

Transcript of Hearing

Date: March 1, 2023 **Case:** Transcription Services

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WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTING & LITIGATION TECHNOLOGY

| 1 | TRANSCRIPT OF |
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| 2 | VIRTUAL HEARING IN RE: |
| 3 | ZMA 2022-001, LAND DEVELOPMENT INVESTORS, LLC |
| 4 | March 1, 2023 |
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| 20 | Job No.: 484619 |
| 21 | Pages: 1 - 212 |
| 22 | Transcribed by: Janine Thomas |
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| 1 | Hearing, held remotely. |
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| 13 | Pursuant to agreement, before Fatima Bah, Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland. |
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| 1 | PROCEEDINGS |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Good morning, everyone. I'm |
| 3 | Maureen McNeil, your examiner in this case. And today |
| 4 | is March 1, 2023. And today is our third hearing on |
| 5 | ZMA-2022-001. Applicant is Land Development Investors |
| 6 | II, LLC, and the development is being with Mary you |
| 7 | want to say her name wrong. I am so sorry. Davies |
| 8 | Trust. Mr. Forman will fix that for me. |
| 9 | But before we begin, a brief history. We had |
| 10 | a hearing at this point maybe three weeks ago. And |
| 11 | Mr. Forman who represents the applicant was able to put |
| 12 | on witnesses, just the owners of the property and his |
| 13 | expert witness. And at the conclusion of that hearing, |
| 14 | the expert witness had added a land planning analysis |
| 15 | that raised questions for this examiner, so I held the |
| 16 | record open, and set in another hearing so that Park and |
| 17 | Planning staff would be able to review that document and |
| 18 | send in any additional comments that they wished to send |
| 19 | in. |
| 20 | So we gave them a week to do that, and in the |
| 21 | interim, I met Mr. Suhar and I and all these |
| 22 | attorneys are going to go on the record in a minute, |
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| because everyone has a procedural issue they want to |
|--|
| address before we start. And I realized after meeting |
| Mr. Suhar that a few others for whatever reason weren't |
| aware of our first hearing, and I allowed them to come |
| into it at this point, become persons of record, and |
| they're able to testify if they like. They're able to |
| cross-examine a witness that I expect Mr. Forman will be |
| calling. And then we had this second hearing just to |
| continue the matter and to allow Park and Planning to |
| submit their document. Today is the third hearing. |
| In between the second hearing and the third |
| hearing other individuals have become persons of record, |
| and we have a notice of hearing that the ZHE sends out |
| solely because we have virtual hearings. It's not |
| required in the zoning ordinance. It was something we |
| do because we were in a virtual world. And it takes the |
| place of if we were in person, we would always send out |
| a notice to the persons of record advising them of when |
| the hearing will be held, and advising them that they |
| have the right to ask us so that they can come in and |
| see the exhibits. |
| So in our virtual world, that notice became |
| |

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| 1 | something that I put in some dates along with the other |
|----|--|
| 2 | examiner. There's no real law for that. We knew we |
| 3 | needed a cutoff that people couldn't be coming right now |
| 4 | while we're in the hearing asking to become a party of |
| 5 | record. So I'm just saying all that background, |
| 6 | Mr. Suhar, so you sort of understand why there was a |
| 7 | cutoff date in there, and I'm still going to let you |
| 8 | make your argument, but I also want to add that really, |
| 9 | Mr. Forman, it's just that he's dealt with me in the |
| 10 | past, so he probably didn't think it worth his time to |
| 11 | object to me allowing an additional hearing since he did |
| 12 | have the neighborhood applicant the preapplication |
| 13 | neighborhood meeting and he did post the property in |
| 14 | accordance with law, but for whatever reason certain |
| 15 | persons of record didn't come forward at that time. He |
| 16 | would've argued that, okay, that's too bad. I did |
| 17 | everything that I was required to do, but that argument |
| 18 | has never helped him in the past, because I really do |
| 19 | believe in letting everyone have their say so we can all |
| 20 | get it all out one time, versus coming back one more |
| 21 | time, but we'll do that too if that's District Counsel's |
| 22 | pleasure. |

| 1 | So I think I've said enough, and I'll have |
|----|---|
| 2 | counsel identify themselves for the record, and if |
| 3 | anybody has a motion they want to make at this time |
| 4 | based on everything we've talked about thus far. Please |
| 5 | put all of that on the record as well. |
| 6 | I'm going to start with Mr. Brown, just so |
| 7 | and Mr. Brown, could you explain, because we have new |
| 8 | citizens here as well. If you could explain who you are |
| 9 | and what your role is in this matter, because they may |
| 10 | not know about you. |
| 11 | Oh, one more thing, everyone, since this is |
| 12 | being recorded, if you're not speaking, it's great if |
| 13 | you keep your mic off. Thank you. |
| 14 | UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Brown, I think |
| 15 | you're muted. |
| 16 | MR. BROWN: Good morning. Stan Brown, |
| 17 | People's Zoning Counsel. For those who are new to the |
| 18 | zoning process, the People's Only Counsel does not |
| 19 | represent any party in this case. The term People's |
| 20 | Zoning Counsel is a misnomer. The land use article and |
| 21 | the zoning ordinance basically provides my job is to |
| 22 | make sure there is a complete record. And making a |
| | |

| 1 | complete record basically means that there will be |
|----|--|
| 2 | occasions when the applicant and/or his attorney will |
| 3 | try to proffer certain evidence and I will object to it. |
| 4 | There will be occasions when the opposition will proffer |
| 5 | certain evidence and I will object to it. There will be |
| 6 | occasions when I may actually offer evidence. So I may |
| 7 | be for and against a various party or various witnesses |
| 8 | at certain times or during this case. It is not my job |
| 9 | to represent anyone, but to assist with educating the |
| 10 | public on this process and how it proceeds. |
| 11 | The short story is, after this examiner |
| 12 | concludes this case, closes the record and writes a |
| 13 | decision, any party of record, and this is why you were |
| 14 | required to file a written request for a party of |
| 15 | record, may then file an appeal within 30 days after the |
| 16 | examiner releases her decision. That appeal would be a |
| 17 | request to have an oral argument before the county |
| 18 | Counsel sitting as the District Counsel. |
| 19 | The counsel would then have a hearing |
| 20 | approximately 30 to 45 days after that appeal, and then |
| 21 | you can only argue before the counsel evidence that is |
| 22 | submitted in this hearing before the examiner. So you |
| | |

| 1 | must be a person of record before the Examiner and you |
|----|--|
| 2 | can only argue evidence if someone appeals this to the |
| 3 | District Counsel. |
| 4 | In addition, any witness that speaks today |
| 5 | that lives in the community, you should state exactly |
| 6 | where you live, what your address is, and the reason for |
| 7 | that is, even though you may be a person of record |
| 8 | today, even though you may appeal this case to the |
| 9 | district counsel as a person of record, if you lose |
| 10 | before the District Counsel, you probably cannot appeal |
| 11 | to the Circuit Court unless you are aggrieved. And to |
| 12 | be aggrieved, you must generally live within |
| 13 | approximately a one-mile distance from the subject |
| 14 | property. So therefore, it's important to put on the |
| 15 | record what your address is here today. |
| 16 | One additional point, there's been a lot of |
| 17 | back and forth between various witnesses and various |
| 18 | attorneys with the Office of the Examiner. Everyone |
| 19 | needs to understand, none of that is evidence. |
| 20 | Mr. Suhar, you put in a very long letter which |
| 21 | I read attached much of the Planning Board's documents, |
| 22 | that's not evidence. You make a lot of factual |
| | |

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| 1 | assertions in there. I'm going to ask the Examiner to |
|----|--|
| 2 | potentially accept the letter as your opening statement, |
| 3 | but it's not evidence. |
| 4 | Same thing with you Mr. Forman, you put in a |
| 5 | number of e-mails directed to the Examiner making |
| 6 | certain assertions that were factual that may or may not |
| 7 | be true and Mr. Suhar hadn't had an opportunity to |
| 8 | respond to it. |
| 9 | So both attorneys should be aware that the |
| 10 | evidence that is going to be put on will be today and |
| 11 | that was put on on the 8th and last week as well. |
| 12 | Any witness today that is an officer of an association, |
| 13 | you must state what your office is and when the meeting |
| 14 | took place, how many people voted, and whether or not |
| 15 | there was an opposition vote or a support vote. And you |
| 16 | probably don't have it today, but if this record does |
| 17 | not close today, you will be required to submit a letter |
| 18 | in the record that basically says your association has |
| 19 | authorized you to speak on its behalf during this |
| 20 | particular proceeding. |
| 21 | So with that being said, Madame Examiner, I |
| 22 | will wait until we hear the questions, thank you. |
| | |

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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. And to piggyback |
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| 2 | on one thing you said, so I'm glad you mentioned it, |
| 3 | just for the public, I get these letters sometime from |
| 4 | attorneys or even from citizens and I never read them, |
| 5 | because I tell you, I can only do things based on the |
| 6 | record, as Mr. Brown just said, so if you sent that, |
| 7 | again, you need to present it today as evidence. I |
| 8 | didn't consider anything in those letters, only |
| 9 | procedural matters as to continuances, et cetera. |
| 10 | Mr. Suhar. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: Yes, good morning, Madame |
| 12 | Hearing Zoning Hearing Examiner, how are you? Can |
| 13 | you hear me? Can you hear me? |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes. |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, okay. All right. So at this |
| 16 | point at this point in time, may I make the |
| 17 | preliminary okay. All right. Thank you. So |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: We haven't finished the |
| 19 | introductions yet, I think maybe we do the introductions |
| 20 | and then if you want to go to preliminary matters. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Understood. Okay. So for the |
| 22 | record, my name is Sean Suhar. |
| | |

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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait a minute. I agree with |
| 2 | Mr. Forman, I've got to control this group. |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: I agree with the statement |
| 5 | he just made. |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Understood. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah, and let us know who |
| 8 | you represent Mr. Suhar. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, so for |
| 10 | the record, my name is Sean Suhar. I'm an attorney with |
| 11 | the firm of Nagle and Zaller, and my firm represents the |
| 12 | Wingate Homeowners Association, Incorporated in this |
| 13 | matter. Which is party of record. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. Mr. Forman. |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: Good morning. Thank you. |
| 16 | Officially for the record, although I've timed it I |
| 17 | think twice now, Nate Forman. I'm an attorney with |
| 18 | O'Malley Miles Nylen & Gilmore. We have offices in |
| 19 | Greenbelt and I'm here on behalf of the applicant, Land |
| 20 | Development Investors II, LLC. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And Mr. Suhar, do you |
| 22 | still have a preliminary motion you'd like to make? |
| | |

Transcript of Hearing Conducted on March 1, 2023 14 1 MR. WARNER: Ms. McNeil. 2 Yes, I do. Thank you. MR. SUHAR: 3 MADAME EXAMINER: Who -- state your name for 4 the --5 MR. WARNER: This is David Warner. 6 MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. 7 David Warner, principal counsel. MR. WARNER: 8 MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, I didn't recognize you. 9 MR. WARNER: Prince George's Planning Board. 10 MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. 11 MR. WARNER: Yes. MADAME EXAMINER: You don't have any 12 13 preliminary motion, do you? You just want us to know 14 you're here? Okay. 15 MR. WARNER: I have no need to be here on behalf of the Planning Board. I was sent a link and so 16 17 I just chimed in here to see if I'm needed. If not, I 18 will leave the hearing. 19 MADAME EXAMINER: I don't believe anyone can 20 question Mr. Warner as to the technical staff's 21 revised --22 MR. BROWN: No, they cannot.

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Right. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. BROWN: And so Mr. Warner, we appreciate |
| 3 | it. Thank you. |
| 4 | MR. WARNER: Sure. |
| 5 | MR. BROWN: Have a good day. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. |
| 7 | MR. WARNER: Okay. Sound good. Thank you, |
| 8 | everyone. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. So as I stated in the |
| 11 | e-mail correspondence during the last or yesterday, I |
| 12 | am for the record, I just want to state that my |
| 13 | client objects to anyone who is attempted to try and |
| 14 | become a party of record after the deadline that was |
| 15 | stated in the notice. And I understand that what you |
| 16 | just said and respect that you said that the fact that |
| 17 | the ordinance provides that party persons of record |
| 18 | can basically a person can become a person of record |
| 19 | all the way up until the hearing, but my client abided |
| 20 | by the what was stated in the notice and I think that |
| 21 | that establishes a rule in terms of this particular |
| 22 | hearing that everybody should be held held to. So on |
| | |

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| 1 | that basis and for quite frankly, my client could've |
|----|--|
| 2 | possibly obtained additional persons of record after the |
| 3 | Monday |
| 4 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Suhar. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: you know, deadlines, so |
| 6 | MR. BROWN: Let me object for a moment. I |
| 7 | mean, that issue has been resolved. The Examiner |
| 8 | explained the process, and not only that, but you don't |
| 9 | represent persons who have not appeared. So your |
| 10 | clients are in the case. They are persons of record. |
| 11 | Now, any individual who has not become a person of |
| 12 | record by the close of this record then they won't be a |
| 13 | person of record. And so let's move onto the next |
| 14 | issue. |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you very much, Mr. Brown. I |
| 16 | think I have a right to state an objection on the record |
| 17 | and that's all I'm doing in this case, so |
| 18 | MR. BROWN: All right. We've got |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Just wanted just wanted to |
| 20 | preserve that for the record; okay. |
| 21 | MR. BROWN: All right. Thank you. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. And I've done so |
| | |

| 1 | respectfully and you know |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. BROWN: Oh, no. I'm not saying you |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: No disrespect intended to |
| 4 | Ms. McNeil, Zoning Hearing Examiner or anyone else on |
| 5 | this in this meeting, so |
| 6 | MR. BROWN: That's fine. We just don't want |
| 7 | to waste too much time today. I appreciate it. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. I appreciate it. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Suhar, I note your |
| 10 | objection for the record. I'm going to overrule the |
| 11 | objection, but I do want to state on the record, if |
| 12 | anyone here knows of anyone else that wanted to be a |
| 13 | person of record, they won't be able to testify today, |
| 14 | but they can become a person of record until this |
| 15 | hearing record closes. So they can do it today. I'd |
| 16 | even give it a couple of additional days. I don't know |
| 17 | if there's going to be other documents that will be |
| 18 | submitted after today in any event, but please let them |
| 19 | know that or others that live in the neighborhood just |
| 20 | contact us by e-mail and say, I want to be a person of |
| 21 | record, and this is my address. And that will suffice. |
| 22 | Mr. Forman, do you have any |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. And my objection is |
|----|--|
| 2 | was directed specifically to Skip Gault, just, you know, |
| 3 | for the record. Just so that's noted. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: All right. Oh, okay. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: And who's someone here is |
| 7 | caller number one, who are you for the record? If you |
| 8 | can identify yourself. |
| 9 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, that is Mr. Atar |
| 10 | [ph], he is on behalf of the |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: The applicant in this case. |
| 13 | Mr. Jay Atar, and he has been a party of record at |
| 14 | previous hearings. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. All right then. You |
| 16 | were going to I guess you're going to go first, |
| 17 | Mr. Forman, because we left the record open. Excuse me, |
| 18 | again. We have prefiled exhibits up to 29B after the |
| 19 | first hearing. Subsequent to that, Mr. Forman sent |
| 20 | something that we've marked as 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34, |
| 21 | but I would like to pull those up and you really to |
| 22 | explain what they are, because they really look like a |
| | |

| 1 | bunch of aerials and it has to be a reason you wanted |
|----|--|
| 2 | each one, 35 would be the Revised Technical Staff |
| 3 | Report. And I have been advised by staff that someone |
| 4 | submitted, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven other |
| 5 | exhibits that we've marked preliminarily as 36 to 42 and |
| 6 | I was that you Mr. Forman? |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: Yes, Madame Examiner. That was |
| 8 | additional information that you had requested at the |
| 9 | close of the February 8th hearing. So that's what that |
| 10 | information is, but I can I'd be more than happy to |
| 11 | go through those documents to and explain what those |
| 12 | exhibits are. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: We will do so, because I |
| 14 | want to name them correctly. And give anybody a chance |
| 15 | if they're opposed to it. Okay. So are you going to |
| 16 | start? Are you going to do Mr. Ferguson first and then |
| 17 | we can let Mr. Suhar put on any witnesses he'd like and |
| 18 | others to speak? |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, Mr. Ferguson is |
| 20 | here, and he's available to testify. Although upon the |
| 21 | review of the revised staff report, we didn't believe |
| 22 | there was anything in that report that required any |
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| 1 | rebuttal, but so if there is any questions of |
|----|--|
| 2 | Mr. Ferguson, we can bring him up. If Madame Examiner |
| 3 | wants to ask him, otherwise, I've no problem going |
| 4 | through the exhibits right now to get them into the |
| 5 | record. Unless you'd like Mr. Ferguson to testify as to |
| 6 | the exhibits. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. The only thing is, as |
| 8 | Mr. Brown noted, there's really no time limit on these |
| 9 | matters, although the law says one hour each side. I |
| 10 | allow sufficient time for everyone to put on competent |
| 11 | evidence that's related to the case. And I'm thinking |
| 12 | that if you would put Mr. Ferguson on to briefly explain |
| 13 | the basis, that might help the others that might focus |
| 14 | what they want to say. Although I don't know what they |
| 15 | want to say. So but you can put on your case anyway |
| 16 | you like. Let's do the exhibits first. So Ms. Neal, |
| 17 | are you prepared to pull up Exhibit 31? |
| 18 | MS. NEAL: Yes. Give me one second. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 20 | MR. FORMAN: While Ms. Neal is bringing up the |
| 21 | exhibits, Madame Examiner, I didn't feel there was any |
| 22 | need to bring up Mr. Ferguson, because we had already |
| | |

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| 1 | included his testimony, his land planning report as well |
|----|--|
| 2 | as the transcript that was provided which showed our |
| 3 | side and our evidence in the record. But if it would |
| 4 | if it's at the Hearing Examiner's pleasure, I could ask |
| 5 | him to just briefly summarize our position. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: We have Exhibit 31, so I'll |
| 7 | get right back to you on that, but what is Exhibit 31 |
| 8 | showing? What is this? |
| 9 | MR. FORMAN: And actually, could we go to |
| 10 | Exhibit 30 first? I believe that one is Exhibit 30. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, right. I'm sorry. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: So Exhibit 30 has two pages. |
| 13 | This is the first page. And it is a printout from |
| 14 | Google Maps which shows the approximate driving distance |
| 15 | from our property to the entrance of the Wingate |
| 16 | Homeowners Association off of road. |
| 17 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Forman, why don't you put a |
| 18 | witness on to tell us what these exhibits are since you |
| 19 | cannot testify. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah. |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Ferguson. |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: Good morning, Madame Examiner. |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Good morning, Mr. Ferguson. |
|----|--|
| 2 | I don't see you right now, but you are still under oath. |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you. I I see |
| 4 | myself on camera. Is that |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Could be the map is hiding |
| 6 | you, I don't know on my screen, so |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: All right. Super. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So Mr. Forman. |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: Madame Examiner, I I will |
| 10 | consider myself as continuing under oath. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait a minute. Did I |
| 12 | just said that; right? Did you all hear me say that? |
| 13 | Okay. |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: All right. Super. Thank you, |
| 15 | Madame. Thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 16 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT |
| 17 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 18 | Q Mr. Ferguson, can you see what is shown on the |
| 19 | screen right now? |
| 20 | A I can't. |
| 21 | Q Okay. Can you describe what this image is |
| 22 | showing? |
| | |

| 1 | A This is an image taken from Google Maps that |
|----|--|
| 2 | indicates the subject property which is some of the |
| 3 | woods at the left part of the image. And there is a |
| 4 | highlight blue line running down Greenbelt Road from the |
| 5 | corner of the subject property where there is a label |
| 6 | that says Glendale, a yellow segment of line which |
| 7 | presumably is there was a traffic backup at the entrance |
| 8 | to the Eastgate Shopping Center. Proceeding in blue |
| 9 | down Greenbelt Road to the intersection of Lanham Severn |
| 10 | Road, and then up Lanham Severn Road to the entrance of |
| 11 | the Wingate subdivision at Wingate Drive. There is a |
| 12 | label on that that indicates the distance from the |
| 13 | corner of the subject property to the entrance to the |
| 14 | Wingate subdivision is 1.1 miles, and a three-mile |
| 15 | travel distance by car. |
| 16 | Q And is this a fair and accurate representation |
| 17 | of the driving distances between the subject property |
| 18 | and the entrance to Wingate homeowner Wingate was |
| 19 | it drive? I'm sorry. Wingate drive, yes. |
| 20 | A It is. It certainly corroborates with my |
| 21 | experience doing the exact same thing. |
| 22 | Q Okay. Thank you. |
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| 1 | MR. FORMAN: And Madame Examiner, would you |
| 2 | like me to request to have this evidence introduced or |
| 3 | wait until the end? This exhibit, I should say. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Do you want to does |
| 5 | anyone object to this exhibit? |
| 6 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: No objection. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. It's admitted. |
| 9 | Go ahead, sir. |
| 10 | (Exhibit 30 was marked for |
| 11 | identification.) |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. Thank you. Can we go to |
| 13 | the next page, please? And I believe this one is marked |
| 14 | as Exhibit 30B. |
| 15 | Q Mr. Ferguson, could you please describe |
| 16 | briefly what this image is before you? |
| 17 | A It is an image of the taken from the same |
| 18 | source, but from a little bit of a broader perspective. |
| 19 | And it indicates the route, the driving route from the |
| 20 | subject property to the northern entrance of the Wingate |
| 21 | subdivision off of Good Luck Road. It indicates that |
| 22 | the driving distance there is 1.9 miles and that the |
| | |

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| 1 | travel time by car at that time was approximately four |
|----|---|
| 2 | minutes. |
| 3 | Q Thank you. And this is a fair and accurate |
| 4 | representation of the driving distance from the subject |
| 5 | property to the northern entrance of Wingate Drive? |
| 6 | A It is based on my experience with the |
| 7 | neighborhood. |
| 8 | Q Okay. Thank you very much? |
| 9 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, I move to have |
| 10 | this exhibit introduced into the record. |
| 11 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: No objection. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: It will be admitted. |
| 14 | (Exhibit 30B was marked for |
| 15 | identification.) |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. The next slide, please. |
| 17 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 18 | Q Mr. Ferguson, I'm showing you what has been |
| 19 | introduced as Exhibit 31. Could you please describe |
| 20 | what you are seeing? |
| 21 | A It is again a Google Earth I believe it's |
| 22 | Google Earth. This may actually be PG Atlas. I think |
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| 1 | this is Google Earth, but it does have property |
|----|--|
| 2 | superimposed on it which is why I'm momentarily |
| 3 | confused. It indicates the purpose of the exhibit is an |
| 4 | aerial paragraph of the neighborhood taken from the |
| 5 | same roughly the same perspective as the previous |
| 6 | image. It has the letters $$ it has the word site |
| 7 | superimposed over the subject property in the lower |
| 8 | center part of the image and the designation of Wingate |
| 9 | over the northern part of the Wingate subdivision in the |
| 10 | upper right portion of the image. |
| 11 | Q Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. And is this a fair |
| 12 | and accurate representation of the locations of the |
| 13 | subject property and the Wingate Homeowners Association |
| 14 | or I should say the Wingate subdivision? |
| 15 | A It is. |
| 16 | Q Okay. Thank you. |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, I move to have |
| 18 | Exhibit 31 introduced into the record. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Just before you do so, you |
| 20 | said the neighborhood, do you mean the neighborhood for |
| 21 | legal purposes in your land planning analysis or are you |
| 22 | being generic about that term? |
| | |

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| 1 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you for the clarification, |
| 2 | Madame Examiner. I was being more generic in this case. |
| 3 | My testimony regarding the extent of the neighborhood |
| 4 | from a zoning perspective does not has not changed. |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And any objections to |
| 6 | the exhibit? |
| 7 | MR. BROWN: None. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: I will note an objection, yes. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And let me know |
| 10 | what explain your objection, Mr. Suhar. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. Madame Examiner, the the |
| 12 | witness has not authenticated this exhibit. I don't |
| 13 | know what the source is. I did not hear that the |
| 14 | witness created this exhibit, and I don't know what the |
| 15 | kind of scale this is. And I don't see any indications |
| 16 | on it or what have you, and so noting an objection to |
| 17 | the record based on those grounds. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Forman or Mr. Ferguson, |
| 19 | who created this exhibit? |
| 20 | MR. FORMAN: It was actually located |
| 21 | created by somebody on our team, Ms. Barbara Richmond |
| 22 | Khan who is actually with the Michael Company and she is |
| | |

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| 1 | a party of record and is here at the hearing this |
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| 2 | morning. |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Same objection. |
| 4 | MR. FORMAN: Could I ask Ms. Richmond Khan to |
| 5 | verify that she is the one that created this exhibit? |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: How many of these exhibits |
| 7 | are Ms. Khan's. |
| 8 | MR. FORMAN: This one and then the next two. |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: If you like the previous |
| 10 | excuse me the previous two as well, Mr. Forman, I did |
| 11 | not prepare these prepare these exhibits. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Not even Exhibit 34 |
| 13 | which looks like the zoning map overlay? |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: If you I did not, Madame |
| 15 | Examiner. Certainly, I used the same tools regularly. |
| 16 | Both PG Atlas and Google Earth, and have used them very |
| 17 | specifically in the context of this case as I do with |
| 18 | every case in matters that will come before you, but |
| 19 | I and Mr. Suhar's is absolutely correct, I did not |
| 20 | prepare these personally. |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: I I did |
| 22 | MR. BROWN: For the record here, it is not |
| | |

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| 1 | necessary for evidence to be introduced and accepted. |
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| 2 | That the applicant prepared the photograph or exhibit in |
| 3 | this particular case. All Mr. Ferguson has to do is to |
| 4 | testify that based upon his knowledge of an aerial |
| 5 | photograph or this particular geographical location, |
| 6 | it's a fair and accurate representation of what he's |
| 7 | familiar with. And he's testified to that effect. And |
| 8 | so I would again have no objection to the document. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: I want okay. At this |
| 10 | moment, I will overrule Mr. Suhar, but I would like to |
| 11 | know a little more about why we need all three of these |
| 12 | next ones. So this one shows Wingate in the site. And |
| 13 | the next one shows Wingate the site Trap and Skeet |
| 14 | Center, et cetera. Do we need go ahead, explain to |
| 15 | me why we before I admit Number 31, what is 32 |
| 16 | showing us. |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: So would you like me to testify |
| 18 | or me to explain or have Mr. Ferguson testify what is |
| 19 | going on with Exhibit 32? |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: If he knows, you should use |
| 21 | a witness, so |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| | |

| 1 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
|----|--|
| 2 | Q Mr. Ferguson, would I'm showing you what's |
| 3 | been marked as Exhibit 32, could you please explain what |
| 4 | is shown on this image? |
| 5 | A So Exhibit 32 is a similar view as to the |
| 6 | previous. It is with a tilted perspective. So that |
| 7 | instead of a plan of metrics straight above perspective, |
| 8 | and it has been labeled to indicate the more of the |
| 9 | specific uses which surround the subject property as |
| 10 | well as a label for the Wingate subdivision as well. |
| 11 | Q And is this a fair and accurate representation |
| 12 | of the property and the uses nearby as well as the |
| 13 | approximate location of the Wingate neighborhood? |
| 14 | A Broadly. I will say you can see from the bear |
| 15 | earth patches under new townhouses. The new townhouses |
| 16 | is the Wood Stream I'm sorry, it's not the Wood |
| 17 | Stream, I think it's Woodview [ph] that they refer to my |
| 18 | report. And it's I actually helped to lay that and |
| 19 | the name of it is Wood Glen [ph] and the name had just |
| 20 | escaped me. So that is now a complete the Stanley |
| 21 | Martin TH Condos are townhouses and condominiums under |
| 22 | the label TH Condos, they're actually single-family |
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| 1 | detached dwellings under the in Stanley Martin. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Those are again depicted as fair ground. Those are |
| 3 | it's built out. So it broadly the labels accurately |
| 4 | reflect the current uses, the underlying image is a |
| 5 | little bit dated. |
| 6 | Q Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: And Madame Examiner, I think for |
| 8 | the sake of brevity, I would ask that this exhibit be |
| 9 | introduced into the record and that we can strike |
| 10 | Exhibits 31 and we can exclude Exhibit 33. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. We're striking |
| 12 | Exhibit 31 and renaming Exhibit 32, 31. Oh, Mr. Suhar, |
| 13 | did you have the same objection to 32? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Madame Examiner, is this what |
| 15 | we're looking at on the screen, Exhibit 32? |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes. |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: Then yes, I will note an objection |
| 18 | here as well. And the grounds are somewhat similar. |
| 19 | They are similar, but I'm going to add an additional |
| 20 | ground that there is no boundary drawn on this map as to |
| 21 | Wingate Homeowners Association. And so when the when |
| 22 | the witness testifies to his knowledge of Wingate |
| | |

| 1 | Homeowners Association, it gives an inaccurate or a |
|--|--|
| 2 | perception that the Wingate and it's also skewed here |
| 3 | the this drawing as to giving the perception that |
| 4 | Wingate is much further than what the Google Maps had |
| 5 | stated. But I will stipulate, Madame Examiner, if the |
| 6 | applicant's attorney would agree, I'll stipulate that |
| 7 | Wingate Homeowners Association is part of the same |
| 8 | neighborhood as the if that's what they're point here |
| 9 | is, is that the same neighborhood is where the subject |
| 10 | property is located. And that it's extremely close to |
| 11 | the I'm sorry. |
| | |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: I'm sorry, please continue. |
| 12 13 | MR. FORMAN: I'm sorry, please continue. MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to |
| | |
| 13 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to |
| 13 14 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit |
| 13 14 15 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is |
| 13 14 15 16 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is I don't know who created it. I don't think the witness |
| 13 14 15 16 17 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is I don't know who created it. I don't think the witness created it. And there are lots of different indications |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is I don't know who created it. I don't think the witness created it. And there are lots of different indications on here as to what like a Lidl and McDonald's, KFC, |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is I don't know who created it. I don't think the witness created it. And there are lots of different indications on here as to what like a Lidl and McDonald's, KFC, Giant, NASA, you know, there are lots of indications on |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'll be willing to stipulate to that point, but I do object to this exhibit based on those grounds, and the fact that this map is I don't know who created it. I don't think the witness created it. And there are lots of different indications on here as to what like a Lidl and McDonald's, KFC, Giant, NASA, you know, there are lots of indications on here as to labels that I don't I this map, I find |

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| 1 | respond to Mr. Suhar's comments. I find it very |
|----|--|
| 2 | presumptuous of him trying to believe that we were going |
| | |
| 3 | to agree to the same neighborhood boundaries, but if |
| 4 | what Mr. Suhar would like, I can ask Mr. Ferguson to |
| 5 | elaborate on this map to show the actual boundaries of |
| 6 | the property, but we are in no way acknowledging that |
| 7 | this isn't the same neighborhood. It is just |
| 8 | coincidentally being able to show on the same map at |
| 9 | the when you zoom out to the appropriate scale. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Understood, Mr. Forman, but Madame |
| 11 | Examiner, he is trying to draw a boundary around Wingate |
| 12 | Homeowners Association without actually drawing a |
| 13 | boundary around Wingate Homeowners Association. He's |
| 14 | got Wingate |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: I would agree. I would |
| 16 | agree with that. I thought that was a good point. If |
| 17 | the witness and you know, the other thing we're |
| 18 | you're sort of at a disadvantage because you weren't at |
| 19 | the original hearing, so I would like to note that |
| 20 | Mr. Ferguson was already sworn in as an expert land use |
| 21 | planner and had already testified that he has visited |
| 22 | this site, is well aware of this neighborhood, so |
| | |

| 1 | everything posted on here, Mr. Ferguson, you know from |
|----|--|
| 2 | your own experience that they are roughly in the spot |
| 3 | that is shown on the aerial Duvall [ph] High, NASA, et |
| 4 | cetera? |
| 5 | THE WITNESS: Yes, Madame Examiner. More than |
| 6 | roughly. The depictions are quite accurate. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. But I think Mr. Suhar |
| 8 | had a great point and actually, I like this exhibit for |
| 9 | that point. Wingate, you noted the entrance into the |
| 10 | development, but is the property everything we see |
| 11 | around Wingate? All of these trees and little |
| 12 | cul-de-sacs, all of those are the homes that are part of |
| 13 | the homeowners association? And better than answering |
| 14 | that, could you could we not admit this at this time |
| 15 | and you showed the outline for Wingate on here as well |
| 16 | as Mr. Suhar mentioned? Is there a way for you to put a |
| 17 | red or not red, something around Wingate development? |
| 18 | MR. BROWN: Madame |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: Yes. Does GoTo Meeting allow me |
| 20 | to draw on the screen as zoom does? I don't believe it |
| 21 | does. |
| 22 | MR. BROWN: Madame Examiner, may I interject |
| | |

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| 1 | for a |
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes, Mr. Brown. |
| 3 | MR. BROWN: know Mr. Ferguson has testified |
| 4 | about the entrances to Wingate Drive what appears to be, |
| 5 | what, maybe northwest and southeast. I think it would |
| 6 | be more appropriate for Mr. Suhar, when his clients |
| 7 | testify, they know where the Wingate |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 9 | MR. BROWN: association is delineated. And |
| 10 | they should be the ones that make that particular |
| 11 | determination, not Mr. Ferguson. |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Noted, Mr. Brown. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: I agree as long as someone |
| 14 | does, but I would note they're offering it as to where |
| 15 | everything is. So I think they could do it, but I can |
| 16 | wait for Mr. Suhar, if he'd like to have somebody |
| 17 | testify as to the boundaries for Wingate. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Yes, that's |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: But as to his other |
| 20 | question, does anyone any of staff know whether or |
| 21 | not we could outline this property? I don't think so, |
| 22 | probably not GoTo Meeting. |
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| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Madame Examiner, if we're talking |
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| 2 | about the boundaries of a community association. It |
| 3 | would be better in my opinion to see a plat map or what |
| 4 | have you that's, you know, recorded among the land |
| 5 | records or some kind of document that that |
| 6 | actually draws the boundaries instead of, you know, this |
| 7 | map is really this blows this this calls into |
| 8 | question, in my mind, as to what the intention is here |
| 9 | as to kind of skew the perception of where Wingate is |
| 10 | located and where the subject property in regards to |
| 11 | where the subject property is located. |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: Madame Examiner, I think I can |
| 13 | make this a lot easier for everybody. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Please speak. How would you |
| 15 | do that? |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: I am quite familiar as to what |
| 17 | the extents of the Wingate subdivision which is recorded |
| 18 | in the land records extend to. And can describe that on |
| 19 | this exhibit. It would be easier if I could annotate on |
| 20 | the exhibit, but I can do so without annotation. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: If you could use these |
| 22 | streets that are highlighted, that'll be great, so go |
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| 1 | ahead. What are the what is the what are the |
|----|--|
| 2 | boundaries of the Wingate development? |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: The Wingate extends at the |
| 4 | north. There is a line of trees, of thicker trees which |
| 5 | is parallel to Wingate Drive and then extends extends |
| 6 | downward towards Lanham Severn Road such at the most |
| 7 | proximate corner of the recorded Wingate subdivision to |
| 8 | the subject property is right above the letter C in the |
| 9 | words Luna Concrete. |
| 10 | There is a pond just to the west of that area, |
| 11 | in between the cul-de-sac of I believe that's Lake View |
| 12 | Drive. I did drive down that personally. And then |
| 13 | there is a fairly large pond that intervenes between the |
| 14 | rear of the most proximate lot in Wingate and Greenbelt |
| 15 | Road and then the Eastgate Shopping Center intervenes |
| 16 | and then there is the Capital Christian Fellowship |
| 17 | Church which intervenes and then there's the subject |
| 18 | property which extends from the letter E in Eastgate |
| 19 | Shopping Center is over the northeastern corner of the |
| 20 | subject property and then Colonel Sanders head in the |
| 21 | KFC logo is over the southeastern corner of the subject |
| 22 | property. |
| | |

| 1 | So I think that can give a very good depiction |
|----|--|
| 2 | of the relationship between Wingate and the most |
| 3 | proximate part thereof in the subject property. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: And Northern Avenue to |
| 5 | the |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: The west. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: This thing doesn't have |
| 8 | north or south, but |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: You've got that is west, |
| 10 | so Northern Avenue is does not abut Wingate. In |
| 11 | fact, you'll see immediately north of Greenbelt Road on |
| 12 | Northern Avenue there's a street called Potomac Avenue |
| 13 | not labeled at this scale which it sends to a cul-de-sac |
| 14 | that has two little cul-de-sacs that abut a denser line |
| 15 | of trees. That's the Glendale subdivision which my firm |
| 16 | created in the mid 1980s that is not a part of Wingate. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, so all of it isn't |
| 18 | Wingate. |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: Correct. |
| 20 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 21 | Q Mr. Ferguson, just I think for clarification, |
| 22 | can you reach the Wingate subdivision from Northern |
| | |

| 1 | Avenue? |
|----|--|
| 2 | A No, you can't. |
| 3 | Q Okay. Thank you. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. I will allow |
| 5 | exhibit the new 31 over Mr. Suhar's objection. |
| 6 | (Exhibit 31 was marked for |
| 7 | identification.) |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Now, do we still need the |
| 9 | new the new 32 which had been marked as Exhibit 33? |
| 10 | What is this? Do we still need it or what is it? |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: No. We can we can strike this |
| 12 | one, Madame Examiner. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, great. Okay. And what |
| 14 | about the zoning map exhibit which was 34, it doesn't |
| 15 | include the information telling you which zones it is. |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: You are correct, because of the |
| 17 | way it zoomed out, but I believe Mr. Ferguson can |
| 18 | testify given his experience as a land planner and his |
| 19 | experience with PG Atlas. |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: If you bring that up, I will |
| 21 | verify whether or not that's the case, Mr. Forman. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: May I may I |
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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Ms. Neal could you bring |
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| 2 | up bring up what was 34 which will now be Exhibit 32? |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: I'm sorry. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: I was telling staff. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, I apologize. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: All right. So what is |
| 7 | exhibit the new exhibit 32 telling us? |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: If we could zoom back out to see |
| 9 | the entire property. So that is in fact a copy of the |
| 10 | PG Atlas zoning layer. Based on my study and my |
| 11 | familiarity with PG Atlas, I believe I could identify |
| 12 | all of the zones in the discussion area. |
| 13 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 14 | Q Mr. Ferguson, before asking about the zones, I |
| 15 | just want to draw your attention if we could can |
| 16 | we zoom into the lower portion of the image? Ms. Neal. |
| 17 | Thank you. There are some notations on the image before |
| 18 | you. Can you describe what you are seeing Mr. Ferguson? |
| 19 | A So the notations which are added to the base |
| 20 | information of PG Atlas is the subject property on the |
| 21 | left side of the image as it's now displayed, is the |
| 22 | subject property is outlined in red. It looks like an E |
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| 1 | on its side with the tines of the E pointing upward. It |
|----|--|
| 2 | is labeled subject property with the word property being |
| 3 | located within the limits of the subject property where |
| 4 | it's subject being located to the west of it. And |
| 5 | there is a light blue line which extends from the |
| 6 | northeast corner of the subject property to the most |
| 7 | proximate lot corner within the Wingate subdivision |
| 8 | using the dimensional tool of PG Atlas and that that |
| 9 | dimension is indicated as being 2,648.64 feet. Yes. |
| 10 | Q Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. And then just I |
| 11 | know this is going to be coming up. Is this measuring |
| 12 | tool an exact way of measuring distance or is it more |
| 13 | sort of an approximate distance between the two |
| 14 | A So you can be very exact with it if you use |
| 15 | certain tricks. I do not believe that those tricks were |
| 16 | used in this case, so no, this would not be a this |
| 17 | would not be an exact representation. I would |
| 18 | characterize it as being correct to within the near est |
| 19 | perhaps ten feet. |
| 20 | Q And thank you very much. I want to go back to |
| 21 | one of the earlier comments regarding the zones that we |
| 22 | see on the image having gotten the notations in. Can |
| | |

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| 1 | you are you familiar with the colors of the zones as |
|----|--|
| 2 | illustrated in PG Atlas? |
| 3 | A I am. |
| 4 | Q Looking at the property that is labeled as |
| 5 | subject property, what color would you describe that as? |
| 6 | A So that is a tan color which represents the RR |
| 7 | zone. |
| 8 | Q Okay. Thank you. And so for the line that |
| 9 | goes from the subject property to the other property |
| 10 | outlined excuse me in blue with the red diamond on |
| 11 | it. |
| 12 | A Yes, sir. |
| 13 | Q What color would you describe that zone? |
| 14 | A I'm sorry, which? |
| 15 | Q What color would you say that is, and what |
| 16 | zone do you think it does it represent? |
| 17 | A I'm sorry, Mr. Forman, which that? You talked |
| 18 | about the line not which |
| 19 | Q My apologies. The blue outlined lot that |
| 20 | is |
| 21 | A I see. It's going to the the red square. |
| 22 | Q Yes. |
| | |
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That lot in the Wingate subdivision is in the 1 Α 2 RE zone. 3 Q Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. MR. FORMAN: And so Madame Examiner, I would 4 5 ask that this exhibit be introduced into the record as 6 showing the zoning of the properties as well as the 7 distance approximately between the subject property and 8 the closest lot within the Wingate Homeowners Association. 9 MR. BROWN: Well, this is where Mr. Suhar's 10 11 objection is relevant. This is not a photograph. From 12 the testimony that Mr. Ferguson just made, you did not 13 prepare this document, did you Mr. Ferguson? 14 THE WITNESS: That is correct. I have however looked at this tool myself and used this layer myself in 15 16 the preparation of my report, but I did not prepare this exhibit. 17 18 MR. BROWN: You didn't prepare it and 19 therefore you can't testify to its accuracy. The line 20 depicting 2,648.64 feet is not relevant at this point, 21 because you didn't make that particular determination 22 concerning --

| 1 | THE WITNESS: I did independently, Mr. Brown. |
|----|--|
| 2 | I did not prepare this exhibit, but I did in fact make |
| 3 | an independent measurement of the same the same |
| 4 | separation and came up with a similar answer. |
| 5 | MR. BROWN: I understand, but we're talking |
| 6 | about specifically this particular document. Concerning |
| 7 | the zoning of the surrounding properties, are those |
| 8 | properties illustrated on this particular document? The |
| 9 | zoning ordinance will speak for itself. So we don't |
| 10 | even need to have your testimony on those issues. So I |
| 11 | would object to this particular document coming into the |
| 12 | record, Madame Examiner. |
| 13 | MR. SUHAR: And if I may, I'll adopt |
| 14 | Mr. Brown's objection and support it. I so for the |
| 15 | same grounds as Mr. Brown stated, I'd like to note an |
| 16 | objection as well. In addition to the characterization |
| 17 | and I I'll clarify that, a mischaracterization |
| 18 | Mr. Forman made about Mr. Ferguson's credentials. He |
| 19 | referred to him as a land planner. And I'm not so sure |
| 20 | that Mr. Ferguson's curriculum vitae was had |
| 21 | specified as to whether or not he was a "land planner". |
| 22 | MR. BROWN: Well, Mr. Suhar |
| | |

| 1 | |
|----|--|
| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: He's been accepted as a land |
| 2 | use planner, an expert land use planner in this case and |
| 3 | many others. So |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: That's I object to that |
| 5 | characterization. If that's what Mr. Forman is putting |
| 6 | forth as testimony. So respectfully, Madame Examiner, I |
| 7 | don't I don't see I don't agree that |
| 8 | Mr. Ferguson I didn't have an opportunity during the |
| 9 | first hearing on February 8th, because we weren't |
| 10 | notified as we should have been |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait, wait. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: Well, we're not going into that. |
| 13 | Objection. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Suhar go ahead. |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: I would object |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Go ahead and finish. And |
| 17 | then if you want no, no. Let Mr. Suhar finish and |
| 18 | then if you have something to say, you can. |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. So we were not |
| 21 | included on the mailing list, Madame Examiner, so I |
| 22 | wasn't able to question Mr. Ferguson the first time or |
| | |

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| 1 | even been given an opportunity to be heard or be |
|----|--|
| 2 | present. So but I don't recall Mr. Ferguson being |
| 3 | referred to as a land use planner. In fact, I saw that |
| 4 | his background is, is an architect. Thank you very |
| 5 | much, Madame Examiner. |
| 6 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, Mr. Ferguson has |
| 7 | been qualified as an expert numerous times before this |
| 8 | body, District Counsel, numerous other jurisdictions. I |
| 9 | think his curriculum and his experience |
| 10 | MR. BROWN: Let me interject for a moment. I |
| 11 | mean, we're really getting way off base here. |
| 12 | Mr. Suhar, when it comes time for him to cross-examine |
| 13 | Mr. Ferguson, he can voir dire him on his qualifications |
| 14 | as an expert at that particular point in time. |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 16 | MR. BROWN: Right now, we're just talking |
| 17 | about this particular exhibit. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Agreed. |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: As to this particular |
| 21 | exhibit, is this part of the county-wide map amendment |
| 22 | documents as well? |
| | |

| 1 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, this is not part |
|----|---|
| 2 | of what do you say is a part of it? I mean, this is |
| 3 | showing the current zoning under the current map |
| 4 | amendments that was enacted on April 1, 2022. And I do |
| 5 | think this is still relevant showing the zones of the |
| 6 | property, and excuse me as well as the approximate |
| 7 | distances between the property and the Wingate, the |
| 8 | closest lot from Wingate. And it was yeah it was |
| 9 | prepared by myself, and it has been shared with |
| 10 | Mr. Ferguson and other members of my team. So I |
| 11 | believe and it does I believe speak for itself |
| 12 | although it can be corroborated by them. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. I would give both of |
| 14 | you half of it, I suppose. I would like this exhibit |
| 15 | from PG Atlas without any indication of the distance. I |
| 16 | think it would help the counsel to just see, and I know |
| 17 | they can take administrative notice of it, but we've |
| 18 | often allowed this to be in the record, just see what |
| 19 | the zoning is of all these properties that are not |
| 20 | quite, you know, the subject property and the |
| 21 | surrounding properties even though some of them are |
| 22 | outside of the neighborhood in this case. So if you can |
| | |

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| 1 | give me a revised copy of this document from PG Atlas |
|----|---|
| 2 | that also do they not add what the zones are? It's |
| 3 | just not showing on this; correct? |
| 4 | MR. FORMAN: When you zoom out on certain |
| 5 | THE WITNESS: close to be able to get the |
| 6 | zoning annotation layer to appear. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. I would like that |
| 8 | included. So we do not have an Exhibit 32 at this time. |
| 9 | We're waiting on a replacement for this one. This will |
| 10 | be void. If you can get the replacement in and show it |
| 11 | to all counsel shortly, that would be wonderful; okay. |
| 12 | And I don't we don't need that line with the |
| 13 | distance, because they can go on PG Atlas, they can |
| 14 | see your whole point is that the property is not |
| 15 | within the neighborhood, and it's some distance away. |
| 16 | That's all you're really saying here; correct? |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: That is correct, Your Honor. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Madame Examiner works. |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: All right. So we're up to |
| 21 | Exhibit 32. It'll be void and another one that meets my |
| 22 | criteria will be submitted into the record. Exhibit 34 |
| | |

| 1 | which is not Mr. Ferguson, anymore. Wait a minute |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| Ζ | Mr. Ferguson. I'm sure no one objects to Exhibit 34 |
| 3 | which will now be Exhibit 33. It's the Revised |
| 4 | Technical Staff Report. So it is part of this record. |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: I mean, I'd like to object to it |
| 6 | if it you think it would work. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: I mean, you could put on a |
| 8 | witness to explain why you differ, but this item is |
| 9 | coming into the record. It is now Exhibit 33. |
| 10 | (Exhibit 33 was marked for |
| 11 | identification.) |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Ms. Neal, will you be |
| 13 | able to pull up what is shown as 36 except it will |
| 14 | become 34 if it's admitted? Exhibit 36. And none of us |
| 15 | know what this is, sir, so you'll have to Mr. Forman, |
| 16 | I don't even know what it looks like. Okay. So what is |
| 17 | Exhibit 36? |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: Mr so if I could give a brief |
| 19 | explanation and ask Mr. Ferguson to discuss it. At the |
| 20 | close of the hearing on February 8th, Madame Examiner |
| 21 | and Mr. Brown had asked about receiving a conceptual |
| 22 | site plan which included the delineating the master plan |

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| 1 | right-of-way of C30 sorry, 340 through the property |
|----|---|
| 2 | and what the impact would be like on the property. If |
| 3 | that road were constructed. |
| 4 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 5 | Q So Mr. Ferguson, could you I know it's so |
| 6 | difficult doing this over a line, but could you briefly |
| 7 | try to describe the limits of the master plan roadway |
| 8 | that is going to proposed to bisect the property? |
| 9 | A I can. The master planned roadway, the C40 |
| 10 | alignment is the arc which runs through the property |
| 11 | from the northwest corner to towards the southeast |
| 12 | corner, beginning at the northwest corner opposite of |
| 13 | Fords Boulevard and then running off of the image, |
| 14 | roughly in the middle, slightly to the right of the |
| 15 | middle of the image at the bottom. The subject property |
| 16 | by the way is outlined in red. |
| 17 | Q And you're looking at this exhibit, what kind |
| 18 | of impacts would this master plan roadway have on the |
| 19 | future development of the subject property even if it |
| 20 | were zoned RMF48? |
| 21 | A I don't think there's really anything near |
| 22 | that I would add to the testimony that's already on the |
| | |

| 1 | record in my report and in the applicant's statement of |
|----|--|
| 2 | justification which I indicated in my February 8th |
| 3 | testimony that I agreed with. |
| 4 | Q Thank you, Mr. Ferguson. |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: I would move to have this exhibit |
| 6 | introduced into the record as exhibit I apologize. |
| 7 | What number are we up to? 34? |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: It will be 34. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Thirty-four. |
| 10 | MR. FORMAN: May I object at this point, |
| 11 | Madame Examiner? |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: What's your objection? |
| 13 | Mr. Suhar or Mr. Brown, do you object to this? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Well, I do. I don't know I |
| 15 | don't want to cut Mr. Brown off. |
| 16 | MR. BROWN: Well, go ahead, Mr. Suhar. |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. I have an objection. |
| 18 | This I don't know where who created this document. |
| 19 | It looks like some kind of a site plan or what have you. |
| 20 | I don't know if Mr. Ferguson created it or who created |
| 21 | it, and so the authenticity is in question here. So I |
| 22 | object to it. |

| 1 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, if I may, this |
|----|--|
| 2 | drawing was created by Mr. Ed Keohane who is present at |
| 3 | this hearing. |
| 4 | MR. BROWN: I don't necessarily have an |
| 5 | objection. Mr. Ferguson had been qualified as an expert |
| 6 | in land planning and he can rely on other documents for |
| 7 | his testimony. This is different from the prior |
| 8 | document where the issue was the actual distance that |
| 9 | was measured. Here, he is merely testifying to a |
| 10 | document that he has reviewed in relationship to his |
| 11 | expert testimony. Where Mr. Suhar was objection is |
| 12 | generally about, I have no objection. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: And may I also ask before I |
| 14 | rule? Didn't Park and Planning staff not in their final |
| 15 | recommendation, but one of the sections note that you |
| 16 | should provide something in the record showing this |
| 17 | C40 |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: Yes, Madame Examiner. That was |
| 19 | one of the recommended conditions from the |
| 20 | transportation section and I believe yeah. That was |
| 21 | only a recommendation from the transportation section. |
| 22 | It wasn't carried forward in Ms. Lockhart's [ph] report. |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So I'm going to |
|----|--|
| 2 | overrule the objection, and allow this to be Exhibit 34. |
| 3 | (Exhibit 34 was marked for |
| 4 | identification.) |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Ms. Neal, can you pull up |
| 7 | Exhibit 37? Which will become 35 if we allow it. What |
| 8 | is 37 showing us? |
| 9 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, this again was |
| 10 | an item requested by the People's Zoning Counsel and |
| 11 | yourself at the conclusion of the hearing which is |
| 12 | showing that Mr. Gregory Hayes [ph] who testified on |
| 13 | behalf of our neighbor the Capital Christian Church is |
| 14 | authorized to speak on behalf of The Capital Christian |
| 15 | Church. I'm sorry, Capital Christian Fellowship. |
| 16 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Will be Exhibit 35. |
| 18 | (Exhibit 35 was marked for |
| 19 | identification.) |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: I |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, go ahead, Mr. Suhar. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. Yeah, I'm just |
| | |

| 1 | wondering if Mr. Forman is asking Mr. Ferguson about |
|----|--|
| 2 | this document. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: No. |
| 4 | MR. FORMAN: No. |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: We requested this from him. |
| 6 | We saw the witness that testified, Mr. Hayes, I believe. |
| 7 | And we wanted to make sure he was authorized to speak on |
| 8 | behalf of the church in both entities, so |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: This isn't really anything |
| 11 | from Mr. Ferguson. This is sort of like housekeeping. |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, okay. I understand. Thank |
| 13 | you. And I I'm just wondering if Mr. Ferguson if |
| 14 | Mr. Forman is finished with asking questions of |
| 15 | Mr. Ferguson, if he's moving onto another witness, I'd |
| 16 | like an opportunity to cross-examine Mr. Ferguson. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, yeah. You'll definitely |
| 18 | get Mr. Ferguson's not going anywhere. It's just |
| 19 | that all of these exhibits were lying out there and we |
| 20 | didn't know what they were, so I can't put them in the |
| 21 | record until we know what they are. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Understood. |
| | |

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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: This shouldn't take much |
|----|--|
| 2 | longer. Let's see, exhibit formerly Exhibit 38 and |
| 3 | now Exhibit 36 is what, Mr. Forman? |
| 4 | MR. FORMAN: This one we should probably wait |
| 5 | until later. It is a letter on behalf of the |
| 6 | adjoining an adjacent property owner who had been |
| 7 | Mr. Skip Gault who had owned a property that |
| 8 | Mr. Ferguson had referenced during his testimony and he |
| 9 | was offering to a letter of support and an |
| 10 | explanation as to what his future plans were for the |
| 11 | property, but I can let Mr. Gault testify to this later. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Let's wait on 36. |
| 13 | What is 39 which will now be 37? |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: This is a deed of conveyance for |
| 15 | parcel 422 of the property, because at the hearing on |
| 16 | February 8th, there was questions as to whether |
| 17 | because this is the parcel that is owned one half tenant |
| 18 | in common interest by the current owners Bob and Doreen |
| 19 | Kramer and the Cottage City Mennonite Church doing |
| 20 | business as the Capital Christian Fellowship and it is |
| 21 | to show that this portion of the property was actually |
| 22 | conveyed in fee simple and not just an easement. So the |

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| 1 | purpose of this is the deed between the two entities to |
|----|--|
| 2 | show they both have a fee simple ownership in the |
| 3 | property, not merely one of them having an easement over |
| 4 | it and that this property was not reserved solely for a |
| 5 | right-of-way. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Brown, you have any |
| 7 | questions. |
| 8 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And Mr. Suhar, this |
| 10 | was more of that cleanup that we requested of them. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. I don't have an |
| 12 | objection. Thank you. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 14 | (Exhibit 37 was marked for |
| 15 | identification.) |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: What's Exhibit 40 as she |
| 17 | pulls it up which will become 38? |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, this is |
| 19 | additional information that was requested on the |
| 20 | February 8th hearing. It is a clarification of the |
| 21 | Cottage City Mennonite Church and its relationship with |
| 22 | its trade name Capital Christian Fellowship to show that |
| | |

| 1 | the operating agent or the owner is still is the |
|----|--|
| 2 | Cottage City Mennonite Church, but it does business as |
| 3 | Capital Christian Fellowship, so when Mr. Hayes would |
| 4 | talk about Capital Christian Fellowship or Cottage City |
| 5 | Mennonite Church, these are actually the same entity. |
| 6 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. More cleanup, |
| 8 | Mr. Suhar. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: No objection. |
| 10 | (Exhibit 38 was marked for |
| 11 | identification.) |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So now Exhibit 41 |
| 13 | which will be 39. |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: This is again, information that |
| 15 | was requested at the close of the hearing. And it is |
| 16 | further legal analysis of the change or mistake as it |
| 17 | relates to policy and goal [ph] recommendations within a |
| 18 | sector plan within a master plan, and its |
| 19 | relationship to the sector plan, the sectional map |
| 20 | amendment. This was information requested by the |
| 21 | Madame Examiner at the close of the hearing. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: So more nature of your |
| | |
| | |

closing argument. Okay. 1 2 MR. FORMAN: Well, it was an additional legal 3 analysis you had requested, but yes. 4 MADAME EXAMINER: Yes, it's argument. I just 5 wanted you to put it in writing, but yes. 6 MR. FORMAN: Okay. 7 Well, I don't --MR. BROWN: 8 MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Suhar, we should send 9 all of these to you by e-mail or they're going to be -they're not online yet, they will be online before the 10 11 end of today, but we're not going to really take testimony on this. This is just his argument, but you'd 12 13 have an opportunity if you want to somebody anything in 14 writing as well. Go ahead Mr. Brown, I'm sorry. 15 MR. SUHAR: Thank you. 16 MR. BROWN: No, that's exactly how --17 MR. SUHAR: The fact that I can't see the 18 whole thing right now. So --19 MADAME EXAMINER: I'm sorry, Mr. Brown. 20 MR. BROWN: No, I was going to say the same 21 thing you just said, Madame Examiner, that this is 22 argument. This is not factual evidence, and has no

| 1 | relationship to the fact whatsoever. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 3 | (Exhibit 39 was marked for |
| 4 | identification.) |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: And then exhibit so |
| 6 | it's it is like legal argument and everyone has a |
| 7 | right to submit their own before the record closes. |
| 8 | Okay. |
| 9 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: And then Exhibit 42 which |
| 11 | will be 40 40, what is that? |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: This is a letter to Madame |
| 13 | Examiner just outlines the additional documents that |
| 14 | were submitted yesterday at the based upon the |
| 15 | requested information on the February 8th hearing. So |
| 16 | this is |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Should have had that |
| 18 | first. So that's explaining all of these that we just |
| 19 | went through. Okay. Any objection you all? |
| 20 | MR. FORMAN: Yes, and no all of these |
| 21 | documents were provided to the ZHE, Mr. Brown and |
| 22 | Mr. Suhar previously. |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, okay. Thank you for |
|----|---|
| 2 | that. |
| 3 | MR. BROWN: No objection. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 5 | (Exhibit 40 was marked for |
| 6 | identification.) |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So we're up to |
| 8 | Exhibit 40 and we just need information on 36 before we |
| 9 | know for sure if it's coming in, but I'm all right. |
| 10 | So do you have further questions of Mr. Ferguson? |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: I do not, Madame Examiner. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Then Mr. Suhar, do |
| 13 | you have any questions of Mr. Ferguson? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Yes, thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 15 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR PARTY OF |
| 16 | RECORD |
| 17 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 18 | Q Mr. Ferguson, do you have a degree in urban |
| 19 | planning, sir? |
| 20 | A I do not. |
| 21 | Q A professional I'm sorry? |
| 22 | A I do not. |
| | |

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| 1 | Q Okay. And what is your what is your if |
|----|--|
| 2 | you have you obtained a degree in a university or |
| 3 | college? |
| 4 | A Yes, I have. |
| 5 | Q Okay. And what is that degree? |
| 6 | A I have a bachelor of architecture from the |
| 7 | University of Maryland. |
| 8 | Q Okay. And do you have any experience work |
| 9 | experience as a land use planner? |
| 10 | A Yes, I do. |
| 11 | Q Okay. And when was that experience? |
| 12 | A That experience has been continuous since |
| 13 | approximately 1987. |
| 14 | Q Okay. And who did you work for? |
| 15 | A I worked at the beginning for an architect and |
| 16 | planner named who still does some practice in Prince |
| 17 | George's County. In 1989, I moved to a corporate |
| 18 | antecedent of the current firm that I work for. I had a |
| 19 | six-year hiatus when I maintained my own firm, again, |
| 20 | practicing land planning, between 1999 and 2005 at which |
| 21 | point I returned to again another corporate antecedent |
| 22 | of my current form and have been continuously practicing |
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| 1 | planning through that whole time. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Q Okay. And have you ever been employed by a |
| 3 | municipality or county government? |
| 4 | A Yes, I have. |
| 5 | Q Okay. And which one? |
| 6 | A I was employed by the Town of Edmonston as |
| 7 | their town engineer and gave them extensive advice on |
| 8 | planning matters |
| 9 | Q Thank you. |
| 10 | A during that time. |
| 11 | Q Thank you, sir. I also let's see. So are |
| 12 | you familiar with the memorandum that was submitted by |
| 13 | Ms. Dominique Lockhart [ph] Planner Three dated November |
| 14 | 10, 2022? |
| 15 | A Are you referring to the Technical Staff |
| 16 | Report? |
| 17 | Q Yes. It's dated November 10, 2022. |
| 18 | A Yes, I am. That is incorporating and forms |
| 19 | the basis of the Technical Staff Report which I'll hold |
| 20 | up to the camera. |
| 21 | Q Okay. Yeah. Well, there were two actually. |
| 22 | One was dated February 22nd, I believe. And then one |
| | |

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was dated November 10th. 1 2 There is an amended Technical Staff Report Α 3 which I believe Mr. Warner has forwarded into the record 4 over this past week. 5 Ο Okay. And have you reviewed it? 6 Α I have. 7 Okay. Now, drawing your attention to the 0 Technical Staff Report's analysis of a mistake what's 8 been labeled as mistake number two, do you disagree with 9 the planning staff's analysis there? 10 11 Α Are you referring to their -- the December 15th staff report or the February 22nd, I think, staff 12 13 report? 14 That's November 10, 2022, sir. 0 November 10 --15 А 16 And they -- I know you said that they amended Q it on February 22nd. 17 18 А Yeah. I do disagree with their -- with 19 their -- with their analysis. 20 Q Okay. And so specifically, Ms. Lockhart 21 stated that the driveway access from both Arterial and Collector Streets is discouraged, but not prohibitive. 22

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| 1 | Would you agree with that? |
|----|---|
| 2 | A I would it is that's unfortunately not a |
| 3 | yes or no question. The new zoning ordinance has an |
| 4 | explicit prohibition. The subdivision ordinance has an |
| 5 | explicit prohibition. There in every subdivision case |
| 6 | where there is no other alternative than a variation |
| 7 | must be approved and they inevitably are, but the |
| 8 | prohibition is at least statutory absolute. |
| 9 | Q Okay. So when you but would you agree that |
| 10 | it's possible then to create a driveway access? |
| 11 | A No. It is not. It is possible to create |
| 12 | public street access, not a driveway access. |
| 13 | Q Okay. So you disagree with Ms. Lockhart's |
| 14 | statement there then? |
| 15 | A I did testify to that, yes. |
| 16 | Q Okay. And what basis do you have for making |
| 17 | that that determination? |
| 18 | A I believe I just explained it. |
| 19 | Q Okay. Go ahead and explain it again. |
| 20 | A That the subdivision ordinance and the zoning |
| 21 | ordinance contain explicit prohibition for driveway |
| 22 | access and while there are variations that are grant ed |
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| 1 | in the case of no other alternative, the statutory |
|----|---|
| 2 | prescription is absolute. Driveway access for |
| 3 | particularly for residential acts [ph] will never be |
| 4 | approved. In the case of a subdivision, you'll be |
| 5 | required to create a public street. |
| 6 | Q What what prohibitions are you talking |
| 7 | about? I'm not I'm not sure can you refer to a |
| 8 | section in the code? |
| 9 | A If you would like me to pull the subdivision |
| 10 | ordinance, I can do that if you'll give me a moment. |
| 11 | Q Sure. Have you spoken with Ms. Lockhart about |
| 12 | her her statement there? |
| 13 | A No, I have not. |
| 14 | Q Haven't. Okay. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait a second. Are you |
| 16 | going to allow him to pull up the sections for you? |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. Absolutely. Yes. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Then you know what? It's |
| 19 | 10:41, might be a good opportunity for a three-minute |
| 20 | break. You can stay on. Don't shut down or anything |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: just we'll go off |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | camera for a second. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 3 | MR. FORMAN: All right. Thank you. |
| 4 | RECORDING: This conferencing is no longer |
| 5 | being recorded. |
| 6 | (Off the record.) |
| 7 | (On the record.) |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: I am Madame Examiner. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: You may proceed. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. So Mr. Ferguson |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: So Madame Examiner, I believe I |
| 13 | was in the middle of an answer regarding the inability |
| 14 | to access arterial roadways and Mr. Suhar was asking me |
| 15 | to cite chapter and verse. The chapter and verse is |
| 16 | Section 24121A3 of the subdivision ordinance. Which |
| 17 | states when lots are proposed on land adjacent to an |
| 18 | existing or planned roadway or arterial or higher |
| 19 | classification, they shall be designed to front on |
| 20 | either an interior street or a service road. As used in |
| 21 | the section of planned roadway or transit right-of-way |
| 22 | shall mean a road of right-of-way shown in a currently |
| | |

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| 1 | approved state highway plan, general plan or master |
|----|---|
| | |
| 2 | plan. If a service road is used, it shall connect where |
| 3 | feasible within an interior collector street with a |
| 4 | point of intersection located at least 200 feet away |
| 5 | from the intersection of any roadway of collector or |
| 6 | higher classification. |
| 7 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 8 | Q Okay. Thank you. And so but it but |
| 9 | that doesn't |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: If I may, Mr. Suhar, I'm so |
| 11 | sorry about this, but Mr. Ferguson, is that language in |
| 12 | the new zoning in the new subdivision? |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: It is now. I'm reading from the |
| 14 | new the new the current subdivision ordinance. |
| 15 | And it was carried over from the old. |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. But those numbers |
| 17 | wouldn't be right. The numbers are different. |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: I don't |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah, they start I pulled |
| 20 | it open. |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Those numbers changed. I could |
| 22 | be mistaken, but planning the planning and design |
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| 1 | |
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| 1 | requirements were always 24120, and they remain so. |
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Now they're 241100, so |
| 3 | Mr. Suhar, just for |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: Well, Madame Examiner |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Everybody may know, but we |
| 6 | got a new zoning ordinance oh, I'm sorry. |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: can point. I did go to the |
| 8 | LIS assuming that I knew that that did not contain the |
| 9 | zoning ordinance. Let me recite the current chapter and |
| 10 | verse then. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: Because and that will take |
| 13 | another minute to come |
| 14 | MR. BROWN: Refresh my memory, though. Wasn't |
| 15 | this case filed pursuant to the old zoning ordinance? |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: No, under the new, sir. |
| 17 | MR. BROWN: The new? |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. |
| 19 | MR. BROWN: All right. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Suhar, is it possible to |
| 21 | continue with your questioning and he'll get back to the |
| 22 | sections or |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, sure. Absolutely. |
|--|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. I'm just I'm just |
| 4 | I'm Madame Examiner, I'm concerned that about how |
| 5 | Ms. Lockhart would state that it's possible or that it's |
| 6 | not prohibited as long as criteria is met, and how |
| 7 | Mr. Ferguson seems to think seems to disagree with |
| 8 | that. And I just don't I don't see what the |
| 9 | what where the disagreement lies yet, but we can move |
| 10 | on. |
| 11 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 1.0 | 0 Mr. Forgueon you tootified today about the |
| 12 | Q Mr. Ferguson, you testified today about the |
| 12 | distance between my client's property which you |
| | |
| 13 | distance between my client's property which you |
| 13 14 | distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around |
| 13 14 15 | distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to |
| 13 14 15 16 | distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to the distances. Do you do you would you consider |
| 13 14 15 16 17 | distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to the distances. Do you do you would you consider Wingate Homeowners Association to be part of the same |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 | distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to the distances. Do you do you would you consider Wingate Homeowners Association to be part of the same vicinity or the same neighborhood? |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | <pre>distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to the distances. Do you do you would you consider Wingate Homeowners Association to be part of the same vicinity or the same neighborhood? A From a zoning perspective, no, I would not.</pre> |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | <pre>distance between my client's property which you didn't you didn't have a boundary, if you will around the Wingate Homeowners Association, but you testified to the distances. Do you do you would you consider Wingate Homeowners Association to be part of the same vicinity or the same neighborhood? A From a zoning perspective, no, I would not. Q And is that because of the distance, sir?</pre> |

| 1 | which is, you know, the principal basis in zoning law. |
|----|--|
| 2 | So for instance, Greenbelt Road which is immediately |
| 3 | adjacent to the subject property is a substantive |
| 4 | barrier. It is an arterial roadway, high traffic |
| 5 | volume, and |
| 6 | Q Would you consider Good Luck Road to be a |
| 7 | substantive barrier as well? |
| 8 | A I beg your pardon, do I consider? |
| 9 | Q Good Luck Road to be a substantive barrier? |
| 10 | A Good Luck Road is a barrier, I define that as |
| 11 | an edge of the neighborhood more on proximity and change |
| 12 | in the character of the of the predominant land uses. |
| 13 | Q Okay. So in your land planning analysis, sir, |
| 14 | you question and even went so far as to extend the |
| 15 | boundaries of the neighborhood, but what what you did |
| 16 | was you went westward toward and over Good Luck Road |
| 17 | down Greenbelt Road; isn't that right? And then you |
| 18 | went up north |
| 19 | A No, sir. I did not go over Greenbelt Road. |
| 20 | Q I'm sorry. |
| 21 | A The boundaries that I had defined them were on |
| 22 | the North Greenbelt Road. On the west, the boundary is |
| | |

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| 1 | Good Luck Road. On the south the boundary was Calimar |
|----|---|
| 2 | [ph] Drive which runs through the Wood Stream |
| 3 | neighborhood. And on the southeast it's the Penn Line |
| 4 | Railroad. |
| 5 | Q But you said that you you would you |
| 6 | would go down Greenbelt Road and you were identifying |
| 7 | trying to identify properties down Greenbelt Road. |
| 8 | A the other |
| 9 | Q But you went westward. You didn't go |
| 10 | eastward; right? |
| 11 | A uses ownership in the neighborhood, some of |
| 12 | which does occur to the west of the subject property |
| 13 | down Greenbelt Road; that's correct. |
| 14 | Q Okay. So why wouldn't how how far down, |
| 15 | let me ask you that? |
| 16 | A To Good Luck Road. |
| 17 | Q Three minute drive? |
| 18 | A Down to Good Luck Road. |
| 19 | Q Down to Good Luck Road and that's it? |
| 20 | A Yes, sir. |
| 21 | Q Oh, okay. And so |
| 22 | A And on the other side to the east down |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | Greenbelt Road to the railroad. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Q Oh, okay. All right. So and then just one |
| 3 | moment. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Is everyone frozen or is it |
| 5 | just me? I see Nate moving. |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: No Madame Examiner. I see you. |
| 7 | I hear you. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: No, I I have another |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: If I may just have a moment. |
| 11 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 12 | Q Okay. So are you familiar with Glen [ph] |
| 13 | Estates, sir? |
| 14 | A Remind me. What are you referring to, sir? |
| 15 | Q It's a community association within the |
| 16 | neighborhood boundaries that you identified? |
| 17 | A Glen Estates, I if it's I may be very |
| 18 | familiar with the physical limits, but the organization |
| 19 | itself, I'm not familiar with the organization. |
| 20 | Q Okay. And are you familiar with how |
| 21 | many how many properties are currently zoned RMF48 |
| 22 | within the neighborhood boundaries that you identified |
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| 1 | in your opinion the neighborhood? |
|----|---|
| 2 | A That's a fact. It's not an opinion. |
| 3 | Q Okay. How many multifamily properties are |
| 4 | have multifamily dwellings on them in the neighborhood? |
| 5 | A Properties, three. Three properties. |
| 6 | Q Three? |
| 7 | A Obtained probably close to a thousand |
| 8 | multifamily units. |
| 9 | Q Okay. And so and how many how many |
| 10 | properties are there within the neighborhood that you |
| 11 | identified, in your opinion? |
| 12 | A I just testified |
| 13 | Q a definition of a neighborhood. I'm sorry? |
| 14 | A That is what I just testified to. |
| 15 | Q No. How many lots total are there? |
| 16 | A How many lots of what, sir? |
| 17 | Q How many how many total lots are there |
| 18 | within the neighborhood? |
| 19 | A Lots of any type? |
| 20 | Q Yeah. Total. |
| 21 | A testify to that, I have not counted all of |
| 22 | the townhouses nor any of the |
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| 1 | Q What were those three properties |
|----|--|
| 2 | A in my report and my testimony on the 8th |
| 3 | that there was a change in the law, the zoning ordinance |
| 4 | that allowed one of the properties which is enclaved |
| 5 | within the subject property to be developed |
| 6 | commercially, and in fact, that property is on the cusp |
| 7 | of receiving it's grading and building permits now. My |
| 8 | firm is handling the permit processing. |
| 9 | Q Has the zoning been changed from RR to allow |
| 10 | the Ms. Lockhart, in her February 22nd memorandum |
| 11 | that you said that you're familiar with, she stated that |
| 12 | there's only one property that that has the |
| 13 | multifamily, but but the zoning didn't change. |
| 14 | Apparently there was some code of a special exception. |
| 15 | A Sir, you confused me. What there's one |
| 16 | there are more than one properties that have multifamily |
| 17 | occupancy on it, I just testified to to that. |
| 18 | Q Okay. |
| 19 | A And there have been no zoning changes in the |
| 20 | neighborhood, certainly since 2010. Your question |
| 21 | confuses me, sir. |
| 22 | Q Well, what she said is, is that the only |
| | |

| 1 | evidence of change provided by the applicant since |
|----|--|
| 2 | adoption of the sectional map amendment is a single |
| 3 | change of use approved by the District for a specific |
| 4 | property. And that property consists of 1.3709 acres. |
| 5 | A That's correct. |
| 6 | Q She said that's less than 1% of the entire |
| 7 | neighborhood. Do you do you agree with that? |
| 8 | A That is a correct statement. |
| 9 | Q Okay. So and she said that the entire |
| 10 | neighborhood as defined by you. But do you so you |
| 11 | think that less than 1% is a significant constitutes |
| 12 | a significant change; is that right? |
| 13 | A Given the particular setting of that change, |
| 14 | and given the character of that change with respect to |
| 15 | the subject property, I do. |
| 16 | Q But she also noted Ms. Lockhart noted that |
| 17 | the District Counsel did not rezone that piece of |
| 18 | property, the 1.3709 acre parcel, but they merely |
| 19 | allowed it, commercial use to be operated on the site, |
| 20 | but they retained the RR zoning. |
| 21 | A Mr. Suhar, I know your practice is not |
| 22 | Q Is that right? |
| | |

| 1 | A in land use, but certainly it has been the |
|----|--|
| 2 | common practice in this county to accomplish zoning |
| 3 | changes through the use of amendments to the zoning text |
| 4 | rather than to the amendments of the zoning ordinance. |
| 5 | I know that there are several people that are present in |
| 6 | this hearing that are very familiar with the very |
| 7 | exercise by that past trend. So certainly |
| 8 | Q Yeah. There are there are many I would |
| 9 | agree |
| 10 | A there have been changes made let me |
| 11 | finish, my answer, sir. |
| 12 | Q present during |
| 13 | A There have been changes made in practice to |
| 14 | avoid the use of text amendments and instead to |
| 15 | encourage the use of zoning map amendments to accomplish |
| 16 | land use change, because it's a process that affords the |
| 17 | citizens more access. And that's what's being done here |
| 18 | today. |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Madame Examiner, let's I want |
| 20 | the record to reflect Mr. Ferguson's statement that he |
| 21 | indicated that he has not his practice is not in land |
| 22 | use. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. FORMAN: I'm going to object, Madame |
|----|---|
| 2 | Examiner. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: If I may, I was going to |
| 4 | object to the statement made by Mr. Ferguson, but he |
| 5 | stated that your practice was not in land use. And that |
| 6 | was improper. So |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: Oh my gosh. I'm I didn't hear |
| 8 | then. I'm sorry. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: So |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: I apologize. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: let's well, if it's |
| 13 | possible, then let's okay. And |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: I apologize, Madame Examiner. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay, Mr. Ferguson. And |
| 16 | let's let everybody finish their statement on both |
| 17 | sides. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. All right. |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 21 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 22 | Q And then as far as a mistake is concerned, |
| | |

| | , |
|----|--|
| 1 | Mr. Ferguson, you seem to take issue with facts that you |
| 2 | say your client, the applicant says that there were |
| 3 | facts and trends and so forth that were missed or |
| 4 | ignored by the District Counsel at the time the SMA was |
| 5 | adopted. What facts are those? What facts are you |
| 6 | relying upon? |
| 7 | A So I think the principal fact is that there |
| 8 | was a presumption that the subject property and its |
| 9 | immediate RR zone surroundings which I've characterized |
| 10 | as a donut hole, were in fact a residential neighborhood |
| 11 | that, you know, needed to have its densities preserved |
| 12 | which is one the purposes of the 2010 master plan as |
| 13 | well as the other principles that I discuss in my |
| 14 | report. What I did indicate in my February 8th |
| 15 | testimony is that not only the subject property, but |
| 16 | certainly all of the surrounding RR zoned area with the |
| 17 | possible exception of one of the two enclaved lots is |
| 18 | either owned or used institutionally or commercially. |
| 19 | One property that has two residences on it, I |
| 20 | speculated, was held for investment purposes even though |
| 21 | it may have been used residentially at the moment. It |
| 22 | turned out that that property was owned by an old client |

| 1 | of mine who in fact phoned after the hearing to let me |
|----|--|
| 2 | know that he had been watching and that I was exactly |
| 3 | correct. |
| 4 | So the presumption is, just because a property |
| 5 | is zoned RR does not mean that it is a residential |
| 6 | neighborhood and therefore needs to have its density |
| 7 | protected. There is no evidence |
| 8 | Q So who made the oh, sorry, I thought you |
| 9 | were done? |
| 10 | A that that was considered or discussed had |
| 11 | the zoning the District Counsel been aware of that, |
| 12 | it's my presumption that they would have come to a |
| 13 | different conclusion and that lack of awareness of the |
| 14 | facts is what constitutes as I am told to do in my |
| 15 | planning analysis and the stake in zoning law. |
| 16 | Q Sir, let me let me ask you this, are you |
| 17 | who made that presumption? |
| 18 | A I've testified just now very clearly that it |
| 19 | was me. |
| 20 | Q No, no, no. You you said that a |
| 21 | presumption was made by well, I don't want to |
| 22 | mischaracterize you. So you're the one that's making |
| | |

| 1 | the presumption and not the District Counsel? Is that |
|----|--|
| 2 | what your point is? |
| 3 | A I have testified that I have presumed what the |
| 4 | District Counsel had to consider based on the evidence |
| 5 | in the master plan, and |
| 6 | Q But who considered what, sir? |
| 7 | A based on the evidence of the property |
| 8 | ownership. |
| 9 | Q Did you review the record from the time that |
| 10 | the SMA was adopted? |
| 11 | A The sectional map amendment does contain |
| 12 | information that explains what the zoning policy is, and |
| 13 | what the justification is for affirmative zoning changes |
| 14 | that were made and, yes, I did review that. |
| 15 | Q Okay. So what presumptions did the did the |
| 16 | District Counsel make, if any? |
| 17 | A The record in the master plan and in the |
| 18 | sectional map amendment was that they were only going |
| 19 | to they were going to leave residential neighborhoods |
| 20 | with their densities unchanged. And that they were |
| 21 | going to look at several areas, specifically the Lanham |
| 22 | Seabrook Metro area. The Glendale Hospital area and the |
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| 1 | Vista Gardens Vista Gardens Marketplace area and |
|----|--|
| 2 | essentially did not consider any others. |
| 3 | Q But what facts are you relying upon, sir, from |
| 4 | what the District Court considered? |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: Objection. Objection. |
| 6 | Mr. Ferguson Mr. Suhar keeps asking the same |
| 7 | question. And Mr. Ferguson has answered. |
| | |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: Well, I think it's appropriate. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: I agree, but I'm going to |
| 10 | give him this this one last time. Can you answer |
| 11 | the ask the question and please answer it, |
| 12 | Mr. Ferguson. |
| 13 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 14 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 15 | Q Mr. Ferguson, please specify what facts that |
| 16 | you're that the District Court that you're you're |
| 17 | saying that the District Counsel relied upon at the time |
| 18 | that they made that they made a mistake is what |
| 19 | you're alleging. |
| 20 | A What I am alleging is that the District |
| 21 | Counsel followed the master plan in not considering |
| 22 | anything about properties other than the three areas |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | that they considered in the two areas in which they |
|----|--|
| 2 | rezoned on the principle that they were going to leave |
| | |
| 3 | existing residential neighborhoods' densities unchanged, |
| 4 | notwithstanding, the actual fact which they did not |
| 5 | consider is that the surroundings of the subject |
| 6 | property are not a residential neighborhood, |
| 7 | notwithstanding the RR zoning. |
| 8 | Q But that's your presumption as to what the |
| 9 | District Counsel was thinking at the time; is that |
| 10 | correct? That's your speculation. |
| 11 | A I believe that's the third time I've answered |
| 12 | that statement. |
| 13 | Q You don't have statements from the District |
| 14 | Counsel |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: Objection, Madame Examiner. |
| 16 | MR. SUHAR: I just want to get to the heart of |
| 17 | the matter of what |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: I will sustain. Mr |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: what facts they're relying on. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: I know, but he's told you |
| 21 | and so you can argue whether or not that's sufficient, |
| 22 | but he has said. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. All right. Thank you. |
|----|--|
| 2 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 3 | Q So, sir, what thank you. I'm going to move |
| 4 | on. So what what trends analysis have you done for |
| 5 | this particular property of the neighborhood? |
| 6 | A I looked at the neighborhood and with respect |
| 7 | to the facts I looked at ownership and land use patterns |
| 8 | which led me to the conclusion that I've just discussed. |
| 9 | Q Okay. So what land use patterns? |
| 10 | A I believe you're drawing me right back to the |
| 11 | testimony I've given you three three times, sir. |
| 12 | Q No, I'm not. I'm asking you what what land |
| 13 | use patterns were there? |
| 14 | A The land use pattern is the character of use |
| 15 | of the surrounding of the subject property and the |
| 16 | surrounding RR zoned land, which is either |
| 17 | institutionally owned or used commercially owned or used |
| 18 | with the exception of an enclaved property and a |
| 19 | residential property which is held for investment |
| 20 | purposes. |
| 21 | Q Okay. But you you said that you agreed |
| 22 | that only less than 1% that with Ms. Lockhart's |
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| 1 | statement that only less than 1% of the entire |
|----|--|
| 2 | neighborhood has had that there's only evidence of |
| 3 | that kind of change in the neighborhood. You agree |
| 4 | you said that's a factual statement. |
| 5 | A I said that is a factual statement. I don't |
| 6 | believe it's a complete statement which I again had |
| 7 | testified to just a moment ago about the character and |
| 8 | the location of that of the property where that use |
| 9 | change was made. |
| 10 | Q Without any other facts from about any |
| 11 | other properties or what have you; is that right? |
| 12 | A With respect, sir, I don't need any others. |
| 13 | Q I'm trying to I'm trying to figure out, |
| 14 | sir, where what you're what you're basing your |
| 15 | facts and trends trends and patterns that you're |
| 16 | talking about that have changed so much? |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: Objection, Madame Examiner. |
| 18 | Mr. Ferguson has answered these questions. Mr. Suhar |
| 19 | doesn't have to enjoy the like the answers |
| 20 | Mr. Ferguson is giving him, but these are the he is |
| 21 | answering the questions. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. So he doesn't have any; is |
| | |

| | , |
|----|--|
| 1 | that right Mr. Forman? |
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: I would agree. I will |
| 3 | sustain. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 5 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 6 | Q So |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: Can I object to Mr. Suhar's |
| 8 | offhand comment right there? Can we strike that from |
| 9 | the record? |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Well then, I can ask him if he |
| 11 | if he knows of any others, I mean, we can go down that |
| 12 | path. You you don't want him to testify. |
| 13 | MR. FORMAN: You've already asked that |
| 14 | question about five different ways, and he's already |
| 15 | answered it. Can you please move on? |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Gentleman. Okay. |
| 17 | All right. Mr. Suhar, do you have other questions of |
| 18 | the witness? |
| 19 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 20 | Q So the proposed exhibit or I'm sorry, the |
| 21 | Exhibit 32 that you testified to, Mr. Ferguson, shows |
| 22 | that the property diagonally to the northeast across |
| | |

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| 1 | Greenbelt Road in green is zoned AG and ROS; is that |
|----|--|
| 2 | right? |
| 3 | A It does, sir. |
| 4 | Q Yeah. These are not multifamily zones; is |
| 5 | that right? |
| 6 | A That is correct. They're not. |
| 7 | Q Right. And and then there I on |
| 8 | the drawing there were one of the drawings, I don't |
| 9 | remember what it which exhibit it was, but there's |
| 10 | a showed parking down the east side of the property. |
| 11 | I'm not sure what that was supposed to show or indicate. |
| 12 | A You'll have to be more specific in referring |
| 13 | it to what you're speaking of, sir. |
| 14 | Q Is there is there |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. One second. |
| 16 | Ms. Neal, can you pull up the former exhibits well, |
| 17 | exhibits 30 through 34 and be ready to go through those |
| 18 | to see I guess we haven't changed the numbers, yet. |
| 19 | So 30 is the driving distance. Is it this one, |
| 20 | Mr. Suhar? Wait, wait. Slowly. Wait. Go back to 30. |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: Isn't technology great? |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Might be 32. I think that maybe I |
| | |

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| 1 | got it confused, because numbers were changed or |
|----|--|
| 2 | something. I don't know. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: Right. Because some didn't |
| 4 | come in. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: One of the one of the drawings |
| 6 | or maps had a had a indicated parking along the |
| 7 | along the road. |
| 8 | MR. FORMAN: Which road just for |
| 9 | clarification, because that may help explain which one |
| 10 | we're trying to find? |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: It was along the east side of the |
| 12 | property the subject property. |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: Is that the church parking lot? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Possibly, I don't know. I thought |
| 15 | it was the drawing, but maybe that wasn't |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: Is this 38, the new or 37? |
| 17 | 36 36. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: No, 37. |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: Go to 30 I'm sorry, 36, I'm |
| 20 | sending you all around like a madman. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: 36, okay. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: Is that the |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: That one right there. Yeah. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: Okay. |
| 4 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 5 | Q So what's the |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Which is for the record |
| 7 | Exhibit 34. Go ahead. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you very much, Madame |
| 9 | Examiner. |
| 10 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 11 | Q What is the parking here intended to show? |
| 12 | A So I can testify generally, even though I did |
| 13 | not prepare this document. This is an illustrative plan |
| 14 | which shows one potential layout for multifamily |
| 15 | dwellings on the subject property. There are potential |
| 16 | buildings that are rectangles and then the parking, |
| 17 | potential parking areas are more easily seen, looking |
| 18 | like parking areas. |
| 19 | Q Okay. So let final question, the under |
| 20 | the RR zoning if this if the subject property remains |
| 21 | RR zoned which it's zoned now, then would the would |
| 22 | you still have a problem with the driveway access if |
| | |

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| 1 | single family dwellings were built on this property? |
|----|---|
| 2 | A Yes, sir. You would need as I testified |
| 3 | to create a public road. You could not have a driveway |
| 4 | directly off of Greenbelt Road. Now, presumably, the |
| 5 | C340 could at some point be constructed. There are |
| 6 | substantive environmental features that would make that |
| 7 | road's construction difficult, but that would be a |
| 8 | public road off of which driveways or in the case of |
| 9 | single family residential development additional public |
| 10 | roads could be constructed. |
| 11 | Q Okay. Thank you. |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: I don't have any further |
| 13 | questions. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. I should've said |
| 15 | this earlier, but is there anyone opposed to this |
| 16 | application that would like to ask a question of the |
| 17 | witness that is not represented by Mr. Suhar? And if |
| 18 | so, come on camera. Okay. |
| 19 | MR. ROBINSON: Hello. My name is John |
| 20 | Robinson. I'm also a party of record. I, in |
| 21 | preparation for this, I looked through the folder |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: Objection. Real quick, |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | Mr. Robinson, would you also please state your address |
|----|--|
| 2 | for the record? |
| 3 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes, I live at 2604 Cool Spring |
| 4 | Road, in Adelphi, Maryland. |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Go ahead sir. |
| 7 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes. |
| 8 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR PARTY OF |
| 9 | RECORD |
| 10 | BY MR. ROBINSON: |
| 11 | Q I looked through the binder associated with |
| 12 | the previous testimony. And there was a sketch in there |
| 13 | that showed, I guess, another possible design for the |
| 14 | proposed development that had, you know, entrance and |
| 15 | egress from Greenbelt Road and buildings, parking. |
| 16 | It had some parking underneath the proposed buildings. |
| 17 | So I was wondering what's the relationship of that |
| 18 | proposed idea to the one that is shown and what the most |
| 19 | recent exhibit that we were just discussing, what is |
| 20 | that, 30 what? |
| 21 | A Six. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, 30 |
| | |
| | |

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| 1 | THE WITNESS: Four, sir. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: 4. |
| 3 | MR. FORMAN: 34, yes. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Robinson, did you happen |
| 5 | to catch the exhibit number? Or do you know what it |
| 6 | might be, Mr. Ferguson? |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: I do not know what that ten. |
| 8 | MR. ROBINSON: I e-mailed you my testimony, |
| 9 | Madame Hearing Examiner, that has a copy of the image |
| 10 | that I took from the binder in it. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, okay. |
| 12 | MR. ROBINSON: So you can |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm glad you reminded me, |
| 14 | because I |
| 15 | MR. ROBINSON: look at that. |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: I wouldn't have looked at |
| 17 | it, but because you're here, we can make that |
| 18 | testimony once the I'll have to swear you in a |
| 19 | little later, but we can make that testimony part of the |
| 20 | record. So we will look for that. And it'll be Exhibit |
| 21 | 31 when we find it. |
| 22 | MR. ROBINSON: Yeah, I just copied it out of |
| | |

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| 1 | the binder and pasted it into my testimony, so |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Robinson, did you |
| 3 | also |
| 4 | MR. BROWN: this is a rezoning, it's not a |
| 5 | site plan. Mr. Ferguson, will you just go ahead and |
| 6 | respond so we can |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: Yes. That is a that was |
| 8 | another illustrative plan. I believe Madame Examiner |
| 9 | asked at the previous hearing for Exhibit 34 to be put |
| 10 | in the record to better illustrate the location and |
| 11 | impact of the C340 alignment. Which the other exhibit |
| 12 | did not really do. |
| 13 | BY MR. ROBINSON: |
| 14 | Q Okay. That's that's that was my |
| 15 | question and thank you for answering it. |
| 16 | A Thank you, Mr. Robinson. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Robinson, and |
| 18 | we'll get right back on your e-mail and making it part |
| 19 | of the record. Does anyone else have a question of |
| 20 | Mr. Ferguson? |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: Sorry. Can I I just want to |
| 22 | double check and just make sure Mr. Robinson had sent me |
| | |

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| Transcript of Hearing |
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| Conducted on March 1, 2023 |

| 1 | that e-mail also. I just can't remember. So if he |
|----|---|
| 2 | hadn't and he sends it to you, Madame Examiner, can I |
| 3 | just get a copy of it? |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: You certainly will. |
| 5 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Madame Examiner can't look |
| 7 | at you all and look for that e-mail, but someone is |
| 8 | searching for me right now. I'll admit it. I can't do |
| 9 | it all. |
| 10 | MR. ROBINSON: I think I sent it to Madame |
| 11 | Examiner, and then I sent copies to Mr. Suhar and to |
| 12 | Ms. Thomas. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. So just if I could get a |
| 15 | copy of that, I'd appreciate that. Thank you. |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. I don't think you |
| 17 | should leave Mr. Ferguson, but it looks like we're |
| 18 | finished with you right now. |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: Thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 20 | I'll be here. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: And Mr. Forman, you don't |
| 22 | have anything else right now; correct? |
| | |

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| 1 | MR. FORMAN: That is correct, Madame Examiner. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar, do you |
| 3 | have any witnesses you'd like to call? |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: Yes, Your Honor. One witness, |
| 5 | Your Honor. You are honorable. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: I am, indeed. Thank you, |
| 7 | sir. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: I'm used to being in court. I do |
| 9 | have I do have one witness, Madame Examiner, but |
| 10 | there are also several other parties of record who would |
| 11 | like to make statements as well, so |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 13 | MR. SUHAR: I'd like to call |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Do you want them to you |
| 15 | want would you like them to go first? |
| 16 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, no, it doesn't matter. I |
| 17 | I if I may, I have an argument as well. I don't know |
| 18 | if you want me to proceed with that as well. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: We're going to save your |
| 20 | argument until the end. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. All right. So |
| 22 | MR. BROWN: Also, Mr. Suhar, just so the |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | record is clear, well, would you state that you are the |
|----|---|
| 2 | attorney for the Wingate Homeowners Association and any |
| 3 | individuals that you have been retained on behalf of so |
| 4 | that we know who you represent? |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. Yes. So I I my firm |
| 6 | represents Wingate Homeowners Association and I'm |
| 7 | attorney I'm an attorney with the firm of Nagle and |
| 8 | Zaller, but we we represent Wingate Homeowners |
| 9 | Association as a party of record in this matter. And |
| 10 | then the board president which is Dr. Yonette Thomas. |
| 11 | She's in attendance today. So I do represent her, but |
| 12 | she's also here as a citizen and a resident of Prince |
| 13 | George's County and the neighborhood. |
| 14 | MR. BROWN: All right. So you represent the |
| 15 | homeowner association as a legal entity, and you |
| 16 | represent the young lady you just described. Are there |
| 17 | any other individuals that you are counsel for? |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: No. |
| 19 | MR. BROWN: Okay. That's what I wanted to |
| 20 | know. All right. So later on, when it's time for |
| 21 | appeal, we know who actually you will represent. Thank |
| 22 | you. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you, Mr. Brown. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm so sorry for |
| 3 | interrupting. I thought my mic was off. Still checking |
| 4 | for that e-mail. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Go ahead. Go ahead, |
| 7 | Mr. Suhar. |
| 8 | MR. SUHAR: So I can I'd like to call |
| 9 | Dr. Yonette Thomas. I don't believe she's been sworn |
| 10 | in. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Dr. Thomas. |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: Good morning. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Good morning. |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: Good morning. Thank you for |
| 15 | having me. Mr. Suhar would you like me to read the |
| 16 | statement |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: No, no, no. I'd like you to |
| 18 | state your name and then I'll swear you in. |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. I'm Yonette Thomas. |
| 20 | I am the president of Wingate Homeowners Association. I |
| 21 | live in the Wingate community. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Wait. |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | THE WITNESS: Okay. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Whereupon, |
| 3 | DR. YONETTE THOMAS, |
| 4 | being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 5 | truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| 6 | examined and testified as follows. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So now, Mr. Suhar |
| 8 | will walk you through the testimony. Go ahead. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you very much. |
| 10 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR A PARTY OF |
| 11 | RECORD |
| 12 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 13 | Q Dr. Thomas, so would you please state your |
| 14 | address? |
| 15 | A My address is 8111 Felbrigg Hall Road in |
| 16 | Glendale, Maryland. And that's in the Wingate |
| 17 | development. |
| 18 | Q Okay. Thank you. And how long have you |
| 19 | resided there? |
| 20 | A We built our home in Wingate in 1994. We |
| 21 | moved in, in May of 1994. |
| 22 | Q Okay. Thank you. And do you serve on the |
| | |

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board of directors? 1 2 I -- I -- I do. I've served on the board of Α directors since 2012. 3 4 0 Okay. And what is your role on the board of 5 directors? 6 I'm the current president of the board of А 7 directors. Okay. Great. Thank you. And how many lots 8 0 9 are there within Wingate? There are 256 homes in the Wingate community. 10 А 11 Q Okay. Great. Thank you. And are you 12 familiar with the types of lots in Wingate? 13 Yes, very familiar. А If you would please, describe generally 14 Q speaking, describe the size of the lots. 15 16 Α They're generally about an acre, you know 17 point something acre less on some of them. Yeah. 18 0 Okay. And so are -- are you familiar with the 19 -- the general area? I would presume if you've lived there since 1994 --20 21 Oh, very. Very familiar, because before Α living here, I lived in College Park Woods. I'm very 22

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| 1 | familiar with the area up and down, I'm very familiar |
|----|--|
| 2 | with the corridor that was referred to by the technical |
| 3 | expert as the 193 Greenbelt, 193 corridor, yes. |
| 4 | Q Okay. Thank you. And so have you read |
| 5 | through the binder in this in this matter that was |
| 6 | being referred to as the binder with the record? |
| 7 | A Okay. So my scientific expertise is in |
| 8 | epidemiology, but I tried to read carefully as much as I |
| 9 | could understand with the Wingate Zoning and Planning |
| 10 | Committee. Yes. I tried to parse out and, you know, I |
| 11 | was surprised that we are not part of the neighborhood, |
| 12 | especially since and I looked at the boundaries, |
| 13 | Greenbelt Road, but Glen Estates |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: Pardon me. |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: Okay. |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: But I'm going to object to |
| 17 | Ms. Thomas talking as to these this testimony as if |
| 18 | she was an expert witness when I would be more happy to |
| 19 | describe her as just a lay witness given her own opinion |
| 20 | on this, but I don't think she is qualified to |
| 21 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Forman |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: I'm not proffering her testimony |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | as an expert at all. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. BROWN: Right. He's not proffering her as |
| 3 | an expert. And so she can testify as a lay person who's |
| 4 | very familiar with the neighborhood having lived there |
| 5 | as many years as she has. |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Right. |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Overruled Mr. Forman. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 10 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 11 | Q Okay. So you know, let me back up just for a |
| 12 | moment, Dr. Thomas. What what did you you |
| 13 | mentioned your your vocation. If if you would let |
| 14 | everyone know what what it is that you do, and |
| 15 | then and again, this is not I'm not proffering |
| 16 | your testimony as a as a as an expert in this |
| 17 | case, but if you would |
| 18 | A Well, I if you think it's relevant. I'm |
| 19 | coming here as John Q. Public, resident of Wingate, |
| 20 | president of the homeowners association. I should say |
| 21 | I've been a chief of epidemiology at the National |
| 22 | Institute of Drug Abuse, at the National Institute of |
| | |

| 1 | Health. I lead a global think tank called Urban Health |
|----|--|
| 2 | 360. I've led the International Society for Urban |
| 3 | Health. I was a vice president for research compliance |
| 4 | at Howard University which is an academic medical |
| 5 | center. I was a study director at the National Academy |
| 6 | of Sciences and led the White House Office and drug |
| 7 | control study on data and research policy and illegal |
| 8 | drugs. |
| 9 | You know, I'm I'm I'm at that age where |
| 10 | you could go on and on. My CV is actually 35 pages. So |
| 11 | I'll just stop there. |
| 12 | Q Well, thank you. I wish we could all have |
| 13 | that kind of a background? |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Let the record reflect, I'm |
| 15 | of a certain age and my CV wouldn't say that Dr. Thomas. |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: Oh, well, I could say that I was |
| 17 | just made a senior scholar at the University of Memphis |
| 18 | School of Public Health. So I'm old well, no, I'm |
| 19 | not. We are mature. I should say I'm mature. |
| 20 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 21 | Q Yes. I like that. So thank you. So you were |
| 22 | describing the neighborhood, and corridor. If you |
| | |

| 1 | want if you would please describe that for us, I'd |
|----|--|
| 2 | appreciate it. |
| 3 | A It's a very nice neighborhood. The |
| 4 | corridor and I actually have a written statement. So |
| 5 | I can I can just go through it or you I can answer |
| 6 | your questions. You know, living here that long, I see |
| 7 | the map where it says it's Wingate is a three-minute |
| 8 | drive. I just want to state for the record that Wingate |
| 9 | has three entrances. Where our monuments are on Lanham |
| 10 | Severn, that's considered the main entrance. There's |
| 11 | also Good Luck Road entrance that most of us use. And |
| 12 | there's also Springfield Road entrance. So I traverse |
| 13 | that area. I run over to that area where that's subject |
| 14 | to this property. I bike over that area. And I |
| 15 | actually think that it's less than a three-minute drive, |
| 16 | but that may indicate that I have a heavy foot on the |
| 17 | accelerator, but so I'm very familiar with the area. |
| 18 | I slop over there. I go to Eastgate. I don't worship |
| 19 | at that church, but I'm so familiar that we have |
| 20 | actively been concerned about the traffic congestion in |
| 21 | that area and the fact that people in a neighborhood, a |
| 22 | multifamily community are actively parking on the street |
| | |

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| 1 | both a safety and and a hazard, traffic hazards. So |
|----|--|
| 2 | we are very active. That area is like is our |
| 3 | neighborhood. We consider that our community. |
| 4 | Q Okay. Thank you. Yeah. So are are are |
| 5 | you familiar with so then you're the you're |
| 6 | familiar then with the land uses that surround the |
| 7 | subject property in this case |
| 8 | A Well, yeah. |
| 9 | Q Would you say that this is a, you know, a |
| 10 | dense urban area in your lay witness opinion? |
| 11 | A Well, as somebody who has studied urban health |
| 12 | is my field, so urbanistity [ph] and urbanization both |
| 13 | in the U.S., in my neighborhood, and around the world, I |
| 14 | am I would not consider this an urban area. In fact, |
| 15 | it's one of our our committee members in a recent |
| 16 | discussion, because this is a big discussion in Wingate, |
| 17 | said look up and down the streets, this there are |
| 18 | single family residential homes. We have businesses. |
| 19 | We have low rise office buildings. Actually, it is a |
| 20 | physician that I go to at the corner of Good Luck Road |
| 21 | and Greenbelt Road and a low rise area there. There is |
| 22 | a nursing home, a low rise nursing home. The apartments |
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| 1 | that are there are low rise, in fact, those people have |
|----|---|
| 2 | no parking, they're parking on the street which is a |
| 3 | security and safety hazard as I've said. We just had a |
| 4 | low supermarket built across the street, and there's a |
| 5 | smattering of the NASA Federal Credit Union is across |
| 6 | the street. There's a smattering of NASA-related, |
| 7 | science-related buildings that are there. So it's |
| 8 | it's really that's why we like the area. It's not |
| 9 | intense. It's not this high density scenario. And many |
| 10 | of us chose not to live in Rockville, but to live over |
| 11 | here for that reason. |
| 12 | Q Okay. Thank you. I'm going to go ahead and |
| 13 | let you tell us what you want what you want the |
| 14 | Madame Examiner to hear. If you if you would |
| 15 | A Okay. |
| 16 | Q go ahead and tell us. |
| 17 | A Okay. So I timed myself. This should take me |
| 18 | a minute and a half to read. So first, I want to say |
| 19 | good morning to everyone. I didn't say that. Hearing |
| 20 | Examiner McNeil, thank you for the opportunity to |
| 21 | present this morning. We really appreciate that |
| 22 | allowance. As I said before, my name is Yonette Thomas, |
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| 1 | and I'm here as the official representative of the |
|----|--|
| 2 | Wingate Homeowners Association. Wingate has a zoning |
| 3 | and planning committee that tracks zoning and planning |
| 4 | issues that impact Wingate and its environs. We do a |
| 5 | ten-mile swath which are considered broadly our |
| 6 | neighborhood. And that committee reports back to the |
| 7 | board and the community. In fact, it was one of the |
| 8 | members of that committee who combs to see what |
| 9 | hearings, who happened upon the February 8th hearing and |
| 10 | said, guys, are you aware of this, so that's that |
| 11 | committee is very active. Many of some of the |
| 12 | committee members are there. I noticed that one had to |
| 13 | leave for another meeting. And in addition to this |
| 14 | committee, that committee engages a coalition of county |
| 15 | advocates who support our activities. Some of those |
| 16 | advocates are here. I heard I saw Mr. Robinson. I |
| 17 | see, Ms. Hurwitz [ph]. |
| 18 | So first, I want to say as a resident of |
| 19 | Prince George's County who has lived in the Greenbelt |
| 20 | 193 corridor for the past 40 plus years, I am excited, |

really excited to see the bloom of integrated development along the corridor. That matters to us. 22

| 1 | However, I'm sensitive and protective against |
|----|---|
| 2 | indiscriminate development. My role as the president of |
| 3 | Wingate board of directors has activated my advocacy in |
| 4 | this area. |
| 5 | As I said before, Wingate is a 256-home |
| 6 | community which was developed in 1988. Many of you were |
| 7 | probably involved in that. Homeowners of Wingate are |
| 8 | strongly supportive. This is what they want me to say, |
| 9 | and deeply invested in development within a ten-mile |
| 10 | radius of Wingate. |
| 11 | In fact, many of the pros development site |
| 12 | Wingate as part of their attractiveness. We understand |
| 13 | that developers will not generate as much revenue |
| 14 | building single-family detached units as they would |
| 15 | dense multifamily housing. We get that. But as |
| 16 | described in the planning officer Dominique Lockhart's |
| 17 | memorandum, and we want to commend the planning office. |
| 18 | We were really impressed with their diligence. |
| 19 | The proposed RMF48 zone is the most intense of |
| 20 | the residential based zones. We already have a severe |
| 21 | parking issue and congestion on that section of |
| 22 | Greenbelt Road. It's also a security issue. Single |
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| 1 | family homes will mean that homeowners can park their |
|----|--|
| 2 | multiple cars on their properties, and will not need to |
| 3 | rely on busy roadside parking as the multifamily |
| 4 | occupants currently do. Again, which is both a safety |
| 5 | and a security hazard. That's our perception. |
| 6 | Again, the RMF48 zone changed completely |
| 7 | upends the community's character in our estimation. And |
| 8 | we ask for respect for the character of the community. |
| 9 | And that there be adherence to the 2010 approved |
| 10 | Glendale Seabrook Lanham and vicinity approved sector |
| 11 | plan and sectional map amendment, the SMA that |
| 12 | recommends residential low land use on the subject |
| 13 | property with a focus on single family detached units. |
| 14 | We reviewed together and discussed each of the |
| 15 | technical memos submitted by the skilled and |
| 16 | knowledgeable planners in the planning office, and we |
| 17 | are thank ful for the diligence with which the planners |
| 18 | conducted their reviews. We are particularly mindful of |
| 19 | the historic and environmental preservation required for |
| 20 | this particular site. And we ask you to you to be |
| 21 | mindful of that too as developers and owners, et cetera. |
| 22 | Good and solid development is necessary. It |
| | |

| 1 | brings new meridents and supports businesses that |
|----|---|
| | brings new residents and supports businesses that |
| 2 | strengthen the value of and attraction to the community |
| 3 | and the county. We in Wingate feel so strongly about |
| 4 | this that as I said before, we created a Wingate Zoning |
| 5 | and Planning Committee that is comprised of Wingate |
| 6 | residents with knowledge of and interest in the county |
| 7 | zoning guidelines, statutes and planning processes. |
| 8 | Many are former and current employees of federal and |
| 9 | municipal utilities engineers and other senior |
| 10 | executives. This committee takes its charge very |
| 11 | seriously. And as I said before was a member of that |
| 12 | committee that was standing and I identified the |
| 13 | February 8th hearing, and the report back from that |
| 14 | person was the zoning examiner asked if anyone objected |
| 15 | to the applicant's request to change the zoning and |
| 16 | applicant's representative and and the the |
| 17 | applicant's representative announced that no one had |
| 18 | objected. And that was a call, a cry and call to our |
| 19 | community to say what are you guys doing. We've talked |
| 20 | about this up and down. It's so bad that during our |
| 21 | annual HOA meeting in January 2023, the Wingate |
| 22 | community was excited to discuss with our now counsel |
| | |

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| 1 | member, Ingrid Watson, and her staff, the need for |
|----|--|
| 2 | greater transparency in the planning process. Counsel |
| 3 | Member Watson indicated that she and her colleagues on |
| 4 | the counsel planned to ensure that planning and zoning |
| 5 | hearings are more transparent and to better inform the |
| 6 | public so that interested stakeholders may weigh in at |
| 7 | every point in the review process. Our homeowners are |
| 8 | invested in supporting the current sector plan for the |
| 9 | county. |
| 10 | So what are we asking for? My neuroscience |
| 11 | colleagues say keep it to three things. We're asking |
| 12 | for three things. That the hearing one, that the |
| 13 | hearing examiner be aware that we, the Wingate |
| 14 | Homeowners Association, object to the applicant's |
| 15 | request for a zoning change from RR to RM48. Two, we |
| 16 | request that the hearing examiner uphold the sector plan |
| 17 | and SMA recommendation for residential low land use on |
| 18 | this property. This higher density will change, in our |
| 19 | estimation a will change the character of this |
| 20 | neighborhood, and we want to reiterate that the trend is |
| 21 | for low density development. |
| 22 | Thirdly, we want to note for the record that |
| | |

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| 1 | we really appreciate the opportunity to have a voice in |
|----|--|
| 2 | this important process. Thank you. I hope that was 90 |
| 3 | seconds. |
| 4 | Q Thank you very much, Dr. Thomas. It means a |
| 5 | lot that you've taken out taken merely half of your |
| 6 | day to attend this your busy day to attend this |
| 7 | this hearing and provide us with comments. And so I |
| 8 | don't have any further questions for well, no, I |
| 9 | don't have any further questions for Dr. Thomas at this |
| 10 | time. But I do have some exhibits to present on behalf |
| 11 | of Wingate Homeowners Association. If I may enter them |
| 12 | at this time. |
| 13 | MR. FORMAN: I if I |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: One second. Does anyone |
| 15 | have questions of Dr. Thomas? |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: I do have a few questions. And |
| 17 | I'm also a little confused as to whether Dr. Thomas is |
| 18 | speaking as an individual citizen or as a representative |
| 19 | of the Wingate HOA. I don't know if it was ever made |
| 20 | clear that she's speaking on their behalf and with their |
| 21 | voice. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Both. |
| | |

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|----|---|
| 1 | THE WITNESS: Both. |
| 2 | MR. SUHAR: She's both. |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: I said both. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: She's a party of record as well. |
| 5 | Yeah. |
| 6 | MR. FORMAN: So I would okay. I just |
| 7 | then I'd like to ask a few questions of Dr. Thomas |
| 8 | before these exacts get in the record if that's okay. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: Go ahead. |
| 11 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT |
| 12 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 13 | Q Thank you for your testimony this morning, |
| 14 | Dr. Thomas. And I you have a very impressive CV from |
| 15 | your in your experience. So I think it is great that |
| 16 | you were taking the time out today to be with us. And I |
| 17 | just you had mentioned that you had or you're here |
| 18 | today on behalf of the Wingate HOA. And you are the |
| 19 | <pre>president; right?</pre> |
| 20 | A Yes. |
| 21 | Q Did and you are stating that you're |
| 22 | speaking on behalf of the Wingate HOA in opposition to |
| | |

Transcript of Hearing

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| 1 | our application this morning; that's right? |
|----|---|
| 2 | A Yes. That's what I stated. |
| 3 | Q Was that position made at a meeting of the |
| 4 | Wingate HOA where there was a vote and a quorum or I'm |
| 5 | just trying to make sure that, you know, that the whole |
| 6 | HOA is aware of this position? |
| 7 | A Yes. So as I indicated, we as an HOA, we have |
| 8 | a standing committee called the Wingate Zoning and |
| 9 | Planning Committee that tracks, works with various |
| 10 | homeowners, some of actually I see, Mary Rochee, |
| 11 | others here. She's on I don't know, maybe people. I |
| 12 | see different people from Wingate here and that |
| 13 | committee does the tracking, does all this work and |
| 14 | reports back to the community and gains gains |
| 15 | insight, they're buy-in, et cetera, et cetera. So |
| 16 | they're the way it works, it's hard to get everybody |
| 17 | together at a meeting. Actually, we have a meeting a |
| 18 | board meeting coming up on March 15th where this is |
| 19 | going to reported. We're going to share once these |
| 20 | hearing videos become available. We are going to post |
| 21 | them. We're going to share them. We're going to engage |
| 22 | the discussion. So that committee, the committee |
| | |

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| 1 | comprises of seven people, and they're members of the |
|----|--|
| 2 | roads and grounds committee, they're you know, the |
| 3 | HOAs, we have these committees. So in answer to your |
| 4 | question, prior to this hearing, no, there wasn't a vote |
| 5 | to participate in this hearing. This will be brought up |
| 6 | at the March 15th which is the first board hearing of |
| 7 | the quarter of the year first quarter. We have |
| 8 | quarterly meetings. However, on January 2023 in |
| 9 | January 2023, we had a meeting of the HOA at which |
| 10 | Counsel Woman Watson appeared and you know, there are |
| 11 | other other planning and development issues that |
| 12 | we're also dealing with. This is just one. There's a |
| 13 | bloom of development around us. We're not |
| 14 | antidevelopment. We just want to be sure that there's |
| 15 | some protection and we're protective and we're engaged. |
| 16 | And I made that in my statement. So to answer your |
| 17 | question specifically, a specific vote on this hearing |
| 18 | has not been taken. It will be done in March on |
| 19 | March 15th. |
| 20 | Q Thank you. So just to be clear, you're not |
| 21 | specifically authorized by a formal vote of the board or |
| 22 | its members to speak on their behalf today? It's or |
| | |

| 1 | about informal communication |
|----|--|
| 2 | A The board |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: answer. |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: The board of directors are fully |
| 5 | aware. In fact, they're getting texts now. The board |
| 6 | is a smaller entity. So the board of directors is the |
| 7 | board of directors that represents the HOA. Board |
| 8 | members are in agreement with me being here. I thought |
| 9 | you were asking the entire community of 256 that we have |
| 10 | them sign in and say, we agree, blah, blah the board |
| 11 | agrees. So the board as a representative, yes, I have |
| 12 | the full buy-in from the board. |
| 13 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 14 | Q But just not a vote from them or members. But |
| 15 | I'll move on. |
| 16 | A A vote from okay. Go ahead. |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: I'm going to object to |
| 18 | Mr. Forman's statements that he tried to interject. |
| 19 | Madame Examiner, and I will note for the record that we |
| 20 | learned of this hearing on while it was underway on |
| 21 | February 8th. So the time span between then and now has |
| 22 | been about 20 days. And Dr. Thomas testified |
| | |

| 1 | she's it's her testimony that the board has |
|----|---|
| 2 | authorized |
| 3 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Suhar. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: her to speak on its behalf. |
| 5 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Suhar, you don't have to |
| 6 | explain. Let just let her finish her testimony. |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. I'm just asking |
| 8 | for some leeway, but thank you so much Mr. Brown. |
| 9 | MR. BROWN: Yes. |
| 10 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 11 | Q Dr. Thomas, yeah, you said that you're |
| 12 | well, and I think Mr. Suhar says you are a registered |
| 13 | HOA. Is that with Maryland National Capital Park and |
| 14 | Planning Commission to receive notice of development? |
| 15 | A Yes. |
| 16 | Q And what districts are you registered to |
| 17 | receive notice? |
| 18 | A We're getting so many |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Objection. |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: Okay. I don't know. Go ahead. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Objection. She's testified that |
| 22 | she's that the association is registered. That |
| | |

| 1 | information can be obtained from the MMCPPC. |
|----|--|
| 2 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 3 | Q No. When you're |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: But in this record excuse |
| 5 | me, one second, Mr. Forman. But in this record, we got |
| 6 | information concerning a preapplication neighborhood |
| 7 | meeting and the groups that were notified. And I was |
| 8 | wondering, did you all get something that said you |
| 9 | should've been notified, because you're not on the list. |
| 10 | So it's Exhibit 10. |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: We're not. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: So I guess that's where he's |
| 13 | going. Just give him a little leeway with his |
| 14 | question |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Go ahead, sir. |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 18 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 19 | Q And I asked Dr. Watson, your I think your |
| 20 | HOA is located in District 4; is that correct? |
| 21 | A That's correct. |
| 22 | Q Okay. The property is actually located in |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | Councilmanic District 3. That's I guess do you |
|----|--|
| | |
| 2 | agree? |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Objection. |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: Yeah. Well |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: You said objection? |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. He's asking her for |
| 7 | information that, you know, I don't know, she can answer |
| 8 | it, I'm fine. I'll withdraw the objection. Go ahead. |
| 9 | Answer, if you know. |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: I'm happy to look up and see |
| 11 | what district that is. |
| 12 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 13 | Q Okay. Thank you. Yeah. I'll ask again. So |
| 14 | when you do register with the Maryland National Capital |
| 15 | Park and Planning Commission to receive notification, |
| 16 | it's my understanding you're permitted to receive |
| 17 | notification in your own councilmanic district as well |
| 18 | as one other councilmanic district. Were you aware of |
| 19 | that registration process? |
| 20 | A I know that we're registered to receive with |
| 21 | the Parks and Planning. I'm I can't speak to what |
| 22 | other districts we get access to. |
| | |

| 1 | Q Okay. Thank you. And I know Ms. McNeil had |
|----|--|
| 2 | brought this up and we're trying to talk about notice, |
| 3 | in that the applicant was required to have a posting of |
| 4 | the property for two 30-day periods. The first was from |
| 5 | July 15, 2022 until our neighborhood meeting on August |
| 6 | 15, 2022, and the second one was posting for this |
| 7 | hearing from January 6, 2023 notifying of the hearing on |
| 8 | February 8, 2023. You're saying that at no point was |
| 9 | anyone in your homeowners association aware of these |
| 10 | notifications, these postings? |
| 11 | MR. BROWN: Objection. I mean, she cannot |
| 12 | speak for other individuals. She has indicated she was |
| 13 | not aware. She didn't see the posted sign, so that's |
| 14 | sufficient. |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: But with all due respect, if she |
| 16 | has talked about how they are a very tight planning and |
| 17 | zoning authority, and if somebody from that group |
| 18 | would've seen it, it sounds like they may have brought |
| 19 | it to her attention. |
| 20 | MR. BROWN: She cannot speculate on what |
| 21 | someone else did or did not see, Mr. Forman. Next |
| 22 | question. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: [Inaudible]. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm going to overrule the |
| 3 | zoning the People's Zoning Counsel and just briefly, |
| 4 | if you know the answer to that, you may give it. |
| 5 | THE WITNESS: I don't. As I said, a member of |
| 6 | the Zoning and Planning Committee happened upon the |
| 7 | February 8th hearing. I can't speak to who else knows |
| 8 | what. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Now I have to agree |
| 10 | with the People's Zoning Counsel, Dr. Thomas, but okay. |
| 11 | Thank you. Do you have any other questions, Mr. Forman? |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: No other questions, Madame |
| 13 | Examiner. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you for your testimony, |
| 16 | Dr. Thomas. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: No redirect? No redirect, |
| 18 | okay. Thank you, Dr. Thomas. |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: No redirect. Thank you. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Suhar, do you have other |
| 21 | witnesses or should I now ask if anyone else opposed and |
| 22 | not represented by you would like to testify? |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: No other witnesses on behalf of |
|----|--|
| 2 | Wingate Homeowners Association, but I I will say |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: Oh, you have the exhibits. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: I have exhibits, yes. |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. You want so |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: screen. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Can you e-mail those |
| 8 | exhibits to the ZHE? Have you done that? That's the |
| 9 | only way we can put them up. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: I can, but I thought that I was |
| 11 | instructed to present them today. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah, but present them |
| 13 | digitally, so you have to |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, I understand. |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: May I ask a question? |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes, ma'am. |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: May I ask a question? I noticed |
| 18 | that Mr. Suhar, Sean, Mary Rochee who's a member of |
| 19 | Wingate, there were others in the and she actually |
| 20 | lives in Wingate, I don't know, because by virtue of her |
| 21 | being in Wingate as a member of the I don't know if |
| 22 | you consider her or I don't know. |
| | |

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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: If you're asking can she |
| 2 | THE WITNESS: Maybe not. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: testify, she can, if |
| 4 | she'll come on camera and tell me she wants to, but |
| 5 | we're still dealing with |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Okay. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Suhar's |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: Oh, sorry. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: exhibit. |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry. I'm out of order. |
| 11 | Thank you. |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: You want me to send this to you |
| 13 | right now? |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: That would be perfect, but |
| 15 | make sure you send them to everybody that's ever been in |
| 16 | those links, because it's either Ms. Rawlings [ph], |
| 17 | Ms. Neal, they're the ones that can pull them up for us. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay? And just before |
| 20 | while you're doing that, Mr. Robinson, if you're still |
| 21 | on, whatever document you sent, I can't open it. The |
| 22 | County's IT folks are saying I can't open it, so I need |
| | |

1 you to try --2 MR. ROBINSON: It's a -- it's a word -- it was 3 a Word document. 4 MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah. I see it, but they 5 won't -- they won't let me open it. So I was going to 6 ask --7 MR. ROBINSON: I don't know what to say about 8 that. 9 MADAME EXAMINER: But let me -- okay. What I 10 need you to do -- what I need you to do is e-mail it. 11 Maybe if you e-mail it to Mr. Suhar, since he has 12 everybody else's name. 13 MR. ROBINSON: Oh, I sent it to Mr. Suhar last night. I sent it to Mr. Suhar last night, he has a copy 14 15 of it. 16 MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar, would you 17 send that as well to Ms. Rawlings or Ms. Neal when you 18 send your others? 19 MR. SUHAR: Yes, I will. MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. If you don't mind, 20 21 could we go out of order while you're doing that just to 22 keep moving and we could allow --

| 1 | MR. ROBINSON: No. I sent a new one. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: We could allow |
| 3 | Mr. Robinson can't testify yet, because we're waiting |
| 4 | for his document, but if Ms. Rochee would like to |
| 5 | testify. |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Yes. So we can I can call her |
| 7 | as a witness, but I think that she's a party of record |
| 8 | as well as; is that right? |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Ms. Rochee, are you still |
| 11 | on? |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: And I'm more than happy to |
| 13 | proffer, if she has a statement to help, you know, move |
| 14 | things along, if that's more better for everyone, I |
| 15 | don't mind if she reads a statement or reads into the |
| 16 | record as opposed to doing it through direct |
| 17 | examination. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Ms. Rochee. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: I don't know if she can hear |
| 20 | us. How about anybody else here oppose? Is Carol |
| 21 | Hurwitch opposed? |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: Yes. Hello. |
| | |

| Transcript of Hearing |
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| Conducted on March 1, 2023 |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Would you like to testify |
|----|--|
| 2 | now while we're trying to |
| 3 | THE WITNESS: Sure. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: technical difficulties? |
| 5 | Okay. |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Yes. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: You just state your name |
| 8 | and then I'll swear you in. |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: Yes, my good morning. Thank |
| 10 | you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Carol |
| 11 | Hurwitch and I live at 2604 Cool Spring Road in Adelphi, |
| 12 | Maryland. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 14 | Whereupon, |
| 15 | CAROL HURWITCH, |
| 16 | being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 17 | truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| 18 | examined and testified as follows. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So what would you |
| 20 | like to tell me about this request? |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Well, I'm adding my voice in |
| 22 | opposition to ZMA2022001 and in support of the planning |
| | |

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| 1 | staff's recommendation to disapprove it. And I also |
|----|--|
| 2 | support the points that Dr. Thomas has just made into |
| 3 | the record. |
| 4 | I'm adding my voice as a concerned citizen and |
| 5 | neighbor where we've had and we expect to have continued |
| 6 | future attempts on encroachment on the quality of our |
| 7 | life and the nature of our now livable neighborhoods. |
| 8 | By the countywide thrust to densify, to higher and hire |
| 9 | density development even beyond master plans and the |
| 10 | sectional map amendments call for. |
| 11 | I think it's really important to balance the |
| 12 | needs of count residents and the county and the |
| 13 | residents living in their neighborhood wanting the |
| 14 | quality of life in ways that does not include building |
| 15 | higher density and brings more private profits while |
| 16 | commonizing the costs such as traffic hazards in |
| 17 | neighborhoods like we are discussing today around the |
| 18 | Wingate area. And it increases health problems. You |
| 19 | have more pollution and asthmatic children. So these |
| 20 | are all concerns. |
| 21 | I do support the planning staff's disapproval |
| 22 | and I urge the zoning hearing examiner, yourself, the |
| | |

| 1 | Honorable Ms. McNeil to disapprove the zoning map |
|--|---|
| 2 | amendment request to rezone subject property from the RR |
| 3 | residential zone to a much higher density of |
| 4 | multifamily of 48 zoned units for the following three |
| 5 | reasons. |
| 6 | The 2010 approved Glendale Seabrook Lanham and |
| 7 | vicinity sector plan and sectional map amendment |
| 8 | retained the prior rural residential RR zone on this |
| 9 | subject property. And the 2021 countywide sectional map |
| 10 | amendment rezone RR zone to the RR zone on the subject |
| | |
| 11 | property. |
| 11 12 | property. I know some of these points have been made |
| | |
| 12 | I know some of these points have been made |
| 12 13 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very |
| 12 13 14 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject |
| 12 13 14 15 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west |
| 12 13 14 15 16 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west by properties all of which are currently zoned RR. And |
| 12 13 14 15 16 17 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west by properties all of which are currently zoned RR. And the sector plan and SMA recommends residential low land |
| 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west by properties all of which are currently zoned RR. And the sector plan and SMA recommends residential low land use on the subject property with a focus on single |
| 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west by properties all of which are currently zoned RR. And the sector plan and SMA recommends residential low land use on the subject property with a focus on single family detached units. This allows for low density as |
| 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | I know some of these points have been made before, but I think these are the key ones and very important that we should not lose sight of. The subject property is bounded by the north, east, south, and west by properties all of which are currently zoned RR. And the sector plan and SMA recommends residential low land use on the subject property with a focus on single family detached units. This allows for low density as you know about 2.17 units per acre. And ultimately |

| 1 | ,,,,,, |
|----|--|
| 1 | The proposed RMF48 zone is the most intensive |
| 2 | of residential base zones with a permitted maximum |
| 3 | density of 48 dwelling units per acre. As you know, |
| 4 | this allows 596 dwelling units on site and I have to |
| 5 | ask, how is the surrounding infrastructure going to |
| 6 | accommodate this? And it doesn't preserve the character |
| 7 | of the neighborhood as Dr. Thomas has already stated. |
| 8 | So there are many more things I can say, |
| 9 | particular points that the planning staff has made. I |
| 10 | don't always agree with the planning staff, but in this |
| 11 | case I do. I really think that you need to look at |
| 12 | that. And I would also like to state for the record |
| 13 | that the single family made sure of the living area four |
| 14 | supports large single family homes. And they will not |
| 15 | make in the character of the neighborhood. The claim |
| 16 | that single family homes will help promote incongruent |
| 17 | housing types and create an awkward transition from |
| 18 | surrounding nonresidential development, I think is |
| 19 | furious [ph]. We strongly object. I strongly object |
| 20 | along with my neighbors to the assertion that the SMA |
| 21 | disparages the trend for construction of larger single |
| 22 | family residences. I mean, that's the character of the |
| | |

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1 neighborhood.

| 2 | We strongly object to the assertion that the |
|----|--|
| 3 | RMF48 zoned development would be harmonious with |
| 4 | existing land uses along the Maryland 193 corridor. I |
| 5 | live along the Maryland 193 corridor. I used to live in |
| 6 | the Seabrook area. I still frequent the NASA Credit |
| 7 | Union and do some shopping and I have many friends up |
| 8 | there. So I understand the structures and traffic |
| 9 | problems already there. |
| 10 | And finally, the RMF48 rezone exacerbates the |
| 11 | existing parking tensions directly in front of the |
| 12 | subject property. Residents are currently parking on |
| 13 | the shoulder of Greenbelt, I've noticed and Dr. Thomas |
| 14 | has testified. Thank you so much for your time. This |
| 15 | may have bought you a little to get others in the queue. |
| 16 | And I really strongly urge you to disapprove of this. |
| 17 | Thank you. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. Does anyone have |
| 19 | questions? |
| 20 | MR. FORMAN: No. |
| 21 | MR. BROWN: Ms. Hurwitch, did you give us your |
| 22 | address? |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: She did. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. BROWN: She did? |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: Could you give it again, |
| 4 | Miss. It was Cool Spring Lane. I didn't write down |
| 5 | the |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Cool Spring Road as opposed to |
| 7 | lane. There is a lane. I'm on Cool Spring Road in |
| 8 | Adelphi, Maryland. That's just off 493 in Adelphi and |
| 9 | across from the University of Maryland Golf Course. But |
| 10 | as I say, I frequent that area. Thank you. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. So you've |
| 12 | e-mailed your documents, Mr. Suhar? |
| 13 | MR. SUHAR: I did e-mail them, yes. Yes, |
| 14 | ma'am. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And Ms. Neal, are you |
| 16 | ready to pull them up and mark them as exhibits? |
| 17 | MS. NEAL: I can pull them up and |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Robinson's e-mail is |
| 19 | going to be Exhibit 41 whenever we get it. So pull the |
| 20 | first one up, Exhibit 42. And then Mr. Suhar can tell |
| 21 | us what it is. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. I appreciate that. |
| | |

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| 1 | MS. NEAL: For some reason it's not allowing |
|----|--|
| 2 | me to open the files. So I need just a moment to see |
| 3 | why. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. We also have Ms. Mary |
| 5 | Rochee. She's back |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Did you get her? Okay. |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: online. I don't know if you |
| 8 | want |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Ms. Rochee, would you like |
| 10 | to testify? |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: I would, thank you very much. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 13 | THE WITNESS: Should I start now? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Yes, you can |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Can you come on camera? Oh, |
| 16 | there you are. |
| 17 | THE WITNESS: I am on. I came. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 19 | Whereupon, |
| 20 | MARY ROCHEE, |
| 21 | being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 22 | truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | examined and testified as follows. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Give us your address |
| 3 | and then tell us what you'd like to about this request. |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: Okay. Good afternoon, Madame |
| 5 | Examiner. I reside at 11201 Ballentre Lane in Glendale. |
| 6 | Okay. And I go ahead, I'm sorry. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: No. I was going to say, and |
| 8 | tell us what you'd like about the request. |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: Okay. I strongly stand in |
| 10 | unison with Dr. Thomas and Ms. Hurwitch who spoke |
| 11 | earlier. I will tell you that I moved to Glendale |
| 12 | approximately seven years ago for the very purpose of |
| 13 | the serenity and the security I feel it provides and I |
| 14 | have genuinely come to love my community. For anyone |
| 15 | who travels the corridor of 193 in the area where the |
| 16 | proposed development is after 7:00 p.m. it is I would |
| 17 | say not a very safe area at that time. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: One second, Ms. Rochee. |
| 19 | Will everyone else please mute themselves. I think it's |
| 20 | Caller 01. Okay. Very good. I was just going to say |
| 21 | that I, too, travel the corridor along 193 and |
| 22 | oftentimes in the evening, I have felt very |
| | |

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| 1 | uncomfortable if I'm stopping to get gas or to go to the |
|----|--|
| 2 | grocery store or the credit union or whatever, because |
| 3 | there is very much increased presence activity. There |
| 4 | is heavy parking along 193 already, because there's not |
| 5 | sufficient parking for the residents who live in that |
| 6 | area. And I've been confronted by some scary incidents. |
| 7 | So I just have to say that I strongly recommend |
| 8 | disapproval of the ZMA rezoning for all the reasons |
| 9 | stated. And that's it. |
| 10 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, I think you're |
| 11 | muted. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Forman. |
| 13 | Does anyone have questions of the witness? |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: I just I have a clarification. |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: I have a |
| 16 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT |
| 17 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 18 | Q Ms. Rochee? |
| 19 | A Rochee. |
| 20 | Q Rochee. What was your address? |
| 21 | A My address is 11201 Ballentre Lane. |
| 22 | Q Okay. |
| | |

| 1 | A In Glendale. And I might add to say that from |
|----|--|
| 2 | where I reside, I have very high visibility in our |
| 3 | community, and just without any additional development, |
| 4 | we have a lot of people that visit our community just |
| 5 | because there is a park environment here. People who do |
| 6 | not reside here. I witness a lot of things from my |
| 7 | kitchen table that probably wouldn't happen if we didn't |
| 8 | have those visitors. People come to fix. They come to |
| 9 | indulge in drug activity, exercise, and these are people |
| 10 | who are outside of our residential community, okay. So |
| 11 | this is a problem that we're already experiencing, which |
| 12 | I can't imagine if we have a lot of increased residents |
| 13 | in the area what it would be like. |
| 14 | Q And do you have an approximate, you know, |
| 15 | difference between your home and the subject property? |
| 16 | A I would say it's I live close to the Lanham |
| 17 | Severn entrance. I guess it depends if I were if I |
| 18 | were to walk diagonally, it might be a shorter distance |
| 19 | between those two points, but to go out of the main |
| 20 | entrance, it would probably equate to the one point |
| 21 | however miles it showed on the map that was displayed in |
| 22 | one of the exhibits. |

| | | Transcript of Hearing Conducted on March 1, 2023 135 |
|----|------------|---|
| 1 | Q | Okay. So your property is off of land [ph] |
| 2 | Severn Roa | ad? |
| 3 | А | Driving, yes. |
| 4 | Q | And it's land Severn Road portion north of |
| 5 | Greenbelt | Road 193? |
| 6 | А | Correct. |
| 7 | Q | Okay. Thank you. I'm just trying to get an |
| 8 | understand | ding. |
| 9 | А | Okay. |
| 10 | Q | Appreciate it. |
| 11 | А | You're welcome. And that's all I have. |
| 12 | | MR. SUHAR: I have a I just have one |
| 13 | question, | if I may. |
| 14 | | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR A PARTY OR |
| 15 | | RECORD |
| 16 | BY MR. SUP | HAR: |
| 17 | Q | Ms. Rochee, I just want to say, first of all, |
| 18 | thank you | for your time and being here today to make |
| 19 | comments. | And I'd like to ask you, if you're aware of |
| 20 | that the a | request that the applicant is making to change |
| 21 | the zoning | g from RR zone to RMF48 zone and if you know |
| 22 | what that | means? |

| Transcript of Hearing | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Conducted on March 1, 2023 | 3 |

| 1 | A Well, I think I understand the existing zoning |
|----|--|
| 2 | is focused on more rural |
| 3 | Q Right. |
| 4 | A which is what we have now in place. |
| 5 | Q Okay. |
| 6 | A And the new zoning would be something that |
| 7 | would be increased density more multifamily residents, |
| 8 | if I understand it correctly. |
| 9 | Q Right. |
| 10 | A Higher density; okay. |
| 11 | Q Right. So |
| 12 | A Am I am I understanding it correctly? |
| 13 | Q Yes. |
| 14 | A Okay. |
| 15 | Q Yes, Ms. Rochee. In fact, I just I just |
| 16 | want to clarify that, if you understand that if the |
| 17 | if the zoning change is granted that the applicant, the |
| 18 | current the owner of the property or the future owner |
| 19 | of the property, I guess, would be able to build a total |
| 20 | of 596 units on this property, 12 acres |
| 21 | A I did. |
| 22 | Q acres. |
| | |
| | |

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| 1 | A I do understand that, and quite honestly, |
|----|--|
| 2 | that's a little scary to me, okay, just looking at |
| 3 | the what exists currently. |
| 4 | Q Okay. And when you say what exists currently, |
| 5 | are you seeing in your lay witness I mean, you're not |
| 6 | a you're not an expert in this case, but or at |
| 7 | least your testimony is not being offered as an exhibit. |
| 8 | Or an expert. But in your in your opinion, does that |
| 9 | conform with the, you know, existing the trends, if |
| 10 | you will, the do you see a trend moving in this area |
| 11 | toward higher density developments like what's being |
| 12 | requested? |
| 13 | A I think that |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: I'm going to object. Madame |
| 15 | Examiner, that's asking I understand where |
| 16 | Mr. Suhar's going, but it sounds like he's also asking |
| 17 | Ms. Rochee to comment on trends and developments in the |
| 18 | area as a matter of planning, not necessarily as a |
| 19 | from her own |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: She does. Just living in the |
| 21 | community. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm still sort of trying to |
| | |
| | |

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| 1 | figure out I allowed you to question her, but you're |
|----|---|
| 2 | not normally, it's the other side that would question |
| 3 | her, and it's a little beyond the scope of direct as |
| 4 | well. So |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: Well, I'm just wondering if she |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: So she gave me plenty of |
| 7 | testimony as to why she's opposed to the request. |
| 8 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 9 | Q Well, let me ask you this, Ms. Rochee, if I |
| 10 | may. Thank you, Madame Examiner. How long have you |
| 11 | lived in the community? |
| 12 | A Nearly seven years. |
| 13 | Q Okay. Thank you. I'm just I'm done. I |
| 14 | won't ask anymore questions. Thank you. |
| 15 | A You're welcome. |
| 16 | Q Thank you very much, Ms. Rochee. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Anyone else have questions |
| 18 | of Ms. Rochee? |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: No, Your Honor, or Madame |
| 20 | Examiner, sorry. It flips out so easily. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Robinson, I did get |
| 22 | your your four pages. So it will be marked as |
| | |

| 1 | Exhibit 41. |
|----|--|
| 2 | (Exhibit 41 was marked for |
| 3 | identification.) |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Is there anything particular |
| 5 | you would like I never swore you in as a witness, did |
| 6 | I? Would you like to testify now? Did I |
| 7 | MR. ROBINSON: Yeah. I'd be happy to testify. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 9 | MR. ROBINSON: Now. |
| 10 | Whereupon, |
| 11 | JON ROBINSON, |
| 12 | being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 13 | truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| 14 | examined and testified as follows. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: And just before you give me |
| 16 | your address, if the rest of you do not have his |
| 17 | exhibit, I will ask Ms. Rawlings to e-mail it to |
| 18 | Mr. Forman, Mr. Brown and Mr I think you have it |
| 19 | Mr. Suhar; right? |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: I'm sorry, what was that? |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: You have his testimony, |
| 22 | don't you? The written copy. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, yes. Yes. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Mr. Robinson's, yes. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So it's coming to you |
| 5 | all. Go ahead Mr. Robinson. |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: Okay. I've already given you my |
| 8 | name and address. I have a Ph.D. in systematics and |
| 9 | ecology from the University of Kansas with a strong |
| 10 | background in statistical analysis. After completing my |
| 11 | Ph.D. in 1975, I worked on the first Landsat data at the |
| 12 | Center for Research Incorporated at the University of |
| 13 | Kansas. Landsat is a satellite that captures images of |
| 14 | the earth and it's used for updating geographic |
| 15 | information systems such as PG Atlas and many others. |
| 16 | And it's also used for analyzing land use. |
| 17 | I moved to Prince George's County in 1976 and |
| 18 | I've spent much of the rest of my career as a contractor |
| 19 | at Goddard Space Flight Center working with geographic |
| 20 | information systems, satellite and aerial images. |
| 21 | In my nonprofessional life, I was chair of the |
| 22 | Prince George's Sierra Club for many years, and for |
| | |

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| 1 | three years, I was the Maryland chapter chair of the |
|----|--|
| 2 | Sierra Club. I have been active in land use issues in |
| 3 | our county including being on Commission 2000 that |
| 4 | developed development guidelines for the new century |
| 5 | that we are now almost a quarter of the way through. I |
| 6 | am receiving no compensation for my testimony today |
| 7 | except the satisfaction of trying to make my county a |
| 8 | better place than it otherwise would be. |
| 9 | I'm here to oppose the zoning map amendment |
| 10 | application, 2022-001 and to support the Planning |
| 11 | Board's recommendation and the surrounding community's |
| 12 | desire to leave the property in question in the RR zone. |
| 13 | I reviewed the binder that was provided by the |
| 14 | applicant, and the applicant makes many assertions, but |
| 15 | offers few facts to support its application. |
| 16 | On the one hand, the applicant claims that the |
| 17 | potential connection of an incomplete arterial connector |
| 18 | road from Lanham Severn Road to Greenbelt Road will make |
| 19 | it impractical to build 26 or so single family homes as |
| 20 | allowed by law in the RR zone because of difficulty |
| 21 | designing entrance and exit routes from the community. |
| 22 | On the other hand, the applicant asserts |
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| 1 | without evidence relying up to 596 dwelling units on the |
|----|--|
| 2 | site will alleviate these problems. In fact, in the |
| 3 | conceptual drawing which I included in my testimony of a |
| 4 | potential RMF48 site plan, it has buildings overlapping |
| 5 | the master plan right-of-way that supposedly is the |
| 6 | problem. It's Figure 1 in my testimony. |
| 7 | Apparently, the developer's assumption is that |
| 8 | if they build an MF48 residence on the master plan route |
| 9 | the road will never be built. Why not make the same |
| 10 | assumption with a single family RR plan and provide a |
| 11 | drawing of what that might look like? Perhaps the |
| 12 | expert can explain how a potential 596 residential units |
| 13 | would have easier access to Greenbelt Road than 26 |
| 14 | single family residential units. |
| 15 | Of course, at this time, it is impossible to |
| 16 | know if the connector road will ever be completed. All |
| 17 | one needs to look at are the many on-conducted segments |
| 18 | of Forbes Boulevard. I moved to an apartment complex at |
| 19 | the corner of Good Luck and Greenbelt Road in 1976. It |
| 20 | is now 2023. And Forbes Boulevard is still the same |
| 21 | group of on-connected segments it was when I moved |
| 22 | there. Forbes Boulevard extends north of Greenbelt |
| | |

| 1 | Road, but does not extend south of Greenbelt Road. |
|----|---|
| 2 | There is a short segment of Forbes Boulevard in Wood |
| 3 | Stream east development where I lived from the early |
| 4 | 1980s until 1999. It is interrupted again at Maryland |
| 5 | Route 564, Lanham Severn Road. And the railroad tracks. |
| 6 | It continues on the other side of the railroad tracks |
| 7 | and continues south across, crossing Martin Luther King |
| 8 | Highway and ending at Lottsford Vista Road. |
| 9 | There's no reason to believe that the many |
| 10 | segments of Forbes Boulevard will ever be connected. |
| 11 | Similarly, with this connector road. The applicant |
| 12 | asserts that the rezoning from RR to RMF48 will have no |
| 13 | detrimental impact on the public health, safety and |
| 14 | welfare to the residents of Prince George's County nor |
| 15 | areas beyond. |
| 16 | This, of course, is a precondition they're |
| 17 | arguing for the zoning map amendment, however, beyond |
| 18 | this assertion, the applicant provides no evidence, |
| 19 | simply on grounds it would figure that adding up to |
| 20 | 596 residential units would increase traffic on |
| 21 | Greenbelt Road and surrounding areas much more than 26 |
| 22 | units. That's a simple matter of elementary probability |
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| 1 | that adding 596 residential units and they're |
|----|--|
| 2 | inhabitants will increase the likelihood of accidents, |
| 3 | much more than having 26 residential units and their |
| 4 | inhabitants. |
| 5 | As an aside, I have had experience with the |
| 6 | problems consultants for developers making assertions |
| 7 | based on their expertise, but providing no study or |
| 8 | evidence to support their claim. In my own situation, |
| 9 | we were contesting an application for a special |
| 10 | exception in an RR zone in our community. One of the |
| 11 | requirements was that the granting of this special |
| 12 | exception should've no more impact on the location in |
| 13 | question than it would at any other RR location in the |
| 14 | county. |
| 15 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, I'm going to |
| 16 | object to Mr. Robinson's point regarding the legal |
| 17 | requirements for a special exception. I don't see the |
| 18 | relevance for this matter. |
| 19 | MR. ROBINSON: The I that's if you'd let |
| 20 | me finish my testimony, I will make the connection. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah, I I think it's on point. |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: If this was a special exception |
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| 1 | hearing I would certainly agree with you. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. ROBINSON: The point is about the quality |
| 3 | of testimony from expert, and it's a cautionary tale |
| 4 | that illustrates that just because a person is an expert |
| 5 | and is being paid to offer a particular type of |
| 6 | testimony doesn't mean that it necessarily has any |
| 7 | grounding other than the fact that they were paid to |
| 8 | testify to that effect, and if they were paid to testify |
| 9 | the other way, they would testify to that affect in that |
| 10 | situation. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: I Mr. Forman, I don't see what |
| 12 | the harm is in allowing his testimony. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Forman, it's in his I |
| 14 | I understand the objection, but it's in his |
| 15 | testimony. And I would give it the weight it would |
| 16 | require. He has a right I mean, that's what |
| 17 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: people normally argue at |
| 19 | the end as to expert witnesses or go ahead |
| 20 | Mr. Robinson. |
| 21 | MR. ROBINSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you |
| 22 | very much. So one of the requirements for granting |
| | |

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| 1 | of the special exception would be a should have no |
|----|--|
| 2 | impact at the site in question than any place else in |
| 3 | the county. But the developer's engineering company |
| 4 | provided an expert that made that assertion. When |
| 5 | cross-examined by our attorney, it became clear the |
| 6 | expertise was based on an evening class at a community |
| 7 | college and driving through the neighborhood Watts. |
| 8 | Unfortunately, the consultant's map of the |
| 9 | area mislabeled the boundary arterial roads in our |
| 10 | community which we pointed out. When asked what other |
| 11 | RR zones she had looked at, she could not name one. |
| 12 | When asked if she could actually identify the location |
| 13 | of any other RR zone in the county, she couldn't. We |
| 14 | then provided the map identifying all the RR zones in |
| 15 | Prince George's County marked in blue. |
| 16 | Unfortunately, there's no sanction for a |
| 17 | professional making unsupported assertions. I am |
| 18 | personally aware of situations in which professional |
| 19 | engineering firms have made false statements to Park and |
| 20 | Planning and other responsible authorities, and never |
| 21 | been held to account. These types of false and |
| 22 | misleading assertions can lead to real world very costly |
| | |

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| 1 | and damaging situations. |
|----|---|
| 2 | As chair of the Prince George's group the |
| 3 | Sierra Club, I worked with the Anacostia Watershed |
| 4 | Society to oppose the development of the Erco [ph] |
| 5 | property in Riverdale. It was originally an airport |
| 6 | during World War I and World War II. And it was in the |
| 7 | floodplain of the northeast branch of the Anacostia |
| 8 | River. |
| 9 | The developer's consultant claimed it was a |
| 10 | it was not a wetland. I am a biologist |
| 11 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Robinson. |
| 12 | MR. ROBINSON: I know it was a wetland. |
| 13 | MR. BROWN: Mr. Robinson. |
| 14 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yeah. I think to manage |
| 16 | your testimony, you wouldn't have to read all of this, |
| 17 | you could get to |
| 18 | MR. ROBINSON: Okay. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: have a great point at the |
| 20 | very end, but because everyone comes before and I swear |
| 21 | them, I'm going to assume they're telling me the truth, |
| 22 | everybody, and but the end of your testimony is very |
| | |

| 1 | good about why you think it brings it back to this |
|----|--|
| 2 | case. If you want to read that. |
| 3 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes. Okay. All right. So, |
| 4 | the examples that are present in my testimony, the one |
| 5 | that I read to you, and the one that I didn't read to |
| 6 | you are a cautionary tale about accepting professional |
| 7 | assertions that are not backed up by evidence or |
| 8 | analysis. And in the case of this ZMA, they presented a |
| 9 | contradictory analysis in that they actually had a |
| 10 | design for the property that showed buildings in the |
| 11 | right-of-way of the road that they said keeps them from |
| 12 | putting single family houses there. |
| 13 | So, the applicant has also provided testimony |
| 14 | from a church. I've had experience with this too in |
| 15 | fighting the special exception. We went before the |
| 16 | District Counsel, and when my community and members and |
| 17 | I arrived there to testify against the special exception |
| 18 | there were a whole bunch of people there that showed up |
| 19 | that had nicely professionally printed badges on their |
| 20 | chests saying they supported the development, and when |
| 21 | the developer's attorney asked to have them stand up to |
| 22 | show their support for the development, I questioned one |

| 1 | of the ladies that was with this group, and I didn't |
|----|--|
| 2 | recognize her as being from our development, and I |
| 3 | said asked her, you know, what she knew about it, if |
| 4 | she lived in our neighborhood, she admitted she didn't |
| 5 | live in the neighborhood and she attended a church that |
| 6 | had been recently built adjoining to the property that |
| 7 | we were fighting the special exception in. And after, |
| 8 | you know, being flustered by my further questions, she |
| 9 | remarked, well at least we've got a good dinner out of |
| 10 | it. And this raises an issue that I know from talking |
| 11 | with other people who have had zoning fights from around |
| 12 | the county is that frequently, people testify for |
| 13 | developments because they're given some kind of |
| 14 | consideration or another. So in this case, it was |
| 15 | admitted that there was a consideration of a dinner |
| 16 | given, apparently for the parishioners. And and it |
| 17 | would be nice if the applicants were required to |
| 18 | disclose any considerations that were given beside the |
| 19 | obvious ones to their professional colleagues that have |
| 20 | testify, you know, the people that are supposedly |
| 21 | grassroots in support of the develop, you know, what |
| 22 | considerations were were not given, but we do not |
| | |

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| 1 | know that and the zoning hearing examiner has no way of |
|----|--|
| 2 | knowing whether the person is just doing this out of a |
| 3 | feeling of civic duty or not. |
| 4 | Anyway, so finally, let me conclude by saying |
| 5 | that the purpose of zoning is not to maximize the |
| 6 | financial return of individual property owners and |
| 7 | developers, the purpose of zoning is to provide a |
| 8 | coherent design plan for our communities to maximize and |
| 9 | balance the quality of life factors most of us seek. |
| 10 | High density development like RMF48 is |
| 11 | supposed to be near transit to maximize to minimize |
| 12 | the need for cars. This location is just the opposite. |
| 13 | Getting this kind of ZMA sets a bad precedent. This ZMA |
| 14 | and others like it coming down the pike represent a |
| 15 | death by a thousand cuts of the sectional map amendments |
| 16 | in efforts to have a planned, coherent, urban, suburban |
| 17 | and rural environment. |
| 18 | I ask that you reject this ZMA application and |
| 19 | leave the subject property in the RR zone where the most |
| 20 | recent SMA placed it. And I'm open to any questions. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. Any questions of |
| 22 | Mr. Robinson. |
| | |

| 1 | MR. FORMAN: I just briefly, Mr. Robinson. |
|----|--|
| 2 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT? |
| 3 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 4 | Q You and I do apologize, I don't think I |
| 5 | caught the full address. It was on Cool Spring Road; |
| 6 | correct? |
| 7 | A Yes. |
| 8 | Q Is that the |
| 9 | A 26 |
| 10 | Q same as Ms. Hurwitch? |
| 11 | A Yes. We live together. |
| 12 | Q Okay. And so it's on in Adelphi near the |
| 13 | University of Maryland Golf Course; correct? |
| 14 | A Correct. |
| 15 | Q Okay. Thank you, just wanted to |
| 16 | A And I I I have an account at the NASA |
| 17 | Federal Credit Union as you might imagine since I worked |
| 18 | for Goddard Space Flight Center for many years. And so |
| 19 | I come up to that part of the county on a regular basis. |
| 20 | Q Thank you. Do you have an idea, because you |
| 21 | do drive that area a lot, approximately the mileage it |
| 22 | takes from your home to this area? Like how many miles |
| | |

1 it might be?

| 2 | A It takes me about I I could measure the |
|----|--|
| 3 | number of miles, but it takes me about 15 minutes to get |
| 4 | to the Fulton Bank where I have an account, and it takes |
| 5 | me about another ten or fifteen minutes to get down to |
| 6 | the federal credit union depending on depending on |
| 7 | the traffic. When the traffic is really bad, it takes a |
| 8 | lot longer. And yeah, I have to make a basically, |
| 9 | a U-turn and come back to the federal credit union and |
| 10 | it's the U-turn is pretty close to right in front of |
| 11 | your your development. Your proposed development. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, thank you. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Brown. |
| 14 | MR. BROWN: No questions. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you, sir. |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: I don't have any questions of |
| 18 | Mr. Robinson. |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: You're muted, Madame Examiner. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: I was trying to see is there |
| 21 | anyone else opposed to the request that wishes to |
| 22 | testify. I need you to come on camera now if that's the |
| | |

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| 1 | case. I think that may be it. So Mr. Suhar, would you |
|----|---|
| 2 | like to go through your exhibits now? |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. Yes. Thank you. I don't |
| 4 | know which one you have first, but I'd like to start |
| 5 | with my letter to you, Madame Examiner, I don't know if |
| 6 | they're going to there we go. Dated February 28th. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Your letter will be Exhibit |
| 8 | 42. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Thank you. |
| 10 | (Exhibit 42 was marked for |
| 11 | identification.) |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Which basically is in line with my |
| 13 | closing arguments, so and then there's a |
| 14 | another has the letter been accepted from |
| 15 | Mr. Robinson? |
| 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes. |
| 17 | MR. SUHAR: It has already, okay. Great. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: That was Exhibit 41. |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Forty-one, okay. Great. And |
| 20 | then |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: One second. So Mr. Brown |
| 22 | and Mr. Forman, do you have any objections to this |
| | |
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| 1 | letter? Did you all get these exhibits? |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. FORMAN: Just recently. I have not really |
| 3 | had a chance to go through it. Oh, sorry Mr. Brown. |
| 4 | MR. BROWN: I'm sorry. No, I just said, I |
| 5 | received it, yes. Thank you. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. How many pages is |
| 7 | your letter? Oh, go ahead, Mr. Forman. |
| 8 | MR. FORMAN: No. Just that I yes, I |
| 9 | received it also, but I have not had a chance to review |
| 10 | it. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. He says it's in the |
| 12 | nature of his closing argument, sort of like your |
| 13 | exhibit earlier, so |
| 14 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Would you all would you |
| 16 | like a three-minute break, because this is I guess |
| 17 | getting near the end of the case, and you could look at |
| 18 | these and |
| 19 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, we do have one |
| 20 | more caller on the line, Mr. Skip Gault who |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: If we could I know there is |
| | |

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| 1 | the letter in the record, but he is also here to |
|----|---|
| 2 | testify. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Then wait a minute. |
| 4 | That's okay. So that was Exhibit 42. Let's just |
| 5 | identify them now, Mr. Suhar. What which one will be |
| 6 | Exhibit 43? |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Now, I I also wanted the |
| 8 | the Technical Staff Report to be entered into the |
| 9 | record, and so while they're attached to this letter, I |
| 10 | also have them separately, if you if you would prefer |
| 11 | that they be separate. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: The Technical Staff Report |
| 13 | is Exhibit 33 already. You don't have a different one, |
| 14 | do you? |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. I have I have a |
| 16 | letter memorandums from October 19, 2022. A |
| 17 | memorandum from November 10, 2022, and then also a |
| 18 | memorandum from February 22, 2023. |
| 19 | MR. BROWN: These documents that you got out |
| 20 | of the binder, Mr. Suhar, is part of the record. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. All right. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: Yes. |
| | |
| | |

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| 1 | MR. SUHAR: Fair enough. And so that should |
|----|--|
| 2 | be it. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: That's all of it? |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: That's it. |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 6 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: I want to make sure I have |
| 8 | all of those technical staff things. October 10th, you |
| 9 | said? |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: October 19th, there were Technical |
| 11 | Staff Reports from |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: But you did get these? You |
| 13 | did get them from the binder? |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Yes. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Then, yeah, they're |
| 16 | already in the record. So all we really need is your |
| 17 | Exhibit 42, your argument. |
| 18 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: That's it then. Yes. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: [Inaudible]. |
| | |
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| i | |
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| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: And then do you have any |
| 2 | other witnesses, Mr. Suhar? |
| 3 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, can I just |
| 4 | interject real quick? I do object to Mr. Suhar's letter |
| 5 | being introduced as an exhibit, mainly because my letter |
| 6 | seems like it wasn't introduced either, and that was |
| 7 | actually at the request of the Madame Examiner at the |
| 8 | hearing. So |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: We introduced your letter. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah, it was. Yeah. |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: Oh, I thought you said it was |
| 12 | just going to be my closing. Okay. Then I apologize. |
| 13 | And yes, I have no then I withdraw my objection. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: No. I'm sorry. We made it |
| 15 | an exhibit, but we said that's basically what it is. |
| 16 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: And so that's what |
| 18 | Mr. Suhar's doing as well. |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. That was my understanding |
| 20 | as well. |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. My apologies. |
| 22 | MR. SUHAR: I'm not aware of anybody else |
| | |

| 1 | being online. We did we did want testimony from a |
|----|---|
| 2 | David Maran [ph]. He had to leave, because probably |
| 3 | didn't anticipate that the hearing was going to take |
| 4 | this long. I think it was scheduled until noon. But |
| 5 | you know, I would like an opportunity for him to speak, |
| 6 | but that means that you'd have to continue the hearing, |
| 7 | I guess. I don't know if you're inclined to do that, |
| 8 | Madame Examiner. But Dr. Thomas, do you see anybody |
| 9 | else on on the in the meeting here that I think |
| 10 | we've covered everybody that so far at least that's |
| 11 | on online with us. |
| 12 | MS. THOMAS: I don't. Yeah. I don't see |
| 13 | anyone else. David Maran, unfortunately, the former |
| 14 | city administrative for Greenbelt who lives in Wingate |
| 15 | and is on the Zoning and Planning Committee wanted to |
| 16 | speak, but he had to leave. So I don't know, maybe he |
| 17 | can if he can write his testimony, I don't know, |
| 18 | Mr. Suhar, what that means. |
| 19 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. |
| 20 | MR. FORMAN: I would object as we've |
| 21 | already this hearing has been continued several |
| 22 | times. I would request that we try to close the record |
| | |

| 1 | after the hearing. |
|--|---|
| 2 | MR. SUHAR: Well then, if you would allow, |
| 3 | Madame Examiner, for Mr. Maran to submit written |
| 4 | comments, I could ask him to do that. Just so that you |
| 5 | can |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm inclined to leave the |
| 7 | record open until today is Wednesday if he could |
| 8 | do it by close of business Friday, because we also said |
| 9 | if you had other folks that just wanted to be added as a |
| 10 | person of record, I'm trying to give them that |
| 11 | opportunity to do so. |
| | |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. I can I can let him |
| 12 13 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. I can I can let him MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's |
| | - |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's |
| 13 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave |
| 13 14 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm |
| 13 14 15 16 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm doing that, you were going to submit a different aerial, |
| 13 14 15 16 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm doing that, you were going to submit a different aerial, and then I noticed we had all the aerials from the Park |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm doing that, you were going to submit a different aerial, and then I noticed we had all the aerials from the Park and Planning PowerPoint, so if you look at that again |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm doing that, you were going to submit a different aerial, and then I noticed we had all the aerials from the Park and Planning PowerPoint, so if you look at that again and you don't think you need it or if you do need it, |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: So Mr. Forman, I know that's over your vehement objection, but I will leave everything open until Friday. And while while I'm doing that, you were going to submit a different aerial, and then I noticed we had all the aerials from the Park and Planning PowerPoint, so if you look at that again and you don't think you need it or if you do need it, either way, if you could get that to me by Friday. |

| 1 | that. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. SUHAR: Well |
| 3 | MR. FORMAN: I think |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait a minute. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: just ask one question of a |
| 6 | witness that's already spoken, Dr. Thomas, just one |
| 7 | question. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. I'm going to allow |
| 9 | it, but keep it short, because this is like beyond |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Sure. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: what we normally do. |
| 12 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR A PARTY OF |
| 13 | RECORD |
| 14 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 15 | Q And the question of Dr. Thomas is, just for a |
| 16 | point of clarification for Mr. Ferguson's testimony that |
| 17 | lake Lakeview Street there's no Lakeview street |
| 18 | in |
| 19 | A No. |
| 20 | Q Is that right? |
| 21 | A No. There isn't. |
| 22 | Q That was the only question. Thank you, Madame |
| | |

| 1 | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Examiner? |
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: No Lakeview Street within |
| 3 | |
| | Wingate. Okay. |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: Where's Mr. Gault? |
| 6 | THE WITNESS: Right here. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm sorry, Mr. Gault, I just |
| 8 | don't see you on my screen. So you're on the camera? |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: Oh, okay. |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: I can see him. |
| 11 | THE WITNESS: Here, I just turned the camera |
| 12 | on. Can you see me, Madame Examiner? |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wow. |
| 14 | THE WITNESS: I can see myself. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: I can't, but if someone |
| 16 | else. Why can't I see Mr. Gault. You might have to |
| 17 | take this exhibit down for me. |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: Yeah, I can see him, Madame |
| 19 | Examiner. |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: I can see myself on the upper |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: Now, I see you. |
| 22 | THE WITNESS: left. |
| | |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Whereupon, |
| 3 | SKIP GAULT, |
| 4 | being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the |
| 5 | truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was |
| 6 | examined and testified as follows. |
| 7 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Give us your name and |
| 8 | address for the record and what |
| 9 | THE WITNESS: My name |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: you want to tell us about |
| 11 | this. |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: is Allen [ph] C. Nickname |
| 13 | Skip Gault, Jr. And I live at 16006 Baconsfield Lane, |
| 14 | Monkton, Maryland. My entity owns the adjacent |
| 15 | property, 10203 and 10205. I have owned the property |
| 16 | for 100 years, but it seems like it. I owned I |
| 17 | bought the property in 2008. And participated in the |
| 18 | 2010 SMA and I attempted to to apartment in the ZMA |
| 19 | and submitted a rezoning request on a form that was |
| 20 | provided, but I don't think we ever got an |
| 21 | acknowledgment that it was even accepted. |
| 22 | Anyway, I've watched the vibrant development |
| | |

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| 1 | just across the street. The NASA Federal Credit Union, |
|----|--|
| 2 | Lidl, the and it's great. It's really brought |
| 3 | vitality, and I think safety to that part of Greenbelt |
| 4 | Road. And I just felt that the south side was left |
| 5 | behind. And I look to the west and I see garden |
| 6 | apartments. I look to the east and I see the Giant Food |
| 7 | Center. And I I just scratch my head, why this RR |
| 8 | development, RR zoning was imposed on this property, |
| 9 | because it should be part of the vibrant part of the |
| 10 | Greenbelt Road community, and it's not. |
| 11 | So I mean, that's why I scratch my head. |
| 12 | There seems to be such a clear clearly that it should |
| 13 | be something other than RR. And I just don't understand |
| 14 | it, and so I support the applicant's attempt to increase |
| 15 | the zoning and I wish you would consider that. Thank |
| 16 | you. |
| 17 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT |
| 18 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 19 | Q Mr. Gault, if I can draw your attention to |
| 20 | exhibit I believe it's 36 in the record. If Ms. Neal |
| 21 | could bring that up. |
| 22 | MS. NEAL: Can you repeat the exhibit one more |
| | |

| 1 | time? |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. FORMAN: Yes, I believe it's 36. That's |
| 3 | what my notes say, but I want to make sure that's the |
| 4 | one I'm |
| 5 | MADAME EXAMINER: And it may have been 38 |
| 6 | originally. |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: Okay. |
| 8 | MS. NEAL: Okay. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Is that |
| 10 | MR. FORMAN: Yes. That's that is the |
| 11 | exhibit. |
| 12 | BY MR. FORMAN: |
| 13 | Q Mr. Gault, yes, thank you for joining us this |
| 14 | afternoon. I almost said morning. Do you recognize the |
| 15 | exhibit that's before you? |
| 16 | A Yes. |
| 17 | Q Could you please just explain briefly to |
| 18 | what for the record, what this exhibit is? |
| 19 | A Yes, the red the red lines outlines the two |
| 20 | properties that I own. |
| 21 | Q Okay. And in that that talks about the |
| 22 | location of the property, but in this letter, you are |
| | |

| 1 | voicing your support for this application; correct? |
|----|---|
| 2 | A Yes. |
| 3 | Q Okay. Thank you very much, and that you adopt |
| 4 | the the records made the comments made in this |
| 5 | record, in addition to the testimony sorry the |
| 6 | comments in this letter, in addition to the testimony |
| 7 | you gave? |
| 8 | A Yes. |
| 9 | Q Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Gault. No |
| 10 | further questions. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Any questions of Mr. Gault? |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Yeah. Yes. I have just a couple. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar. |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 15 | EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR A PARTY OF |
| 16 | RECORD |
| 17 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 18 | Q And Mr. Gault, the apartments that you |
| 19 | referred to, what type of apartments are they, do you |
| 20 | know? |
| 21 | A The apartments to the west? |
| 22 | Q Yeah. |
| | |

| A | Yeah, they're it's evident that they exist, |
|-----------|--|
| | ream, ency re re b evidence chat they exist, |
| and we co | uld see it on the area. |
| Q | Those are garden style apartments; is that |
| right? | |
| A | Yeah, I think they're I don't know what |
| garden st | yle apartments means, but they seem to be three |
| story. | |
| Q | Okay. And that's the only that's the only |
| apartment | complex; is that right? |
| А | The only apartment complex where? |
| Q | Near near you. Near your properties? |
| А | Within a mile? |
| Q | I don't know. |
| A | Well, tell me. |
| Q | You had testified that there was an apartment |
| to the we | st of you. Are there any other apartments |
| A | Yeah, there is. |
| Q | near your property? |
| A | There is. Excuse me. |
| Q | Are there any other apartments that are near |
| your prop | erty? |
| A | I'm sure there are. |
| | |
| | Q right? A garden st story. Q apartment A Q A Q A Q to the we A Q to the we A Q your prop |

| | | Conducted on March 1, 2023 | 167 |
|----|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Q | Where? | |
| | | | |
| 2 | A | In Prince George's County? I mean, within a | |
| 3 | five-mile | radius? | |
| 4 | Q | I'm not talking about Prince George's County | , |
| 5 | sir. | | |
| 6 | A | Well, then please define what area you're | |
| 7 | talking al | bout. | |
| 8 | Q | Well, what what area were you referring? | |
| 9 | А | Look to the north of Greenbelt Road. | |
| 10 | Q | I'm sorry? | |
| 11 | А | If you look at the multifamily houses there. | |
| 12 | Q | I'm not sure what you're talking about. | |
| 13 | А | So you I think we need to define what we' | re |
| 14 | talking al | bout. | |
| 15 | Q | Okay. | |
| 16 | A | But certainly within a mile. I would think | |
| 17 | that between Wingate and Greenbelt Road there are | | |
| 18 | multifami | ly residential units. | |
| 19 | Q | What what type of multifamily residential | |
| 20 | units? Aj | partments? | |
| 21 | A | First we have the first we have to define | |
| 22 | what a mu | ltifamily residential unit would be. Is it a | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Transcript of Hearing

garden apartment? Or is it a stack townhouse? 1 2 0 Yeah. Are you familiar with the zoning that's 3 around your property? 4 А Sure. 5 Ο Okay. Are -- what -- what --6 Α -- be the shopping center or the Giant to the 7 east or the apartments to the west or the townhouses to the south or even further to the west, there's 8 9 townhouses. 10 Q Are there any --11 Α And then there's a high school. 12 Are there any lots that are zoned -- any Q 13 parcels that are zoned RMF48? 14 You know what, I'm not familiar with the А zoning across Greenbelt Road, but we could look at the 15 16 zoning map from PG Atlas that you had up earlier this 17 morning. 18 0 Are you in -- are you familiar with the zoning 19 that's being requested by the applicant? 20 А Yeah, you just told me, it's R40 -- a 21 multifamily 48. 22 Q Were you aware of that before coming and

testifying today? 1 2 Yes. And I'm also aware that there's wetlands Α and there will never be 596 units. 3 Okay. The -- the -- the picture that you 4 0 5 testified to, the -- the one -- I think it was Exhibit 6 48, Madame Examiner -- I'm sorry, 43. The -- his 7 statement and the picture --MADAME EXAMINER: I only have up to 42. 8 Oh, 9 okay. His statement is 36/38. MR. SUHAR: Okay. All right. My apologies. 10 11 BY MR. SUHAR: 12 Q But the letter and with the picture that you 13 were just testifying to, Mr. Gault, where -- where in 14 that picture does it show high density development? Yeah, I think the aerial only shows --15 А 16 Mr. Suhar, only shows the property. 17 Q Oh. Which property? Your property? 18 Α Which property are you referring to? 19 Oh, you just said the property --0 20 Α I'm referring to -- I'm referring to 10203 21 Greenbelt Road and 10205 Greenbelt Road. 22 Q Okay. So --

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| 1 | A What are you referring to? |
|----|---|
| 2 | Q You don't you don't have any any |
| 3 | evidence then to support your assertions that you were |
| 4 | making about, you know, that the that the that |
| 5 | there should be a to support a change in zoning; is |
| 6 | that right? |
| 7 | A Mr. Suhar, I live across the street |
| 8 | Q I'm looking. |
| 9 | A And you see the NASA Federal Credit Union, |
| 10 | okay. |
| 11 | Q Okay. |
| 12 | A And you see multifamily that have been |
| 13 | built as have been built in the last couple years. |
| 14 | It's a very vibrant area. |
| 15 | Q I don't know the |
| 16 | A Okay. |
| 17 | Q I'm not familiar with the multifamily. Direct |
| 18 | me to a particular property, particular address. |
| 19 | A I think when you look what is the zoning |
| 20 | district for stacked townhouses, I think is an MF zone, |
| 21 | but I could be wrong. |
| 22 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner, I think it may |
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| 1 | be better if I recall Mr. Ferguson who is an expert in |
|----|---|
| 2 | land planning to talk about and answer the questions |
| 3 | that Mr. Suhar |
| 4 | MR. BROWN: No. Mr. Forman, right now, |
| 5 | there's a witness giving testimony to Mr. Suhar. You |
| 6 | cannot interrupt him while he's examining this witness. |
| 7 | Let him finish. |
| 8 | MR. FORMAN: I wasn't saying I'm saying is |
| 9 | Mr. Ferguson would be a better witness to answer these |
| 10 | questions. |
| 11 | MR. BROWN: Wait, Mr. Forman, until Mr. Suhar |
| 12 | is finished with this examination. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: I appreciate it Mr. Forman, |
| 14 | but we should wait for Mr. Suhar. And Mr. Suhar, if I |
| 15 | may ask one question of Mr. Gault. |
| 16 | MR. SUHAR: Sure. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Mr. Gault, do you actually |
| 18 | know the different zoning categories for all the |
| 19 | properties around your property? |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: I don't have a memory that |
| 21 | that's long, but I did see that exhibit this morning |
| 22 | with the different colors. |
| | |

| 1 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
|----|--|
| 2 | THE WITNESS: And I do know that there's been |
| 3 | vibrant development on the north side of Greenbelt Road, |
| 4 | and right in front of this of my properties in |
| 5 | this in the application property. And the shopping |
| 6 | center to the east and the apartments to the west, and |
| 7 | it's you know, I go back to Mr. Ferguson's hole in |
| 8 | the donut argument, and it definitely is, why is this |
| 9 | zoned RR? It shouldn't be. |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. And when Mr. Suhar |
| 11 | mentioned garden style, that is usually what we refer to |
| 12 | as two or three-story apartments. So the apartments in |
| 13 | the area are all two or three story; right? Not |
| 14 | high-rises? |
| 15 | THE WITNESS: Yes. I agree that they're, you |
| 16 | know, three-story walkup apartments, and older those |
| 17 | are older apartments. |
| 18 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar, back to |
| 19 | you. I'm sorry. |
| 20 | MR. SUHAR: No. Thank you. I thought your |
| 21 | questions were very helpful, Madame Examiner. I don't |
| 22 | have any further questions for Mr. Gault. Thank you. |
| | |

| 1 | THE WITNESS: Thank you. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Gault. |
| 3 | Anyone have questions of Mr. Gault? |
| 4 | MR. SUHAR: Oh, I'm sorry. I do have one |
| 5 | question, if I may. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Of Mr. Gault? |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: Of Mr. Gault, yes. |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: Good evening. |
| 9 | BY MR. SUHAR: |
| 10 | Q Okay. My apologies. So the if you if |
| 11 | you could, are you familiar with the so you said that |
| 12 | you're familiar with the properties across the street, |
| 13 | across Greenbelt Road; right? |
| 14 | A Yeah. When I look from my property, I think |
| 15 | it's the NASA Federal Credit Union across the street. |
| 16 | Q Okay. |
| 17 | A And the aerospace building. |
| 18 | Q The the but are you familiar with the |
| 19 | single family detached dwelling communities like Wingate |
| 20 | Homeowners Association? |
| 21 | A You know, that's so far away. That's |
| 22 | beyond that's beyond really. It's, you know, what |
| | |

| 1 | was it, a mile and a half. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Q Well, what do you consider so far away, sir? |
| 3 | A Well, you know, I consider that far. If |
| 4 | you're a mile away, you know, it's beyond where I can |
| 5 | see. I'm just looking around me. I'm looking around me |
| 6 | and seeing what surrounds me; okay. How far should we |
| 7 | look? |
| 8 | Q Okay. I don't know if you're familiar with |
| 9 | Mr. Ferguson's definition of neighborhood, but he wants |
| 10 | to extend that definition of neighborhood beyond |
| 11 | beyond what you're looking at, so but the |
| 12 | properties |
| 13 | A I'm just looking |
| 14 | Q are located around yours? |
| 15 | A at what surrounds us, and I like it. I |
| 16 | think they have done a great job bringing vibrancy back |
| 17 | to Greenbelt Road. |
| 18 | Q When you say vibrant development, what do you |
| 19 | mean? |
| 20 | A Townhouse, multifamily, retail, banking, you |
| 21 | know, it's that's great. |
| 22 | Q But |
| | |

| 1 | A That brings us into security. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Q any other apartment complex other than the |
| 3 | low-rise garden-style apartments. |
| 4 | A Yeah, I think if you look on the north side of |
| 5 | Greenbelt Road and look a mile in the other direction, |
| 6 | you're going to find garden apartments. |
| 7 | Q Okay. All right. Well, I don't I don't |
| 8 | know what you're referring to other than the one, but |
| 9 | thank for your for answering my questions? |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: I don't have any further |
| 11 | questions, Madame Examiner. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. Mr. Robinson, |
| 13 | are you trying to ask a question of the witness? |
| 14 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes. I'm actually on another |
| 15 | device looking at the PG Atlas. And Mr. Gault's |
| 16 | property is surrounded on the south side of Greenbelt |
| 17 | Road by RR properties, except for a small segment that |
| 18 | is RMF-20 which is much lower density than the proposed |
| 19 | density of the applicant. And then south of that, you |
| 20 | have town homes where I used to live that's zoned RSF-A. |
| 21 | And then across the street, beyond the commercial ones, |
| 22 | you have an RMF-12 and then the apartment complex that I |
| | |

| 1 | used to live in is currently zoned RMF-20. So all of |
|----|--|
| 2 | them are lower density than the applicant's request. |
| 3 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Wait a second. |
| 4 | Mr. Gault, he wanted to add at the end of that, isn't |
| 5 | that true? You're asking questions now, Mr. Robinson. |
| 6 | MR. ROBINSON: Yes. Isn't that true? Yes. |
| 7 | Thank you, Madame Examiner. |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: Let's see if Mr. Gault has |
| 9 | anything to say to that. Do you know Mr. Gault? |
| 10 | THE WITNESS: First of all, I have to tell |
| 11 | you, I have not been compensated. |
| 12 | EXAMINATION BY MR. ROBINSON |
| 13 | BY MR. ROBINSON: |
| 14 | Q You but you don't expect that increasing |
| 15 | the the the zoning density in the neighborhood |
| 16 | would allow you to do the same thing at a later date and |
| 17 | perhaps increase the value of your property should you |
| 18 | choose to sell it and develop it, so you wouldn't expect |
| 19 | to be able to piggyback on that? That wouldn't be a |
| 20 | motivation in this case? |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: I'm going to object to that. |
| 22 | It's all speculation. We're here for our case, not |
| | |

| 1 | Mr. Gault is land owner in this close vicinity to the |
|----|--|
| 2 | property and he's testifying about our property, not |
| 3 | about what his future plans are for his, if there are |
| 4 | any. |
| 5 | MR. SUHAR: supporting |
| 6 | MR. ROBINSON: I understand that. The |
| 7 | question is, is is a question of of motivation for |
| 8 | making an argument. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 10 | MR. ROBINSON: In other words, he's not a |
| 11 | disinterested person. He's not a disinterested person. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: I want to if I may, |
| 13 | gentleman. I'm going to sustain that objection. |
| 14 | Keeping in mind that zoning, it's not based on a PLEVA |
| 15 | [ph] site. It doesn't really matter that 40 people are |
| 16 | for it or 40 people are against it. It's the do they |
| 17 | meet the requirements in the law. |
| 18 | So his motivation |
| 19 | MR. ROBINSON: I understand that. I I I |
| 20 | accept your objection. |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: on your part, and you've |
| 22 | got a right to argue it, but we shouldn't keep going |
| | |

back and forth --1 2 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. Yes. 3 MADAME EXAMINER: -- cross-examining. 4 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. 5 MADAME EXAMINER: All right. Do we have 6 anymore witnesses? 7 MR. FORMAN: I would just like to recall Mr. Ferguson, real quick as to --8 9 MADAME EXAMINER: Are you sure? 10 MR. FORMAN: -- rebut from the testimony. I 11 know. 12 MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gault. 13 Mr. Ferguson. 14 THE WITNESS: Good morning. Good afternoon, 15 Madame Examiner. MADAME EXAMINER: You're still under oath. 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Madame Examiner. 17 18 MADAME EXAMINER: Go ahead. 19 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT BY MR. FORMAN: 20 21 Mr. Ferguson, thank you, just a few quick Q 22 questions. There seems to be some confusion as to how

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| 1 | you are defining the neighborhood for purposes of this |
|----|--|
| 2 | zoning map amendment. Can you please just clarify as to |
| 3 | what you state in the record as to the neighborhood? |
| 4 | A The zoning neighborhood as I have defined it |
| 5 | is bounded on the west by Good Luck Road, bounded on the |
| 6 | sight by Calimar Drive through the Wood Stream |
| 7 | development, bounded on the east by the Penn |
| 8 | Line Railroad and bounded in the north by Greenbelt Road |
| 9 | with the stipulation that I went over on February 8th |
| 10 | that the properties on the north side of an abutting |
| 11 | Greenbelt Road do have a material influence on the |
| 12 | character of the neighborhood particularly in the |
| 13 | Greenbelt Road corridor. |
| 14 | Q Okay. Thank you very much. Additionally, a |
| 15 | lot of the opponents had mentioned and they were |
| 16 | referencing Ms. Lockhart's staff report that if this |
| 17 | zoning map amendment goes forward and we get the RMF48, |
| 18 | you will automatically be allowed to construct up to 596 |
| 19 | dwelling units on this site, is do you believe in |
| 20 | your opinion that that was a feasible number to achieve? |
| 21 | A It's neither feasible nor legal. I did |
| 22 | testify on the 8th that the density yield would be based |
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| 1 | on the net acreage, not the gross acreage. And to get |
|----|---|
| 2 | to the net acreage, you would need to subtract the area |
| 3 | of the 100-year floodplain that does exist on the |
| 4 | southern part of the subject property as well as the |
| 5 | area of the C340 that leaves in my measurement |
| 6 | approximately 9 and a half acres of gross tract of |
| 7 | net tract area, I'm sorry. Which would leave a maximum |
| 8 | theoretical yield of 450 dwelling units, not 596. |
| 9 | That's approximately 30 33% fewer. |
| 10 | Secondarily, as I also testified on February |
| 11 | 8th that all of the applicants' illustrative exhibits |
| 12 | have proposed physical dwelling unit types that are |
| 13 | representative of those existing in the multiple |
| 14 | apartment apartment communities that exist in the |
| 15 | neighborhood as I defined it. Of which they were four. |
| 16 | The Glendale Apartments on the north side of Greenbelt |
| 17 | Road, abutting Greenbelt Road. The Arbor Terrace |
| 18 | Apartments on the north side of Greenbelt Road just to |
| 19 | the west of Mr. Gault's property. Those are senior |
| 20 | senior apartments. The Woodland Landing Garden |
| 21 | Apartments on the on Greenbelt Road actually those |
| 22 | are slightly closer to Mr. Gault's property, and the |
| | |

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| 1 | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Forest Lake garden-style apartments which have their |
| 2 | |
| | entrance off of Good Luck Road lightly to the west of |
| 3 | the Woodland Landing Apartments. |
| 4 | So, if you develop structures at the building |
| 5 | type that is shown on the illustrative plans and is the |
| 6 | same as what is constructed in those other developments, |
| 7 | you would get a yield of approximately 250 which is even |
| 8 | substantially less than what the net acreage will |
| 9 | indicate. |
| 10 | Q Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Ferguson. |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: Those are all the questions I |
| 12 | have for in rebuttal, Madame Examiner. |
| 13 | MADAME EXAMINER: I have one question, though. |
| 14 | Mr. Ferguson, if you can answer, I mean, this is just |
| 15 | based on his knowledge of the zoning ordinance. Maybe I |
| 16 | can't ask him. If you all object, I'll withdraw my |
| 17 | question. But I guess my question is, you're not bound |
| 18 | once you get the zoning, you're not bound to develop |
| 19 | apartments that you've just mentioned; correct? |
| 20 | THE WITNESS: Unless |
| 21 | MADAME EXAMINER: You're able to do anything |
| 22 | within the zone? |
| | |

| 1 | THE WITNESS: Unless a condition were placed |
|----|---|
| 2 | on the zone by the District Counsel that's you're |
| 3 | correct, Madame Examiner. You're muted, ma'am. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: I was just saying there's |
| 5 | silence now, so are there no more witnesses? Questions? |
| 6 | MR. ROBINSON: Could I ask a question of the |
| 7 | consultant? |
| 8 | MADAME EXAMINER: It's going to be a question |
| 9 | this time, right, Mr. Robinson? |
| 10 | MR. ROBINSON: Correct, yes. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. All right. Go ahead. |
| 12 | EXAMINATION BY MR. ROBINSON |
| 13 | BY MR. ROBINSON: |
| 14 | Q You mentioned the apartment buildings to the |
| 15 | west of Mr. Gault's property, what you know what |
| 16 | what that is zoned as? |
| 17 | A Some are zoned CGO and some are zoned RMF20. |
| 18 | Q Yes. And RMF20 is is I take it is less |
| 19 | dense than RMF40 whatever it is you're applying for? |
| 20 | A Forty-eight, yes, sir, it is. |
| 21 | Q And across the street, besides where you've |
| 22 | got the credit union and other things, do you know what |
| | |

| 1 | the what the zoning of those properties are? |
|----|--|
| 2 | A So the Glendale Apartments which are at the |
| 3 | corner of Good Luck Road and Greenbelt Road are in the |
| 4 | RMF20 zone as well. They interestingly, two of the |
| 5 | two town you would call them townhouses, colloquially |
| 6 | that are in the Glendale Commons development are |
| 7 | actually multifamily units under the ordinance of which |
| 8 | they have developed, the new zoning ordinance changes |
| 9 | them, but as they were developed, they were multifamily |
| 10 | units as well, the were in the MXT zone, they're not |
| 11 | in the RMF12 zone although their development density is |
| 12 | greater than the 12 it's a max zone. So there's |
| 13 | there is a variety of zones. |
| 14 | Q So that means that if this area was |
| 15 | redeveloped, it would actually have to be redeveloped at |
| 16 | a lower density, the RMF12? Would that be the case? |
| 17 | A There would be no reason for anybody ever to |
| 18 | do that, but were that to happen, yes, sir. |
| 19 | Q Okay. And then if we go a little bit to the |
| 20 | east, we've got two areas one zoned agricultural and the |
| 21 | other zoned rural open space, and what is the property |
| 22 | north of the rural open space zoned as? |
| | |

| 1 | A I believe that is the so are you referring |
|----|---|
| 2 | to the property refresh my memory, because I don't |
| 3 | have the zoning map in front of me on the west side of |
| 4 | Northern Avenue or on the east side from Northern |
| 5 | Avenue. |
| 6 | Q No. In other words, if it's directly across |
| 7 | from the shopping center. There's a pond, storm water |
| 8 | pond intersection of Greenbelt Road, and that is |
| 9 | zoned ROS open space. |
| 10 | A Yes. |
| 11 | Q And just that |
| 12 | A Yes |
| 13 | Q there's a large area that is zoned what? |
| 14 | A Well, you so directly across from the |
| 15 | shopping center is I believe Park and Planning land in |
| 16 | front of the office building which was put into the |
| 17 | multifamily RMF12 zone by the countywide map amendment. |
| 18 | Q No. That's agricultural. |
| 19 | A That's |
| 20 | Q That's that's zoned agricultural. This is |
| 21 | this is to the east of that. It's it's |
| 22 | immediately |

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| 1 | A Beyond the crossing road. Right? Beyond the |
|----|--|
| 2 | shopping center? |
| 3 | Q Yes. It |
| 4 | A Okay. |
| 5 | Q Yes. |
| 6 | A Okay. So to the north of that, that's the |
| 7 | community that I mentioned I would actually my |
| 8 | firm and to a degree, we had developed it in the mid |
| 9 | 1980s and that is zoned RR. |
| 10 | Q Yes. And then that how is that zoned? |
| 11 | A I just testified that was zoned RR, I'm sorry, |
| 12 | it may not have come over the |
| 13 | Q Yes. Yes. We're all residential. So so |
| 14 | so given that zoning is frequently is a mosaic in |
| 15 | my own community, I'm our is zoned R80 and RR we have |
| 16 | a variety of different zones, it's kind of a mosaic of |
| 17 | that's a function of how the community was developed, so |
| 18 | it looks to me like this is a similar mosaic, but over a |
| 19 | wider area, and so it seems that, you know, that we've |
| 20 | got RR zone within relatively close proximity. You |
| 21 | could walk it in about 15 minutes or less. From our RR |
| 22 | zone |

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| 1 | MR. FORMAN: I think there needs to be a |
|----|--|
| 2 | question. |
| 3 | MR. ROBINSON: Well, I mean, this is in |
| 4 | other words I'm basically asking why he didn't take this |
| 5 | into account in his analysis, because he made no mention |
| 6 | of it in his presentation. |
| 7 | THE WITNESS: Well, Mr. Robinson, that's |
| 8 | because I did take it into account in that I analyzed |
| 9 | the neighborhood, the barriers and found that the areas |
| 10 | you're referring to are outside of the neighborhood and |
| 11 | therefore, just as I found that Wingate was outside of |
| 12 | the neighborhood because of the substantive barriers in |
| 13 | between the subject property and these zones. So I I |
| 14 | did consider that as a whole and found that some areas |
| 15 | like your neighborhood, for instance, is similarly |
| 16 | outside of the neighborhood and so I didn't |
| 17 | BY MR. ROBINSON: |
| 18 | Q Yes. |
| 19 | A the |
| 20 | Q And so yes. No. Under the current yes. |
| 21 | I understand that, so I would not have the ability to |
| 22 | appeal this to the Court if the decision went against |
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| 1 | me. So I understand that legal requirement. Very |
|----|--|
| 2 | clearly. |
| 3 | A Well, I'm speaking to the planning case, sir. |
| 4 | Q Yes. |
| 5 | A I mean, there's there's sufficient distance |
| 6 | and intervening features that make the character and the |
| 7 | interaction of those places distinct from those that are |
| 8 | more proximate and more connected. |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: Mr. Ferguson, you referred to |
| 10 | properties that are across across Greenbelt Road like |
| 11 | Arbor Terrace. |
| 12 | THE WITNESS: I did not refer to Arbor |
| 13 | Terrace. Arbor Terrace is on the south side of |
| 14 | Greenbelt Road, not on the north side. |
| 15 | MR. SUHAR: okay. So but that's not a |
| 16 | that's not apartments. That's that's senior |
| 17 | housing. |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: I those are apartments, sir. |
| 19 | The seniors live in little apartments in that in that |
| 20 | building. |
| 21 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. But they're but it's not |
| 22 | so |
| | |

| 1 | THE WITNESS: over 55 is in my case doesn't |
|----|--|
| 2 | mean that I can't live in an apartment. |
| 3 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. But it's not zoned RMF48. |
| 4 | THE WITNESS: It's zoned CGO which actually |
| 5 | allows for a higher density. Or comparable CGO |
| 6 | allows a more comparable density. |
| 7 | MR. SUHAR: Okay. Right. Sure. |
| 8 | THE WITNESS: Not sure. That's just a fact. |
| 9 | That's in the zone |
| 10 | MR. SUHAR: I'll save that for closing |
| 11 | argument. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: Any other questions of |
| 13 | Mr. Ferguson? Sorry. You're muted Madame Examiner. |
| 14 | MADAME EXAMINER: I'm so sorry. I was saying |
| 15 | thank you, Mr. Ferguson. |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: Thank you, ma'am. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: It looks like we're finished |
| 18 | with Mr. Ferguson. And we're finished with witnesses |
| 19 | and if you all want to do a brief closing in addition to |
| 20 | those exhibits that came in, but before we get there, or |
| 21 | I can say it afterwards. We left this record open for |
| 22 | at least three things, I believe. It's going to be |
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| 1 | David Maran's testimony, if he wants to submit any. |
|----|---|
| 2 | It's going to be additional persons of record that want |
| 3 | to write in and ask to be persons of record. And it's |
| 4 | going to be some type of zoning map with the zones |
| 5 | attached for that broader area that Mr. Forman tried to |
| 6 | submit earlier, but we found that one to be deficient. |
| 7 | But it could be that you |
| 8 | MR. FORMAN: Madame Examiner |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: don't want to submit |
| 10 | anything if you look at all the other |
| 11 | MR. FORMAN: And that's actually what I'm |
| 12 | going to get to. There is an Exhibit 21 which is the |
| 13 | PowerPoint presentation for staff that they gave at |
| 14 | their planning board hearing. There is a current and |
| 15 | prior zoning ordinance zoning map which we can just I |
| 16 | think keep that in the record and use that. So I |
| 17 | just I would not be submitting any additional zoning |
| 18 | map. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: So you're saying you do want |
| 20 | to submit another or you would |
| 21 | MR. FORMAN: No. I will not be. I'm sorry. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| | |
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| 1 | MR. FORMAN: I will not be. |
|----|--|
| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. So that leaves |
| 3 | Exhibit 35 open. We are going to save it for Mr. Maran |
| 4 | if he has something and if he doesn't, then I I might |
| 5 | just have to renumber all of these and send you all a |
| 6 | new list. |
| 7 | So do you all want to say anything in closing |
| 8 | or I have your written, but you could go ahead if |
| 9 | you'd like. |
| 10 | MR. FORMAN: I'll I'll just keep it very |
| 11 | brief. Notice was provided pursuant to the requirements |
| 12 | of the zoning ordinance. The property was posted twice, |
| 13 | and that for one is for preapplication neighborhood |
| 14 | meeting, second time for the this February 8th |
| 15 | hearing. So I think that there was proper notice given |
| 16 | in this case. |
| 17 | Second, we the you know, we're talking |
| 18 | about a rezoning map amendment, the issue is about |
| 19 | whether there was a change or mistake in the |
| 20 | comprehensive plan comprehensive zoning plan that |
| 21 | would warrant the rezoning of this property because of |
| 22 | facts or evidence they were in existence at the time and |
| | |

| 1 | that were not considered or that there was subsequent |
|----|--|
| 2 | facts or trends or that were not considered since the |
| 3 | time of that rezoning. |
| 4 | We have produced sufficient evidence in the |
| 5 | record to show that there was no consideration of facts |
| 6 | given by the District Counsel at the time of the |
| 7 | sectional map amendment to pertain to this as RR zone |
| 8 | and therefore, it was a mistake when all the evidence |
| 9 | shows that they should have considered and rezoned this |
| 10 | as RMF48. |
| 11 | If there had been evidence or facts in the |
| 12 | record, we could deduce and that would be bad judgment |
| 13 | or mistake, and not grounds for a rezoning. But when |
| 14 | there's incomplete or inaccurate facts that are relied |
| 15 | upon, that is or an no evidence of the facts that |
| 16 | is grounds for a rezoning. |
| 17 | And you've also, finally heard the testimony |
| 18 | from Mr. Ferguson regarding the development standards of |
| 19 | this property and so while the staff report mentions |
| 20 | this maximum of 596 units, there are a lot of practical |
| 21 | considerations on this site that will prevent the |
| 22 | property from ever being able to develop that way. |

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| 1 | That so I did try to keep it very short and |
|--|--|
| 2 | just summarize the main points, but I do refer to my |
| 3 | letter that was submitted as I believe I apologize |
| 4 | I got confused with the records too. I think it's |
| 5 | 38. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thirty-nine. |
| 7 | MR. FORMAN: Thirty-nine, one off. Yes, but |
| 8 | thank you very much, and I do, you know, request that we |
| 9 | approve this zoning map amendment to rezone the property |
| 10 | from the RR zone to the RMF48. Thank you for your time. |
| 11 | MADAME EXAMINER: Thank you. Mr. Suhar. |
| 1.0 | |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you very much, Madame |
| 12 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you very much, Madame Examiner. I want to I in in this is the |
| | |
| 13 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the |
| 13 14 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from |
| 13 14 15 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from |
| 13 14 15 16 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from Mr. Forman, outside of the written record. The |
| 13 14 15 16 17 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from Mr. Forman, outside of the written record. The association finds I'm speaking on behalf of the |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from Mr. Forman, outside of the written record. The association finds I'm speaking on behalf of the association finds the arguments that are made by the |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from Mr. Forman, outside of the written record. The association finds I'm speaking on behalf of the association finds the arguments that are made by the applicant and their statement of justification and the |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | Examiner. I want to I in in this is the first opportunity that we've had to, you know, hear from witnesses and and and quite frankly, even from Mr. Forman, outside of the written record. The association finds I'm speaking on behalf of the association finds the arguments that are made by the applicant and their statement of justification and the written and verbal testimony that's been submitted |

| 1 | but they've made assertions without providing evidence |
|----|---|
| 2 | to support their assertions. And and so they can |
| 3 | keep repeating these things, but that doesn't that |
| 4 | doesn't confirm that it's true. And and and this |
| 5 | is not just the association making this argument. |
| 6 | You've heard from various parties of record as well as |
| 7 | staff, the Prince George's County Planning Department |
| 8 | MMCBBC, they've recommended disapproval of the |
| 9 | applicant's request, twice. They did it before and |
| 10 | after receiving Mr. Ferguson's verbal and written |
| 11 | statements. But the the first time that the planning |
| 12 | staff recommended disapproval as far as I could see was |
| 13 | on November 10, 2022. And in my opinion, the planner, |
| 14 | Dominique Lockhart and her colleagues, they did a very |
| 15 | good job with analyzing this case. And and so while |
| 16 | I don't always agree with planning staff's |
| 17 | recommendations, I I I'm I'm trying to find |
| 18 | where the evidence is to support the applicant's |
| 19 | assertions that they've made along with Mr. Ferguson |
| 20 | these blanket assertions that there was some kind of |
| | |
| 21 | mistake made on by the by the District Counsel. |

| 1 | that the subject property is surrounded by properties |
|----|---|
| 2 | are all zoned RR. Historically, it was noted that the |
| 3 | subject property was zoned RR in 1993. Again, in 2010. |
| 4 | And one again in 2021 or '22 in the CMS. So |
| 5 | Ms. Lockhart also stated that the sector plan and the |
| 6 | SMA recommends residential low land use on the subject |
| 7 | property. The focus is on single-family detached units. |
| 8 | And and this and it's important to note that the |
| 9 | District Counsel didn't make a mistake. It was |
| 10 | intentional. It was intentional based on based on |
| 11 | what is there. There aren't any changes in in or |
| 12 | trends, patterns of of, you know our that would |
| 13 | that would that would require RMF48. There's |
| 14 | nothing no zoning in the area is zoned RMF48, but the |
| 15 | the applicant and its expert, Mr. Ferguson, want to |
| 16 | try and expand the definition of neighborhood that |
| 17 | favors their position, somehow. And and only only |
| 18 | is site to properties that are in their estimation the |
| 19 | equivalent to in their opinion, equivalent to what they |
| 20 | want to do here. But there's but there's just |
| 21 | nothing there. There's nothing now. There hasn't been |
| 22 | in the past. The District Counsel didn't make a mistake |

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| 1 | in reliance upon factors or no factors is what they're |
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| 2 | trying to argue. But one of the primary reasons for |
| 3 | the the association's opposition is that the proposed |
| 4 | RMF48 zone is the most intense of the residential base |
| 5 | zones. With a permitted maximum density of 48 dwelling |
| 6 | units per acre. That that in itself, would actually |
| 7 | cause a significant that would cause a change in the |
| 8 | neighborhood in the the neighborhood. And the |
| 9 | character of the neighborhood. But all we're asking for |
| 10 | is that the that the the character of the |
| 11 | neighborhood maintain, you know, be maintained what has |
| 12 | been historically and what is there now. |
| 13 | The applicant claims that the District Counsel |
| 14 | erroneously retained the subject property in the RR zone |
| 15 | because the counsel allegedly failed to consider |
| 16 | existing facts and trends. But I'm just not we're |
| 17 | just not finding that. There's there was no evidence |
| 18 | of what happened that was that what happened back in |
| 19 | 2010 that led the District Counsel to no no no |
| 20 | evidence submitted whatsoever of what they considered or |
| 21 | didn't consider. There there they the expert, |
| 22 | Mr. Ferguson says that that's his presumption as to what |
| | |

| 1 | they were thinking at the time. But as I noted in my |
|----|--|
| 2 | in my letter, I cited a two Court of Appeals |
| 3 | decisions which is now the Maryland Supreme Court, but |
| 4 | they held that individual petitions for in the the |
| 5 | White versus Spring case that individual's petitions for |
| 6 | rezoning must be supported by substantial evidence |
| 7 | showing either that there was a change in the |
| 8 | neighborhood. Or that or that there was a that |
| 9 | that that the legislative entity, the District |
| 10 | Counsel relied upon mistaken or erroneous evidence. |
| 11 | There's nothing in the record that shows a |
| 12 | substantial evidence of either a change or erroneous |
| 13 | evidence that was relied upon or even not relied upon. |
| 14 | The so the record reflects that the subject property |
| 15 | is surrounded by properties as I said, by that are |
| 16 | zoned RR. But the applicant argues that the definition |
| 17 | of neighborhood should be extended to include properties |
| 18 | westward and include all of Greenbelt Road and Good Luck |
| 19 | Road. At least that's what they submitted in writing. |
| 20 | I think that Mr. Ferguson is trying to backtrack a |
| 21 | little bit on his expansion of the word neighborhood, in |
| 22 | order to try and and satisfy or or counter this |

| 1 | argument, but except for one low-rise apartment complex, |
|----|--|
| 2 | the applicant describes the development along Greenbelt |
| 3 | Road as single family residential. At least they did in |
| 4 | their writing, including townhouses which are zoned |
| 5 | there's a they're they're zoned RMF20, and a |
| 6 | nursing home as well as majority single-family detached |
| 7 | home developments in the area, including Wingate |
| 8 | Homeowners Association which is which is in the |
| 9 | vicinity, in the area. It's people from the |
| 10 | community walk and bike over toward where the the |
| 11 | the subject property is located. So it's in the |
| 12 | neighborhood. People from the community as you've heard |
| 13 | testimony, they they go to these they go to the |
| 14 | area there. It's in their area, when they when they |
| 15 | drive, when they walk, bike. They're they're they |
| 16 | are this is part of the area. It's part of the |
| 17 | neighborhood. But there's also some low rise commercial |
| 18 | office buildings and low rise retail. You know, my |
| 19 | client isn't isn't afraid of of of stating |
| 20 | these things, because this is all low density |
| 21 | development. What you know, for the for the most |
| 22 | part, developments along Greenbelt Road and Good Luck |
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| 1 | Road include low density single family residential |
|----|--|
| 2 | developments. And but the applicant, even today, |
| 3 | hasn't pointed to any multifamily developments along |
| 4 | Greenbelt Road except for one, low rise garden style |
| 5 | apartment complex which was there for many years before |
| 6 | the 2010 SMA was approved. |
| 7 | In my opinion, and based on the case law that |
| 8 | I cited in my in my letter that's been admitted into |
| 9 | the record, this falls fall I'm sorry this |
| 10 | falls far short of the requirements to show that there |
| 11 | was a substantial change in the character of the |
| 12 | neighborhood. Or that there were some kind of mistake. |
| 13 | Or erroneous reliance upon a reliance upon erroneous |
| 14 | facts or what have you. |
| 15 | The Wingate Homeowners Association is |
| 16 | comprised of RR zoning. And 256 large one-acre lots |
| 17 | which is low density development. But the applicant has |
| 18 | tried to exclude Wingate Homeowners Association because |
| 19 | they are afraid of the fact that there are single family |
| 20 | developments surrounding the subject property, |
| 21 | immediately surrounding the subject property and even |
| 22 | when they tried to expand the definition of |
| | |

| 1 | neighborhood, they're still trying to hide from the fact |
|----|--|
| 2 | that that that there are single family |
| | |
| 3 | developments, many single family developments like |
| 4 | Wingate Homeowners Association which is supported by the |
| 5 | comprehensive map amendment and the and the and the |
| 6 | SMA as well. |
| 7 | So in citing case law, the applicant is |
| 8 | arguing that a conclusion based on factual predicate |
| 9 | that is incomplete or inaccurate may be deemed a mistake |
| 10 | or error, but they haven't they haven't shown the |
| 11 | record. There's nothing there. They're just making |
| 12 | blanket assertions. So but planning staff found that |
| 13 | there was no mistake. And the planning staff found that |
| 14 | the current that the current RR zoning classification |
| 15 | is appropriate for the subject property and the |
| 16 | properties that are around the subject property. |
| 17 | Please note that the sector plan recommends |
| 18 | low residential planning density low residential |
| 19 | residential low density land use for the subject |
| 20 | property. And the future land use recommendations |
| 21 | include maintaining the current densities for |
| 22 | residential neighborhoods. So this idea that that |

| 1 | that there's been a mistake or there's a change and |
|----|--|
| 2 | and pattern, is just unsupported. |
| 3 | The purpose of the RR zone is to encourage |
| 4 | variations of single family detached residential lots |
| 5 | and the preservation of trees and open spaces, and as |
| 6 | Dr. Thomas had had stated and mentioned, historic |
| 7 | preservation of the property. This all aligns with a |
| 8 | low residential low land use category goals. Several |
| 9 | other members of the planning staff submitted |
| 10 | memorandums which have been attached concerning the |
| 11 | applicant's request concerning transportation, |
| 12 | environmental and subdivision development, long range |
| 13 | planning, historic preservation and the entire planning |
| 14 | staff said that the RR zoning was appropriate for the |
| 15 | subject property, notwithstanding this late argument |
| 16 | that's being made today about somehow that the the |
| 17 | C40 will will limit or prevent development of single |
| 18 | family lots on on the on the subject property. In |
| 19 | fact, the drawing that was submitted that was in the |
| 20 | binder is actually different than what the applicant has |
| 21 | submitted today. And so that that goes to show me |
| 22 | that they're they're they're that the applicant |

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| 1 | is constantly changing and trying to manipulate the |
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| 2 | situation so that they can get what they want which is |
| 3 | something that that the that the CMA and the SMA |
| 4 | never contemplated, because it was intentional to keep |
| 5 | this area in the RR zoning. And that the RMF48 would |
| 6 | would would blow out of the water the idea of single |
| 7 | family low resident low density development, |
| 8 | including the including doubling more than double |
| 9 | what is allowed in the RMF20. As as Ms. Rochee |
| 10 | stated that, you know, she's she's concerned, she's |
| 11 | afraid of this. And I don't blame her. Ms. Lockhart |
| 12 | stated that the I'm sorry. |
| 13 | So so I'm I'm I'm getting to the end |
| 14 | here. So on February 23rd, Dominique Lockhart, Planner |
| 15 | 3 with the Prince George's County Planning Department |
| 16 | submitted another memorandum in response to the |
| 17 | additional additional information that was submitted |
| 18 | by Mr. Ferguson for the applicant. But however, |
| 19 | Ms. Lockhart once again recommended disapproval of the |
| 20 | zoning map amendment. And disapproval of the |
| 21 | applicant's request due to the fact that Mr. Ferguson |
| 22 | offered no evidence whatsoever, no new evidence, no |
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| 1 | evidence any evidence that would have any bearing |
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| 2 | upon the original recommendation for disapproval. And |
| 3 | it's important to note that Ms. Lockhart submitted her |
| 4 | memorandum via Jeremy Hurlbutt [ph] the supervisor of |
| 5 | the zoning review section development review and |
| 6 | and so this has been there's been lots of sets of |
| 7 | eyes at MMCPPC that have been placed on this on this |
| 8 | matter. And the the the owner of the property or |
| 9 | the contract purchaser for this property, they can |
| 10 | develop it. We're not developing. My client is not |
| 11 | against development at all. But what they want is smart |
| 12 | development and proper development and development that |
| 13 | complies with the law. |
| 14 | I encourage it I stated this in my in my |
| 15 | letter. I encourage Madame Examiner respectfully to |
| 16 | consider the the statement that was the statements |
| 17 | that were made in Ms. Lockhart's February 22nd |
| 18 | memorandum, specifically, when she says that the only |
| 19 | evidence of change provided by the applicant since |
| 20 | adoption of the sectional map amendment is a single |
| 21 | change of use approved by the District Counsel for a |
| 22 | specific property. That property consisting of 1.3709 |
| | |

| 1 | acres is less than 1% of the entire neighborhood defined |
|----|--|
| 2 | by the land planner as even under his definition as |
| 3 | the appropriate context to which to evaluate the |
| 4 | application. Mr. Ferguson didn't disagree with that |
| 5 | statement. |
| 6 | In addition, at its its location at |
| 7 | the at the far northeast corner of the subject |
| 8 | property would not impede the future development of the |
| 9 | property under the approved zoning. So she's saying |
| 10 | that development is possible. Mr. Ferguson disagrees |
| 11 | without providing us evidence of that, because they're |
| 12 | trying to get a certain yield on the property and they |
| 13 | want that's why they want to put more units on the |
| 14 | property than really what should happen there. |
| 15 | She says that the District Counsel did not |
| 16 | rezone the 1.3708 09 acre parcel, but they merely |
| 17 | allowed one commercial use to be operated on the site. |
| 18 | And and mind you, the commercial use is low rise |
| 19 | development. But the but the zoning was maintained |
| 20 | as RR zoning. But based on her findings this map |
| 21 | doesn't find the that that this is that this |
| 22 | would be they don't they don't find that the |
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| 1 | that the that the proposed development of the site |
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| 2 | that there's any sufficient evidence of a substantial |
| 3 | change in the character of the neighborhood that would |
| 4 | satisfy the requirements of Section 27-360 3601E1. |
| 5 | But even with the strong even if the applicant had |
| 6 | produced strong evidence or substantial evidence of a |
| 7 | change or a mistake, in Mayor and Council of Rockville |
| 8 | versus Rylyns Enterprises, the Court of Appeals or now |
| 9 | the Maryland Supreme Court said that even in a case |
| 10 | if if the if the applicant proves that that |
| 11 | there was a substantial change which they haven't, the |
| 12 | Court of Appeals had said at the time that it's it's |
| 13 | not required the zoning change wouldn't be you're |
| 14 | not required, Madame Examiner, to grant a zoning change, |
| 15 | except where there's a failure to do so would be |
| 16 | deprived would deprive the owner of all economically |
| 17 | viable use of the property. They haven't demonstrated |
| 18 | that at all. They can still develop the property. But |
| 19 | the applicant is still there it's been stated that |
| 20 | by the planning staff that they can still develop in the |
| 21 | RR zone. |
| 22 | So so even if the applicant were to provide |
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| 1 | substantial evidence of a change or or a mistake on |
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| 2 | the part of District Counsel, you're not required to |
| 3 | change the zoning. That's that's that's your |
| 4 | decision. It may be changed, I guess, but it's not |
| 5 | required. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Mr. Suhar, are you |
| 7 | almost finished? And I do want to add just to make |
| 8 | this |
| 9 | MR. SUHAR: yes. I that was |
| 10 | MADAME EXAMINER: record clear. |
| 11 | MR. SUHAR: Yes. Thank you. |
| 12 | MADAME EXAMINER: Wait a minute. It's not |
| 13 | only I'm not required, I'm not allowed. I'm only making |
| 14 | a recommendation in this case. The counsel will make |
| 15 | the decision. |
| 16 | MR. SUHAR: Understood. I I I guess |
| 17 | that should've been directed toward the District Counsel |
| 18 | then. So I I I just think it needs to be noted |
| 19 | and this is my final point. And thank you. That |
| 20 | that the that the zoning change is not required may |
| 21 | be done but, it's not required. But I don't even |
| 22 | think I don't even see how it can be done because |
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| 1 | they haven't proven the change a substantial change |
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| 2 | or mistake. Thank you so much for allowing us to be |
| 3 | heard. And I don't know if you want to allow other |
| 4 | parties of record to make additional statements, but |
| 5 | that's the statement from the association. |
| 6 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. We're just doing a |
| 7 | closing argument which is normally legal. So it's a |
| 8 | little it's not necessary for everyone to say I heard |
| 9 | all of the testimony, I'm going to read all of the |
| 10 | exhibits, and I'm going to reach a decision, and but |
| 11 | Mr. Forman, were you lighting up for some reason? |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: Oh, I was I was just going to |
| 13 | say, I would object to having everyone provide their |
| 14 | closing everyone online already had a chance to |
| 15 | testify, and yes, the closing was about the the |
| 16 | summarizing of the legal arguments. |
| 17 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. |
| 18 | MR. FORMAN: Thank you. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: So I thank all of you for |
| 20 | being here today. Mr. Brown, did you have anything to |
| 21 | say? |
| 22 | MR. BROWN: No way in the world am I going to |
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| 1 | add anything at all. Thank you. |
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| 2 | MADAME EXAMINER: Okay. Then I thank you all |
| 3 | for being here. And we have until close of business on |
| 4 | Friday. I'm going to send Mr. Maran an e-mail as well, |
| 5 | but if he wants to submit his testimony, he has until |
| 6 | then. If additional persons of record would just want |
| 7 | to indicate that they'd like to be a person of record, |
| 8 | meaning they'll get a copy of this decision and would be |
| 9 | able to appeal it to the District Counsel, they may do |
| 10 | it by the close of business on Friday and we don't need |
| 11 | anything further from Mr. Maran because he submitted |
| 12 | basing on all the information already in the record. Is |
| 13 | that correct? We got everything? |
| 14 | MR. ROBINSON: Could I have a question? |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: Who is that? |
| 16 | MR. ROBINSON: Jon Robinson. Can additional |
| 17 | information such as analysis of the maps be presented or |
| 18 | is that closed at this point? I can't hear you. |
| 19 | MADAME EXAMINER: That should be closed at |
| 20 | this point because we |
| 21 | MR. ROBINSON: Okay. |
| 22 | MADAME EXAMINER: That would be something that |
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| 1 | might raise the need to cross-examine, so generally, |
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| 2 | yes. That should be closed at this point. Is there |
| 3 | something in particular about the maps you're |
| 4 | discussing? |
| 5 | MR. ROBINSON: No. I was just thinking of |
| 6 | doing a kind of a GIS analysis of the neighborhood to |
| 7 | strengthen the argument that Mr. Suhar made about the |
| 8 | what was included and excluded in terms of the |
| 9 | applicant's analysis of the neighborhood and his |
| 10 | argument that that that supported his application for |
| 11 | the zoning map amendment. That's all. |
| 12 | MR. FORMAN: I mean, I would I would object |
| 13 | to that, Madame Examiner. We have throughout the |
| 14 | hearing talked about how there's only the testimony |
| 15 | is concluded except for the specific items that Madame |
| 16 | Examiner is keeping it open for, and so I think that |
| 17 | everyone has had a chance to say what they want and now |
| 18 | it's just to go and actually close the record and get |
| 19 | the decision going. Thank you. |
| 20 | MADAME EXAMINER: I think I would agree, |
| 21 | |
| | because the applicant has had the burden, Mr. Robinson. |
| 22 | And the applicant has had the burden, Mr. Robinson. |

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| 1 | Surhan [ph], it's not Surhan. It's been a long day. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Forgive me for saying Suhar. Mr. Suhar adequately |
| 3 | MR. ROBINSON: Suhar, yes. |
| 4 | MADAME EXAMINER: mentioned the the law, |
| | |
| 5 | and I'm sure Mr. Forman has as well in his document, and |
| 6 | I don't think that we would need that. |
| 7 | MR. ROBINSON: Okay. It saves me doing a |
| 8 | bunch of more pro bono work, so that's fine. |
| 9 | MADAME EXAMINER: But thank you, for that. So |
| 10 | then it looks like everyone is fine now. And I |
| 11 | appreciate all of you, and you will get a decision |
| 12 | shortly. Well, relatively shortly after the close of |
| 13 | the record on Friday. Thank you all for being here. |
| 14 | MR. SUHAR: Thank you. |
| 15 | MADAME EXAMINER: And this hearing is now over |
| 16 | for staff. |
| 17 | (Off the record.) |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | |
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| 1 | CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER |
|----|--|
| 2 | I, Janine Thomas, do hereby certify that the |
| 3 | foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the |
| 4 | recorded proceedings; that said proceedings were |
| 5 | transcribed to the best of my ability from the audio |
| 6 | recording and supporting information; and that I am |
| 7 | neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of |
| 8 | the parties to this case and have no interest, financial |
| 9 | or otherwise, in its outcome. |
| 10 | Janine Thomas |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | Janine Thomas |
| 15 | March 17, 2023 |
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