1	THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANNING BOARD OF
2	THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
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5	CHECKERS LAUREL
6	Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20006
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8	TRANSCRIPT
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10	PROCEEDINGS
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12	COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
13	Upper Marlboro, Maryland
14	May 20, 2021
15	ray 20, 2021
16	VOLUME 1 of 1
17	
18	BEFORE:
19	ELIZABETH M. HEWLETT, Chair
20	DOROTHY F. BAILEY, Vice-Chair
21	A. SHUANISE WASHINGTON, Commissioner
22	MANUEL R. GERALDO, Commissioner
23	WILLIAM M. DOERNER, Commissioner
24	WILLIAM M. DOCKNEK, COMMISSIONEL
25	

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OTHERS PRESENT:

ADAM BOSSI, Staff, Urban Design Section
PETER GOLDSMITH, Senior Counsel
MATTHEW TEDESCO, Attorney for Applicant

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PROCEEDINGS

MADAM CHAIR: The Prince George's County Planning
Board is back in session and we had one major item, one case
left, which was the Detailed Site Plan 20006, Checkers
Laurel, which was a remand by the District Council solely
for five specific reasons. So I want to make sure, let's do
a check to make sure we have everybody. Let's start with
the Planning Board, I see Vice Chair Bailey, I see
Commissioner Doerner, I see Commissioner Washington and I
see Commissioner Geraldo somewhere. Okay. Okay. Well,
we'll come back to him. Okay. I see Mr. Adam Bossi, I see
okay, do I see Mr. Tedesco, there he is. Okay. Now do I
see Bob Noeth? And Ryan McCarthy. Bob Noeth is maybe he's
on the phone. Okay. So Bob Noeth, are you on?

MR. NOETH: I am, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Do I see Ryan McCarthy?

MR. TEDESCO: Madam Chair, this is Matthew

Tedesco. Ryan had a family emergency, he had to step away,

19 he's going to try to monitor but he may or may not be able

20 \parallel to join us.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. That's fine. Okay. And then

22 we have Alyssa Chang.

MR. TEDESCO: Ms. Chang is counsel for the

24 property owner.

MADAM CHAIR: I know but is she on? Okay.

DW | |

MR. TEDESCO: She has another matter in Virginia at 2 o'clock. She's hopefully going to join us sometime after she concludes that matter.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And then Michael Ostroff?

MR. OSTROFF: Present.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. So that concludes the signup list. We have Applicant's Exhibit Number 1, the revised responses to the remand. We have Applicant's Number 2, the Checkers Alternative Compliance exhibit, revised.

Opponent's Exhibit Number 1 and then we have a Staff Exhibit Number 1.

Okay. So now, I don't know if I need to, well let's go to Mr. Bossi first and then I'll turn to Mr. Goldsmith, if needed, to outline the parameters of the remand. Okay. Mr. Bossi, are you ready for takeoff?

MR. BOSSI: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and good afternoon members of the Planning Board. For the record my name is Adam Bossi with the Urban Design Section. So Item 10 here today as Madam Chairwoman already mentioned is the District Council's Order of Remand for Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20006, which proposes the development of a Checkers brand eating and drinking establishment with drivethru service.

As Madam Chairwoman already mentioned as well too, you did have a number of items submitted into your

additional backup material as she already outlined.

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Second kind of housekeeping item, I want to make everyone aware of, staff has added two slides to this presentation that were not previously included. They're really just kind of to help illustrate some of the points of the discussion, so I'll point those out as we go along.

And finally, just quickly, the procedural history of this case. The Planning Board originally approved DSP-20006 with conditions on October 29, 2020, and then subsequently adopted Resolution 2020-152 on November 19, 2020. The District Council then elected to review this matter on January 25, 2021 and held oral arguments at their public hearing on March 8, 2021. The Council then subsequently issued their Order of Remand, which was received by the Planning Department on March 24, 2021 and is the subject of our discussion here today. We can move onto the second slide, please.

Just since as it has been some time since the Board last looked at this DSP, the first few slides here are just a quick overview of the site's location and general character. So here the subject property is in Planning Area 62, Council District 1. Slide 3, please.

Outlined in red, the 0.4 acre property is irregularly shaped and located on the east side of Baltimore Avenue. It's about 400 feet north of its intersection with

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Mulberry Street. Slide 4, please.

Excuse me. The property is split zoned with most of the site area in the Commercial Shopping Center Zone, that's the C-S-C Zone shown here in red. The far eastern portion of the site is in the One Family Detached Residential Zone, that's the R-55 Zone shown here in yellow. We also do see on this image the former paper right-of-way for Magnolia Street along the southern portion of the site. The split zoning as well as zoning of a portion of the former Magnolia Street right-of-way, are issues identified in the Council's Order of Remand. Slide 5, please.

As shown here in the aerial image, the subject site is currently vacant and fronts on Baltimore Avenue. This property was previously home to the Bay and Surf Restaurant, which was demolished in approximately 2013. To the north is an Urgent Care facility, which includes an existing private driveway which will be shared with this proposed Checkers Restaurant. To the south is an eating and drinking establishment, that's the News Back Bar and Restaurant and undeveloped residential lots on Magnolia Street abut the east side of the property with an established single family residential neighborhood located beyond that. We can move on to Slide 6, please.

Here the topographic map shows the site is generally flat. Slide 7, please.

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So with this slide, we're going to pivot right into the Council's Order of Remand. The order directs the Planning Board to reopen the record on this Detailed Site Plan and take additional evidence and testimony regarding give specific points. Those are listed here. Since the Order of Remand was issued, the applicant submitted additional evidence into the record which is in the backup file for the case that was published on line two weeks ago, as well as the additional material mentioned at the start of this presentation. All those materials are publically available on the Board's website. If we can move on to Slide 8, please?

So we'll walk through the Order of Remand points one by one here. The first point, the Revised Site Plan's compliance with the setback requirements of the C-S-C Zone. So the setback requirements for the C-S-C Zone are defined in Section 27-462(b) specifically in Table 1. Those requirements are shown here, largely in black on the setback calculation table that was provided on the applicant's Revised Detailed Site Plan. So in the middle column the applicant shows in red that a 30 foot landscape buffer is required here, which does exceed those lesser requirements of the zone for the side and rear yard setbacks. On the far right column in red we see the setback distances provided by the plan, which all exceed those minimum requirements. So

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staff found that the Revised Site Plan meets all of these requirements for the C-S-C Zone. If we can move onto Slide 9, please?

So here the the second point of the Order of Remand, the Revised Site Plan's compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Landscape Manual for Incompatible Uses. So this pertains to Section 4.7, it's buffering incompatible uses of the Landscape Manual. With this requirement to the Order of Remand, the District Council asserted that the Landscape Plan requires two incompatible use buffers. The first along portions of the site's southern boundary and a second one along its eastern boundary shared with Lot 12.

The DSP as originally approved only included one incompatible use buffer and that was along the southern portion of the property.

So with the plan shown here, I'll speak to that buffer along the southern property boundary. Here a Type B incompatible use landscape buffer is required and again speaking specifically for the southern boundary. The minimum requirements of that Type B buffer are a 30 foot building setback, 20 foot wide landscape yard to be planted with 80 plant units per 100 linear feet. The originally approved buffer yard here has been enhanced with the revised plans to include additional plant units, does replace and

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existing split rail fence with a 6 foot tall sight tight fence as well. As revised, this buffer exceeds all of the Type B buffer yard requirements of Section 4.7 of the Landscape Manual. So this buffer treatment has also been extended beyond where it's required to encompass the majority of the southern property boundary, including portions along Magnolia Street.

Regarding the eastern property boundary shared with Lot 12, so Lot 12 abuts the far eastern side of the lot, so it's on the far right side of this image here. So as discussed under Finding 2 in staff's memo, the Council determined an incompatible use buffer is appropriate to provide between the Checkers development and the vacant residential lots to the east. Lot 12, being directly adjacent to the site. Here a Type D incompatible buffer yard would be required. The Type D buffer yard requires a 50 foot building setback and a 40 foot wide landscape buffer to be planted with 160 plant units per 100 linear feet of property, of property line, excuse me.

As shown here, the applicant's first revised plan did not address this point. Given the location of the storm water facility in that area as well it would also not be possible for the landscape yard to meet that distance, that 40 foot wide requirement. If we can move onto Slide 10, please?

So in response to those issues, the applicant further revised their plans and filed a request for alternative compliance from the requirements of the Landscape Manual for buffering incompatible uses along this eastern property line.

This is one of the new slides that was added for today's discussion here, showing the incompatible use buffer with Lot 12 now provided by the applicant. Here what's been provided is a variable width buffer, it does include the 6-foot sight tight fence, additional plant units and retention of existing vegetation. Staff finds this treatment acceptable.

And given the odd configuration of the property and acceptability of the alternative landscape solution proposed, you know, at the end of the presentation staff will ultimately be recommending the Board approve that alternative compliance request. Slide 11, please.

So the third point in the Order of Remand reads the Revised Site Plan inclusion of residential properties to satisfy the 2010 Landscape Manual standards to serve a commercial zone or use.

So here again with the dual zoning of the property, the Council was concerned that it may not be appropriate for the R-55 Zone area of the site to be utilized to satisfy the Zoning Ordinance or Landscape Manual

requirements for the commercial use proposed in the C-S-C Zone portion of the property. As discussed on page 5 of staff's memo, the applicant did provide a 10 page discussion and rationale for the storm water facility associated with the development to be located in the R-55 Zone portion of the property, despite serving the commercial use. Staff does agree with applicant's assessment here and we do believe that the storm water facility proposed where it is in this case is acceptable.

Regarding the utilization of the R-55 Zone portion of the property for Landscape Manual conformance purposes associated with the commercial use. Through requirements of the Landscape Manual that apply to this DSP are Sections 4.2, that's the landscape strips along streets, Section 4.3 parking lot requirements, Section 4.4 screening requirements, Section 4.7 for buffering incompatible uses and Section 4.9 the sustainable landscaping requirements.

Sections 4.3 and 4.4 require planting in parking lots and screening of certain maintenance areas and equipment regardless of what zone they are in or what use they are associated with, except for certain vehicle related uses.

Section 4.9 requires sustainable landscaping practices to be incorporated as a part of a Site Plan regardless of the zone or the use as well.

Regarding Section 4.2 requirements for landscape strips along streets, these requirements apply along abutting streets for any nonresidential use in any zone.

Finally, regarding Section 4.7, the buffering of incompatible uses in addition to the discussion provided with the last two slides, Section 4.7 provides that in the case of a lot that is located in more than one zone, the establishment of a required buffer yard is based on the platted or recorded property lines, not the zoning lines.

So in summation in this case the Landscape Manual does not impede the inclusion of the residential portion of the property to satisfy the Landscape Manual requirements for the commercial use. If we can move onto Slide 12, please?

So this point of the Order of Remand looks at two specific conditions of Zoning Ordinance Number 3-1996, which is associated with the rezoning of a portion of what is now the subject property to the C-S-C Zone. That decision was included in the original backup file for this case. If we can move onto Slide 13, please?

So since the time of the rezoning the lotting pattern on the property has changed. So staff has prepared the second new image, or new slide, excuse me, that was not previously included in the presentation. This is an illustrative image of some of the former lot lines, those

are shown in red, with the current lot configuration outlined in blue. Here Condition 1C requires screening and buffering of former Lot 11, as well as the residential properties across Magnolia Street to the southeast of the site. Slide 14, please.

So the revised plans address Condition 1C by relocating their trash enclosure further from these lots, adding that 6 foot privacy fence and plantings that we previously discussed. This landscape treatment is essentially a continuation of that incompatible use buffer that's provided along the majority of the site's southern boundary. As previously noted, that buffer exceeds the standards for Type B incompatible use buffer in this location.

Landscaping and some of the trash enclosure screening is provided on former Lots 8 and 9 as well. Staff does believe this enhancement to the Landscape Plan adequately addresses Condition 1C of 3-1996.

Regarding the second Condition 1D pertaining to the preservation of a large tree on former Lot 10, if feasible. This tree is the 27 inch caliber oak labeled at the southern edge of former Lot 10. It's shown as to be removed and those labels are on the lower right corner of the slide image here.

The applicant did provide rationale that

preservation of the tree is not feasible, including noting significant impacts to the root zone that exists from pavement that's already on the site, over the root zone.

And likely impacts from the installation of the storm water facility. Staff does agree that these conditions make the preservation of the tree not feasible.

Additionally, as detailed on page 6, excuse of, of staff's memo, new plantings are proposed in this location and other vegetation in the same general area of the site will be preserved. Slide 15, please.

So slide 15 talks to Item 5 of the Order of Remand. This point directs an adjustment to be made in the area of the site classified as commercial shopping center and R-55 on Lot 23, that's our subject site. Essentially, here the approved DSP shows the entire area associated with the former Magnolia Street right-of-way and the southern edge of the site of being entirely in the C-S-C Zone. The revised plans do correct this and show the far eastern portion of that area being in the R-55 Zone. You can see those figures are corrected in general note 2 here, and the line work, the appropriate line work has been added to the plan to reflect that as well. Slide 16, please.

So just as I conclude the presentation, I did want to include just a quick image of the restaurant building that is proposed here. And as I do move to conclude the

presentation, I want to note that the staff memo as published includes finding language and a condition relevant to the applicant requesting alternative compliance from Section 4.7 of the Landscape Manual. That was for the buffer to be provided with Lot 12 on the eastern side of the site.

As discussed in the presentation here today, the applicant has essentially already addressed this condition, so staff is recommending the Board approve the alternative compliance request. So with that, staff is pleased to recommend the Board adopt the findings of staff's memorandums, memorandum, excuse me, deleting recommended Condition 1F and adjusting the associated language of Finding 2 accordingly and issue an amended resolution for Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20006. With that, I'm available to answer any questions. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Bossi. So delete Condition 1F is your recommendation and adjust the corresponding finding which was what again, let me --

MR. BOSSI: That's in Finding 2, ma'am.

MADAM CHAIR: Two, okay, thank you. Okay. So let's see if the Board has any questions for you. And then I think I'm going to turn; I'm not going to turn to counsel right now. I think I'm going to turn to counsel after, in a little bit. Okay. So these are all addressed, the remand

was for a specific purpose for just those items. And let's 1 2 see if the Board has any questions for you before we turn to Mr. Tedesco. Madam Vice Chair? 3 4 MADAM VICE CHAIR: No questions, thank you. 5 MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Washington? 6 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: No questions. you, Mr. Bossi. 7 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And Commissioner Doerner? 8 9 COMMISSIONER DOERNER: No questions. MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Geraldo? 10 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I have no questions, Madam 11 Chair, thank you. 12 13 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Tedesco, you are on 14 and Mr. Tedesco, thank you for your statement of 15 justification and with those other exhibits, because those other illustrations of the locations with the split zones 16 17 and the storm water management facilities. So Mr. Tedesco, 18 you're on. 19 MR. TEDESCO: Thank you, Madam Chair and members 20 of the Planning Board. Good afternoon, excuse me, for the 21 record Matthew Tedesco with the Law Firm of McNamee Hosea 22 here on behalf of the applicant in this case, Mari-Chek, 23 Incorporated. I want to thank Mr. Bossi, I don't want to be redundant, I know it's been a long day. I will just from

the outset let me say this, I will align myself and all my

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comments with respect to today's hearing with Mr. Bossi's presentation this afternoon. Mr. Bossi, as always, did a fantastic job, very thorough, very thorough but also informative with respect to the reasons why we're here today. We are here on a remand from the District Council, from your approval back in the fall, October 29, 2020.

Just to remind you, the Zoning Ordinance under Section 27-290 subpart D, requires that if the District Council is to remand a case back to you, they may only do it one time and the remand must be in accordance with the specific grounds stated in the order. So we are here solely for the five items that were provided in the District Council's order, nothing more and nothing less.

Again, I would align myself with Mr. Bossi with respect to his presentation as well as the Staff Report. We agree with staff's recommendations, we agree with staff's request to delete proposed Condition 1F. We would also agree with staff's recommendation to include the alternative compliance that the alternative compliance committee has recommended, it's in your backup, to supplement Finding Number 2 on pages 4 and 5 of the staff's memorandum.

We would also, and Mr. Goldsmith may hit on this, but we would also ask that if the Board is inclined to approve this application as recommended by staff, we would ask that Finding 3 also be somewhat supplemented in the

resolution with specific findings as it relates to the location of the storm water management facility. Staff in its memorandum did indicate its agreement to our analysis by reference, and again I would defer to Mr. Goldsmith on that. But the applicant would at least request that some articulation of that finding, if the Board is so inclined, be included in Finding Number 3.

I'm just going to hit on a couple of high points,

I don't want to belabor this, I don't want to again be

redundant. We did provide a very thorough memorandum in

response to the remand order that we will incorporate and

adopt as further testimony here today. We also submitted a

number of exhibits as well, you know, Revised Site Plans and

exhibits associated with that remand and the alternative

compliance that's been recommended for approval.

To Mr. Bossi's point really we're here on kind of two general issues, landscaping and zoning. And from the landscaping perspective, the Revised Detailed Site Plan and Landscape Plan satisfactory conforms to the Landscape Manual in all aspects. Primarily with respect to the southern, and if we could go to one of the slides of the Site Plan, not the architectural. Adam, you may know which slide number it is better, but that one's fine, if you go back. No, the previous one. There you go.

So you can see from this slide that the applicant

even though necessary and not required to do so, has significantly increased the planting materials along the southern border. We've also included a 6 foot sight tight fence that runs what used to be the center line of Magnolia Street and there will be a 6 foot sight tight fence with additional landscape on either side of that to further buffer the Nuzback Restaurant to the south. That fence runs to the stub of Magnolia to the east, then north and then east again along the Magnolia right-of-way. We've also included a 6 foot fence between on the right side of the dumpster enclosure to further screen what used to be former Lot 11, pursuant to conditions of the rezoning to address that concern.

I think Mr. Bossi hit on it, but from the southern boundary perspective, the 4.7, the required plant units in that buffer are 79 plant units, we have 207 plant units to and include 22 percent of the buffer with existing vegetation and wood, and trees.

With respect to the eastern buffer, that is the subject of the alternative compliance. Mr. Bossi hit on that very well, and I want to thank the alternative compliance committee, Andrew Bishop was one of the ones that worked on that application along with the entire committee. The required plant units for that 4.7 eastern Type D buffer is 68, we have 86. We have a varying width landscape of 17

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to 27 feet. The requirement is 40 and that's really the alternative compliance that's being sought. But the building setback is over 251 feet and there's 42 percent existing onsite woodland vegetation in that buffer yard.

With respect to the storm water facility, a portion of which is on former Lot 10 and former Lot 11, which is now all Lot 23. We provided, I think 10 pages of our legal analysis as well as prior examples of that being utilized in Prince George's County for very significant projects, and we would submit on that. I do want to highlight that from the perspective of Subtitle 32, Subtitle 32 and not Subtitle 27, is the regulatory framework for which storm water facilities exist in Prince George's County. And Subtitle 32 does not restrict or limit the placement of storm water facilities based upon zoning. requires storm water facilities based upon limits of disturbance and we've cited to Section 32-175(k), 32-182(f). Both of those sections we think articulate quite well that the District Council, in our opinion, is just legally wrong with its analysis with respect to the location of storm water facility and identifying it as a structure. As we all know that definition of a structure is a very loose definition and we see no prohibition in the Zoning Ordinance or in Subtitle 32 with respect to the location of the storm water facility, a portion of which on the R-55 Zone.

I do want to highlight that this property not only has concepts, site development concept approval it also has technical storm water final approval, which has been reviewed and approved by DPIE, who has raised no issues or objections to the location or the design of that storm water facility.

Your indulgence, Madam Chair.

I also want to point out you know just in response to the District Council, some of the District Council's points on that issue. It basically relies solely upon the definition of structure. However, if you look at Section 27-281(c) as in Charlie, it talks about the specific purposes of a Detailed Site Plan. And (c)(1)(A) says that the specific purposes of a Detailed Site Plan are (A) to show the specific location and delineation of buildings and structures, parking facilities, streets, green areas and other physical features.

Interestingly in subpart (c)(1)(B) it also the specific purpose also requires the Detailed Site Plan to show specific grading, plantings, sediment control, woodland conservation areas, regulated environmental features, and storm water management features. So within the Zoning Ordinance with respect to the Detailed Site Plan and its purposes, it separates or distinguishes structures from actual storm water management features. So we feel that the

utilization of just clumping a storm water management facility as a structure in relying upon that for the legal basis that it can't be on a differently zoned property is unfounded.

Furthermore, and finally with respect to that particular issue, as I mentioned in our memorandum it's replete and we didn't even really do an exhaustive search, we just basically did a search of what was readily available. And you can see very significant developments that have been approved over many, many years in Prince George's County, where development has occurred in differently zoned properties with the storm water facilities adjacent thereto in different zoned properties. So the clear application, administration, the regulations that not only Park and Planning administers, but the county and DPIE as an agency, or DPW&T prior to DPIE, evidences no legitimate legal basis for that to be problematic in any way.

Finally, I'm wrapping up, Madam Chair, dealing with remand item number 4, dealing with the conditions of the prior rezoning. Again, we would submit on what's been presented by Mr. Bossi in his report, as well as our memorandum. But we have, as you can see, significantly increased the landscaping, sight tight fencing, in direct response as well as relocation of the dumpster in direct

response to that remand item from the District Council.

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And finally with respect to Condition 1D, we do believe that with the existing urbanization of that lot with the prior Bay and Surf and the asphalt and the parking that the root zone of that tree has been damaged. Any further improvements will further damage that tree, causing it to die, which will then create an unsafe, untenable situation for not only the existing residents on Magnolia, but the future development of this property, it creates a hazard.

So with that in mind and given the fact of the finding that needs to be made here, we do believe that the retention of that tree would create unreasonable costs and detract substantially from the utility of the development and its intended use. Mr. Bossi did correctly highlight that notwithstanding the removal of that tree, we have included significant landscaping in that area, 11 evergreens and 21 shrubs in addition to the fence and in addition to existing mature trees that will be retained.

And finally with respect to remand item number 5, in direct response to 27-111, we have updated the square footages of the zoning of the property for Lot 23 as well as the right-of-way that's been acquired through a quiet title action approved by the Court of Special Appeals to include the proper zoning designations and those have been marked on the Amended Site Plan.

So then Madam Chair, we respectfully request the Board's approval of this once again in response to these very specified remand items. I want to thank Mr. Bossi and Ms. Kosack, Mr. Bishop and staff for its review of this case. When these cases come back on remand, we are on a very short clock and as you can see, this particular remand required revisions to the Site Plan which staff was amenable to reviewing and getting this case back to you within the time provisions of the Code and for that we are very grateful and thankful.

I have nothing further, Madam Chair, and happy to answer any questions.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Tedesco and good job. You know, the findings that you are referring to you said for two and three. I guess I'm trying to find them.

MR. TEDESCO: If I may, Madam Chair, on page 4 and 5 of the staff's memorandum or Staff Report.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay.

DW

MR. TEDESCO: I think like Mr. Bossi was suggesting, and I certainly don't want to speak for him, but I think in the last paragraph of Finding 2, which is really remand item number 2, it sets the stage for proposed Condition 1F. But that is now somewhat moot because the alternative compliance committee has recommended approval of

the AC and what we're asking this Board to do is approve that alternative compliance --

MADAM CHAIR: Right.

MR. TEDESCO: -- which then would be reflected in this finding.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. I guess, you know, I was also looking for the resolution from before, our previous approval. I guess that's what I was looking for. Okay.

MR. TEDESCO: I'm sorry?

MADAM CHAIR: So we're going to utilize the alternative compliance, we got that because you had that recommendation of approval. Okay.

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: I'm sorry, madam, I also was trying to, I was going to ask you to restate the rationale for augmenting Finding 3, Mr. Tedesco. I just want to make sure I captured that correctly.

MR. TEDESCO: Yes, and thank you Commissioner
Washington and I guess I'm not suggesting it needs to be
augmented in any way. What staff in the opening paragraph,
staff talks about our response to the District Council
remand and basically concludes that staff finds the
additional landscape, excuse me, staff also concurs with the
applicant's analysis and finds the location of this proposed
storm water management facility to be acceptable. I think
because the District Council in its remand order for item

number 3, had talked about the inability of locating that 1 2 storm water facility, the applicant would request, I guess the legal determination --3 4 MADAM CHAIR: Right. 5 MR. TEDESCO: -- or finding from the Board --MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 6 7 MR. TEDESCO: -- with respect to that issue, certainly we would request that it would be consistent with 8 staff's recommendation in its adoption of our analysis. But 9 I would defer to Mr. Goldsmith on that as well. 10 11 MADAM CHAIR: So essentially you're asking that it say fully legal, legal and fully acceptable? Both. 12 13 just acceptable because that doesn't seem to address the legal issue. 14 15 MR. TEDESCO: Correct. 16 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right. So --17 COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Yes, that addressed my 18 question. Thank you both. 19 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay. So let's see if the 20 rest of the Board has any questions of you and let's start with Madam Vice Chair. 21 22 MADAM VICE CHAIR: No questions, Madam Chair, 23 thank you. 24 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And then Commissioner

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Washington, any other questions?

1	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: No additional questions.
2	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Doerner?
3	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: No, I had the same question
4	about number 3, so that was good.
5	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Commissioner Geraldo?
6	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I just had a question as to
7	the opposition that was filed with some question about
8	whether or not who owns that right-of-way.
9	MADAM CHAIR: We're going to get to that too,
10	because I'm going to have to turn to
11	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Okay.
12	MADAM CHAIR: Mr. Goldsmith and actually
13	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Okay.
14	MADAM CHAIR: and I'm going to monitor to see
15	who else is on first too.
16	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Okay. Thank you.
17	MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. So if there are no other
18	questions of Mr. Tedesco, who will have the opportunity to
19	come back and wrap up. So Mr. Noeth is the engineer, I
20	presume he's here only for questions, Mr. Tedesco?
21	MR. TEDESCO: That's correct, Madam Chair.
22	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. And Mr. McCarthy may or may
23	not get back on, he had a family emergency. Okay. And then
24	I'm going to come back to Ms. Chang, I guess and see if
25	she's back on. But right now I guess I'll go to Michael

Ostroff right not. 1 2 MR. OSTROFF: Good afternoon, my name is Michael 3 Ostroff with the firm of Montero Law Group, in Silver 4 Spring, Maryland, and we represent the Catherine A. Nuzback (phonetic sp.) Trust, which is the property owner on the southern border of this plot of land. 6 7 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. So hold on a second, Mr. Mr. Flannigan, can you sort of direct us and Mr. 8 Ostroff, if you can see the screen, if you can sort of direct us to where her property is. Is that the best --10 11 MR. OSTROFF: Sure. 12 MADAM CHAIR: -- is that the best --13 MR. OSTROFF: It's actually --MADAM CHAIR: Is that the best exhibit for this, 14 15 Mr. Bossi? The one, no probably not. 16 MR. BOSSI: Yes, Madam Chairwoman. 17 MADAM CHAIR: It is? Okay. 18 MR. BOSSI: In fact, the property is directly 19 south of this site, so it would be on the lower portion of 20 the image. 21 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right. 22 MADAM VICE CHAIR: What's --23 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. I'm sorry, Mr. Ostroff. 24 can continue then.

MR. OSTROFF: Sure. At the bottom you'll actually

see it says ex-Nuzback Restaurant. There's a structure outline there.

MADAM CHAIR: Oh got it. Okay. Thank you.

MADAM VICE CHAIR: Okay.

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MR. OSTROFF: My client is the southern property owner. We've submitted a written statement, a brief written statement --

MADAM CHAIR: Which we have.

MR. OSTROFF: -- I'm not going to belabor the point but I did want to address two issues. First is the statement regarding the quiet title and the incorporation of the Magnolia Street right-of-way, it was referred to by Mr. Bossi and previously as a paper right-of-way. I am not disputing and our client is not disputing that there was a quiet title action and an order stating that as and between the two property owners, the Nuzback Trust does not have a property interest in it. However, our client has maintained and continues to maintain that his belief and his position that this is county owned property. And we did cite to two current cases, on in the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, one in the United States District Council for the District of Maryland, looking for additional information. One case was a Maryland Public Information Access request wherein there is a memorandum and a determination drafted by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission,

a former Assistant General Counsel, stating that the county didn't have an interest, but we've never seen that analysis, we've never received that. And so our purpose really is to paper that issue, to show that our continued concern and our continued position is that it is county property, that has now been incorporated into this lot and this application.

I'm happy to address that in more detail.

The owners of the property, the Narzario (phonetic sp.) Family LLC are not parties to that litigation. That litigation as outlined in my letter is with the Commission itself as well as the county.

The second issue is more of a practical issue with the change and the replacement of the split rail fence, now into a 6 foot privacy fence, which will divide the commercial lots and prevent easy access. I note again for the record that this was a former parking lot it was used and usable by various parties and it permitted access from Magnolia Street, the paved portion of Magnolia Street and the community there to our client's restaurant. In the process of original approval and now remand, it appears that, and they've testified that the intention now is to replace the split rail fence with a 6 foot privacy fence, which would obviously impact accessibility to the community, to the commercial properties in the surrounding area, the walk-thru and I'm not sure what the justification for

changing to that was.

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So those are the primary reasons for our opposition, again it's stated the cases are stated in the written opposition, that is information for the Board to consider. To the extent that there's any issue with this, you know, I mean this was subject in part to the remand because it has to deal with the incorporation of this street into the planning and the landscape aspect of this property.

So I will sit back, I will rest on that issue. I did just want to bring it to, and my client wanted to bring it to the Commission, the Board's attention.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Ostroff. It seems to me I have a little familiarity with the memo from the then counsel. But anyway, I think, okay, so let me turn to Mr. Goldsmith at this time to address the issue of the street, of the right-of-way. And anything else, Mr. Goldsmith. Okay.

MR. GOLDSMITH: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Peter Goldsmith, Senior Counsel. Okay. With respect to the street, having read the opinion from the Court of Special Appeals it looks like they, Nuzback, raised this argument that Magnolia was a public road before the Circuit Court. The Court ruled that Nuzback failed to produce any evidence to dispute the claim that the owner of the Checkers property, to dispute that the owner of the Checkers property

had obtained ownership of Magnolia Street by adverse possession.

In other words, and also I've seen no evidence from the county, that the county has accepted the dedication or wants to. They don't have to. So under the law typically, although I haven't seen the memo, I think that was just referred to, typically the adjoining property owner would own the road up to the midpoint of the road. But in this case, there's a court order from the Circuit Court and the Court of Special Appeals affirming that decision, where the Circuit Court ruled that the owners of the Checkers property owns the half of Magnolia Street on the Nuzback side. And so I've seen, and I've seen no stay in those two pending cases, issued by the Courts to stay processing of this development application.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Goldsmith.

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair --

MR. GOLDSMITH: Madam Chair, did you want me to address the storm water issue as well?

MADAM CHAIR: Hold on a second.

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Yes, Finding 3.

MADAM CHAIR: Yes, thank you.

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Thank you.

MR. GOLDSMITH: Okay. In the remand order on page 5, under Section C in the second sentence, the District

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Council's order reads Checkers Site Plan shows that not all structures for the use will be built or constructed in the C-S-C Zone, meaning referring to the storm water management area in the R-55, as required by the Ordinance. citation to Section 27-461(b) footnote 24. And I do not believe, and so I think what the, to the extent that the District Council is saying that the storm water management facility the submerged gravel wetland, to the extent that the District Council is saying that that can't be constructed in the R-55 Zone, I do not believe that the law is that definitive, and I think there are important elements that are absent from the District Council's analysis that lead to a different conclusion. And so the footnote in the citation, footnote 24, the footnote to the commercial use table relating to eating and drinking establishments in the C-S-C Zone and as it relates to this case all it says is it just requires an approval of a Detailed Site Plan.

It says nothing about requiring all structures for the use to be built in only the C-S-C Zone. And absent from the District Council's analysis as Mr. Tedesco pointed out is any mention of Subtitle 32 of the Prince George's County Code, and that's the subtitle that governs storm water management. There is also no mention of the authorizing legislation set forth in the environmental article for local government implementation of those storm water management

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programs and there's no mention of the corresponding state regulations. So there is nothing in Subtitle 32 or in state law that requires storm water management facilities to be located in the same zone as the principal use. And as Mr. Tedesco pointed out, there's some provisions that indicate preference to locate these facilities on site, which is where the submerged gravel wetland facility is located. I mean it's in a different zone, but it's still on site. It's all on Lot 23.

Furthermore, the Zoning Ordinance does not treat storm water management as a use, a quote unquote use, as that term is understood in the Zoning Ordinance. If a quote unquote use is not included in a use table, then it would be prohibited and storm water management facilities are not included in a commercial use table, but they are required nonetheless.

MADAM CHAIR: Correct.

MR. GOLDSMITH: So again storm water management facilities cannot be placed anywhere the developer wishes, they're governed by Subtitle 32, not the Zoning Ordinance, and staff has concluded that what is being proposed meets the requirements of Subtitle 32. And so as the law is now, I see no clear legal impediment to locating the proposed storm water management facility on an R-55 zoned property, to serve the use on the C-S-C property.

1	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. So in terms of saying this
2	finding, let me find the page, would you concede or do you
3	have proposed language to amend this, the one finding, you
4	may not utilize the terminology appropriate and legal, but
5	there's no prohibition?
6	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Can I
7	MADAM CHAIR: I mean what's your proposed language
8	for that condition?
9	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Well, can I add to that
10	before you comment and I was going to say and or is the
11	language as proposed by staff consistent with what you just
12	stated?
13	MR. GOLDSMITH: Well, I think the issue is that
14	staff in the memo said staff concurs with the applicant's
15	analysis and finds the location of the proposed storm water
16	management facility acceptable. And I think what Mr.
17	Tedesco is asking for a little bit more specific finding.
18	MADAM CHAIR: Stronger language.
19	MR. GOLDSMITH: The stronger language.
20	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Got it.
21	MR. GOLDSMITH: And so I think that the legal
22	conclusion is that there's no clear legal impediment to
23	locating the storm water management facility on the R-55

MADAM CHAIR: So do you have any problem with

zoned property to serve the use on the C-S-C property.

1	adding that language?					
2	MR. GOLDSMITH: No.					
3	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay.					
4	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Okay. Thank you.					
5	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. So let me see, where was I in					
6	terms of questions. I said Commissioner Washington,					
7	Commissioner Doerner?					
8	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: Yes, just a point of					
9	clarification. I think just to be picky, Mr. Goldsmith,					
10	what you're saying is that the R-55 portion of this property					
11	or the R-55 zoned area of this property, right, not a					
12	separate R-55 property, because that's kind of one of the					
13	distinctions in this.					
14	MR. GOLDSMITH: Absolutely. That's absolutely					
15	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: I just want to make sure					
16	it's abundantly clear about that.					
17	MADAM CHAIR: Correct.					
18	MR. GOLDSMITH: Yes.					
19	MADAM CHAIR: Okay.					
20	MR. GOLDSMITH: The R-55 zoned portion of this					
21	property					
22	MADAM CHAIR: Of this site.					
23	MR. GOLDSMITH: because it's all					
24	MADAM CHAIR: Of this site.					
25	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: (Indiscernible) property in					

itself. 1 2 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 3 MR. GOLDSMITH: Correct. 4 COMMISSIONER DOERNER: Okay. Thank you. 5 MADAM CHAIR: The R-55 zoned portion of the site. Okay. All right. So is that it for you Commissioner 6 7 Doerner? COMMISSIONER DOERNER: Yes, just nitpicking. 8 9 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. No, that was good. That was Commissioner Geraldo? 10 good. 11 COMMISSIONER GERALDO: No questions, Madam Chair. 12 MADAM CHAIR: Okay. All right. So now did Ms. 13 Chang, is she on? MS. CHANG: (No audible response.) 14 15 MADAM CHAIR: Ms. Chang? 16 MS. CHANG: Yes, sir, oh I'm sorry, yes, ma'am. 17 MADAM CHAIR: Yes, so anyway, Ms. Chang, I don't 18 know how long you've been on and if you heard the 19 conversation regarding the right-of-way and who owns the 20 right-of-way. Is it the county? Or do you have --21 MS. CHANG: Yes, I just came out of a hearing so I 22 didn't hear any of that, but I'm prepared to make a brief 23 statement if that's okay. Because I read the letter that 24 was submitted by Mr. Montero (phonetic sp.) for the Nuzback

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Trust.

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MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Well, if you can help us, if you have some light to shed that would be appreciated.

MS. CHANG: That's fine, Your Honor, I'm sorry, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. You definitely just came out of a hearing, but okay. Okay.

MS. CHANG: Yes, and I'm sitting in my car, I apologize and I'm burning up.

MADAM CHAIR: Well I hope you're on the side of the road. Okay. Okay.

MS. CHANG: Okay. Specifically, I wanted to address and maybe this is the pertinent part of their statement that there has been no final order as to whether Prince George's County is the legal owner of the right-of-way, the subject right-of-way that's adjacent to the Narzario property as well as the Nuzback Trust.

After the Narzario family quiet title action, the Nuzback and that was never disclosed in the letter, but maybe the Board knows this, the Nuzback sued the Narzario family and the county as well as the state in case number CAE18-11322 in the Circuit Court of Prince George's County for the court to declare either the state or the county owned the right-of-way. Prince George's County immediately pled it had no property interest in the right-of-way and was granted summary judgment on July 11, 2019. And of course

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the Narzario family was dismissed with prejudice, as res judicata since that was already determined from that prior quiet title action.

So having exhaust their legal recourse through the state courts and even the Court of Special Appeals, the Nuzback Trust filed an eleventh hour suit against the county in federal court, I assume just so that it's based on the same issue, claiming that Prince George's County really is the rightful owner of the right-of-way. And having read that pleading which quite honestly doesn't make any sense whatsoever, basically most of the allegations, if anything contains, you know, its various allegations of conspiracy and the suit has no merit whatsoever. So I think that that case where the Nuzback's had filed suit against the county as well as the state, I think kind of ends this, this inquiry that Prince George's County never took, you know, never took possession of the right-of-way, never had any interest in it and the court's decision to grant summary judgment, you know, based upon Prince George's County's representation that it had no property interest in July of 2019, I think resolved that issue.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Chang. So we may come back --

MS. CHANG: Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR: -- to you, hopefully not because I

don't want you driving. Okay. So let's see --

MS. CHANG: I'm not driving, I'm just sitting right here, it's okay.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Okay. Thank you. Okay. So now Mr. Tedesco, Mr. Ostroff, you do get the opportunity to respond and then finally we will close out with Mr. Tedesco.

MR. TEDESCO: I'll defer at this moment, Madam
Chair, and be happy to respond once we're ready to conclude.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Mr. Ostroff, do you have anything to add?

MR. OSTROFF: My only addition would be that the characterizations, obviously, are going to be different from the Narzario's point of view and ours. The second lawsuit that was referenced was a declaratory judgment that was dismissed based on the county's representation that it didn't own the land. There has been no formal, and again we refer to a memorandum from the Commission discussing this. But the problem is from Nuzback Trust point of view is that we have never been privy to that memorandum. We don't know how the county came to its determination and so I want to be clear on that. It is our position that the county is the owner, but we are not privy to the county's insider knowledge despite the fact that we have done a public information request. So I just want to say that.

And number two, you know, I just want to reiterate

my question as to why the railing, the fencing became a privacy fencing as opposed to the split rail, which I believe that would be Mr. Tedesco more than Ms. Chang. But it does seem to be a change in the accessibility to the property.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. So this is it for you, Mr.
Ostroff and then we're going to go to Mr. Tedesco and Mr.
Tedesco gets to respond and close out and then the Board can ask any questions of anyone. So Mr. Tedesco?

MR. TEDESCO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would align myself with Ms. Chang's response as well Mr. Goldsmith's responses with respect to the right-of-way. The only thing I would add additionally, which I think we said at the outset is that I know the Board has been quite accommodating to Mr. Ostroff and his client with respect to this. They did not attend the October 29th hearing, so while I commend and compliment the Board for its accommodations, this issue of the right-of-way is not part of this remand.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay.

MR. TEDESCO: And I just, you know, for the sake of the record, because I don't know what the ultimate outcome of this case is going to be, I just want to make sure the record is preserved from our perspective that we have deviated quite substantially on this issue from the

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actual remand that came down from the District Council and I think we have somewhat gone awry of 27-290(d). But nevertheless whatever information that you all need in response to a letter that was submitted into this record which again arguably I think is beyond the scope of the remand, but that be what it may. You know, we would, I guess for the record, object to this line of questioning and or part of the hearing. But nevertheless, we do understand Mr. Ostroff's position.

With respect to the specific question about the fencing along with stub of Magnolia, the east side of the property running south and then running along what used to be the center line of Magnolia, that was directly in response to the District Council's remand and during that oral argument hearing, actually Councilmember Dernoga had as well as the People's Zoning Council, had suggested in response to the prior zoning condition Condition 1D of 3-1996, suggestive of the sight tight fencing to better adhere to Condition 1, excuse me, I said 1D, I meant to say 1C, Condition 1C of Zoning Ordinance Number 3-1996, which, among other things, required the then lots, excuse me, existing Lots 14 through 17 in Block 4, which are on the south side of Magnolia, on the bottom right hand corner of your screen there. You can see it's the lots labeled Jordan, Labizza (phonetic sp.), yes, that lot. Those are Lots 14 through 17

as you run east.

And so in response to that, the applicant agreed to propose a sight tight fence along that area. In response to that and I would say I don't know the full history of that rezoning case from 1996, but it certainly was important to the District Council at that point in time to provide screening and buffering from the commercial uses along Route 1 to the residential R-55 uses and homes to the east.

So with respect to pedestrian connectivity, there are sidewalks existing throughout this area as well as along Route 1. There is the ability for pedestrian connectivity along the front without having to access the back of these properties which honestly, we wouldn't really want people walking through the storm water facilities and the trash areas anyway, so.

I would also note that the Nuzback Restaurant has outdoor seating which the shared parking that was referenced hasn't been utilized in quite some time. And certainly would be, I think, speaking for the owners something that they would agree to for any potential trespassing that may occur. So again the sight tight fence was strictly proposed to further enhance the landscaping, further enhance the buffering and in further response to the remand items, and primarily Condition 1C of the prior rezoning.

And with that, Madam Chair, I think we have

analyzed this quite thoroughly and we would respectfully request the Board's approval.

MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Tedesco. If the Board has no questions of anyone there is an opportunity to raise your hand if you do have a question, but if not, we'll entertain a motion at this time.

COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Madam Chair, I move that we adopt the additional findings of staff's memorandum dated May 6, 2021, and in so doing would ask that Finding Number 2 be augmented based on the rationale as set forth in Staff Exhibit Number 1. I would also that staff would update and augment Finding Number 3, in consult with counsel consistent with Mr. Goldsmith's determination that the location of the proposed storm water management facility is acceptable and approve or issue an amendment to PGCPB Resolution Number 2020-152, also known as or codifying DSP-20006, in addition to approving AC-21013.

MADAM CHAIR: We have a motion, is there a second?

I'll get to discussion, is there a second?

COMMISSIONER DOERNER: Doerner will second.

MADAM CHAIR: Okay. Under discussion, and I think Commissioner Washington said for the resolution in consult with the language as spoken by, as stated by our counsel, Mr. Goldsmith, in terms of that it is, there is no prohibition of the storm water management being located in

1	the R-55 portion of this site. Whatever your specific					
2	language was, yes, but that's what Commissioner Washington					
3	was referring to. I just want to make it really clear in					
4	the discussion. Okay. And Commissioner Doerner, do you					
5	have something too to add?					
6	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: No, that's fine.					
7	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. So we have a motion and we					
8	have a second. Madam Vice Chair?					
9	MADAM VICE CHAIR: I vote aye.					
LO	MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Washington?					
L1	COMMISSIONER WASHINGTON: Vote aye.					
L2	MADAM CHAIR: Commissioner Doerner?					
L3	COMMISSIONER DOERNER: Vote aye.					
L4	MADAM CHAIR: And Commissioner Geraldo?					
L5	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: I vote aye, Madam Chair.					
L 6	MADAM CHAIR: Okay. The ayes have it 5-0. Thank					
L7	you very much, everyone. Mr. Hunt, is there any additional					
L8	business to come before the Planning Board today?					
L 9	MR. HUNT: There are no additional business items					
20	before the Board today.					
21	MADAM CHAIR: The Planning Board is adjourned.					
22	Stay safe everyone, enjoy these beautiful days.					
23	COMMISSIONER GERALDO: Thank you.					
24	UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Thank you.					
5	(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded)					

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:

CHECKERS LAUREL

Detailed Site Plan, DSP-20006

Ву: _			_	Date:	August	2,	2021
Diane	Wilson,	Transcriber					