THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD OF 1 2 THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION 3 4 5 ROYAL FARMS #381 - WALKER MILL ROAD Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20017 6 7 8 TRANSCRIPT 9 ΟF 10 PROCEEDINGS 11 12 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 13 Upper Marlboro, Maryland 14 November 12, 2020 15 VOLUME 1 of 1 16 17 18 BEFORE: 19 ELIZABETH M. HEWLETT, Chair 20 DOROTHY F. BAILEY, Vice-Chair 21 MANUEL R. GERALDO, Commissioner 22 WILLIAM M. DOERNER, Commissioner (Absent) 23 A. SHUANISE WASHINGTON, Commissioner 24 25 Deposition Services, Inc. 12321 Middlebrook Road, Suite 210 Germantown, MD 20874 Tel: (301) 881-3344 Fax: (301) 881-3338 info@DepositionServices.com www.DepositionServices.com

OTHERS PRESENT:

THOMAS BURKE, Staff, Urban Design Section DAVID WARNER, Principal Counsel

MATTHEW TEDESCO, Attorney for Applicant

CONTENTS

SPEAKER

PAGE

Mallory Johnson

DW	3
1	<u>PROCEEDINGS</u>
2	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Does anyone need a break,
3	Board?
4	MADAM VICE CHAIR: We're good.
5	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right. So wait, wait,
6	are you zooming in? Okay. Well I don't see it, no, you're
7	a no. Okay. All right. The next item that we have before
8	us is Item 6, which is a Detailed Site Plan 20017 Royal
9	Farms Number 381 at Walker Mill Road. I'm going to check to
10	make sure we have the participants. Mr. Burke?
11	MR. BURKE: (No audible response.)
12	MADAM CHAIR: He's muted. We see you. Mr. Burke?
13	Okay. We see you, you're going to, it's him?
14	UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Yeah, I don't know.
15	MADAM CHAIR: They're saying you have to, we see
16	you and you're unmuted on our end. Okay. We're going to
17	come back to you while you try to figure that out. Okay.
18	And Mr. Cron (phonetic sp.), maybe he can help you. Mr.
19	Tedesco, are you on?
20	MR. TEDESCO: Good morning Madam Chair, I'm
21	present.
22	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Wonderful. Ms. Dean, Emily
23	Dean?
24	MS. DEAN: Yes, I'm on.
25	MADAM CHAIR: Wonderful. Jeff Bainbridge?

1 MR. BAINBRIDGE: (No audible response.) 2 MADAM CHAIR: We see you, can you unmute him? 3 You're unmuted on our end. Mr. Bainbridge? Okay. 4 MR. BAINBRIDGE: (No audible response.) 5 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. You're unmuted on our end, 6 you might have to do something from your end. We'll come 7 back to you. MR. BAINBRIDGE: I'm here. 8 9 MADAM CHAIR: Oh wonderful. 10 MR. BAINBRIDGE: Can you hear me? 11 MADAM CHAIR: Yes, we can hear you. That's Mr. 12 Bainbridge? 13 MR. BAINBRIDGE: Yes. Yes. MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay. Good. 14 So you're in. 15 Mr. Mortorff? Mortorff. Okay. You can help me out here. 16 From Ratcliff Architects. Mr. Tedesco, how do I pronounce 17 it? 18 MR. TEDESCO: It's Mortorff. I don't know if I 19 see him. 20 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. 21 MR. TEDESCO: We'll try to contact him. But it's 22 probably not critical if he's not here. 23 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. John Neff? 24 MR. NEFF: Here. 25 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Wonderful. Anthony LaRocca?

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DW 5 1 MR. LAROCCA: (No audible response.) MADAM CHAIR: Do we see that name? Anthony 2 3 LaRocca? 4 MR. LAROCCA: Okay. We don't see --5 MS. DEAN: He's no table to be on the call today. MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. 6 7 MR. TEDESCO: He's with Kimley-Horn and Ms. Dean's 8 on, so I think we're good. 9 MS. DEAN: Yes. MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Wait a minute. 10 Okay. Got it. Okay. Mallory Johnson? 11 12 MS. JOHNSON: Here. 13 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And Dwight Jones? MR. JONES: (No audible response.) 14 15 MADAM CHAIR: Do you see that name? I know we have an exhibit from Dwight Jones, if he's not on. Okay. 16 17 Well now we got, Mr. Burke, how are you coming along? 18 MR. BURKE: Can you hear me, Madam Chair? 19 MADAM CHAIR: Yes, we can hear you. We hear you a 20 little bit too much, right. Okay. So if you're going to 21 present, let's make sure everyone else turns their mics off 22 to make sure we don't have that echoing. So let's try it 23 again, Mr. Burke. 24 MR. BURKE: (No audible response.) 25 MADAM CHAIR: Uh-oh.

DW 6 MR. BURKE: Can you hear me? 1 2 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. Perfect. 3 MR. BURKE: No, no echo? 4 MADAM CHAIR: Perfect. 5 MR. BURKE: Very good. MADAM CHAIR: Okay. With gratitude. 6 7 MR. BURKE: I apologize, I just picked up a 8 Commission issued laptop this week and I'm still working the 9 bugs out on that --10 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. 11 MR. BURKE: -- so I do apologize. 12 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. No worries. 13 MR. BURKE: Okay. Very good. Okay. Everyone 14 still there? I'm sorry. My phone just, okay. Good 15 morning, Madam Chair --16 MADAM CHAIR: Good morning. 17 MR. BURKE: -- members, can you hear me okay? 18 MADAM CHAIR: We hear you just fine. 19 MR. BURKE: Okay. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. 20 Good morning Madam Chair, members of --21 MADAM CHAIR: You know what Mr. Burke? Mr. Burke? 22 MR. BURKE: Yes? 23 MADAM CHAIR: It looks as though we're past the 24 technical difficulties, just breathe, we're all here with 25 gratitude, and then resume. Okay.

MR. BURKE: Namaste.

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MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Namaste.

MR. BURKE: Good morning Madam Chair and members 3 4 of the Planning Board. I'm Thomas Burke with the Urban 5 Design Section. The project before you listed as Item 6 on the agenda refers to Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20017 for Royal 6 7 Farms #381, Walker Mill Road, which includes a Type 2 Tree Conservation Plan, TCP2-027-2020. The applicant is seeking 8 9 approval of a Detailed Site Plan to develop this site with a 10 food and beverage store, gas station and a carwash. Before I begin, I would like to bring your attention to some items 11 12 introduced into the additional backup by the applicant's 13 attorney, Mr. Tedesco, who can speak to these items 14 following my presentation.

15 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And then I should have mentioned we do have three exhibits from Mr. Tedesco, the 16 17 revised conditions, and I'm going to accept them as, I'm 18 going to identify them as Applicant's Exhibit A, B, and C, 19 or 1, 2 and 3, rather. Applicant's revised conditions, the 20 landscape rendering, no, well you know that that's not right because he's marked them. Exhibit A would be the revised LP 21 22 and the landscape rendering --

23 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Yeah.

24 MADAM CHAIR: -- and then applicant's conditions, 25 revised conditions would be 3. And also while you have, to

1	make sure the Board is good we have seven submissions from
2	oppositions and Dwight Jones e-mail is Opponent's Exhibit 1.
3	D Newman is Opponent's Exhibit Number 2, that was an e-mail.
4	Faye Norman e-mail is Opponent's Exhibit Number 3. David
5	Goodwin e-mail is Opponent's Exhibit Number 4. Carl Dunn is
6	Opponent's Exhibit Number 5, that's an e-mail as well.
7	Howard Whitehead e-mail is Opponent's Exhibit Number 6 and
8	Mallory Johnson letter is Opponent's Exhibit Number 7, if
9	that helps people.
10	MR. BURKE: Very good, thank you.
11	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair, just
12	clarify again the conditions was Applicant's Exhibit Number
13	what?
14	MADAM CHAIR: Well, I changed it because they
15	already had an Exhibit A.
16	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: But that
17	MADAM CHAIR: I have it as 3. I have it as 3.
18	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Okay.
19	MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.
20	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Thank you.
21	MR. BURKE: Very good. Very good. Thank you so
22	much.
23	MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.
24	MR. BURKE: Moving on
25	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Madam Chair, it's still not

DW 9 clear on the applicant's revised conditions and their 1 2 additional exhibits. Because they weren't identified as such in the book so I --3 4 MADAM CHAIR: They were the supplemental items 5 that we received as Applicant's Exhibit 3. UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Right. 6 7 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Is that with the changes or 8 recommendations? 9 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: That's correct. 10 MADAM CHAIR: Applicant's revised, yes, well we'll let, you know, we'll finish with Mr. Burke and we'll let the 11 12 applicant talk to them, speak to that. 13 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: All right. Thank you. MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. All right. Mr. 14 15 Burke. 16 MR. BURKE: Okay. 17 MADAM CHAIR: I'm sorry, Mr. Burke, you may 18 continue. 19 MR. BURKE: Very well, thank you so much. Okay. 20 Moving on then to Slide 2, please. The site is located in 21 the central portion of Prince George's County in Planning 22 Area 75A and Council District 06. Slide 3, please. 23 More specifically the site is located in the 24 southwest quadrant of the intersection of Walker Mill Road 25 and Ritchie Road in District Heights. Slide 4, please.

1 And is within the I-1 Zone. Slide 5, please. 2 This property is also located in the Military 3 Installation Overlay Zone for height. The proposed single 4 story building is within the allowable height limit. Slide 5 6, please. 6 This aerial photo illustrates the current 7 disposition of the property as fully wooded. Slide 7, 8 please. 9 And has significant topography, particularly toward the rear of the property where Southwest Branch, a 10 11 tributary to the Patuxent River runs through the site. 12 Slide 8, please. Walker Mill Road is classified as a Master Plan 13 14 arterial. Ritchie Road running south in green is a Master 15 Plan collector. Slide 9, please. This application proposes the development of a 16 17 4,649 square foot Royal Farms food and beverage store with a 18 gas station and a 1,248 square foot carwash. This 19 development will occur in the eastern portion of the 20 property leaving in preservation the western portion where 21 PMA or streams, for a stream associated buffer, steep slopes 22 and the floodplain exists. The seven fuel dispensers are 23 shown here shaded a darker gray along the top of the site 24 with the food and beverage store below it. The carwash and 25 diesel dispensers can be seen to the right of the retail

building. Located in the I-1 Zone the proposed uses are all permitted subject to the approval of a Detailed Site Plan, the findings for which can be found starting on page 7 of the Staff Report. It should also be noted that the previous Zoning Map Amendments were approved for this site with conditions that a Site Plan shall be submitted to the District Council. Slide 10, please.

Sidewalks are provided along the frontage and 8 9 within the site as seen here in beige and will include marked crossings at the entrances and in the parking lot 10 contributing to the overall circulation of the site. 11 The 12 woodland conservation area and floodplain can be seen here 13 below the developed area. This application is also subject to the requirements of the Landscape Manual and shows full 14 15 conformance. Slide 11, please.

The applicant is proposing to use durable quality 16 17 materials including brick, stone and composite siding. The 18 retail building shown here has a height of approximately 21 19 feet and is designed to reflect a rural aesthetic typical of 20 the corporate brand. A stone veneer still wraps the base of 21 the building with a partial wide brick band in the center 22 and beige cementitious siding with a dark red cornice along 23 the upper portion. The main entrance projects from the front facade with the entry points on either side of this 24 25 projection. This front elevation shows large storefront

window, yes, large storefront windows, a gable and seam 1 2 roof. And the signature cupola with weathervane at the peak. Faux windows with green awnings are provided in the 3 4 composition shown here on the front right. Royal Farms 5 signature blue and green sign will be presented above the front fenestration with world famous chicken and fresh 6 7 kitchen provided on an awning across the front façade. Slide 12, please. 8 9 The design features provided in the front evaluation carry through to the side elevations. Slide 13, 10 11 please. 12 And to some extent along the rear elevation which

13 also includes the Royal Farms sign. Slide 14, please. 14 The carwash will be located to the south of the 15 store and will also feature the stone sill beige 16 cementitious siding, accent lighting and red fascia along

17 the roofline. Storefront windows are shown here along the18 front façade. Slide 15, please.

In addition to the building mounted signs, the applicant is proposing a pylon sign, shown on this slide in the upper left side. Two directional signs, an example of which are shown next to the pylon sign. And signage for the carwash, fuel dispenser canopies and fuel pumps. The exhibit map provided at the bottom of both the bottom left corner of this slide shows the pylon sign located in the

1 center of the site, at the intersection of Walker Mill Road 2 and Ritchie Road. The sign will be double faced and will 3 include the fuel price display. The directional sign will 4 be located at each driveway entrance and will be double 5 faced internally lit boxes. A signage table was provided 6 with the application demonstrating conformance with this 7 Zoning Ordinance. Slide 16, please.

8 The proposed fuel canopy will be a flat roof 9 supported by two white prefinished metal wrapped columns 10 between each fuel dispenser aisle. The end columns will be 11 wrapped in a stone veneer to match the retail building.

The canopy fascia will be wrapped in a white internally illuminated cabinet with a corporate Royal Farms logo provided on the front and each side fascia, shown on the right side of this slide.

The diesel canopy shown on the left, will include a yellow band with diesel displayed on each front fascia. Slide 17, please.

The Type 2 Tree Conservation Plan TCP2-027-2020 shows that the application exceeds the total woodland conservation requirement of 1.64 acres by providing the woodland preservation on site. Slide 18, please.

An approved natural resources inventory was submitted with the application showing that the site contains regulated environmental features including streams

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and associated buffers, steep slopes and 100-year
floodplain. All of which comprise the PMA, the boundary for
which can be seen here in red. Three impacts to the PMA
have been requested with this application. Slide 19,
please.

Provided here a proposed impact with site grading 6 7 as shown in light blue and sewer disturbance shown in red, 8 or I guess maybe more salmon than red there. The site 9 contains an MPOT planned Ritchie Branch Trail, an easement for which is being provided by the applicant and shown as 10 the dark dashed lines through the site. Although this trail 11 12 is not proposed to be developed at this time, the easements 13 are recommended to be secured prior to permit issuance and the impacts to this site and PMA have been evaluated as 14 15 shown here in purple. Slide 20, please.

And here as well. As you can see by the location the trail relative to the PMA again shown as the red line, and other considerations of the site such as topography and connections to adjacent properties, the impacts were minimized to the extent practicable. This along with the other PMA impacts are support by staff, an evaluation of which can be found on page 11 of the Staff Report.

The Urban Design staff recommends that the Planning Board adopt the findings of this report and approve Detailed Site Plan DSP-20017 and TCP2-027-2020 for Royal

Farms 381, Walker Mill Road, subject to the conditions 1 2 contained in Staff Report dated October 27, 2020 and as amended by the applicant. With that, Madam Chair, this 3 4 concludes the staff presentation. Thank you. 5 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you so much, Mr. Burke. Let's see if there's any questions of you at this time. 6 Madam 7 Vice Chair? MADAM VICE CHAIR: No questions at this time, 8 9 thank you. 10 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Washington? COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: No questions, thank you. 11 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Geraldo? 12 13 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: No questions. 14 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Mr. Tedesco, you're on. 15 MR. TEDESCO: Excuse me. Thank you, Madam Chair, good morning for the record Matthew Tedesco with the Law 16 17 Firm of McNamee Hosea here on behalf of the applicant, Two 18 Farms, Inc. doing business as Royal Farms. Good morning 19 Madam Vice Chair, Commissioner Washington and Commissioner 20 Geraldo. 21 Madam Chair although you did a roll call 22 previously I do want to recognize a couple of individuals that we have with us this morning. Mr. Jeff Bainbridge, who 23 is the director of real estate for Royal Farms is on the 24 25 line. I don't know if Bill Mortorff has joined us but he's

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with Ratcliff Architects, they're the architects of record. 1 2 Emily Dean, John Neff and Anthony LaRocca with Kimley-Horn, they're the civil engineers for the project who are with us 3 4 as well. I want to thank Mr. Burke for his presentation this 5 morning. I always way it's not how we start it's how we 6 finish and I think he finished quite well, so I want to 7 thank him for his presentation and his material, the Staff Report as well as all the referring agencies who reviewed 8 9 this application and work with us throughout.

10 I don't have a tremendous amount to say. I do know we were provided, I want to thank staff for providing 11 12 us copies with the opposition e-mails and letters that came 13 in just before the noon deadline on Tuesday, some of which we got after the deadline. So I haven't had a chance to 14 15 really respond. I did, I do want to the record to reflect however I did reach out to each of the seven individuals 16 17 yesterday via e-mail to make sure contact information was 18 shared and the lines of communication were open.

I also want to highlight a couple of things from the staff report, just to reconfirm them for not only your edification but the citizens' edification who may be participating in this process for the first time.

This property was rezoned to the industrial zone in 1970 and 1977, respectively. So it's been industrially zoned upper 40 years. So my entire lifetime, since I'm 42.

So it's been industrially zoned for over 40 years. It was 1 2 retained in the industrial zoning designation in the 2010 Subregion 4 Master Plan and SMA. It is generally included 3 4 within more than 753 acres of industrially zoned land that 5 primarily makes up the area south of Central Avenue, west of the Capital Beltway, down Ritchie Road and to where Ritchie 6 7 Road, Walker Mill Road and Ritchie Marlboro Road all That whole quadrant with the exception of a 8 intersect. 9 handful of properties is all I-1 zoned for which this property is included. 10

As Mr. Burke and the Staff Report indicated a gas station in combination with a food and beverage store is a permitted use in the industrial zone, in the I-1 Zone in particular, subject to a Detailed Site Plan. That's been the law of the land for more than three or more years now subject to a DSP.

The carwash facility is a by right permitted use. It is not subject to a Detailed Site Plan, however, is included in this Detailed Site Plan because of the rezoning applications, the Zoning Map Amendments A-8033 and A-9190, which require Detailed Site Plans for any development on the subject property.

There is residential property to the southwest of this industrial area. I think Mr. Johnson is on the phone and is a representative of that neighborhood and a resident

1 of that neighborhood and we thank him for joining us this 2 morning. Although I have not had a chance to connect or 3 talk to Mr. Johnson I appreciate his involvement in this 4 case nevertheless.

I do want to highlight that the development of this property which if you have our Rendered Landscape Plan, unfortunately it didn't make it into your PowerPoint backup but we did submit it before the deadline. If you don't have it I can share my screen if that's permissible.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Do we have it? Yes, we do have it. 11 Mr. Flannigan is getting it up there.

MR. TEDESCO: Okay. I'll just pause momentarilyjust so that can be pulled up.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

MR. TEDESCO: If Mr. Flannigan could scroll down I think it'll be the second, the next one. There you go. Keep going. To the Rendered Landscape Plan. That's it. Thank you, Kenny.

19 So you know we felt that this exhibit was 20 important not only for the Board's edification and I do want 21 to acknowledge Mr. Burke did ask for this so that he could 22 include it in his backup. It took us a little while to 23 render that and unfortunately we didn't get it done until 24 after his material was required to be due. So we do have it 25 but the key take away from that slide is you can you see, all of the development as required in the rezoning approvals is towards the Walker Mill Road and Ritchie Road frontage. There is significant woodland conservation to the southwest of the project site, which acts as a natural buffer to the existing residential development beyond.

6 In addition to that, and notwithstanding the fact 7 that area give or take is about five acres of woodland area, we're required under the Woodland Conservation Ordinance to 8 have 1.64 acres of woodland conservation. We are providing 9 2.13 acres of woodland conservation. In addition to that 10 there's the stream, the floodplain and PMA's with the 11 12 exception of those three minor impacts all of which are 13 contained to the northern side of the site, saving the trail that's a Master Plan trail that's been requested and the 14 15 easement has been requested by staff. The floodplain and PMA are being preserved. Those will act as natural buffers 16 17 between this use and the existing residential 18 notwithstanding the industrial zoning classification.

Moreover, the applicant is proposing you can see it on that slide a row of fairly substantial plantings. Those trees that make up that west, southwestern boundary where you see the drive aisle and then the trees, those are made up of nine red oaks, those will grow to 60 to 70 feet with a 45 foot spread. Eight maples, sugar maples again 60 to 75-foot heights, 45-foot spreads. And six red cedars,

that's a 40 foot to 50 foot tree with a 20 foot spread. So it's a total of 23 fairly substantial tree plantings in addition to the existing woodland that's already there that we feel will be a very significant natural and proposed buffer from this use albeit being within the industrial zone in a 700 acre industrial area.

7 The closest residential lot just so you know, from 8 my measurement from the property line, not necessarily to 9 the gas canopies or the store, just from the developable 10 area to the lots is over 300 feet. So that's again a fairly 11 significant buffer. It's actually further away than even 12 the existing industrial uses that you see in that slide.

Another point I just want to highlight is that the tree canopy coverage requirement for this development is only 0.77 acres that's required. We are providing 2.48 acres, so more than tripled. We have seven micro bioretention facilities and an underground detention facility to treat the 100 year storm.

19 If I could just turn to some of the items that 20 were raised and some of the citizens' opposition, certainly 21 understanding and being sympathetic to you know the comment 22 that seems to be fairly consistent with respect to we 23 already have enough gas stations, there's so many within so 24 many miles. I do understand that sentiment, however, for 25 this particular site and this particular use the applicant

1 is not required legally to demonstrate a need for this use.
2 The need has more or less been predetermined by the fact
3 that this property is industrially zoned and the County
4 Council has permitted this use in the industrial zone. So
5 although there might be other facilities nearby or within
6 whatever geographical radius you want to draw that's really
7 relevant legally to this application.

Moreover to that point though I do want to 8 highlight that as an industrial zoned property goes and 9 industrial uses go, a service oriented use like this that 10 will serve the needs of not only the residential community 11 12 but also the industrial community as well as any passer-by's 13 provides a higher and better use with respect to comparable industrial uses given the fact that it does provide a 14 15 service oriented use whether it be for goods and services or for vehicle sales, vehicle fuel sales or the carwash use. 16

17 Moreover, in addition to some of the comments that 18 we heard or saw late Tuesday in response to some of the 19 opposition comments, the applicant in consultation with 20 staff was asked to look at in particular the signage on the 21 rear of the building. Right now we have proposed a Royal 22 Farms signage on the rear of the building. The applicant in 23 respect to the community and some of the comments is willing and I'm representing here today, is proffering the removal 24 25 of that sign on the back of the building. We think that

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1 that is appropriate and happy to provide that removal.

2 In addition, there was some comments about Royal 3 Farms which I think you all know by now is a Maryland owned 4 company, local, has been expanding in Prince George's County 5 but there was some comments that I read with respect to what has Royal Farms really done for Prince George's County or 6 7 something to that effect. I don't want to speak for everyone, I'm paraphrasing but I think it's appropriate to 8 9 also highlight to you all as well as for the record, that as a Maryland company, as taking a significant interest in 10 Prince George's County and investing millions and millions 11 12 of dollars per site, in addition to all of that Royal Farms 13 has donated to National Nights Out throughout the county for the last three years, donated to various community days in 14 15 the county of Radiant Valley in particular, has donated to the District 5 Coffee Club and the District 5 Police 16 17 Christmas events, donated to the Central County Coalition, 18 donated to the Alice Ferguson Foundation for its events and 19 its donated to the Little Washington Scholarship Program for 20 its events.

21 We do try to pride ourselves on being 22 philanthropic in the communities that we go into. This 23 community not being any exception and we would be happy to 24 work with the local community if that is the desire of the 25 community.

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Finally, I'll just conclude with the other point 1 2 that was raised with respect to electric vehicle charging 3 stations and whether any are being proposed for this 4 facility and if not why, or they should be. So Royal Farms 5 has a commitment to alternative fuel options as well as renewable energy. Some of our sites in the county in fact, 6 7 the Allentown Road site which was the first one in Prince George's County does have an EV Charging Station and they do 8 9 have a decent size network EV Charging Station. But the experience has been that those are not yet heavily utilized. 10 In fact, the Camp Springs store which has them again the 11 first store in the county, my understanding from the 12 13 information that was provided from the applicant is that that charging station is the most used charging station in 14 15 the county. But even if the most used it only averages about two charging sessions a day. So we don't yet quite 16 17 see a need or a high demand for increasing the network size 18 of EV Stations throughout the portfolio.

However and again in consultation with your staff, I want to thank Mr. Burke and Ms. Kosack, we did communicate with the applicant yesterday and we are committed and this goes to Commissioner Geraldo's questions on some other sites and applications that I've handled. We are committed to providing or installing now infrastructure to accommodate future demands so that we can easily adapt and put in the

1 charging stations at this facility without any deleterious 2 impacts to the operation or the use. We'll put that 3 infrastructure in and can retro fit as demand increases.

In addition, I'm told that this facility in
particular will provide fuel options that include regular 88
which is E15 and flex fuels which is E85 which is
alternative fuel options for consumers that are more
environmentally friendly. My word, not the industry word,
so with that Madam --

MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Tedesco? Mr. Tedesco, oh you're getting ready to end it sounds like, but I'm going to ask I want to make sure that we're getting some of these in the event, I don't know which way the motion is going to go, but it sounds like you're proffering some conditions here and I want to make sure we're getting, that our staff is getting them so that we can --

17 MR. TEDESCO: Yes --

18 MADAM CHAIR: Okay.

MR. TEDESCO: -- correct, Madam Chair. Thank you for that. I'm happy to summarize those again just for those who are diligently note taking. But we did review those with your staff and I think staff found them assessable and I don't want to speak for staff, but responsive to some of the opposition comments we got on Tuesday. But they would be a proffer condition to remove the building mounted sign

on the rear elevation as well as proffer condition to 1 2 provide necessary infrastructure to accommodate future EV 3 Charging Stations if demand warranted. 4 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay. So --5 MR. TEDESCO: And I'm sorry. 6 MADAM CHAIR: No, go ahead. 7 MR. TEDESCO: I'll just say with that, I was just 8 going to clarify the revised applicant's condition and again I would apologize for the confusion with the naming 9 conventions. With how we do things now for the last 28 10 hearings it's kind of challenging on pre-marking an exhibit 11 12 that will be referenced in the condition but also that 13 document itself being an exhibit in and of itself. So we use Exhibit A to reference the --14 MADAM CHAIR: That's fine. 15 MR. TEDESCO: -- revised Landscape Plan. 16 17 MADAM CHAIR: That's fine. 18 MR. TEDESCO: Okay. So I think, so Exhibit A 19 would be the revised Landscape Plan as referenced in Exhibit 20 3 which is the revised condition. And that's just intended 21 solely to ensure that at the time of certification the 22 Landscape Plan is revised to depict what's on the Detailed 23 Site Plan and those revisions to the Landscape Plan became necessary with responding to comments from staff, in 24 25 particular Trails Section with respect to crosswalks and

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sidewalks. They required us to tweak some of the planting.
We are still more than exceeding the Landscape Manual
planting requirements but we had to kind of relocate and
shift some things around and we just want to make sure that
we had no issues at the time of certification.

6 So with that, I'll stop talking. I want to thank 7 the Board for its indulgence. I want to thank the community 8 members who are here with us. I look forward to hearing 9 from them and I'm happy to respond further as needed or as 10 questions arise. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. I'm going to first see if the Board has any questions of you. But one thing I want you to be thinking about, and I'm looking through the Staff Report about the required parking spaces, I'm trying to find this page, I know I saw, was it 50, what's the required number of parking spaces?

MR. BURKE: That's correct, Madam Chair. Tom
Burke for the record. It's 50 spaces required, I think 72
being provided for this application.

20 MADAM CHAIR: Right. So that's what I'd like to 21 get at. Why do we need 72 spaces, Mr. Tedesco? 22 MR. TEDESCO: Well, Madam Chair, you'll notice 23 that all the spaces are primarily focused towards the Walker 24 Mill Road, Ritchie Road frontages and away from any 25 residential. But what we've experienced with Royal Farms in

particular given its popularity, especially not just just its gas fuel sales, but just its popularity with respect to the service oriented and the food offerings that it provides, that the more open parking we have the less likely people are to park at the pumps and then walk into the facility. Which when that occurs all that really does is create more backup in circulation and cuing issues.

In addition because this site has a carwash, not 8 9 that it's something we would encourage or propose but because it has a carwash what you often times see is some 10 folks will exit the carwash and want to you know, dry their 11 cars or what have you. So we feel like having an additional 12 13 parking especially that parking along Ritchie Road will facilitate a much better open circulation plan and safety 14 15 and keep pedestrian vehicular movements open and safe in 16 addition to the three diesel pumps. We don't want to have 17 cuing at any of the pumps or any type of issues with 18 pedestrians, especially given the fact that we are proposing 19 a 10-foot wide shared hiker trail along the frontage. We've 20 been asked to make connections to the Royal Farms 21 convenience store from those frontages so you know I think 22 trails and everyone expects and to some of the points that 23 were made earlier, we do want to encourage and increase pedestrian connectivity. And if we have a bunch of cars 24 25 cued up at pumps and not pulling out of the pumps and

accessing the open parking that becomes a problem. 1 So we 2 feel like it's a deterrent to parking at the pump and that it creates the openness and safety that's needed for what's 3 4 a fairly popular use. 5 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. We may come back to that, but I'm going to see if the Board has other questions for you at 6 7 this time. Thank you, Mr. Tedesco. Okay. Madam Vice Chair? 8 9 MADAM VICE CHAIR: I don't have any questions but 10 I would encourage Mr. Tedesco to continue talking with, speaking with folks in the community. I think that's very 11 12 important. 13 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. MR. TEDESCO: May I respond to that real quick? 14 15 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. MR. TEDESCO: Thank you, Vice Chairwoman Bailey. 16 Yes, as I indicated I did reach out to the seven individuals 17 18 yesterday. I have not heard anything back but certainly 19 have availed myself to further dialogue even beyond today 20 and welcome that opportunity. I had not, up until Tuesday, 21 had not heard anything from any of the informational 22 mailings that were sent back in March and again in September nor the postings again until yesterday. We are also with 23 the help of GS Proctor and Associates, currently working 24 25 with and reaching out to the Central County Coalition as

28

DW 29 well as the 202 Corridor Coalition in the process of that 1 2 outreach as well. So we will and we continue to as you know that's our steadfast commitment to the community and we'll 3 4 continue to do that. 5 MADAM VICE CHAIR: All right. That's great, but I 6 recognize some of these names and I know they're not 7 affiliated with the Coalition and that's why I think it's important to continue your conversation with the individuals 8 9 who have written into us or to you. Thank you. MR. TEDESCO: 10 Yes. MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Commissioner Washington? 11 12 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: No questions, thank you, 13 Madam Chair. MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Geraldo? 14 15 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: One question. Mr. Tedesco, thank you for the presentation. I didn't see any amended 16 17 and perhaps I missed it, any provisions for bicycle racks or 18 bicycle repair station, given the fact that you're 19 surrounded at least on the backside, the southwest side by 20 residential and (indiscernible) the post trail. 21 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: It's Condition 1G. 22 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Is it? Okay. MR. TEDESCO: Thank you, Commissioner Washington, 23 24 that was going to be my response but yes, we are proposing 25 bicycle racks, again that was requested by staff, the Trails DW 30 Section staff, they requested that, we are happy to provide 1 2 that. COMMISSIONER GERALDO: What about a repair 3 4 station? 5 MR. TEDESCO: We have not proposed that. I don't 6 think that would be necessary at this application, but it's 7 certainly something we can continue to look at. But we honestly don't see a lot of bicycle usage but we do want to 8 9 provide the racks to encourage it. 10 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Okay. Thank you. MR. TEDESCO: Sure. 11 12 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Tedesco. 13 We're going to come back to you in a second. We have a 14 number of people signed up, as I said we have considerable 15 backup, well two people signed up. We have considerable backup as I identified the Opponent's Exhibits 1 through 7. 16 17 But I do want to tell people number one, this is the 18 situation in which the Planning Board frequently finds 19 ourselves, or finds itself. We are not a legislative body, 20 but we are we have tons and tons of laws and regulations 21 that we have to sift through to make sure that an 22 application conforms with the law or assess whether it conforms with the law or doesn't. So one of the things and 23 so that includes the legislation as determined by the 24 25 counsel, in some types of applications it's the state Land

Use Article. Then we have to deal with the interpretations 1 2 by the highest court in the state and sometimes the Supreme 3 Court of the United States. So we have an abundance of 4 regulations and plus the rest of the Zoning Ordinance and 5 the Subdivision Regs when appropriate and so much more. So it's very, very hard on our technical staff when they send 6 7 out all these referrals to all these different places that people send or entities send their referrals back. 8 Mr. 9 Burke, in this case has to sift through all of that and then we have to hear from everyone who desires to speak and then 10 figure out whether the application meets the legal criteria 11 12 or whether it can be improved or whether it needs to be 13 tweaked, you know, or whether it doesn't. If it doesn't 14 meet the legal criteria we cannot approve it. If it does 15 meet the legal criteria then we cannot disapprove it because the courts determined that as arbitrary and capricious. 16 So 17 we have to abide by the laws and regulations that have been 18 established for us, not by us. For us.

So in this particular case we have the Prince George's County Council that determined that this use is a permitted use in this zone. So we have the I-1 Zone here and this use has already been predetermined as absolutely permitted with a Detailed Site Plan. So what we then have to do is assess whether the Detailed Site Plan conforms with the requirements. There have been a number of questions

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raised, but the other thing this Board must do is we hear 1 2 the testimony of people who desire to speak and we're not bound by the strict rules of evidence that a trial in the 3 4 Circuit Court has to abide by. But we do have to abide by 5 the one criteria that all testimony has to be relevant to what we have to consider. So that's the one thing that we 6 7 have to do. And what we find ourselves, the situation we find ourselves in regularly is that and ourselves too, 8 9 because we don't get worked up until we see something being proposed in our respective communities because we all live 10 in Prince George's County too. And that's when people tend 11 12 to zero in and may not know all the rules and regulations 13 that we have to abide by. So the one thing I wanted to clarify is that this is a permitted use and I'm also going 14 15 to turn to our Principal Counsel, Mr. Warner, for a second 16 because someone raised in the letters regarding gas stations 17 and convenience stores and why they are called food and 18 beverage stores as though it's not tantamount to a grocery store so why are we calling it a food and beverage store. 19 20 And I would like for Mr. Warner, our Principal Counsel, to address that. 21

22 MR. WARNER: Thank you, Madam Chair, yes, David 23 Warner, Principal Counsel. Granted the County Council has 24 created a definition called food and beverage stores for a 25 use like the one proposed here on this site. In zoning of

course, you can only be as specific as (indiscernible) 1 2 possible, so for instance to have a use that is limited just to selling potato chips and another use permitted just for 3 4 selling candy, and then another one just for coffee or 5 something. You can carve it up in only so many ways and so 6 our County Council has carved out the type of use here and 7 called it a food and beverage store and they used that same designation for similar types of businesses, which is 8 9 appropriate under the zoning. And there is no separate definition, for instance, for convenience stores or for 10 grocery stores. This is a definition that applies to uses 11 like this Royal Farms, is proposing to (indiscernible) and 12 13 similar businesses. Does that answer your question?

MADAM CHAIR: It does. And I have another 14 15 question. We typically have people tend to not like gas 16 stations, gas stations are permitted in the zone. That has 17 been predetermined as I just said and you just said as well. 18 This is the industrial, light industrial zone. I-1 is a 19 light industrial zone and so this is a use that's already 20 permitted. And when people refer to the number of gas 21 stations, is that a factor that is, that we can utilize in 22 determining whether or not we need another gas station. It's not the need for another gas station, I know the 23 Council, as we said the Council has already predetermined 24 25 that this is a permitted use, so the mere fact that we have

1 X number of gas stations within maybe a 2.5 or 3 mile radius
2 is that a criteria for denying an application for a gas
3 station that is deemed permitted?

4 MR. WARNER: No, it's not. Now you know what 5 you're reviewing today is a Detailed Site Plan, so you are 6 reviewing a plan and evaluating its design on a whole host 7 of factors. Those factors relate to the design of this There is nothing in there, a valuation criteria that 8 site. 9 the county has set out for you that allows you to look at what uses are being done on other properties. 10 That just is not a particular criteria that you can evaluate when you're 11 looking at the design of a specific site. 12

13 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. There was another question 14 and maybe Mr. Tedesco can address this. You know, there was 15 an issue about traffic that this might generate a lot of 16 traffic but can you explain that first of all, traffic is 17 analyzed at the Preliminary Plan stage so it's a different 18 stage where we can analyze this. And that is not what's 19 We have, that's under the adequate public before us. 20 facilities test for subdivisions, not Detailed Site Plans. 21 But there is also Mr. Tedesco so we can't address traffic 22 right now, but someone did raise the issue that people are 23 speeding and I want to, when we know if there's excess of 24 speeding that's something that we as a government entity can 25 do to, we can perhaps help by reaching out to the county

police department to monitor those areas where you may see constant speeding. Because I know that that was in one of the exhibits and maybe Mr. Tedesco, are you aware of anything like this in terms of the speeding?

5 MR. TEDESCO: Nothing beyond that same e-mail or letter that you saw, I saw as well, so that's the first I 6 7 heard of it. Certainly, I'm very familiar with this area of the county, I travel it almost daily and so I will, you 8 9 know, I can speak to you know there's two circles on the inside of the beltway and outside the beltway on Ritchie 10 Marlboro Road. There is obviously the Ritchie Station 11 development as well as the industrial park and some of the 12 13 recent improvements on the north side. I don't want to 14 question a citizen's experience of the roads that they 15 travel every day. There are a number of traffic lights as 16 well as traffic circles along that corridor. You know also 17 whether there's a strong enough police presence or not 18 that's certainly something that you know we could 19 collectively work on. We certainly I do see some officers 20 at some of the other locations up and around that corridor 21 on occasion. But I'm not personally familiar with any 22 speeding issues. I would echo your thoughts with respect to the traffic adequacy analysis that is done at the time of 23 subdivision, Preliminary Plan of Subdivision. 24 This property 25 went through subdivision in the 1970's and was platted for

post, the zoning to the I-1 Zone. This development, the 1 2 gross floor area is less than 5,000 square feet. It's in keeping with that Preliminary Plan of Subdivision and your 3 4 traffic section also did an analysis with respect to the 5 anticipated peak hour trips although did not make an 6 adequacy determination because such a determination is 7 outside the scope of the DSP.

MADAM CHAIR: So in essence what you're saying is 8 9 the Preliminary Plan that was approved is still in effect, I mean the --10

MR. TEDESCO: (Sound.)

12 MADAM CHAIR: -- this does not deviate. So a new 13 Preliminary Plan is not required.

14 MR. TEDESCO: Correct. And a new Preliminary Plan 15 was not required, the property is platted pursuant to those Preliminary Plans. There are no, you know, platted in the 16 17 70's so there are no conditions on that plat with respect to 18 a trip cap per se but there was a determination given the 19 gross floor area of this development and that subdivision 20 that a new subdivision was not required. 21

MADAM CHAIR: And --

22 MR. TEDESCO: And I would concur with that 23 analysis that determination.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. And then another issue 25 that was raised, I mean there are lots of issues that were

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raised, but another one that was raised in terms of the 1 2 traffic and whatnot and the truck traffic in particular, which would be problematic given the number of potholes on 3 4 the neighborhood streets there, and that is something 5 perhaps we can deal with, with maybe the appropriate county agencies to deal with potholes, to at least address that 6 7 issue. So I guess I'm not going to call on our citizens who 8 have signed up. I think first we have Mallory Johnson. 9 Okay. You're unmuted here, Mallory Johnson. Oh there you 10 are. Okay.

11 MR. JOHNSON: Greetings to County Councilmembers, my name is Mallory Johnson, I reside at 1224 Dollington 12 13 Street (phonetic sp.) in Forestville, Maryland. I'm a, I'm currently the president of the Ritchie Heights Ritchie 14 15 Maryland Civic Association. The proposed location for the Royal Farms convenience store, gas station and carwash are 16 17 bordering my community. In fact, I will be able to see and 18 hear the activities taking place at that location from my 19 backyard. Also there are at least 17 other single family 20 detached homeowners that will be directly affected by this development. 21

22 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Johnson, can I stop you for a 23 second? Can we go to a slide that where Mr. Johnson can 24 identify pretty much where he lives in vis-à-vis the gas 25 station?

DW 38 1 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. 2 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Tedesco, what slide would that 3 be, do you think, the best one? 4 MR. JOHNSON: That one right there looks pretty 5 good. 6 MR. TEDESCO: Kenny, if you could scroll back up 7 to the colored rendered plan, I think I know Mr. Johnson's 8 house, stop right there. I believe it's this one if I'm not 9 mistaken next to the one with the pool. I think it's this one, Mr. Johnson? 10 11 MADAM CHAIR: What do you mean this one? We don't see a this one. 12 13 MR. TEDESCO: I'm looking at my my, I forgot you 14 can't see it. Okay. If you Kenny can put the cursor on the 15 house that you can see the pool in the backyard, kind of 16 central --17 MADAM CHAIR: Do you see it? 18 MR. TEDESCO: -- right there. 19 MADAM CHAIR: Right there. 20 MR. TEDESCO: I think Mr. Johnson's house is the 21 one to the right. That one --22 MADAM CHAIR: Is that your house, Mr. Johnson? 23 MR. JOHNSON: That, that would be my house. 24 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. We just wanted to 25 get a sense. Okay. Please continue.

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. This community dates back to the early 1960's and is composed of 239 single family homes. What is being proposed will increase truck traffic which will make it harder for residents to leave and enter the community. The following are some concerns that we would like for you to consider before rendering your decision.

Again, we will say that we already had eight gas stations within 2.5 miles radius of our community. We have two Royal Farms gas stations within 3.3 miles radius of our community and another is being proposed at Walker Mill and Addison Road.

12 We are saying that with 72 parking spaces being 13 proposed this is looking more like a place to hang out than a gas and go location. We are having issues with racing 14 15 along Walker Mill and Ritchie Road. I hear it all the time, anytime of day you can go out in your backyard and you can 16 17 even be in the house and all of a sudden you just hear 18 engine roaring and rushing and yes, we have talked to the 19 police about it. In fact, I'll tell you now I'm on the 20 Chief Citizens Advisement, I'm on the District 8 Citizens 21 Advisement counsel. We talk about speeding, we talk about 22 the issues, we've been talking about it for the last two and 23 three months.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Johnson, is it mostly during the 25 day or at night or?

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MR. JOHNSON: It can happen anytime, that's the problem. Anytime. I mean you can be woken up at 3:00 or 4 o'clock in the morning and you can hear engines running. They can be doing it in the afternoon time, you can hear engines running.

6 MADAM CHAIR: And what's been the police response 7 or enforcement? I mean is it kind of hit or miss because 8 you can't anticipate when?

9 MR. JOHNSON: It's hit or miss. They can't 10 participate actually when this happened.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay.

12 MR. JOHNSON: They have to depend on us calling in 13 and then they'll send a car out. They had put up like I say surveillance cars, but the way this, the way these gentlemen 14 15 works is basically is that if they see a strange car 16 anywhere parked along Ritchie and Ritchie Road and Walker 17 Mill Road, they're not going to run. As soon as that car is 18 gone, okay, gentlemen it's time we can get out here and we 19 can race.

20 MADAM CHAIR: Okay.

21 MR. JOHNSON: The station will be open seven days 22 a week, 24 hours a day. And my question is okay, when does 23 the community get a break in here? Okay. There is no gas 24 station every day, there's only one gas station, that's that 25 Amoco station but it's on the other side of the street,

which is open seven days a week. But it doesn't sell the 1 2 food items, the fast food items that Royal Farms will be selling. So this actually becomes a place where people will 3 4 start to hang out at. Okay. And we do have gang activity 5 at, over there at that, at the, the BP station and we still 6 have two active gangs on Walker Mill Road. Okay. Again 7 there will be parking for trucks as well as a truck turnaround, which will increase truck traffic in the 8 9 community and I think we already said that there are electric charge, there's no electric charging stations. 10 And right now that's all I have. 11

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. First of all, thank you so much Mr. Johnson for your care for your community and for your association and for participating today. You heard our legal counsel address some things like for instance the mere fact that it is permitted, so we cannot then say you have too many gas stations and deny it on that basis. We are precluded by law from denying it on that basis.

But some things that you're raising that we can perhaps help with at least. You know, I'm really sorry to hear about the gang activities and we have, there has been a gang task force in the county and we have a police members and we, you know I you as an association and citizens in the area are addressing some of these concerns but sometimes another government entity can elevate the problem. And so

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we're willing, I'm willing to step in there for you for the 1 2 community to reach out to our police and to our gang task force to monitor that situation over there in terms of the 3 4 gangs and also in terms of the racing over there. I don't 5 think that Royal Farms gas station contributes to the 6 racing, though. But nevertheless the racing is a problem. 7 We're still, you know, we still have the 72 parking space issues, you know, Mr. Tedesco did address 8 9 that. We'll see what the Board feels about that.

And then you talked about the charging stations but you did get a commitment from the applicant thus far to at least install, it's a proffer to install the infrastructure to allow for a charging station, if the need arises and so it won't be too problematic.

We'll see what else we can address here, but I'm going to turn to our Board to see if they have any questions of you. Vice Chair Bailey?

MADAM VICE CHAIR: No, I don't have any questions, but I want to thank Mr. Johnson for coming, I mean, well for presenting today and we certainly will consider the items that we can consider. Some of those items are beyond our ability to consider for this particular item, but thank you so very much.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Washington?

1 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: I don't have any 2 questions either, but I do associate myself with Madam Vice 3 Chair's comments and thank you Mr. Johnson. 4 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Geraldo? 5 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I have no further questions. I want to thank Mr. Johnson as well for his 6 7 comments. MADAM CHAIR: Okay. 8 9 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: All we can do is do what's provided for within the law. 10 11 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Mr. 12 Mallory, if we have questions, we'll come back to you at 13 this point and Mr. Tedesco will respond as well. Okay. Dwight Jones was he able to get on? 14 15 MR. JONES: (No audible response.) MADAM CHAIR: Do you see his name? I don't see it 16 Okay. So Mr. Jones did sign up but he's not on 17 either. 18 now, but we do have his letter into the record. It was 19 exhibit number, I think I had as Exhibit Number 1 for 20 Opponents. And all of us, the entire Board has gone through all seven exhibits that have been submitted into the record. 21 22 That concludes my sign up list, so Mr. Tedesco it's on you 23 for response and we're also going to have Mr. Burke respond 24 to anything that he feels appropriate to respond to as well 25 as Mr. Warner. So let's start with Mr. Tedesco.

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MR. TEDESCO: Thank you again, Madam Chair and 1 2 thank you, Mr. Johnson for his comments. And again, I will 3 just reiterate what I said from the outset which I have 4 reached out to all seven of those community members, made 5 myself available, the applicant available. We have historically with various applications with Royal Farms that 6 7 I have handled with the help of GS Proctor and Associates have continued dialogue with communities post approval, 8 9 during construction, post construction, after grand opening and so forth. Some of that is precipitated into the laundry 10 list of philanthropic things that Royal Farms has done, but 11 12 some of those also in full disclosure have been because 13 they're, you know, on Allentown Road in Camp Springs. Some 14 of those community members have come to us and said hey, you 15 know, we need to meet because we're experiencing X, Y, and Z 16 and we need your help. We go and meet with them. We've 17 done that and will continue to do that so to Mr. Johnson's 18 comments, I would encourage him to please take me up on the 19 offer in my e-mail from yesterday. We will, we are 20 committed to the communities that we go into and as the 21 Board knows I'm a Prince Georgian, I'm not going anywhere 22 and we're happy as well Mr. Steve Proctor, who is an 23 intrical team member to continue to meet with these communities that these applicants develop in. 24

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With respect to the parking comment, again I would

strongly encourage the Board to approve the DSP as proposed. 1 2 Again, the surplus of parking we think is necessary and with respect to just, in our experience, to avoid issues that in 3 4 all honesty occur just down the street at the Wawa that that 5 doesn't have sufficient parking or maybe just has parking sufficient enough. But if people park at the pumps it 6 7 creates circulation cuing and impacts that are far greater than some additional parking which by the way we are 8 9 treating from a storm water management perspective. So it's not further encroaching upon or causing encroachments upon 10 any environmental features and it really goes towards the 11 operational benefit of this use, which admittedly is a very 12 13 popular use.

So with that, I would just strongly encourage that the Board approve the DSP as proposed with applicant's requested exhibit and with that again I'm happy to stand behind the proffers we made directly in response to some of the comments we heard on Tuesday.

MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Tedesco, thank you for reaching out, you indicate you weren't aware of the situation prior to the folks posting their opposition on Tuesday. So which brings me to a question for maybe Mr. Burke or someone in the Planning Department, is Mr. Johnson's association registered with us, so if someone can find that out. But meanwhile --

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MR. TEDESCO: Madam Chair, if I could be heard on that? I actually looked into that this morning and I did email Mr. Hunt, Mr. Burke and Ms. Kosack. The association is registered. I double checked our mailing list, they did receive a mailing back on about March 24th. I even went and checked our return mailings because as you know we get 60 plus --

MADAM CHAIR: Yes.

9 MR. TEDESCO: -- associations and a number of 10 adjoining property owners and this case was no exception. 11 Some of those come back undelivered. None of the citizens 12 that submitted letters that received mailings, including Mr. 13 Johnson, including the association that he's the president of, did we receive a returned letter. I did note also that 14 15 Mr. Johnson did become, register as a party of record after 16 the March 24th informational mailing. So would have 17 received a letter not only from the informational mailing 18 but also a letter from the acceptance mailing, both as an 19 adjoining property owner or registered civic association but 20 also thirdly as a party of record. So it's unfortunate that 21 we didn't have a chance to talk before today, but 22 nevertheless that doesn't mean we can't and won't talk in 23 the future.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Right. Okay. So the informational 25 mailing you said was March 24th and the acceptance mailing

was September 1st, and then of course the sign posting was 1 2 October 13th. My question is you promised to stay in contact and but you've heard the concerns raised by Mr. 3 4 Johnson. I want to make sure that the community and Mr. 5 Johnson in particular, on behalf of the association, has a contact number. An actual name, they don't need to be 6 7 fumbling around trying to figure out who do we call. They 8 need a direct contact number for those problems that may 9 occur.

10 MR. TEDESCO: Yes, so I will volunteer myself. They can contact me and then I know who to contact at Royal 11 12 Farms whether it's a construction issue or an operational 13 issue and Mr. Jeff Bainbridge who is the Director of Real Estate who helps us also shepherd things on the corporate 14 15 level who is on and listening to all of this and is very much committed to that as well. As far as my contact 16 information, it's obviously within all of those letters that 17 18 were went, but if those have since been thrown away, it's in 19 the e-mail that I sent yesterday to Mr. Johnson as well as 20 the six other individuals.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And another thing that was 22 raised was, you know, this is a Board and this a planning 23 staff, this is a team that cares, we are all, that cares 24 about Prince George's County and her 900,000 plus residents. 25 We all do. We all live here. And we do not engage in or

1 entertain or condone in any way environmental injustice or 2 racism. We do not.

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But sometimes allegations are flown around like 3 4 this that are simply incorrect. We do, so we will do, and 5 not entertain environmental injustice and but there are issues that are raised and I just wanted to make that 6 7 statement on the record because we all care and we care 8 deeply and that is why we struggle you know even when the 9 law says when things meet the requirement of the law we do encourage that community engagement and but I don't adhere 10 to the fact that some of the statements in the letters that 11 this is a way of marginalizing the inside the beltway 12 13 community and things of that nature.

14 And so one of the things that they've said they've 15 talked about food deserts as well. And I guess you have Mr. 16 Bainbridge on the line who's participating today and we know 17 that Royal Farms has good fried chicken and we know you've 18 got some other things. I'd like to know what you have that 19 is healthy because they are asking for and we had a 20 presentation this morning about you know the growing obesity 21 in the county. I have to fess up, but anyway, what are 22 providing that's healthy?

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair?
 MADAM CHAIR: Yes?
 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair, before you

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go forward because this may be an appropriate item for Royal
 Farms to also respond to and I wanted to go back, Mr.
 Tedesco, to the discussion around parking.

COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I did too.

5 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: And I actually agree 6 with the incremental spaces because it not only promotes 7 pedestrian walkability, but by that same token I think that the citizens have a good concern in terms of loitering. 8 So 9 I just wonder if you all might consider proffering something along having signage posted that says no loitering or you 10 know I can't think of the most appropriate signage but 11 12 there's something there in that operationally there will be 13 some action taken if in fact that occurs. Especially in the 14 wee hours of the morning or night and maybe made operational 15 protocol is that the police are immediately called, or 16 something along those lines.

MADAM CHAIR: And I assume we have cameras.
 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: You know (indiscernible)
 I'm sorry.

20 MADAM CHAIR: And I was saying --

21 MADAM VICE CHAIR: Cameras.

22 MADAM CHAIR: -- I'm hoping, I presume we have 23 cameras. Cameras.

24 MR. TEDESCO: Yes, and I can address both, Madam 25 Chair and Commissioner Washington's questions if that's

50 DW okay. I understand Mr. Bainbridge --1 2 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Can I dovetail first? MR. TEDESCO: Yes. 3 4 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Can I dovetail first, Mr. 5 Tedesco? MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 6 7 MR. TEDESCO: Of course. 8 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Okay. So I think it's too 9 much parking and I'll tell you why. I'm most familiar with the Royal Farms by National Harbor. And with the parking 10 there what's attracted are people with the race cars. 11 Ι 12 don't know if that's going to happen here but I know that 13 happens at National Harbor at different times of the day because of the expanse of the parking lot. These racing 14 15 cars do congregate there. At different weekends, as a 16 matter of fact they even have shows there and I think what 17 lends itself to that is their very large parking lot. So I 18 think that's something that you should consider and I think 19 what Commissioner Washington is recommending some sort of 20 signage to that effect. And some sort of security measure 21 because they pull out of those parking lots. 22 MADAM CHAIR: So let me --23 MR. TEDESCO: (Indiscernible). MADAM CHAIR: -- ask Commissioner Geraldo, so 24 25 basically you're saying they don't race in the parking lot

DW 51 but that may be be where they convene before or after the 1 2 racing? Or that's where they convene to have the racing 3 cars --4 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Exactly. 5 MADAM CHAIR: -- shows. That's rough. Okay. Mr. Tedesco? 6 7 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Exactly. MADAM VICE CHAIR: 8 Yes. 9 MR. TEDESCO: So let me try to take all of those as quickly as I can. First and foremost, yes, I mean the 10 11 county law requires these facilities to be fully not only lit, but also have security cameras throughout. And so this 12 13 will be no exception, you know, high resolution security cameras are provided proposed as part of the package. 14 15 And as far as the operational issues, to Commissioner Geraldo's comment, I'm not familiar with that. 16 17 I mean obviously that's your neck of the woods you know 18 better than I, but we will reach out Mr. Bainbridge is 19 contacting me now as you were speaking. We are going to 20 reach out to operations and figure out what we can do about 21 that. We do have no loitering signage, we will continue to 22 have that on this premises as well as other premises. That gives us the enforceability to remove individuals and on 23 occasion that has to occur. I am very cognizant of our 24 25 store managers not taking the role of the police department.

A lot of times businesses are required or ask to be the 1 2 first line of defense, so to speak, but none of them are peace officers. We have to encourage the interaction among 3 4 these businesses with the police department and I'm happy to 5 report that that's exactly what occurred at other facilities 6 not too far from here, where we did experience some 7 activity. That was quickly rectified with the help of the 8 police department. So we are engaged as every business really should be especially commercial business in the 9 county to help our police department to address issues 10 before they arise, and so this one will be no exceptional. 11 The operational staff and the operational managers are all 12 13 trained on that. If need be, you know, the police are called to handle situations. We don't expect that. One of 14 15 the benefits of these uses, you know, being a 24 hour well 16 lit eyes on the ground right at a major intersection hard 17 corner, is that just because it's there actually acts as 18 somewhat of a deterrent for some criminal behavior because 19 there's security cameras, it's well lit, there's activity, 20 there's people, there's congregation, there's things going 21 on.

And if we have a couple of bad actors, you know we have mechanisms in place from an operational standpoint to address them and we also have you know connections and rely upon our community officers and police officers to assist

and if need be if the rare occasion occurs where we have 1 2 activity that is just constantly ongoing, you know, Royal Farms has in the past on occasion as needed hired security 3 4 at certain times of the week, certain hours of the night to 5 be on the premises as needed. Again, that's on an as needed 6 basis. It's not something we experience a lot in Prince 7 George's County, I'm happy to report. But where we've had to, we've done it and it's, it's really rectified to cure 8 9 the problem and we were able to stop having certain activities occur. Again, not in this location, but there 10 have been some that we've experienced. 11

12 With respect to Madam Chair's question with 13 respect to healthy food options. Royal Farms, yes, obviously is known for its fried chicken. 14 I think we all 15 readily understand, you know, indulging in that type of food daily is not probably advisable. But nevertheless Royal 16 17 Farms does provide and offer healthy food options. We 18 actually have and this store won't be any exception, but a 19 new store that just opened up in Brandywine is probably the 20 best example of this. As soon as you walk in the door 21 right, it hits you right from as soon as you walk in is the 22 healthy food grab and go options which are made up of yogurt 23 parfaits, the salads, readymade turkey sandwiches, healthy food options whether, you know, nuts, bananas, fruits, 24 25 vegetables, things of that sort are all there. Not to

mention basically almost anything you can buy in a grocery 1 2 store you can buy at these facilities, whether that be milk, healthy drinks, smoothies, things of that sort. All of 3 4 those things are included in the Royal Farms and they're 5 constantly evaluating their menus to respond to market needs 6 and demands as well as to help curate and create healthy 7 food options for consumers and not bury it some place in the back of the store that you have to go find it. If you go to 8 9 the store on Route 5 in Brandywine that just opened up a few months ago you'll see as soon as you walk in it's right as 10 soon as you walk in to the right, next to the ready order 11 touch screens. It's all right there. Easily convenient and 12 13 that's predominately made up of healthy food options.

MADAM CHAIR: Thank you for answering that 14 15 question, Mr. Tedesco. That's important because all of these fast food places, McDonald's, you know, other places 16 17 in addition to the fried chicken have grilled chicken, you 18 know, skinless chicken and salads and things of that nature. 19 And so that's, it's important because the folks in the 20 community are concerned about having healthy food options, 21 so that helps as well.

Okay. So you obviously have the ability, you will close out Mr. Tedesco on behalf of the applicant in this case, but I am, if you don't have anything else right this second I'm going to turn to first of all to Mr. Burke and

then to Mr. Warner to see if they have anything else to add. 1 2 Oh, one other thing, you know, what did you say about alternative fuel? Because someone raised that and I just 3 4 want to address hits, someone raised the fossil fuel 5 industry is virtually un-investable on Wall Street. Well, 6 there's nothing I can do about that. There's nothing this 7 Board can do about that. Okay. It's not a factor that we can consider, it's not even relevant. So we are precluded 8 9 from considering something that is not, that's not germane to the criteria for this application. 10

But certain people, several people did raise about renewable fuel energy and alternative fuel. You did say something about alternative fuel, Mr. Tedesco, earlier and they talked about the two diesel pumps as well.

15 MR. TEDESCO: Yes, Madam Chair, so this facility like the one in National Harbor that Commissioner Geraldo is 16 17 probably most familiar with, we do, this site will offer 18 regular 88 which is E15 and then also the flex fuel E85. 19 The E85 is the high level ethanol gas blends, again 20 generally 51 percent to 83 percent ethanol so it's more, I'm 21 not an expert on it but it provides a flex fuel that is less 22 harmful with respect to --

23 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: (Indiscernible).
24 MR. TEDESCO: -- how it's manufactured.
25 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And if I may go back, you

1 mentioned with your more recent Royal Farms in Brandywine 2 that the healthy foods were in the front of the store. We 3 would hope that these, you don't have to go hunting for the 4 healthy foods in this store either. Okay. That it would be 5 right in the front and visible. Okay.

6 MR. TEDESCO: Yes, that's a move that Royal Farms 7 is constantly testing and expanding and tweaking and we have 8 heard that fairly consistently through some of our leaders, 9 as you might expect similar to you all with respect to that. 10 So yeah, that is something that is part of the floor plan. 11 Again you guys don't approve floor plans it's operationally 12 but I --

13 MADAM CHAIR: Yes.

MR. TEDESCO: -- can tell you that that store and I believe this store is to be the same with respect to those being right at the front. And then to your point, Madam Chair, there are you know skinless chicken, grilled chicken options on the menu, you don't just have to get the fried chicken if you desire chicken. But there are those other packaged healthy food options if desired.

21 MADAM CHAIR: And you know the fried chicken 22 smells good though, it kind of calls you but yes, we all 23 have to, you know, what the key word is balance.

24 MR. TEDESCO: (Sound.)

25 MADAM CHAIR: The key word is balance.

DW	57
1	MR. TEDESCO: Moderation.
2	MADAM CHAIR: Yes, moderation.
3	MR. TEDESCO: Moderation.
4	MADAM CHAIR: Yes. Okay. And then someone else
5	raised that the convenience stores are not quick fixes to
6	the economic conditions of a community and they don't raise
7	the income level. No, they don't and not something that we
8	can consider. But I just want to make sure that it's noted
9	for the record that we are hearing and addressing the
10	concerns that are raised by the citizens.
11	MR. TEDESCO: And I don't want to belabor this,
12	but that's a good point. I do want to mention, each of
13	these facilities I mean they're multi-million dollar
14	investments into the county and they do employ upwards of 30
15	to 40 people. So that's 30 to 40 new jobs, so when you
16	calculate that along with the tax revenue that's increased,
17	the fuel tax and everything else, it is an economic benefit
18	to the county and as I mentioned
19	MADAM CHAIR: (Sound.)
20	MR. TEDESCO: before we see this as a benefit
21	to the residential community given the comparables of what
22	could be there from a light industrial use. This is
23	actually more service oriented and provides a service that
24	you know a flex warehouse use wouldn't really benefit the

community at all, have bigger trucks and tractor trailers and things of that sort. So I kind of see it differently.
 But understand, you know, people have different opinions.

MADAM CHAIR: Well I agree that it will raise the 3 4 tax base and no one addresses until you did just now given 5 the other permitted uses in the I-1 Zone this may be more palatable for the community than some of the others as you 6 7 indicated. I was making the distinction between being an economic benefit versus what this person said was raising 8 9 the income level. It doesn't necessarily raise the income 10 level at large for the community. It can't, you know. Most businesses don't, but it may increase the assessable tax 11 based. Okay. So I just wanted to make sure that we're 12 13 addressing as many things as possible. I want to turn to Mr. Burke and see if, well, first Mr. Warner, do you have 14 15 anything that you need to add, Mr. Warner?

MR. WARNER: I'd like to just add one thing that I 16 17 noted in reviewing the letters from the different members of 18 the public. As I mentioned, the Planning Board's role here 19 is to assess the design of the site and the guidelines that 20 the County Council has laid out for you to review. There 21 was one other element of the design that was brought up by 22 the members of the public and that was why is the site 23 designed to accommodate tractor trucks. And so that is a design feature, that won't be something that the Planning 24 25 Board would be able to consider as part of its review of

1 this Designed Site Plan.

2	MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. We'll have
3	MR. WARNER: Detailed Site Plan.
4	MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Tedesco will have the last
5	word on that, so but first, thank you, Mr. Warner. And then
6	we're going to go to Mr. Burke and see if you have anything
7	else to add.
8	MR. BURKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Only to add
9	that staff has had the opportunity to review with the
10	applicant the additional condition to revise the Landscape
11	Plan as provided on the Applicant's Exhibit A. And the
12	proffer to remove the building mounted sign in the rear, as
13	well as the proffer to add infrastructure for the future
14	installation of electric vehicles charging stations. Thank
15	you.
16	MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. So Mr. Tedesco,
17	anything else to add?
18	MR. TEDESCO: Only if you need me to respond to
19	Mr. Warner's comment.
20	MADAM CHAIR: Well do you feel you need to?
21	MR. TEDESCO: I'm asking if you feel like I need
22	to.
23	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right.
24	MR. TEDESCO: I'll respond just so it's on the
25	record.

MADAM CHAIR: Yes, that silence didn't sound like
 you, but go ahead. Okay.

3 MR. TEDESCO: Thank you, Mr. Warner for the 4 question, I think. Yes, I mean predominately the diesel 5 fuel pumps are to segregate them out from the vehicle fuel pumps, one to promote circulation, pedestrian safety and so 6 on. But also as I mentioned when I started out this 7 conversation with it's important to not only look at this 8 9 site in the micro but in the macro. I mean it's part of a 753 acre industrially zoned area. That's all improved. 10 And so all of those industrial uses are all at the doorstep of 11 12 this of this site. So with respect to facilitating those 13 existing businesses and their fleet and everything else, we feel like those diesel pumps are actually a benefit and will 14 15 facilitate them being on this site.

And given the, again, they layout was designed 16 17 specifically to keep interaction segregated so that those 18 trucks can come in off of Walker Mill, circle around, go 19 straight to the pumps and then get out on Ritchie Road and 20 have no interaction with the vehicle pumps and the 21 pedestrians entering the store. And the carwash is in 22 between the two. So from the layout circulation, safety, 23 accommodation, a marketability standpoint we think it all works very well. 24

MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. One of the issues here

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that we can't do anything about is that this I-1 Zone, light 1 2 industrial zone is directly adjacent to an R-55 Zone. Directly. There's no transition and you know that we cannot 3 4 change at this point. Okay. So everyone's spoken. I'm 5 going to see if the Board has any questions of anyone at 6 this time. I'm going to start with Madam Vice Chair. 7 MADAM VICE CHAIR: No further questions. Thank 8 you. 9 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Washington? 10 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: No questions. Thank 11 you. 12 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Geraldo? 13 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: (No audible response.) 14 MADAM CHAIR: You're muted. You're muted. You're 15 muted. COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I do have a comment. 16 Т 17 empathize or sympathize with Royal Farms with regards to 18 people parking at the pumps, that is a problem. I don't 19 know if the additional parking will resolve it, but that's a 20 pet peeve of mine because you try to get into a space and 21 people are in the store shopping. It's the same thing with 22 people in shopping centers who insist on parking along the 23 fire lane and staying there because somebody went in the store and I don't know what the solution is. But I do know 24 25 the problem at Royal Farms and other large facilities like

61

1 that.

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2 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. So if there are no 3 questions is there a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair, I again 5 reiterate and thank citizens and public for their participation as well as Mr. Tedesco and the applicant, and 6 7 everybody's not only spirit or willingness to want to come together and work together, but I will be highly, how shall 8 9 I say, inclined to believe that that will absolutely take place. And so with that, Madam Chair, I move that we adopt 10 the findings of staff and approve DSP-20017 and TCP2-027-11 12 2020 along with the associated conditions as outlined in 13 staff's report and as further amended by Applicant Exhibit Number 3, in addition to ensuring that the resolution 14 15 codifies the two proffered conditions offered by the applicant to include removal of the sign on the back of the 16 17 building, in addition to ensuring that the appropriate 18 infrastructure is in place for the EV Charging vehicles, and 19 Madam Chair I'm not sure if this would be appropriate or tow 20 the extent possible, but if the resolution can somehow 21 incorporate, especially as it relates to the two proffered 22 conditions that there were direct response to citizen's 23 concerns.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.25 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Second.

MADAM CHAIR: We have a motion and a second. 1 Ι 2 would like to add to the motion ever so slightly to say that after weighing not only the Staff Report and the 3 4 presentation today, but the seven exhibits, the findings and 5 the concerns raised by the seven exhibits and as Mr. Johnson today, I think we really delved deep into these citizen's 6 7 concerns that were raised and have expressed our position on them after weighing each and every item that was expressed 8 9 either verbally today or in our seven opponent exhibits today. That that be included amongst the findings that 10 would then thereafter be reflected in the resolution. 11 12 If the motion maker and seconder accept that? 13 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I accept. 14 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Absolutely. 15 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. So is there any additional discussion? 16 17 (No audible response.) 18 MADAM CHAIR: I would just add the one thing under 19 additional discussion, we've said it before but Mr. Tedesco, 20 first of all you did a nice job of sheltering Mr. Bainbridge 21 today. So we didn't get to hear from him directly, we heard 22 from you but that's what you're here for. But Mr. 23 Bainbridge is on the line and he's hearing these concerns. It is imperative that you stay in touch with this community. 24 25 Thank you. You've committed to it, but we just want to

DW 64 reiterate. All in favor of the motion? Madam Vice Chair? 1 2 MADAM VICE CHAIR: I vote aye. 3 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Washington? 4 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Aye. 5 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Geraldo? 6 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Aye. 7 MADAM CHAIR: The ayes have it 4-0. Mr. Johnson, 8 please you do see we endeavored to address you concerns and 9 please stay in contact with Mr. Tedesco. Mr. Hunt? 10 MR. HUNT: Yes, Madam Chair? 11 MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Hunt, is there any additional 12 business to come before the Planning Board today? 13 MR. HUNT: There are no additional business items before the Planning Board today. 14 15 MADAM CHAIR: The Planning Board is adjourned. Please stay safe everyone and please just remember it is 16 17 national gratitude month. Thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Thank you. 19 MADAM VICE CHAIR: Thank you. 20 MADAM CHAIR: The Planning Board is adjourned. 21 Thank you. 22 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded.) 23 24 25

DIGITALLY SIGNED CERTIFICATE

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before the Prince George's County Planning Board in the matter of:

ROYAL FARMS #381 - WALKER MILL ROAD

Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20017

Raine Wieson

By:

_____ Date: February 1, 2021

Diane Wilson, Transcriber