing the slope of the land, a retaining wall would be necessary. 12.01 drops 15' down from Bailey Place and with the 30' set back, any future construction would be on the grade and significant modification to the land. Per the engineering report, a proposed two-story dwelling would be constructed at 35' inc. roof in elevation, 35' constructed on approx. 7' elevated surface with approx. 8' basement. In summary, properties that abut proposed lot 1.02, will have a 15' wall of concrete and 35' structure immediate behind theirs on Creamer Drive. 50' dwelling arise about the trees. Mr. Taylor refers back to Ordinance 242-92 subsection 7, part 2. For these reasons, I formally object the approval of this application.

Resident presents two (2) documents as exhibits. Mr. Boehm reviews the documents and they are marked Exhibit -01 and Exhibit -02.

Mr. John P Didik 3 Jensen Place, Sayreville

Mr. Didik agrees with Mr. Taylor's statement and objects the approval of this application.

Ms. Ferlita 5 Jensen Place, Sayreville

Ms. Ferlita agrees with Mr. Taylor's statement, feels this concrete wall will devalue her home and by experience from a home that was built on Lena a few years ago, she obtained water in her basement. Mr. Ferlita stated she never had water prior to this. She reviewed the reports and they did not provide her with any comfort.

Mr. DeLorenzo, Mid State Engineering was sworn in and his credentials were accepted by the board.

Mr. DeLorenzo read Mr. Cornell's report and he does agree with majority of items. He asked if we can request the drainage study and tree location plan as part of this approval. He cannot envision the 10% slope for the driveway. The applicant's decision of the share driveway takes away some of this issue. The stormwater 9, 10, 11 on the East of Creamer and 4, 5, 6 on the West of Creamer would have issues with this. Each lot would have its own recharge basin and they will need very large equipment to clear these lots and would tear up the road. The construction equipment near lot 12.01

Open portion has been closed.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the subdivision with all the current conditions, restrictions and the language to be worked out on the deed restriction, seconded by Mr. Allegre

**ROLL CALL:** 

YES: Mr. Kandel, Mr. Allegre, Ms. Lahrman, Mr. Muller, Mr. Shah, Councilman Zebrowski and Chairman Tighe

NO: Mr. Volosin

**ABSTAIN:** 

Application approved.

CP MD Jernee Mill Road, LLC Major Preliminary & Final Site Plan Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville Blk: 58, Lot 9; Blk 58, Lot 2.01

Atty: Mr. Bob Smith, Esq.

**Bob Smith & Associates** 

216 Stelton Road Piscataway, NJ 08854

Please refer to the attached transcription for the full testimony and public questions/comments.

Mr. Allegre made a motion to approve the application; seconded by Mr. Volosin.

**ROLL CALL:** 

YES: Mr. Kandel, Mr. Allegre, Ms. Lahrman, Mr. Muller, Mr. Shah, Councilman

Zebrowski and Chairman Tighe

NO: Mr. Volosin

**ABSTAIN:** 

Application approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:**

Next meeting will be September 18<sup>th</sup> located at the Active Adult Center 423 Main Street, Sayreville.

Public portion was open and closed, no public was present.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Allegre made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Volosin.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Magnani Planning Board Secretary

1							
1	BOROUGH OF SAYREVILLE PLANNING BOARD STATE OF NEW JERSEY						
2							
3	IN THE MATTER OF THE : TRANSCRIPT APPLICATION OF:						
4	CP MD JERNEE MILL ROAD, LLC : OF						
	BLOCK 58, LOT 2.01, LOT 9 PROCEEDINGS						
5	MAJOR PRELIMINARY and						
6	FINAL SITE PLAN						
7	Municipal Complex 167 Main Street						
8	Sayreville, New Jersey (Heard Via Zoom)						
9							
10	SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 7:30 P.M.						
11	MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:						
12	THOMAS TIGHE, Chairman KEITH KANDEL BARRY MULLER, Vice Chair JAMES ALLEGRE, JR.						
13	JUDITH LAHRMAN JOHN ZEBROWSKI DANIEL VOLOSIN NOREN SHAH						
14							
15	ALSO PRESENT: JAY CORNELL, P.E., Board Engineer						
16	MICHAEL FOWLER, P.P., Board Planner BETH MAGNANI, Board Secretary						
	BEIN MMONANT, Board Scorecary						
17	APPEARANCES:						
18	JOSEPH SORDILLO, ESQ.						
19	Attorney for the Board.						
20	BOB SMITH & ASSOCIATES, LLC BY: BOB SMITH, ESQ.						
21	Attorney for the Applicant.						
22							
23	M. VIRGINIA GUINTA, C.C.R. CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS						
24	2204 BAYVIEW AVENUE BARNEGAT LIGHT, NEW JERSEY 08006						
25	Mvguinta@gmail.com (609) 477-9342						
20	(000) =11 0032						

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MS. MAGNANI: All right. Next on the
 1
    agenda CP MD Jernee Mill Road, LLC, Major Preliminary
 2
    and Final Site Plan, Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville,
 3
    Block 58, Lot 9, Block 58, Lot 2.01.
 4
 5
                    THE CHAIRMAN: If we could please take
    it outside?
 6
 7
                    Mr. Smith.
                    MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Bob Smith.
 8
    I'm a licensed attorney in the State of New Jersey
    and I'm here tonight representing CP MD Jernee Mill
10
11
    Road, LLC. I provided the jurisdictional documents
    to the board secretary and hopefully somebody can
12
    state for the record that you have jurisdiction.
13
                    MR. SORDILLO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
14
    I've reviewed the public notice for the application
15
    this evening and the board has jurisdiction to hear
16
17
    the application.
18
                    MR. SMITH: Terrific. Thank you very
19
    much.
20
                    The property that I'm here tonight to
    bring before you is Block 58, Lots 2.01 and 9, and
21
22
    they are in what is called the Eco-Industrial
    Redevelopment Area, RA-EI Zone or overlay on the
23
    site. The site is 46 and a half acres and the most
24
25
    interesting about the site is it's your property.
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It belongs to the Borough of Sayreville.

We're here tonight for preliminary and final major site plan in order to construct two cold storage warehouses, approximately 257,858 square feet, and a second one of 99,520 square feet respectively, with trailer storage and associated site improvements.

The majority of this site is located in the former Sayreville Municipal Landfill No. 3, and the project before you tonight is proposing to clean it up, repurpose this site, put it on your tax rolls, provide new jobs, and also to assume the liability that's associated with a legacy municipal landfill. When we purchase it it's ours soup to nuts.

We are not here tonight seeking variances, design waivers, because we've gone through the Sayreville redevelopment process and as a part of that process there were literally years of negotiation about what the criteria should be on this site, and we ended up with a redevelopment plan.

We designed the site according to that redevelopment plan, and earlier this year we appeared before SERA for what they call a consistency review to make sure that what was proposed was perfectly in

line with the redevelopment plan. And I'm happy to inform you that we were successful before that SERA board and they voted unanimously that this is consistent with the redevelopment plan that was developed for the former landfill.

So what that does is it makes us a by-right application. Everything that's in our plan before you tonight comports with the redevelopment plan that the redevelopment agency adopted and that's proven by again the consistency review.

Now that being said no variances, no deviations, nothing but we do have some waivers we're requesting and we, only a couple, and we will give you the reasons why they're appropriate and we're asking that's the only relief we're seeking that you consider the design waivers.

So the three design waivers we're going to ask for tonight are sidewalks between parking areas and principal structures, along aisles and driveways wherever pedestrian traffic occurs.

And by the way, we're going to absolutely work with your professionals to make sure we're going to put in as many sidewalks as we can. With that being said, it's good to have the waiver if it's needed.

Number two, the maximum allowable

grade for landscaping and the reason for that is
there are going to be parts of the site which will be
allowed to grow naturally. There will be no reason
to maintain them. So there's no concern about a
mowing person flipping over on a grass cutter or
whatever.

And then finally, driveway width less than 30 feet. We're asking for 26 feet. This is a driveway that is cars only and we will provide a justification to you. So that's the three design waivers that we're seeking.

For anybody who wants to find out ahead of time, in the CME review letter dated

August 21st, if you take a look at the eighth page undated we're asking for design waivers for items 7, 12 and 18 of the updated review.

With regard to the planner's report dated August the 16th, again, talking about one of the design waivers. The center drive is 26 feet where 30 feet is design standard. We're requesting -- planner is requesting that we widen it to the extent possible and provide center line striping. We agree to provide the striping. We want to keep the width as is and we'll provide you with the justification why that's appropriate.

And then on page 5 item 4 of the planner's report, planner is requesting shade trees on all parking islands and we have no -- we love trees, but there are some islands that are above the storm water basin and planting trees on top is not preferable from an engineering point of view. Again, we'll provide you with that justification.

2.1

So it is our plan to provide exhibits tonight, an aerial of the site, elevations for the project, overall site plan colorized and a rendering of the building.

It's my intention, Mr. Chairman, to call five witnesses. First one will be Mr. Jeff
Bastow who is the representative of CP MD Jernee Mill
Road, LLC. Second witness is Dan Busch, our licensed professional engineer from Colliers Engineering who prepared the site plan. Third witness is Corey
Chase, our traffic expert. Fourth witness Dave Melo, our architect to tell you what the thing is going to look like. Then finally, Jim Kyle, our planner.
Even though there's no variance deviations requested, we just think it's kind of the cherry on the sundae to hear why this is a great idea for the Borough of Sayreville.

So with that being said, Mr. Chairman,

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I'd ask to call my first witness so they can be sworn
 1
 2
    and give testimony. I ask Mr. Jeff Bastow.
 3
                JEFF BASTOW, sworn.
 4
 5
                    THE WITNESS: Good evening.
 6
 7
                   MR. SORDILLO: Thank you. Could you
    please state your name and spell it for the record?
 8
9
                    THE WITNESS: Jeff Bastow, B as in
10
    boy, A as in apple, S as in Sam, T as in Tom, O-W.
11
                   MR. SORDILLO: Thank you.
12
13
    EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
14
           Q.
                And you are a representative of CP MD
    Jernee Mill Road, LLC?
15
16
           Α.
                   Yes.
17
           Q.
                   Okay. And you're a principal,
18
    obviously?
19
           Α.
                   Partner in the company that is
20
    purchasing the site as well as a partner in the
21
    development company.
22
                   And how long have you and your
23
    partners been working on this project?
2.4
           Α.
                  Since probably '21 we started working,
25
    looking around Sayreville for property.
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Okay. And as a part of that process,
 1
           0.
 2
    did you meet with the borough officials, the
    redevelopment agency? Tell us all about it.
 3
                   Yeah. We originally were seeking out
           Α.
 4
    land in the area. We've got projects in Middlesex
    Borough, Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Old Bridge. This
 6
 7
    is obviously sort of the center of the donut for where
    we've been doing projects and we're seeking some
 8
    opportunities here and ultimately met with borough
 9
    officials and ultimately the RFD for the sale of the
10
    redevelopment of the Sayreville Landfill 3 came up and
11
```

purchase the property. 14 Q. All right. And once you secured this acceptance of you as the possible redeveloper of the 15 site, did you go through a negotiating process with 16

we responded and we were able to secure the rights to

12

13

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

SERA?

- Α. Extensively for both the purchase and sale agreement, our redevelopment agreement, redevelopment plan. So many, many hours and years, frankly, of work on this project to get to the point where we are, so we're thrilled to be here.
- That's great. And if you don't mind, and not to be too fully disclosive but a little bit is always a good thing, why is this a win-win for

everybody? 1 Often, I mean, we do pride ourselves in 2. Α. 3 trying to be win-win with municipalities. We take sites that are blighted. This is our fourth landfill 4 5 we're working on. We have developed, we have a 6 warehouse under construction in South Amboy right now, 7 a landfill. We are fortunate and personally good in 8 figuring out how to work with these and have had a lot of success. 9 10 This project with the win-win brings 11 rateables, brings jobs, takes sort of a blighted eyesore in town and makes it a revenue-producing, 12 13 job-creating entity for the borough. And, you know, 14 obviously we can hopefully make a few bucks along the 15 way. 16 Q. We certainly hope so. You do 17 understand that when you buy this you buy any 18 liability that's associated with this legacy 19 landfill? 20 Α. Yep. That's all in the purchase and 21 sale agreement that we negotiated. 22 Okay. Is there anything else you want Q. to add? 23 24 No. Hopefully we have a positive Α.

25

outcome.

```
MR. SMITH: Mr. Bastow is available
 1
 2
    for questions.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have a question
 3
    of the owner?
 4
                    MR. SMITH: Actually we're not the
    owner. We're the contract purchaser.
 6
 7
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Is there anything that
    the contract purchaser can go to --
 8
                    THE WITNESS: Yes.
 9
10
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Can you guarantee that
11
    local hiring and set up some kind of local hire
    minimum?
12
                    THE WITNESS: I'd have to go back and
13
14
    look honestly with the redevelopment agreement, I
    don't have it handy, but I believe there's probably
15
    some -- I'm looking at my partner requirements in
16
    there for seeking -- no.
17
                    MR. ALLEGRE: (Inaudible) there has
18
    been more out of it than just --
19
20
                    MR. SMITH: Well, let's talk about
    that. What does the Borough get out of this?
21
                    THE WITNESS: $23 million.
22
                    MR. SMITH: That should go into your
23
    thinking as well. I mean, this is, it is a two-way
24
25
    street.
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1
                    THE WITNESS: Just to clarify, we're
    not adverse to this. I want to check what's already
 2
 3
    in the documents that we've agreed to. We plan, I
    mean, we are doing a hundred percent union labor in
 4
 5
    another project. There's certain elements to this
    that will be union labor given the height.
 6
 7
                    So we are -- we will work with, if we
    can find subs that are local, absolutely. We're not
 8
 9
    adverse to it at all. We've done it in other
10
    municipalities.
11
    BY MR. SMITH:
12
           Ο.
               No. But I think Mr. Allegre is saying
13
    we want some quarantees that it will be Sayreville
14
    residents that are employees and the problem with
1.5
    that I'm going to be --
16
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Right now the federal
17
    guidelines is in place for local hire. Right?
18
                   MR. SMITH: Yeah.
19
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Not everyone, not every
20
    contractor comports with it, but there's at least an
21
    attempt to be made for it to be done. Yes, you could
22
    probably hire local subs within not necessarily
23
    Sayreville, but the area.
24
                    THE WITNESS: I mean, we can
25
    certainly -- let me go back and look at the documents
```

**BASTOW** 13

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and clarify. We can table this for now. We don't
 1
 2
    actually hire. We hire the -- we hire general
    contractor, right, as the owner who then hires
 3
    subcontractors that hire the laborers who work for
 4
    them, so --
                    MR. SORDILLO: Are you talking about
 6
 7
    contractors or people --
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Either one. Local
 8
    contractors working on it.
10
                    THE WITNESS: I mean, given the scale
11
    of this project, I mean --
                    MR. SMITH: So I think your comment, I
12
13
    want to focus more on the people who work there
14
    permanently. Okay? I think that comment has been
    addressed in the sense that Mr. Bastow can say to his
15
    tenants, whoever is going to operate the cold storage
16
    facilities, that you should make your best effort to
17
18
    get the Sayreville employees. So, but I don't think
    he can say that he personally can guarantee that or
19
20
    that CP MD can personally guarantee that, because
    they're not going to be the operators as I understand
21
22
    it.
                    THE WITNESS: We'll ultimately have a
23
24
    lease to a tenant who will -- I mean, I'm sure --
                    MR. SMITH: Best efforts.
25
```

14

```
1
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Make an attempt to have
 2
    some kind of goal in place to --
 3
                    MR. SMITH: That's certainly
    reasonable.
 4
                    MR. ALLEGRE: -- hire local people,
 5
    whatever we have. Contractors we have.
 6
 7
                    THE WITNESS: Honestly, I don't know
    what I'm agreeing to other than to say yes, we will,
 8
 9
    jobs will be posted. Where they are? I mean, are
10
    you asking for, like as part of the approval to have
11
    us hire? I don't even know how to tie it together.
12
                    MR. SMITH: No. I think what he's
13
    saying is whoever is going to be operating the
14
    facility, you want to make the, as the landlord the
1.5
    comment to them that Sayreville has been very good to
16
    us and you should try your best to hire Sayreville
17
    residents, but you're not bound to a number. You
18
    just ask, you're asked to make best efforts as I
    understand the comment.
19
20
                    THE WITNESS: I have no problem
21
    telling people to do that. I mean, whether we're
22
    going to have to provide documentation back to the
23
    board of certain things, I mean that, to me, is -- I
2.4
    can't agree to that.
25
                    MR. SMITH: But you don't have a
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**BASTOW** 15

```
problem asking to make a request for the Sayreville
 2
    residents?
                    THE WITNESS: As planning board
 3
 4
    approval.
 5
                    MR. SMITH: Any other questions for
    Mr. Bastow?
 6
                    Okay. Let me get the microphone from
 7
    you. I'd like to next call Dan Busch, our licensed
 8
    professional engineer from Colliers Engineering, to
    be sworn so he can give testimony.
10
11
                 D A N
                          B U S C H, sworn.
12
13
14
                    MR. SORDILLO: Can you please state
    your name and spell it for the record?
15
                    THE WITNESS: So it's Dan Busch,
16
17
    B-U-S-C-H, licensed professional engineer in the
18
    State of New Jersey, senior principal with Colliers
    Engineering & Design. Testified before this board on
19
20
    a number of occasions over the years.
                    MR. SMITH: You've been previously
21
22
    accepted by the board?
                    THE WITNESS: Yes. In fact, I
23
24
    testified on this particular property in the past.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?
25
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1
    All in favor, aye?
 2
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
 3
                    THE WITNESS: Thank you.
                    THE CHATRMAN: Go ahead, sir.
 4
 5
                    THE WITNESS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome back.
 6
 7
                    THE WITNESS: Good to see you.
 8
 9
    EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
10
            Q .
                Just for the record, you as the
11
    engineer you're on this project, were intimately
12
    involved with the design of the site, correct?
13
                   That's correct.
            Α.
14
            Q.
                    Okay. So how about we talk about
15
    what's there and what we're proposing to put on the
    location.
16
17
            Α.
                    Sure. Going to mark this?
18
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.
                    THE WITNESS: So just for purposes of
19
    description this is an aerial exhibit of the existing
20
21
    site.
22
                    THE CHAIRMAN: How about marking it
23
    A-1 and tonight's date?
24
                    (Aerial photograph marked in Evidence
25
          as Exhibit A-1.)
```

THE WITNESS: So just briefly the 1 2 cleared area, the green area in the center, that's the old landfill, that's Sayreville Landfill No. 3. 3 4 You'll see a contractor yard. That's the Lot 2.01. That's the only piece that the borough doesn't own. 5 It's a small piece. It's less than two acres. 6 The balance of the property is all 7 owned by the borough. You can see Red Oak 8 immediately to the east. We have Pond Creek to the 9 north. Duck Creek to the south. And then this is 10 South River to the west. You know, it's between 11 Washington Road and Bordentown Avenue. 12 13 The site with the exception of the landfill area is all in the tidal flood hazard zone. 14 So as you look at the plans you'll see a lot of 15 retaining walls and things of that nature because the 16 site does have to be filled and raised out of that 17 floodplain. We do have wetlands on the site which 18 are basically adjacent to the landfill. We have 19 permits pending with DEP to allow for the project to 20 occur with those constraints. 21 There is the only other significant 22 constraint is basically bisecting the middle of the 23 site there's a 100-foot wide MCUA easement, which has 24 two pipes that flow from south to north. So we're 25

```
working with MCUA to be able to build on the site.
 1
 2
                    Obviously you'll see the buildings are
 3
    not located over said easements. That's all just
    parking and loading associated with that.
 4
 5
    BY MR. SMITH:
            0.
                    This is the colorized site plan?
 7
                    Yes. So this is the colorized
            Α.
 8
    landscaping site plan overlaid on that same --
 9
                    MR. SMITH: Would you mark it as A-2
10
    in tonight's date?
                    MR. SORDILLO: This will be A-2.
11
12
                    THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
13
                    (Colorized site plan received in
14
          Evidence and marked Exhibit A-2.)
15
                    THE WITNESS: Okay. Just from -- just
16
    to orient again same thing, South River to the west.
17
    You can see Red Oak Lane here to the right. So same
18
    orientation as the prior exhibit.
19
                    So we have three access points on
    Jernee Mill Road. North end is an entrance only
20
21
    driveway for trucks. The middle is a passenger car
22
    vehicle entrance and exit. That's directly aligned
23
    with Red Oak Lane, and then at the south end is the
24
    truck egress driveway.
25
                    In conjunction with -- since we filed
```

this application, we've met with the county on a couple of occasions and as you know there's existing improvements that are going on associated with the culvert just north of the site. You know, it's a one lane road out there now.

So we've gotten those plans in the course of meeting with the county. We're going to do certain improvements on Jernee Mill Road across our frontage to tie into those improvements that they're currently constructing.

So just briefly they're constructing, they're going to be constructing sidewalk on our side of the street, basically partially across our frontage. We're going to pick that sidewalk up and continue it south across the balance of our frontage. They are -- they're not widening Jernee Mill Road, but what they have asked us to do to provide for better access not only to our site but also to Red Oak is we're going to be adding left turn lanes.

So there will be a left turn lane here in our central driveway for the passenger vehicles to make a left in. And there will be corresponding left turn lane southbound to get you into Red Oak. And then there will be also a left turn ingress northbound to get you into the site for trucks.

1 So those are significant improvements, 2 which are not on the plans as you see now. They're 3 conceptual. We've got to come up with that, but that is required as part of our approval with the county. 4 5 Now, just one clarification. Since we 6 filed the application we had noted on the application 7 that we needed a sidewalk waiver because the 8 intention was not because there was going to be no 9 sidewalk around the site. We were not going to put the sidewalk in. Now that we're putting sidewalk in 1.0 11 across the frontage of the site we'll make those not 12 only provide that but make the connections within the 13 site so you can access that now what will be public 14 sidewalk. So that eliminates that one design waiver 15 for the sidewalk. 16 MR. SMITH: Well, we think it eliminates it. For the sake of safety, we want to 17 18 ask for the zoning waiver but we're pledging on the record to work with the borough professionals so that 19 20 they're satisfied with the sidewalks internal to the 2.1 site, but there may be places where there's reason 22 not to put in the sidewalk. So we are asking for the 23 waiver. 2.4 Did I get that wrong? 25 MR. CORNELL: Mr. Chairman, I think

that's accurate because your ordinance requires 1 sidewalk adjacent to every parking place on both 2 sides of an access aisle and it's not really 3 practical for this type of application. 4 So I think they're going to require a 5 waiver, but they're going to go through and put 6 sidewalk in where they can and now to connect it out 7 to Jernee Mill Road in order to meet the sidewalk. 8 THE WITNESS: I think the point is 9 we're going to meet maybe not the letter of the law, 1.0 so to speak, we're going to certainly meet the spirit 11 12 of the law. 13 And then just touching on this central driveway because that is the subject of one of the 14 other two design waivers. This driveway is in fact 15 it's actually 24 feet wide. We intend to maintain 16 that 24 feet, which is the design waiver where 30 is 17 required only because it's passenger vehicles only. 18 19 There's two components of your planner's letter which speak to adding a center line 20 stripe which in fact I've added to the exhibit. 21

planner's letter which speak to adding a center line
stripe which in fact I've added to the exhibit.

Although it's not currently on the plans, and it also
making some adjustments to the pavement of the curb
line as you enter the site and we're agreeable to
make those two changes.

That does not eliminate the waiver for the driveway width of 24 feet. We intend to keep that. Because it's passenger car only, we don't want to invite trucks to actually enter at this driveway because it is not set up to handle trucks whatsoever.

Okay. Storm water-wise we have you can see them throughout the site there's five bioretention basins; one to the west, south, two in the front, and then one here on the south side of the building as well.

Just briefly touching on the grading

Just briefly touching on the grading because the site is in this flood hazard zone and we've got to tie our grades into the landfill without disturbing the cap, because it is a lined landfill and we cannot disturb the cap. It does require us to raise the site significantly.

And you'll note on the plan you'll see some of these white lines on the exhibit on the north side, south side. They're harder to detect here on the west side, but there's a series of retaining walls around the site to be able to come close to the wetlands without disturbing them.

But in addition to those retaining walls, there are other areas of the site, particularly on this north side where to not disturb

```
the wetlands and catch grade, we need to increase the
1
2
    slope from our normal three-to-one to the two-to-one,
    but these are in areas that wouldn't be maintained on
3
    a regular basis. Certainly, a two-to-one slope is
 4
    perfectly safe. It's just a matter of, from a
    maintenance standpoint you want three-to-one. Where
6
7
    you're not doing maintenance two-to-one is certainly
8
    acceptable.
    BY MR. SMITH:
9
                   Which is the basis for the request for
10
           Q.
    that waiver?
11
                    Correct. Correct. And the storm water
12
           A
    all conforms with state regs, the 7:8 requirements.
13
14
    You can see that the site is, you know, landscaped
    throughout. There is the one requirement with respect
15
    to the tree, shade trees over each parking island and
16
    you'll note here on the south side of the phase one
17
    building that there's no trees in those two and that's
18
    because there's an underground basin there.
19
                    And then also here there's another
20
    underground basin on the east side of the building
21
    and there's no -- there's no shade trees. That's the
22
    only location. Every place else has shade trees.
23
2.4
                    So that's the basis for the request
           Q.
    for the second waiver, I believe.
25
```

A. That's correct. That's correct. And then just to get on the record with respect to the two buildings. So you'll see a dark heavy line here kind of bisecting the site, that's our phasing line. So to the right on the exhibit is phase one. To the left is phase two. It's our intention that we can build phase one without needing to have necessarily all the permits in place to build the phase two building, because it's more complicated permitting in that it sits on top of the landfill.

What we would do is sub utilities out to the west to provide for the opportunity once at a later date that we could then build the phase two building. So it is important to understand that this building would come first. And then a later stage we would then be able to build the phase two building.

Just for the record it has -- this is the phase one building, the front building, has 88 parking spaces, including four EV spaces. There's 30 loading bays at the back. Then we have 76 trailer storage spaces at the rear, and then the phase two building has 58 parking spaces. And again those are located in the front, including four EVs, 26 loading bays at the rear. And then 40 trailer storage located here and then on the south side as well.

1 Let's see.

1 4

Lighting just to touch briefly on that, they're all LED fixtures throughout, efficient, all cutoff type of fixtures so you don't get the light, the light spillage off site and also you don't get the sky glare off of that.

Just one thing across the frontage
you'll note that we're proposing to construct
retaining walls in the front to allow us to retain as
much of the existing mature tree vegetation that's
out there 'cause that's the best way to screen,
screen the project from Jernee Mill Road. So we're
preserving as much of that vegetation as possible.
And then we will supplement that existing vegetation
at the time of clearing to where there's gaps that we
would then be able to come back and put additional
vegetation in there, additional trees in there to
supplement that screening.

And then just briefly signage-wise you'll note that there's no sign details in the plans. Having said that, we've located -- we've identified that we would propose two conforming monument signs at the two entrance -- entrance driveways. So one here located in the center and one located at the north and then we would have two

1 | building signs, one on each building conforming.

So when there was a tenant identified we'd come in and they would -- we would get -- we would get sign permits consistent with what the ordinance requires.

- Q. So the plan right now is to conform to whatever the sign ordinance says and obviously if we need a different sign we have to come back and get a variance for it, correct?
  - A. Correct. Correct.

And just kind of touching on briefly the operation, so this would be a 24-hour operation. From an employee count standpoint we're anticipating a maximum of 40 to 50 employees for the front building, and then 18 to 20 in the rear building.

There was a comment of, you know, the basis of the parking standard here for the cold storage building is based on experience with other cold -- similar cold storage type of facilities.

So the concern is how do you control and ensure that we're not going to have a parking issue. And what we would do is we would advise the tenant as to that maximum employee count so that we would not run -- run afoul of not having enough vehicle parking.

```
All the loading would be at the rear
1
    as you can see here on the west side of the phase one
2
    building and on the west side of the phase two
 3
    building.
 4
 5
                    All the refuse and recycling is inside
    the building and then it would come to compactors and
 6
    then be carted away by a private carter.
7
                    Let's see. I think I've touched on
 8
    all three of the design waivers. If we want to go
9
    through, you want to go through the letters briefly?
10
11
                    MR. SMITH: Let me ask if that's
    appropriate, Mr. Chairman, that we go through the CME
12
    report, maybe the planner's report?
13
14
                    THE CHAIRMAN: The planner's report.
                    MR. SMITH: Which one first?
15
                    THE CHAIRMAN: The planner's report or
16
    the engineer. Either one. The engineer's report and
17
18
    then the planner's.
    BY MR. SMITH:
19
20
                    All right. The CME report dated
           Q.
    August 21st, 2024. Have you had an opportunity to
21
22
    review it?
                   Yes, I have.
23
           Α.
24
                   All right. So before I'm going to
           Q.
25
    just ask you to make -- I think there's some points
```

```
1
    in the planner's report or in the engineer's report
 2
    that should be re-emphasized actually a thousand
 3
    times.
                    I'd direct the board's attention to
 1
 5
    page 3 at the top. It says the plan satisfies all
 6
    the bulk requirements.
 7
                    Do we agree with that?
 8
            Α.
                    Yes.
 9
                    All right. Down the bottom it says
1.0
    the plan satisfies all parking requirements.
11
                    Do we agree with that?
12
            Α.
                    Yes.
13
            Ο.
                    All right. On page 4 at the bottom it
    says the plan satisfies the off street loading
14
15
    requirements.
16
                    Do we agree with that comment?
17
            Α.
                    Yes.
18
                    All right. And then on page 5 the
            Q.
1.9
    bottom third of the page the landscaping and basing
20
    design requirements listed in the redevelopment plan
    have been satisfied.
21
22
                    Do we agree with that?
23
            Α.
                    Yes.
24
                    At the very bottom of the page the
            Q.
25
    plan satisfies the requirements of the redevelopment
```

```
1
    plan.
2
                    Do we agree with that?
 3
           Α.
                    Yes.
                    As a matter of fact, SERA agreed with
           Q.
 4
 5
    it when we were --
                    That's correct. We wouldn't be here
           Α.
6
7
    tonight if --
                    Right. Take a look at page 6
8
           Q .
    one-third from the bottom, the building requirements
9
10
    appear to be consistent with the redevelopment plan.
11
                    Do we agree with that?
12
                    Yes.
           Α.
                    All right. The second from the bottom
13
           Q.
    paragraph, the redeveloper is responsible to maintain
14
15
    the landfill in compliance with all environmental
16
    laws.
17
                    Do we agree with that?
18
           Α.
                    Statement of fact, yep.
19
                    Okay. And that was the body of the
           Ο.
20
    CME report and then the CME report listed a whole
    bunch of particular comments as an attachment and we
21
    would like to go to that at this point.
22
                    With regard to section A there's a
23
24
    list of possible permits that may be needed and we
25
    agree to get any permits --
```

```
Of course.
 1
            A .
                   -- if needed.
 2
            Q.
 3
                   Of course. Yep. Yes.
           Α.
 4
            Q.
                    Okay.
 5
                    I think, you know, I've had an
 6
    opportunity to review the letter and speak with Mr.
7
    Cornell. There's nothing in his letter that we cannot
8
    agree to.
9
                   Okay. So I think we've made the
10
    comment about signage.
                    With regard to we pointed out that
11
    there were three waivers requested. If you take a
12
13
    look at, on page 2 of the CME attachment, item 7
14
    they have the comment about the borough ordinance
    sidewalks should be provided between parking areas.
15
16
    I think that was covered in your testimony and also
    responded to by Mr. Cornell, which is we're still
17
18
    asking for the waiver, but I think what Mr. Cornell
19
    said was that there are appropriate modifications
20
    that may be required, right, that the ordinance may
21
    be a little too inflexible. So we're asking for the
22
    waiver, but we agree to comply with the
                   It's a lesser waiver than we had
23
           Α.
    originally requested, because there will be sidewalks
24
25
    across the site frontage and we're certainly meeting
```

```
the spirit of the requirement.
1
2
           0.
                   On --
                   THE CHAIRMAN: Internal, you're not
 3
    going to do the internal sidewalks?
 4
                   THE WITNESS: Right.
 5
    BY MR. SMITH:
 6
7
                   With regard to item 12 on page 2 which
           Q.
    we indicated was another waiver, that is the maximum
8
9
    allowable grade for landscaping. It's three-to-one
    slope and we have two-to-one and you explained the
10
    reason why. Just repeat it if you wouldn't mind?
11
12
                    Sure. It's in some areas just to be
    able to, because the site is in such amount of fill to
13
    be able catch grade before we are into wetlands or
14
1.5
    wetland buffers.
               Okay. And item 18, in accordance with
16
    the borough ordinance driveways for nonresidential
17
    uses would be a minimum of 30 feet width. The
18
    proposed center site driveway does not comply with
19
    this requirement. The applicant is requesting a
20
    waiver. That was the question about the 30-foot
21
    width versus 26?
22
23
           Α.
                   24. Just so I want to get the record
24
    straight.
                    24 feet. Why is 24 feet appropriate?
25
           Q.
```

```
1
                   This is for passenger vehicles only.
    This is not for -- this is not for trucks. Correct.
 2
                    Okay. I think those were the issues
 3
            Q.
 4
    that we wanted to address in the CME. Other than
    that we're pretty confident we can comply with
 5
    everything that CME is requesting, correct?
 6
 7
           Α.
                   Absolutely. Yes.
 8
                    MR. CORNELL: Mr. Chairman, I did
 9
    speak with Mr. Busch, and the majority of the other
10
    items are technical in nature. They don't warrant
    discussion by the board. He's agreed to comply with
11
12
    those in the future plans.
13
                    MR. SMITH: All right. And if that's
    satisfactory to the board, we'll go to Mr. Fowler's
14
15
    report --
16
                   THE CHAIRMAN: There you go.
    BY MR. SMITH:
17
18
                   -- dated August 16, 2024.
           Q.
19
                    Have you had the opportunity to review
20
    that?
21
           Α.
                   Yes, I have. And I had an opportunity
22
    to discuss a handful of these comments with Mr. Fowler
23
    earlier today.
24
           Q. Okay. And in general we can agree to
25
    everything? Yes?
```

```
Correct. Just for clarification, on
 1
            Α.
 2
    page 4 that's where we speak to the driveway and
    there's --
 3
                    Item 2.
            0.
 4
 5
            Α.
                    Item 2. Thank you. And there was
    three components of that. It was the widening of the
 6
    driveway, which we're going to stay with the 24 feet
 7
    but there was two other good suggestions related to
    changing some of the geometry and adding some striping
 9
    that we're agreeable to. That makes, quite frankly,
10
11
    makes sense.
                   And then if I can direct your
12
13
    attention to the next page, page 5.
                    There's one more on page 4, number 7
14
            Α.
    which speaks to banking some of the parking which
15
16
    we're amenable to doing the bank parking. It's a
    question of we don't know who the tenant is.
17
18
                    So as I indicated earlier is we're
    going to disclose to our, you know, our potential
19
    tenants, you know, we have a maximum amount of
20
21
    parking available. If they were to need less we
    certainly are amenable to banking some of that
22
23
    parking.
24
                    It would be something as I would see
```

it that that would be subject to of review and

25

```
approval of your professionals at the time that a
 1
    tenant was selected.
 2
 3
                    In other words, we would have to prove
 4
    that yes, we can afford to say bank 20 spaces or
 5
    something along those lines. That would be the
    intent.
 6
 7
                   It really becomes a tenant-specific
 8
    issue. We're not looking to add more asphalt, are
 9
    we?
10
           Α.
                   No. If we could bank it we're happy to
11
    do so.
12
                   All right. I direct your attention to
13
    page 5, item number 4, which is shade trees should be
14
    provided all landscaping islands within the parking
    fields. We've talked about it a little bit during
15
16
    the presentation. What's the issue?
                    So those are on the east side of the
17
           Α.
18
    building one and on the south side of building one
19
    where we have two separate underground detention
20
    basins that we can't place shade trees over the top of
21
    them. That's what that was about. That's what I was
22
    speaking in my direct.
23
                   Being Captain Obvious the reason for
24
    that is you're worried about the roots of the trees
25
    damaging the underground detention, correct?
```

A. Absolutely. Correct.

2.3

And then number 6 on page 5, again, under landscaping there's discussion about providing some means of space outside for people to gather. So what Mr. Fowler and I discussed was adding a couple of picnic tables, specifically we can identify for the phase one building. And I'll just point to it on the exhibit.

So you'll note, and it's very hard to see, but there's a dashed line in the southwest corner of the building. That's where the office space is and there's a green area outside of that. That would be where we would propose to put some picnic tables, you know, for the people that are working in the office.

Because we don't know exactly where that would be in the phase two building, we would still agree to provide it. We just don't -- I couldn't sit here and say it would go in this precise location. That's the only distinction.

And then the only other one just speaking to number 7 was because these are LED fixtures that are the full cutoff, we don't need to have the outside shields. That was the only other one.

I think -- I don't think there was

```
other ones that we needed to discuss.
 1
 2
                    MR. FOWLER: (Inaudible).
 3
                    MR. SMITH: Thank you.
 4
                    Mr. Chairman, our engineer Mr. Busch
 5
    is open for questions.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have questions
 6
 7
    of Mr. Busch?
 8
                    MS. LAHRMAN: I do.
 9
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.
10
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Did you say that there
11
    were going to be left-hand turning lanes in the
12
    middle of Jernee Mill Road?
                    THE WITNESS: That's correct.
1.3
14
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Without widening it?
15
                    THE WITNESS: There will be some minor
16
    widening to get the left turn lanes in, but it's
17
    actually not a lot. There's actually some striped
18
    shoulders on the side there. So we've got a concept
19
    plan. There may be some minor widening on the east
20
    side to be able to get it in.
21
                    MS. LAHRMAN: And the trucks will be
22
    using those left-hand turning lanes as well?
23
                    THE WITNESS: Correct. They'll only
    be -- because there's only one way to get in they'll
24
25
    only be using the northerly one.
```

```
MS. LAHRMAN: Right. 'Cause I don't
1
    think Jernee Mill Road is that wide. I can't imagine
2
    a left-hand turning lane.
 3
 4
                    THE WITNESS: This is subject of
    review and approval by the county. So it's going to
5
    have to meet the county standard.
 6
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Okay.
7
                    THE WITNESS: And in fairness we
8
    haven't worked out the precise details of what
9
    that -- that cartway width would need to be able to
10
    fit all that, but we're obligated to do.
11
12
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Okay.
13
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Part of that's been
    cleared away by the new work going on going up
14
    towards your -- it made it wider already.
15
                    THE WITNESS: In fact, you know,
16
    ironically you can start to see some of the clearing
17
    actually got picked up on the aerial.
18
19
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Is that because they
    want to keep the traffic flowing in both directions
20
    so that the truck would kind of be standing in the
21
    turning lane instead of waiting to turn?
22
                    THE WITNESS: Yes.
23
24
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Okay.
                    MR. CORNELL: I was on the calls with
25
```

```
1
    the applicant and his engineer and the county. He's
 2
    correct in what he's saying. They are requiring full
 3
    improvements along the frontage with sidewalk as well
    as the left-hand turn lanes as indicated. So that's
 4
 5
    something the county is going to require as a
 6
    condition of their approval.
 7
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have any
 8
    questions?
 9
                    MS. LAHRMAN: One more.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.
1.0
11
                    Ms. LAHRMAN: And with like the
12
    drainage of the water from the site, there's going to
13
    be strict requirements on that draining into the
14
    river, correct?
15
                    THE WITNESS: So, yes is the simple
16
    answer to your question.
17
                    MS. LAHRMAN: Okay.
18
                    THE WITNESS: We are with applications
19
    to DEP with respect to that and just simply we had to
20
    use the green infrastructure. So that's why I was
21
    speaking to bioretention. These are not just your
22
    normal, you know, sand bottom basins like you're used
23
    to -- well, you're used to seeing, we're all used to
24
    seeing. These are bioretention following the green
25
    infrastructure requirements.
```

```
MS. LAHRMAN: Okay. Thank you.
1
2
                   MR. CORNELL: If you look at our
    report, I said there are a lot of technical items.
3
    There's approximately 30 items that relate to
4
5
    drainage in our report that the applicant is going to
    have to take care of.
6
7
                   MS. LAHRMAN: Right. Okay. Thank
8
    you.
                   THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else?
9
10
                   Mr. Smith, you're next.
11
                   MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if
12
    appropriate I'd like to call our third witness, Mr.
13
    Corey Chase who is our traffic expert. I ask he be
14
    sworn so he can testify.
15
16
               COREY CHASE, sworn.
17
18
                   MR. SORDILLO: Would you please state
19
    your name and spell it for the record?
20
                   THE WITNESS: Certainly. It's Corey,
    C-O-R-E-Y, last name is Chase, C-H-A-S-E.
21
                   MR. SORDILLO: Thank you.
22
                    THE WITNESS: Senior principal with
23
24
    the firm Dynamic Traffic located in Chester, New
25
    Jersey. Bachelor's of science degree in civil
```

```
engineering from the University of Massachusetts.
 1
 2
    Licensed professional engineer in the State of New
 3
    Jersey. License is currently in good standing.
 4
    Previously testified before this board and over a
    hundred others in the State of New Jersey.
 5
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Second? All in favor?
 6
 7
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
 8
    EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
 9
10
                   Mr. Chase, in preparation of this
            Q.
    application, did your client ask you to perform a
11
12
    study of this area and the traffic that might be
13
    generated?
                    They did. We prepared a traffic impact
14
           Α.
15
    study. It was previously submitted to the borough
16
    last revised June 28, 2024.
                   All right. So what did your study
17
            Q.
    come up with?
18
19
            Α.
                    To just add a little bit of color on
    what Mr. Busch just testified to relative to the site
20
    access, circulation and the improvements that we're
21
22
    proposing along Jernee Mill Road, as you're aware, the
23
    county is currently installing improvements along
    Jernee Mill to the north of Red Oak Lane. They're
24
25
    actually widening it to a 40-foot wide cartway. And
```

that's what they're asking us to continue to the south
of Red Oak Lane in addition to providing the sidewalks
and other amenities along the frontage.

1.5

2.2

What that allows us to do is to have three 12-foot travel lanes, so a thru lane in each direction plus a 12-foot left turn lane, and then a two foot shoulder on either side. So there will be sufficient width with the widening that the county is proposing and the additional widening that we'll be providing to the south of Red Oak Lane to, again, accommodate two travel lanes and dedicated left turn lane.

It wasn't part of the county's project but what they wanted to do was, you know, have us in conjunction with their improvements, provide something that they felt would benefit the overall roadway corridor and in addition to just the improvements that are going on to the north to the subject property.

So the county improvements again coupled with what we're proposing there will be significant roadway improvements along the site frontage. It will improve site access and circulation.

As Mr. Busch mentioned, we are

providing an ingress only driveway to the north of the subject property, which will accommodate passenger vehicles to the rear cold storage building, as well as all truck access to both buildings.

2.0

Centralized access point, which will just be for employees only for the eastern cold storage building. So passenger vehicles only at that central driveway and then egress only driveway at the southern end of the property, which will again accommodate all truck traffic exiting the subject property, as well as employees from the building located along the western portion of the subject property.

As Mr. Smith mentioned, we did prepare a traffic impact study. It was previously submitted to the borough. What that does is it provides a pre and post development analysis along the adjacent roadway network to determine if there would be any detrimental traffic impact as a result of the development of the subject property.

To calculate the traffic that's expected to be generated by the proposed cold storage facility, we utilized data published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers. That's a national and state recognized standard.

We're developing trip generation projections for a variety of uses. On something that's new to the data published by the ITE, they've broken out warehouse land use categories. In the prior edition to the trip generation manual, they just had one general warehouse land use category that we had to apply to all types of warehouses that we were proposing. 

Cold storage is actually its own dedicated land use category now. So they have studied existing cold storage facilities. That's how they developed these trip generation projections, which are summarized on table 3, which is located on page 4 of our report.

We provide a breakdown between the two buildings, the traffic associated with each one, as well as a breakdown between employee vehicle traffic and truck traffic associated with this development. You can see that the overall facility is projected to generate a maximum of 43 trips during the peak hour. So it's less than one trip per minute during those peak periods.

As traffic engineers we study the weekday morning and evening peak commuter hours is our critical hours to assess the impacts on the

1 | adjacent roadway network.

The New Jersey Department of

Transportation has set a threshold of 100 additional

trips during a peak hour is what they term a

significant increase in traffic. So the fact that

this development is only going to generate 43 trips

during a peak hour, it's less than 50 percent of that

threshold of what would be determined a significant

increase in traffic. So overall not a significant

traffic generator.

We did analyze the proposed site access points, as well as the intersection with Red Oak Lane to confirm that there would be acceptable operational conditions upon the development of this subject property. Those results are summarized on table 4, which is located on page 5 of our report and, again, both the site access points as well as the intersection with Red Oak Lane are going to operate at acceptable levels of service after the development of the subject property.

As Mr. Busch mentioned, we do provide compliant parking from both an employee electric vehicle charging station and ADA compliance standpoint.

You know, in my review of the site

```
plan and through consultation with Mr. Busch, we feel
1
 2
    that there is adequate site access circulation to
    accommodate both the employee passenger vehicles,
 3
    emergency vehicles, refuse pickup as well as the
 4
 5
    delivery vehicles which will be associated with the
    site.
                    Mr. Smith, that's all I have for
7
    direct. I'd be happy to answer any questions that
 8
 9
    the board or its professionals had.
                    Just before you do, I'd like to direct
10
            Q.
    the board's attention to the CME report, the
11
12
    August 21st report, page 5. Second paragraph has the
    comments from CME. I'm going to read them.
13
14
                    Proposed cold storage warehouse
15
    buildings are projected to generate 29 four trucks
    entering trips and ten seven trucks exiting trips
16
    during the weekday morning peak hour. And 11 six
17
    trip trucks entering trips and 32 five trucks exiting
18
    trips during the evening peak hour that are, quote,
19
20
    new to the adjacent roadway network.
                    The nearby intersections of Jernee
21
    Mill Road and Red Oak Lane, the proposed driveways
22
    are projected to maintain a minimum level of service
23
2.4
    В.
25
                    Do you agree with that comment?
```

1 Α. I do. 2 With new trip generated from the cold Q. storage facility. 4 Next paragraph one sentence. The traffic generated from this site is projected to have 6 minimal impact and no significant degradation in 7 operating conditions to the adjacent street system 8 from the construction of this project. 9 We certainly agree with that comment. 10 Α. We do. 11 Ο. Okay. That, by the way, is the great news about cold storage facilities compared to other 12 13 types of warehouses. The level of traffic is --It's certainly from a -- when you 14 Α. compare as I mentioned the fact that the IT has five 15 16 warehouse land use categories now, cold storage generates the least amount of traffic of the five 17 18 warehouse land use categories. 19 So your typical warehouses that generate slightly more traffic and then obviously, 20 21 you know, when you get into the upper echelons of the 22 FedEx, UPS, Amazon type facilities, those generate 23 substantially more traffic than what we're proposing this evening. 24

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chase is available for

25

CHASE 47

```
questions.
 1
 2
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions?
                   MR. CORNELL: Mr. Chairman, just a
 3
    comment. Our office, our traffic engineers did an
 4
    initial review of his report. We had asked for
    additional information, additional traffic counts.
 6
 7
    He provided that information.
                   In our latest review, I think there's
 8
    only four comments that some minor striping revisions
    that are still required. So he's addressed all the
10
    traffic issues that we originally raised.
11
                   THE WITNESS: And your as was
12
    indicated by Mr. Busch, we're amenable to addressing
13
14
    those remaining comments on the striping and the
15
    signage on site.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?
16
17
                   MR. SMITH: All right. If
18
    appropriate, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to call our
    fourth witness Mr. Dave Melo, our architect. I'd ask
19
20
    that he be sworn so that we can take testimony.
21
               DAVID MELO, sworn.
22
23
24
                   MR. SORDILLO: Please state your name
25
    and spell it for the record?
```

```
1
                    THE WITNESS: My name is David Melo,
 2
    M-E-L-O.
 3
    EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
 1
                   Mr. Melo, for the record by whom are
 5
 6
    you employed and in what capacity?
 7
                I am the principal and head architect
    at RKB Architects out of Braintree, Massachusetts.
 8
 9
                   You are a licensed architect in the
            0.
10
    State of New Jersey?
11
                   Yes. I am licensed in the State of New
12
    Jersey, in addition to approximately 18 other states
    in the United States.
13
14
            Q.
                   Okay. And have you testified before
1.5
    other land use boards in our state?
16
                   Yes, I have done multiple projects in
    the last couple of years in the state of New Jersey,
17
18
    Newark, Elizabeth, Linden, Woodbridge, Kearny,
    Sunnymeade, in the last five years for similar type
19
    projects.
20
21
                    MR. SMITH: I'd ask that he be
22
    accepted as an expert in his field.
23
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?
    All in favor? Aye.
2.4
25
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
```

```
THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it. Go
1
2
    ahead.
    BY MR. SMITH:
 3
                  Mr. Melo, in a nutshell what is this
 4
5
    going to look like?
                   So in a nutshell as recently mentioned
 6
    this is a single story 257,000.
7
                    MR. SMITH: Would you mark that as
8
    A-3?
9
                    (Rendering of building received in
10
          Evidence and marked Exhibit A-3.)
11
                    THE CHAIRMAN: This is the elevation
12
13
    of the building?
                    THE WITNESS: Yes.
14
                    So what you see there is a prospective
15
16
    rendering of the proposed building from the street,
    from the access road that's being proposed. What
17
    you're seeing right now is the back side of the
18
    freezer building. The building basically has two
19
    heights to it. It's 75-foot tall freezer from
20
    average grade to the peak of the freezer, which
21
    you're looking at the back side.
22
                    Then there is a smaller story
23
    approximately 36-foot tall on the west side, which
2.4
25
    includes loading dock, office and mechanical areas
```

 $\mathbb{I}$  for the project.

By design what you're looking at there is pretty much what you're going to be looking at.

These buildings typically do not get any mechanical equipment on the roof, especially the freezer due to their access, but we are designing the building to be provided for future solar. We're increasing roof loads of the electrical requirement that are required day one to take on the future solar loads up on the roof.

Also by design we've purposely put all the refrigerant equipment, all the loud stuff that you'd typically hear for these freezer buildings, inside the loading dock. We purposely provide mezzanines for electrical service, all the refrigerant equipment. All of that is located internally.

The only thing that you will see on the roof and it will be on the lower roof, will be whatever rooftop equipment, exhaust fans, things like that that you might see that might serve the office conditioned area.

So you will not see -- and basically what you're looking at there for the freezer building it's going to be an architectural metal panel in the

```
lighter colors. You're looking at white and gray.
 1
                    The smaller story building will be
 2
    load-bearing concrete wall panels like you'd
 3
    typically see in a loading dock area. It will be
 4
 5
    painted. The interior of the loading dock is also
    going to be refrigerated due to the nature of the
 6
 7
    product being moved and maintaining cold chain and
    the interior of the loading dock also gets lined with
 8
    a similar type architectural panel.
 9
                    I think as previously mentioned, you
10
    know, trash and things like that are all taken
11
    internally. There's no external trash. There will
12
    be either taken care of inside the loading dock and
13
14
    then fed into the compactors. I'm not sure what
    else.
15
    BY MR. SMITH:
16
                   Well, I'd like you to try and sell,
17
18
    are we doing anything for the environment or for
19
    energy efficiency?
20
            Α.
                   Yes. Good point. So these buildings
    by design due to the temperatures that are required in
21
    the buildings, we over-insulate the walls and the
22
    roofs of these buildings. They greatly exceed the
23
    minimum code standards from the energy code in the
24
    State of New Jersey. So that's something that we're
25
```

```
1
    taking into play.
 2
                    We're also making the building solar
 3
    ready for the future solar. The floors in the
    freezer also get heated with a glycol system. We
 1
    have to heat the floors so they don't heave. The
 5
    heat for that glycol is actually recaptured from the
 6
 7
    refrigerant equipment inside the freezers. So one
    system helps heat the other.
 8
 9
                    And due to the height of the building,
10
    75-foot height that we're proposing with these type
11
    of buildings, the taller the building the more
12
    critical the refrigeration system comes, it actually
13
    becomes more energy efficient. So, you know, having
14
    this height also helps maintain the energy levels for
15
    the building for the refrigeration system.
16
                    MR. SMITH: Great.
17
                    Mr. Melo is available for questions.
18
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions of the
    architect?
19
20
                    MR. CORNELL: Mr. Chairman, if I might
21
    just one item. There weren't detailed plans
2.2
    submitted for the second building. Will that be
23
    similar in appearance to the --
24
                    THE WITNESS: Yes. The intent --
25
    because of the nature of these buildings 'cause it's
```

**MELO** 53

```
going to be a cold storage building, it's going to be
 1
    an insulated metal panel -- insulated panel freezer
 2
    or cooler, whatever temperature they decide to do and
 3
 4
    the loading dock areas will most likely be very
    similar architecture, concrete panel painted to, you
 5
    know, similar colors as we have proposed. They'll
 6
    look similar in style.
 7
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?
 8
 9
                    MR. SMITH: All right. Mr. Chairman,
    if appropriate I'd like to call our last witness, our
10
    anchor person, Jim Kyle, our planner. I'd ask he be
11
    called so he could be sworn and give testimony.
12
13
                JAMES KYLE, sworn.
14
15
                    MR. SORDILLO: Please state your name
16
1.7
    and spell it for the record?
                    THE WITNESS: Sure. First name is
18
    James, last name is Kyle, K-Y-L-E. It's Kyle &
19
20
    McManus Associates in Hopewell, New Jersey.
21
22
    EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
                    All right. So you're the redundant
23
            0.
24
    man here.
25
                    Should I give them my qualifications?
           Α.
```

```
1
                    Okay. Impress them.
            Q.
 2
            Α.
                    'Cause I have not appeared here before.
    So I have a bachelor of science in environmental
 3
    planning and design from Rutgers, which I received in
 4
 5
    1996. I've been a practicing planner for 25 years.
 6
    Our office currently has about 24 municipalities that
 7
    we represent as their consulting planner. I've also
    appeared before 250 boards in the state, qualified as
 8
 9
    an expert in planning. Also three vicinages of
10
    Superior Court in New Jersey. Licensed by the state
11
    as a professional planner, also AICP certified.
12
                    So while you look very young you got a
    lot of miles on you.
13
14
            Α.
                    Thank you.
15
                    MR. SMITH: I'd ask that he be
16
    accepted as a licensed professional planner.
17
                    THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor?
18
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
19
                    MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. Thank you.
20
    BY MR. SMITH:
21
                    Let me set the stage for you if I can.
            Q.
22
            Α.
                    Sure.
23
            Q.
                    We don't need any variances. We don't
24
    need any deviations. This is a by-right application.
25
    What the hell are you doing here? So tell us why
```

this is a grand-slam-out-of-the-park home run for
Sayreville.

A. Certainly. So I was retained by the applicant to review the planning issues associated with this proposal. So I've reviewed all the plans and materials that were submitted to the board. I've been by the site, looked at the operations that are proposed here as well and reviewed, of course, the borough master plan as well as the redevelopment plan that's applicable to this area.

As was stated earlier this redevelopment plan was amended earlier this year to allow cold storage warehouse as a permitted use. In conjunction with that the maximum height was increased to 75 percent. There was also some changes to the parking requirements in addition to the parking requirements specific to this use.

So the Landfill and Melrose

Redevelopment Plan is the one that's applicable here,
and as I said it was amended earlier this year.

There are also some underlying requirements of the
zoning ordinance that are applicable here. So while
we do not need any variances or deviations from the
redevelopment plan itself, we do need design waivers
from some of the what we'll call design standards in

the borough's ordinance.

1.0

We've gone through those. Mr. Busch summarized them. There's actually four, because we talked about the shade trees in the parking islands. So that would be the fourth one. Mr. Busch did address all these in his commentary.

So as Mr. Smith had noted at the outset, this is located in the Eco-Industrial Redevelopment Area. The use is permitted. Site complies with -- the site plan complies with essentially all the bulk standards in the redevelopment plan. So we're seeking no relief from that.

So this district has a purpose statement. Mr. Fowler has kind of summarized this in his memo, but I did want to address in direct testimony because he did state that he'd like to hear a little bit about what the project complies with that.

So the purpose here is to establish an industrial zoning district where multiple uses and buildings are permitted on one lot that fosters the development of innovative industrial uses, which utilize a high standard of environmental and economic performance. These uses will promote an approach to

industrial development that involves connecting within and across industries throughout the Central New Jersey region and demonstrate well thought out practices that result in waste energy being used as resources.

2.0

So this proposal while, you know, there was an idea from this development plan was written that we have a landfill that produces methane gas. And back in 1996 when this plan was written there was this idea, well, you know, can we capture that? Are there innovative ways that we can kind of reuse that energy through the businesses that we're going to have in this eco-industrial area.

So to some extent that has not been fully realized, but this business does tie in nicely to businesses within the region. So cold storage is, it's an in demand use as we've seen the industry, you know, the transition with Amazon, now we have grocery delivery. Well, those groceries and those products have to be stored somewhere and preferably somewhere within the market where they don't have to travel a great distance to get to the different places.

So cold storage users are trying to locate these strategically within the region so that they can have potential distribution points. This

might be a different tenant. It might be someone that, you know, has a manufacturing operation and then stores product here, but that's kind of the general idea. So this type of use is in demand.

I recently worked on a project in North Jersey where it was a redevelopment plan and this was kind of seen as an up and coming use in the warehouse industry, something different than, you know, a typical distribution center or, you know, just dry goods storage. So it does fit in that regard.

The design standards, the purpose of those was to promote adaptive reuse in the RA-EI district that recognizes existing environmental constraints, wetlands and floodplain influence, existing environmental cap and NJ DEP remediation requirements. The need to improve existing infrastructure and sustainable site design should address water quality and quality issues, shared connections and services.

So as Mr. Busch had gone through, you know, obviously we have a lot of constraints here, the primary one being the landfill. We're working through with the DEP to redevelop this site, lift it so that the development that's here is compatible.

You couldn't really have any residential use on this. It's really an industrial site. We're squarely in the industrial area of the borough. You're obviously all familiar with the uses that we have around us. So this is a good fit from that perspective.

1.0

And the author of the redevelopment plan was very insightful back in 1996, essentially talking about things that the DEP has now implemented in the storm water management requirements, you know, reduction of structural measures, green infrastructure, bioretention.

So even though this was envisioned back in 2011, it's all part of the DEP regulations. So we will be complying with that and reducing storm water impacts from the site even in the post developed condition.

So just getting to the waivers that we need, as I said the proposal largely complies. So we have the sidewalks along driveway aisles to the principal structure as we talked about. There will be new sidewalks on Jernee Mill. We will work with your professionals to connect those sidewalks to the interior of the site should anybody want to walk to the site. And then we'll add some sidewalks in areas

1 | in consultation with them.

2.5

Maximum allowable grade with the center driveway and then shade trees in a limited number of parking islands where we have storm water facilities that are underneath those parking islands.

The redevelopment plan does permit the board to grant waivers from design standards as long as they're within the general purpose and intent of the redevelopment plan. And we have to demonstrate that it's either impracticable or it will create undue hardship.

There's really no factors here that would lead to a conclusion that it's causing undue hardship. And really impracticable is a confusing word used here. It's used in the MLUL. It doesn't mean you can't do it. It just means it wouldn't be wise to continue to do it.

So we're going to focus on the impracticable standard here for that. And there's a court case <u>Garofalo v. Burlington Township</u> where the court said design waivers simply have to be reasonable under the facts. It's just an acknowledgment by the board that the condition that's proposed is satisfactory relative to the requirement in the ordinance.

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So here on the sidewalk waiver as we said the majority of the parking area when you look at the site plan, you know, this is not the type of use where we have massive parking fields for employees. Most of the parking is located in close proximity to the building. So you can see we have a single bay of parking along the western building and while we do have a double bay here on the south side of the building, any employees that are parking in these spaces have reasonable access to a sidewalk that brings the southern end, southeastern side of the parking area. So really most employees will have almost direct access to a sidewalk that will take them into the principal building or they'll only have to cross a single drive aisle to get there. Based on the number of employees, Mr. Busch had quoted before not a significant number, you know, when you think about the size of these buildings. So it's not as though there's going to be a constant flow of cars and trucks through those drive aisles where there would be a lot of potential

So I think here, you know, it wouldn't make a lot of sense to put sidewalks on the other

for pedestrian conflict.

side of the parking bay to just connect when we have reasonably access that allows us to reduce impervious coverage in certain areas but, again, we've committed to work with your professionals to make sure we're getting sidewalks in the right locations on this site for employees and pedestrians.

The grading waiver we're proposing two-to-one slopes where three-to-one is required. As Mr. Busch had testified to, that is really happening around the perimeter of the site where we have these retaining walls on the south, west and north side.

Those areas will not be maintained landscape areas. They will allow it to be naturalized, so they will not need to be maintained. It allows us to better tie into the existing grades with the retaining walls that we're proposing and then obviously avoiding those wetland and buffer areas that we're required to stay out of.

So here that two-to-one slope will work because the areas do not need to be maintained and it's a more efficient use of the property and a better site alternative given the use.

For the driveway width waiver, as we talked about that's going to be a vehicular access only. No tractor-trailers. As Mr. Chase had opined,

the 24-foot width is certainly sufficient for vehicle access there.

And Mr. Busch also made an important point that leaving that driveway that width is really going to discourage any tractor-trailers from trying to enter that because they will immediately see that it's a narrower driveway and it will really discourage any truck access there.

Here, this is impracticable in that we can greatly reduce the impervious coverage associated with the width of that driveway and have to taper back to the 24-foot width if we have the 24-foot width out at the street. So here we think that makes a little more sense to reduce that impervious coverage.

Finally, the tree in the parking islands, Mr. Busch had pointed out that's really happening in two areas. I believe on the south side of the main building, in those areas we do have storm water management features. So the planting of shade trees there and the roots would not be compatible and could potentially damage that infrastructure.

So here it's impracticable on that basis and we think it is warranted and makes sense. So, and again, it's only in those two very limited

```
1
    islands that we have at the front. As Mr. Busch
 2
    pointed out, all the other islands do have shade
 3
    trees in them.
                    So I think overall based on the
 4
 5
    testimony that we've offered this evening, these
    waivers that we're requesting are reasonable and
 6
 7
    justified and I believe the board would be within its
 8
    right to grant them based on the standards in the
 9
    redevelopment plan.
10
                    MR. SMITH: Mr. Kyle is available for
11
    questions.
12
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody have any
13
    questions?
14
                    THE WITNESS: Thank you.
1.5
                    MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, that concludes
16
    our case. Quick summary. This is a great thing for
17
    Sayreville. At the end of the day you're taking a
18
    legacy landfill out of your ownership. You have the
19
    private sector willing to take the environmental
20
    responsibility for that property. And you're turning
21
    a property that is totally underutilized, making it
22
    into a rateable, providing new jobs, tax revenues,
23
    and at the same time you're also selling it at a
24
    decent price. So it's a really
25
    grand-slam-out-of-the-park home run. We hope you'll
```

```
approve it.
7
2
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Make a motion to open
    it up to the public.
 3
                    All in favor?
 4
 5
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
                    THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
 6
7
                    Anybody from the public like to speak
    on this matter?
8
                    Anyone like to speak on this matter?
 9
    Going once, going twice.
10
                    Motion to close.
11
                    Get a second. All in favor?
12
13
                    THE BOARD: Aye.
14
                    THE CHAIRMAN: What's your pleasure?
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Motion to approve the
15
16
    application.
                    MR. SORDILLO: Do I have a second?
17
                    MR. VOLOSIN: Second.
18
                    MR. SORDILLO: I have a motion made
19
20
    and seconded to approve the application.
                    MS. MAGNANI: Mr. Kandel.
21
                    MR. KANDEL: Yes.
22
                    MS. MAGNANI: Mr. Allegre.
23
                    MR. ALLEGRE: Yes.
24
                    MS. MAGNANI: Ms. Lahrman.
25
```

1	MS. LAHRMAN: Yes.
2	MS. MAGNANI: Mr. Muller.
3	MR. MULLER: Yes.
4	MS. MAGNANI: Mr. Shah.
5	MR. SHAH: Yes.
6	MS. MAGNANI: Mr. Volosin.
7	MR. VOLOSIN: Yes.
8	MS. MAGNANI: Councilman Zebrowski.
9	COUNCILMAN ZEBROWSKI: Yes.
10	MS. MAGNANI: Chairman Tighe.
11	THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
12	MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, just a point
13	of clarification. That does include the granting of
14	the three waivers?
15	THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
16	MR. SMITH: Thank you for your
17	attention tonight and your courtesy.
18	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for
19	succeeding in Sayreville.
20	MR. SMITH: Our pleasure.
21	(Meeting concluded at 9:40 P.M.)
22	* * *
23	
24	
25	

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	
4	I, COLLEEN M. VAUGHN, a Certified
5	Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New
6	Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a
7	true and accurate Computerized Transcript of the
8	proceedings as taken remotely stenographically by
9	and before me at the time, place and on the date
10	hereinbefore set forth.
11	
12	
13	COLLEEN M. VAUGHN, C.C.R.
14	
15	
16	
17	
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21	
22	
23	
24	Dated: September 4, 2024 My Commission Expires on February 26, 2026
25	Certificate No. 30XI00124100