

# **Transcript of Hearing**

**Date:** March 6, 2025

Case: CTC Retail, LC & Weiss Markets, Inc. (CU 25-02)

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284 OFFICE OF ZONING AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS				286
OFFICE OF ZONING AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND	1	APEAR	ANCES	
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND	2			
	3	ON BEHALF OF THE A		
	4	ROBERT R. HARR		
x	5	LERCH, EARLY &		
In Re Application Of:	6		Avenue, Suite 700	
CTC Retail, LC & Weis Markets, Inc. (CU 25-02)	7	Bethesda, Mary	land 20814	
x	8	301-841-3845		
	9			
0 HEARING BEFORE EXAMINER KHANDIKILE MVUNGA SOKONI	10	ON BEHALF OF THE O	PPOSITION:	
1 DAY THREE	11	LESLIE POWELL,	ESQUIRE	
2 Rockville, Maryland	12	POWELL, LLC		
Thursday, March 6, 2025	13	19 North Court	Street, Suite 201	
9:32 a.m.	14	Frederick Mary	land 21701	
5	15	301-668-7575		
6	16			
7	17			
8	18	ALSO PRESENT:		
9	19	Andrew Rouff, Technician		
ð	20	Steve Feather, via Zoom		
	21	Kate Kubit		
2	22	Tim Longfellow, via Zoom		
3 Job No: 574265	23			
4 Pages: 284 - 522	24			
5 Transcribed by: Nicole Mastrosimone	25			
285				287
Hearing held at:	1	CONTENT	S	
	2			
	3	WITNESSES	PAGE	
	4	David Samba By Mr. Harris	306, 331	
Montgomery County Office of Zoning and	5	By Ms. Powell	313	
Administrative Hearings	6	Edward Steele By Mr. Harris	334, 380	
100 Maryland Avenue	7	By Ms. Powell By Hearing Examiner Sokoni	335, 356, 384 385	
County Office Building	8	Ishan Patel	204 405	
	9	By Ms. Powell By Mr. Harris	394, 405 401	
Room 200	10	Ajay Patel		
0 Rockville, Maryland 20850	11	By Ms. Powell By Mr. Harris	406, 426 418	
1	12	Kate Kubit	422	
2	13	By Hearing Examiner Sokoni Amy Presley	432	
3	14	By Amy Presley	442, 495	
4	15	By Mr. Harris	474	
5	16		PAGE	
5	17		499 507 517	
7	18	By Ms. Presley	517	
3	19			
Before Cody Handlir, Notary Public in and	20			
o for the State of Maryland.	21			
1	22			
2	23			
3	24			
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	51. E-mail Exchanges between the Hearing Examiner,  Robert Harris, Amy Presley, Leslie Powell  52. Affidavit of Posting  11 53. Planning Board Resolution dated 3-25-24  54. Clarkshurg Town Center Project Plan  12 55. Planning Board Transmittal Letter received on January 10, 2025.  13 56. 2-23-2025 E-mail from the Hearing Examiner to Parties  4 57. E-mail exchange between the Hearing Examiner and Arny Presley  15 58. 2-5-2025 E-mail Exchange between the Hearing Examiner and Parties  6 59. 2-5-2025 Coverall Site Plan  60. 2-5-2025 Subpone Request from Leslie Powell  16 12-7-2025 Letter from Leslie Powell  17 61. 2-7-2025 Letter from Leslie Powell  8 Motion to Deny CUA	A. Cover Sheet B. Approval Sheet C. Conditional Use Site D. Site Details Sheet E. Landscape Plan and Details 10. Approved NRI and FSD Plan 11. Final Forest Conservation Plans A. Cover Sheet B. Overall Plan C. Final FCP D. Final FCP E. Final FCP 2 E. Final FCP 3 F. Final FCP Approval G. Final FOR Approval G. Final FOR Approval G. Final FOR Approval Sheet I. Final FCP-Approval Sheet
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	13 56. 2-23-2025 E-mail from the Hearing Examiner to Parties 14 57. E-mail exchange between the Hearing Examiner and Amy Presley 15 58. 2-5-2025 E-mail Exchange between the Hearing Examiner and Parties 16 59. 2-5-2025 Overall Site Plan 60. 2-5-2025 Subponen Request from Leslie Powell 17 61. 2-7-2025 Letter from Leslie Powell Attachments A. Affidavit of Ajay Patel B. Motion to Deny CUA	B. Overall Plan C. Final FCP D. Final FCP 2 E. Final FCP 3 F. Final FCP Approval G. Final FCP Approval H. Final FCP-Approval Sheet I. Final FCP-Approval Sheet
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	<ul> <li>59. 2-5-2025 Overall Site Plan</li> <li>60. 2-5-2025 Subpoena Request from Leslie Powell</li> <li>61. 2-7-2025 Letter from Leslie Powell Attachments         <ul> <li>A. Affidavit of Ajay Patel</li> <li>B. Motion to Deny CUA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	H. Final FCP-Approval Sheet I. Final FCP-Approval Sheet
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	A. Affidavit of Ajay Patel B. Motion to Deny CUA	J. Final FCP-Approval Sheet 12. Final Water Quality Plans
		A. Cover Sheet B. Composite Final Quality Site Plan
	I. Exhibits A to I  62. Opposition to Leslie Powell's Subpoena Request	C. Final Water Quality Plan D. Final Water Quality Plan
	63. Exhibits submitted by Applicant's Landscape	E. Final Water Quality Plan F. Final Water Quality Plan
	A. Map of Gas Stations within 1 mile	13. SWM Concept Plan Approval Letter 14. Record Plat 25584 or 61
	64. Reply to Motion to Deny Conditional Use	15. Resumes
	21 Application submitted by Robert Harris A. Attachments to Reply to Motion	B. Tim Longfellow
	22 (Exhibits A to H) 65. Order regarding Leslie Powell's Subpoena	D. Edward M. Steere
	23 Request issued by Hearing Examiner	
	<ol> <li>A. Attachments(Exhibits A through F)</li> </ol>	
291	Examiner and Parties	289
271		
		(Retained by OZAH.)
		. Fire Access Site Plan
		. Circulation Plan
		. Color-Coded Utility Plan . Planning Board's Resolution 11-6-08, 12-11-08
		. Planning Board's Resolution 02-29-24
	**	. Sign Location Exhibit
		. Lighting Plans
	8 today is a continuation of a hearing that was	. Applicant's Acceptance of the Posting of Signs . Applicant's request to amend to add Weis
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	•	. Applicant's request to amend to add Weis  Markets, Inc. as Applicant  . Motion to Amend submitted by Keith Bennet
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	Application submitted by Robert Harris A. Attachments to Reply to Motion (Exhibits A to H)  Conder regarding Leslie Powell's Subpoena Request issued by Hearing Examiner 66. Memorandum of law submitted by Robert Harris A. Attachments(Exhibits A through F) 67. 3-5-25 E-mail Exchanges among the Hearing Examiner and Parties 68. Settlement Agreement (Admitted on page 489)  PROCEEDINGS  Whereupon,  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I'll call this hearing to order. It's a conditional use application, OZAH case number CU 25-02. It's the application of CTC Retail, LC and Weis Markets, Inc. Today's hearing, today March 6, the hearing	15. Resumes  A. Kevin Foster B. Tim Longfellow C. David Samba D. Edward M. Steere   EXHIBITS CONTINUED (Retained by OZAH.)  Fire Access Site Plan Open Space Plan Circulation Plan Circulation Plan Planning Board's Resolution 11-6-08, 12-11-08 Planning Board's Resolution 07-23-15 Planning Board's Resolution 07-23-15 Planning Board's Resolution 02-29-24 Statement of Justification Sign Location Exhibit Architectural Plan Exhibit Lighting Plans

	Warch 6, 2025	20.4
1 criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance.	1 That's going to be cross-examination.	294
1 criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance. 2 Could we please identify the parties	2 And today's hearing, as I mentioned, is a	
3 present?	3 continuation of the February 20 hearing. So the	
4 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Good morning again.	4 order of proceedings is that the Applicant has the	
5 For the record, Bob Harris of Lerch, Early and	5 burden of proving that they qualify for the	
6 Brewer representing the Applicant. 7 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you.	6 benefit they are seeking, and they present their 7 case in chief. We got started with that, and	
8 MS. POWELL: Good morning. Leslie Powell		
9 on behalf of the Patel parties, Ark 25, Shankar	<ul><li>8 we'll continue with that today.</li><li>9 When they close, we turn to the</li></ul>	
10 Limited and Aries Investment Group.	10 opposition, and they have their case in chief, and	
11 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very	11 it's a similar drill. The Applicants have the	
12 much.	12 opportunity to cross-examine the opposition	
13 This is a hybrid proceeding, so is there	13 witnesses.	
14 anyone on the Zoom? If you could kindly turn on		
15 your camera and introduce yourself. That's if	We did opening statements last time, so 15 I'll dispense with those today, except for I will	
16 it is a public hearing; but, if anyone wishes to	16 ask counsel to just let me know how many witnesses	
17 participate, we need to have a record of who's	17 you have and what your order of presentation will	
18 present. I see there's a zoning. Must be our	18 be.	
19 Staff. So there's a something iPad. Lauralay's		
20 (phonetic) iPad, if that's someone wishing to	MR. HARRIS: Yes. Applicant has two 20 witnesses intended for today. One is David Samba,	
21 participate, please identify yourself. Okay.	21 the traffic engineer, and the second is Ed Steere,	
22 So, like I said, it is a hybrid	22 the analyst who did the needs analysis.	
23 proceeding, so we will have participation on Zoom.		
24 Anyone who is on the Zoom who wishes to	1	
25 participate, when it's time for you to speak, you	T **	
	25 have Ajay Patel and Ishan Patel.	205
1 have to have your camera on; otherwise, please	1 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you.	295
	1 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you. 2 And I know that Ms. Amy Presley, who was	
2 keep yourselves muted with your camera off until 3 it's time to speak. On Zoom either raise your	3 present last time, is unable to attend in person,	
	I I	
	<ul><li>testify, to present her case in opposition and is</li><li>scheduled for two p.m.</li></ul>	
		So
8 So if you could just you know, if you have 9 something to say, please hold off until the	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yeah. Okay.  I will turn it over to Mr. Harris to get us going	. 50
10 current speaker finishes, unless you're objecting,	10 and continue from where you left off last time.	
11 unless you're raising a legal objection. Also	11 MR. HARRIS: One preliminary matter,	
12 please note that the chat function is disabled on	12 ma'am, when Ms. Kubit testified, she testified	
13 the Zoom, so the only way we'll hear the only	13 that the contract with Weis was contingent on the	
14 thing that will get into the record is something	14 gas station being approved; and, if the gas pumps	
15 that you will speak. You will not be able to	15 were not approved, they could cancel the contract.	
16 share your screen. If there's any exhibits you	16 And then the opposition objected to that	
17 need to call up, our Zoom operator will assist	17 testimony. You soon after said you were not going	
18 with pulling those up on the screen.	18 to allow that testimony; but then, in the last	
The nature of the proceeding, this is an	19 couple days, you said that you would allow that	
20 informal the proceeding itself is somewhat	20 testimony. Now, it was repeated by Jack O'Hara of	
21 informal because it is an administrative	21 Weis, and there was no objection to that. So that	
22 proceeding. However, we are governed by rules of	22 information is already in the record, but if it	
23 procedure, the OZAH Rules of Procedure. All	23 would help I don't know whether you simply want	
24 people giving testimony will do so under oath.		
	24 to confirm that the testimony already provided by 25 Ms. Kubit is allowed, or whether you need her to	
25 You may be asked questions about your testimony.	25 Ms. Rubit is allowed, or whether you need her to	

come back for one minute and reiterate what she	Conducted on	I March 0, 2023
2 said. 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKON: I have no 4 preference. If the Applicant is satisfied that 5 the testimony you tried to get in his gotten in, 6 then that's fine. I had ruled on that objection, 7 and I had prevented Ms. Kubit's testimony, so I 8 was reversing myself. 9 MR. HARRIS: Yes. 10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And if you're 11 content to leave it alone, that's fine. 12 wishes if you wish to testify, that's fine. 13 itoo. 14 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Go ahead. 15 MS. KUBIT: Good morning. My name is Kate 16 Kabit for the record. I don't need to testify, if 17 everybody's comfortable, but I do want to tell you 18 that I'm getting tests that people online can not 19 hear us. 20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 21 much. That's really important so - 22 MR. HARRIS: No you may have to ask them 2 again whether they want to register to testify. 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: No, it would 25 not. 297 10 MR. HARRIS: So you may have to ask them 2 again whether they want to register to testify. 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 4 MR. HARRIS: So you may have to ask them 2 again whether they want to register to testify. 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 4 much. So we have someone on or Zoom. 10 MR. LONGFELLOW: Yes. Good morning. This 11 is Tim Longfellow. The with GLW. The just 12 listening in, but I can now hear you. 13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 14 much. That's really up reviewly on but 15 could not hear us? 16 MR. LONGFELLOW: Yes. Good morning. This 11 is Tim Longfellow. Pro with GLW. Pro just 15 could not hear us? 16 MR. LONGFELLOW: Yes. Good morning. This 11 is Tim Longfellow. Pro with GLW. Pro just 15 could not hear us? 16 MR. LONGFELLOW: Yes. Good morning. This 17 the critical discussion off the record.) 18 Content to the province of the proposition of the propositi		
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300 302 and their clients. Maybe we do that again real 1 those are, likewise, not binding precedent. And quick. Just mention your name and who you're there is insufficient information in those representing. exhibits to determine whether or not they would MR. HARRIS: Yes. Good morning. Bob actually even have any beneficial effect. Because Harris of Lerch, Early, Brewer representing the they are not binding, they are not court decisions and they are not recorded court decisions, we Applicants. MS. POWELL: Good morning. Leslie Powell would request that they be stricken and that on behalf of the opponents, Ark 25, Shankar this -- that you not rely upon them. 9 Limited and Aries Investment Group. And with me I HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Response? 10 have two representatives, Ajay Patel and Ishan 10 MR. HARRIS: We believe they are relevant 11 Patel, who will be offering testimony. 11 and pertinent, and they are official documents. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 12 Whether they're recorded or not is not the point. 13 The Rules of Evidence, as we understand it, before 13 much. And for the record, I also have 14 communications from Ms. Amy Presley who was 14 the Zoning Hearing Examiner are not as strict as a 15 present last time. She wishes to testify, and 15 court. And there's been a lot of testimony and 16 she's not able to be here in person, but we've 16 exhibits in this proceeding so far that are not 17 made arrangements for her to testify at two p.m. 17 recorded documents, the plan of compliance being 18 this afternoon. 18 an example of that. These are all relevant, and 19 we think they should be admitted. With that, I'll turn it over to Mr. Harris 20 to -- before we -- actually, before we move on, we 20 MS. POWELL: These are not being offered 21 were dealing with some preliminaries, the first 21 for facts, Madam Examiner. They're being offered 22 one being a ruling that I reversed on objections. 22 for legal argument in support of Mr. Harris' 23 And what I've heard is that Ms. Kubit is not 23 memorandum of law. And because they are being 24 planning on testifying, and I leave that totally 24 offered for law, I would respectfully disagree 25 to the Applicant. It's your choice. 25 with Mr. Harris and that it is inappropriate to 301 303 MR. HARRIS: Correct. We see no need for 1 rely on unreported decisions, which clearly make 2 her to testify again. She already has testified, plain that they are not to be relied on, as well and Jack O'Hara from Weis Market reiterated that as the legal aspects of the Board of Appeals 4 testimony. So we're comfortable with that. Thank decisions, because those are not decisions by a 5 court and they are not -- they're not authority you. 6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you. for Madam Examiner. 7 Another preliminary matter is the exhibits. When HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Correct. I did 8 we last convened, we were up to exhibit 65. There note that the case cited was an unreported case, 9 should be an exhibit sheet at the table, counsel but what I do in that case is the Hearing Examiner 10 table. And then, any members of the public, we 10 will decide what weight, if any, to attach to it. 11 have some in the back. Any objections to the 11 So I will not strike them from the record, but 12 inclusion of the additional -- we're now at 12 your objection is noted and I will consider that 13 Exhibit 67 with the addition of motion papers by 13 in deciding what weight to attach to the

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you.
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have some in the back. Any objections to the
inclusion of the additional -- we're now at
Exhibit 67 with the addition of motion papers by
Mr. Harris, and I think a series of e-mail
exchanges.

MR. HARRIS: No objection from Applicants.
MS. POWELL: Madam Examiner, I will be
disobjecting to the attachments submitted by
Mr. Harris that are appended to Exhibit 66. And
rather than wait until it comes up, I just want to
note my objection now. This consists -- these are
legal objections. This consists of an unreported
Court of Special Appeals decision, which is not
binding precedent. And the other exhibits relate

14 documents.

15 The other Board decisions, I mean, we can
16 take judicial notice of government actions or the
17 actions of bodies, not necessarily that they are
18 legally binding and certainly they're not legally
19 binding, but we can take notice of them.
20 MS. POWELL: And I understand that. The
21 basis for my objection is that, to the extent that
22 they're offered as any binding legal precedent,
23 they should be disregarded. I understand that
24 they're facts, that they document decisions made
25 by various Boards of Appeals; but, to the extent

1 they're being offered in support of the legal 2 argument that's being presented by Mr. Harris, I 3 suggest that they are actually neither here nor 4 there, frankly. 5 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Mr. Harris, 6 would you be able to get me a reported case on 7 your I know you attached an unreported case. 8 Are you able to get me a reported cases? 9 MR. HARRIS: Yes, there are reported cases? 10 cited in here, Baltimore County Licensed Beverage 11 Association, Springloch Area Citizens Group, both 12 reported cases, Kreatchman Ramsburg, Aspen Hill 13 Venture, all reported cases. 14 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. 15 MS. POWELL: We don't have objections to 16 the reported cases. 17 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yes. I wanted 18 him to respond to okay. I think we will 19 everything that's in the memo of law stands, and I 20 will consider what weight, if any, to attach to 21 any of them. That's with regard to the exhibits. 22 So just so I'm clear, Ms. Powell, you're not 23 objecting the memo of law stays in. What 24 you're objecting to is you would like to strike 25 the attachments to the memo of law?  10 case in chief. 2 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Applicant would call 3 David Samba, please. 4 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And my 5 apologies. If we can just pause for one moment 6 because you're oh, it's right here. I thought 7 I had left my writing pad. You may proceed. 8 DAVID SAMBA, 9 was examined and testified as follows: 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT 11 BY MR. HARRIS: 12 Q Mr. Samba, would you state your name and 13 occupation for the record, please? 14 A Sure. My name is David Samba. I am a 15 professional traffic engineer, as well as a 16 certified professional traffic operations 17 engineer, certified professional transportation 18 planner and a dual certified road safety 19 professional. I work with Kimley-Horn and 20 Associates, which is a full service civil 21 engineering firm. 22 which is a full service civil 23 submitted Exhibit 15C, which is a copy of 24 Mr. Samba's resume, and we are going t
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25 the attachments to the memo of law? 25 as an expert in transportation and traffic 305 307
305
MS. POWELL: That's correct. I'm 1 engineering.
2 objecting to the merit of the attachments that are 2 MS. POWELL: No objection.
3 submitted with the memorandum of law, that is 3 MR. HARRIS: All right. Thank you.
4 correct. 4 BY MR. HARRIS:
5 MR. HARRIS: Applicant is not maintaining 5 Q Mr. Samba, can you tell us a little bit
6 that those are binding law applicable here, but 6 about what you know of the history of the
7 they are highly relevant because they show how 7 transportation and traffic review of this subject
8 boards of appeals, including this one, have dealt 8 property over the years?
9 with the issue of need and how the courts have 9 A Certainly. So the retail center was
10 dealt with it. 10 evaluated multiple times by the County. I'll just
HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. 11 go back to 1995, which was the first evaluation.
MS. POWELL: Respectfully, Madam Examiner, 12 And this is shown in Exhibit 54 at page 51, if you
13 there is a reported case that is notably omitted  13 want to track with me. So in 1995 the Clarksburg
14 from Mr. Harris' memorandum that is directly on 14 Town Center was approved for 150 well, a
15 point. It's called Lucky Stores, and it analyzes  15 combined 250,000 square feet of commercial split
16 need in the context of gasoline stations in 16 up between 150,000 square feet of retail and
17 Montgomery County and that is not cited. 17 100,000 square feet of office.
18 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Are you 18 There's another reevaluation in 2009.
19 MS. POWELL: I have copies of it. I'll Yes, Exhibit 54. I'm sorry.
20 deal with that later, but 20 So, again, that was Exhibit 54. That was
21 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: If I could have <b>21 at page 51. There was a second reevaluation, if</b>
22 the citation to that, that would be helpful. <b>22 you're again tracking, Exhibit 54 at page 52</b>
23 MS. POWELL: Certainly. 23 reevaluating in 2009. And at that point the
24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. With <b>24 commercial density was reduced by about 96,000 or</b>
25 that, the exhibits stand and we proceed with the 25 so square feet. So it started at 250,000 square

308 310 feet, and it was reevaluated at 194,720 square HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Would you like 2 to under oath confirm that what you have spoken 3 was the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the There was another evaluation in 2015, 4 which actually increased the commercial at this 4 truth? point, so from that 194,000 square feet to 206,000 5 THE WITNESS: I can confirm that, yes. 6 square feet. That's described at Exhibit 54 at HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you. 6 page 53. 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Sorry about 8 8 that. But I'll say for each one of those 9 evaluations the Planning Staff and the Board found 9 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You may proceed. 10 that the transportation system was adequate. So 10 My apologies. 11 each -- the impact which affected traffic of each THE WITNESS: No, no, no. Of course. We 11 12 of those densities that were evaluated did not 12 got right into it. 13 create adverse impacts on the transportation 13 So let me just recap what I just said 14 there a second ago. For each one of those 14 system. 15 The most current and maybe most relevant 15 previous evaluations, the Planning Board and Staff 16 update that we're talking about today is in 2024, 16 found the transportation system to be adequate. 17 and this is described in the Exhibit 54 at pages 17 In this current application, we are 18 65, 71 and 85. The Staff and Board again found 18 generating less commercial development, less 19 the pedestrian vehicle transitions to be adequate. 19 density overall than what had been planned and 20 So I kind of want to say that what we're doing in 20 considered to be adequate. And so the guidelines 21 this particular case at this point, the inclusion 21 allow us to make the case, which we did in our 22 of the fueling positions, the gas pumps in 22 transportation analysis, that, as long as we 23 addition to all the changes that have occurred 23 confirm the number of trips that are generated and 24 since 1995 were actually resulting in a smaller 24 we confirm the density and if those two things are 25 level of density than was previously approved. 25 less than the previously-approved amount, we can

309

make the case and put it to the Planning Board and

Staff that we believe we're adequate for

transportation.

4 So, as I mentioned, we did reassess that.

So Exhibit 6 is the traffic analysis. We

demonstrate that for the additional, or for the

reduced amount of activity, commercial activity on

the site compared to what was previously approved,

even with the fueling positions, we are still

10 again generating less overall trips. And Staff,

11 Planning Staff and Board again found, based on

12 that basis -- and this is described in Exhibit 36,

13 pages 16 and 17 -- that there's a net reduction in

14 number of trips than was previously approved. And

15 so again we are reaching a state of transportation

16 adequacy.

Q And did those analyses include both

18 vehicular and pedestrian adequacy?

A So per the Local Area Transportation 20 Review Guidelines, the transportation adequacy

21 test is both a vehicular and a nonmotorized test,

22 so all the other ways that you travel that's not

23 in your car. It is looking at the adequacy on

24 public facilities. And so yes, in that sense, it 25 does include both those two levels of tests,

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4 development's transportation impacts, when you 5 have a condition where your transportation or your 6 site is developing either less density or less 7 trips than what was previously approved, you can 8 make the case that you're going to fall under the 9 previous approval for transportation adequacy. 10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Mr. Samba, if I 11 could --THE WITNESS: Yes. 12 13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: -- pause for one 14 moment. I just realized --15 THE WITNESS: Are we not on --HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: No. I did not 16 17 swear you in.

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So if you could

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And you have

THE WITNESS: Oh, yes.

THE WITNESS: Of course.

(The witness was sworn.)

24 been testifying for the last few minutes.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 raise your right hand.

18

19

21

22

23

25

And per the Local Area Transportation

2 Review Guidelines, kind of the guiding documents 3 that dictate how we're supposed to analyze a

312	314
1 vehicular and nonvehicular adequacy.	1 Q And can you explain so the gasoline
2 Q And based on your analysis, have you come	2 service stations, as I understand it, are a
3 to your own conclusion in terms of adequacy, and	3 separate category under your manual?
4 is that in your traffic statement?	4 A Correct.
5 A Yes, so it is within my traffic statement,	5 Q Is that correct?
6 I believe, on Exhibit 6, both it's described on	6 A Hm-hm.
7 the final page of it, and I'll just read it off	7 Q And is that because they generate
8 here. Based on both the ITE so that's the	8 different amounts of trips?
9 Institute of Transportation Engineers and the	9 A The manual is set up so that you can get
10 LATR, the Local Area Transportation Review trip	10 as specific as you can given the type of land use.
11 generation requirements, it is estimated that the	11 Q Okay. And so does the gasoline station
12 proposed changes to the approved Permanent Plan	12 have more trips than it would then, for example, a
13 Amendment 11995042E result in 53 fewer trips in	13 single-family residence?
14 the a.m., a.m. peak hour, and 620 fewer trips	14 A It depends on the density, right, so it's
15 during the p.m. peak hour as compared to the	15 not a I guess I can not answer that without
16 originally-approved 2008 Preliminary Plan	16 knowing how many residential units versus how many
17 11995042A. As such, a traffic study would not be	17 fueling positions. The variable there is what
18 required for the proposed land use modifications.	18 generates the trips.
19 And when we say traffic study's not	19 Q Okay. Well, in this case you have six
20 required, that is our statement that we have	20 fueling positions, right?
21 demonstrated adequacy, so we don't need to go the	21 A Hm-hm.
22 further step of doing a traffic study.	22 Q Okay. And we already have the density
23 Q And does this lead you to a conclusion as	23 that's set forth in your analysis?
24 to whether the decrease in vehicle trips will	24 A Correct.
25 result in no negative impact on the traffic	25 Q Okay. So, if you look at that as a ratio,
313 1 network?	315 1 I'm not understanding how you reach these
	2 calculations, basically. If you just explain it 3 to me?
<ul><li>3 not doing a double negative here. But yes, a</li><li>4 decrease in vehicle trips will result in an</li></ul>	4 A Sure. So I'll back up. The way we
·	
6 approved. So yes, it would not contribute to any 7 additional negative impact.	
1	
8 MR. HARRIS: I think that's all we have, 9 Madam Examiner. I think the traffic statement and	
	9 material requested from engineers all over the
10 the history recited in Exhibit 60 speak for	10 country.
11 themselves.	11 It's then kind of synthesized and
12 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE OPPOSITION	12 summarized into trip rates. So, for example, for
13 BY MS. POWELL:	13 a gasoline service station, we have trip rates
14 Q Good morning, Mr. Samba.	14 that tell us for the number of fueling positions
15 A Good morning.	15 how many trips you can expect. Same thing for the
16 Q So I have a few questions because I want	16 number of residential units, how many trips you
17 to make sure I'm tracking	17 can expect.
18 A Sure.	18 So what was analyzed in our process, so
19 Q what you're saying. So in your I	19 that's shown in Table two, vehicle trip generation
20 believe it's Exhibit 6. In your memorandum you	20 on Exhibit 6, you'll see there's a land use Code
21 talk about the data relating to that you've	21 ITE 944, which is a gasoline service station. We
22 recovered, or actually, I guess, that you're	22 assume that they're (indiscernible) we assume. We
23 relying on from the ITE, the Institute of	192 Image that there are give finding positions that are
	23 know that there are six fueling positions that are
<ul><li>24 Transportation Engineers Trip Generation Manual?</li><li>25 A Correct.</li></ul>	24 desired. And so for those six fueling positions, 25 we calculate that we generate 62 trips in the a.m.

318

319

# Transcript of Hearing

Conducted on March 6, 2025 316 1 and 83 trips in the p.m. specifically for those 1 external site or external trip network. What 2 fueling positions. We do the same for every other we're analyzing or focusing on is how the site 3 type of land use both in the approved and in the 3 itself has changed over time. It's not 4 proposed condition, and then we do a comparison to necessarily germane -- especially because we 5 see what the resultant change is. demonstrate that we don't need to do a traffic So the colors are a little faded, so I study because we're self-adequate, it's not 7 apologize. But if you look in the middle of that germane to look at whether or not the external 8 table that's on the screen, there's the previously 8 traffic has increased or decreased. 9 approved total trips, and in the a.m. peak hour Q Okay. So you're not applying a different 10 that was 1,069. In the p.m. peak hour, that was 10 standard? You're not applying the newer standard 11 2,402. And then there's the proposed total trips, 11 for trip analysis on the existing traffic, on the 12 which reflects the differences in densities that 12 existing housing development? So, for example, if 13 have been approved or proposed over time, and so 13 you have 350 single families, 250 towns, whatever, 14 the different -- the proposed density is now -- or 14 and for your commercial you're going to have --15 the proposed density results in 1,016 trips in the 15 back in 1995 you're going to have one set of 16 a.m. and 1,782 trips in the p.m. So that's the 16 numbers that you use. 17 reduction -- that results in those reductions that 17 A Okay. 18 I discussed a few minutes ago. 18 Q That's what I'm getting at.

19

19 Q Okay. And so does the -- which trip 20 generation model did you apply here? I mean the 21 urban, suburban or rural? I mean, as I

22 understand, there's like three choices.

23 A Right. And so this is a newer addition to 24 the Trip Generation Manual. Before it was just 25 one rate. They added settings, context, right?

317

A Okay. Yes. So the Local Area

22 believe that it was with the -- we did this

20 Transportation Review is updated periodically. I

23 analysis for the 2023 Local Area Transportation

24 Review, the most recent one. There's already a 25 2025 Local Area Review. They occasionally change

21 believe that -- under the previous approval, I

2 believe we applied the general suburban. We

3 typically don't use the urban rate, one, because

4 it has smaller sample sizes, for example. So

1 For the ITE 944 gasoline service station, I

5 again this is all crowd sourced from engineers

6 across the country. For some land uses we get a

7 lot of data, and so the results are more reliable.

8 For other land uses we get smaller data. And then

9 once we start splitting it into the urban,

10 suburban, city center, downtown core context, it

11 became even more disaggregated. So the general

12 guidance is to use the more -- the sites or the

13 land use codes that have more data associated with 14 it.

15 Q Okay. So with respect to -- and I got a

16 little bit boggled up in some of your testimony.

17 So are the current traffic count levels more

18 onerous than they were back in 1995? In other

19 words, has the number of trips increased?

20 A At the site or just --

21 Q No. Just in general in the -- when you do

22 your analysis. So, for example, for each EDU, you

23 know, in 1995, was it less than it is now?

24 A So we are not -- in the context of this

25 kind of analysis, we are not looking first at the

1 the structure, the rates that you use. Since in

2017 Montgomery County has -- prior to 2017

Montgomery County had their own trip-generation

rates for different types of land uses.

5 Since 2017 the guidelines have suggested

that we should just use the ITE rates with

adjustment factors depending if you want to -- if

you're Clarksburg or Silver Spring or wherever you

are in the County.

10 So, again, because what we're comparing is

11 what was previously approved, we do not

12 recalculate those old trips. Those old trips were

13 calculated based on what the guidelines were at

14 the time. We can't change what was already

15 approved. We then calculate based on the

16 current -- for the proposed site, we calculate

17 based on the current prevailing guidelines, which

18 again is with the -- is referenced using the ITE

19 Manual. And I believe within the guidelines it

20 says references using the most current version of 21 the ITE Manual.

Q So it's only with respect to the new

23 development then that you're applying current

24 standards?

25 A Correct, yes.

320	322
1 Q And then when we look at the I believe	1 It would likely be less number, less trips, but we
2 it's your Exhibit 6, page two, you have the	2 wanted to be as conservative as possible to make
3 approved preliminary plan from back in the day,	3 sure we're not, you know, not complying with the
4 and we have two new types of uses that are	4 guidelines.
5 reflected on this little chart, right? So the	5 Q So did they provide you with any written
6 multifamily garden style and the gasoline pumps	6 data, or was this simply a conversation?
7 were not included in the preliminary plan?	7 A This was a conversation.
8 A Correct.	8 Q Okay. So you didn't have an opportunity
9 Q Okay. So these are new uses that are	9 to test the data?
10 being added?	10 A We didn't need to test the data based on
11 A Yes.	11 the guidelines, because, again, we were
12 Q Or potentially being added?	12 Q No. Excuse me. You're not understanding
13 A Yes.	13 my question. You were not able, or you did not
14 Q Okay. So with respect to the statements	14 test this statement that 40 percent of the gas
15 on page three, it says you say, Based on	15 pump users will travel to the adjacent shopping
16 information provided by the potential grocer	16 center; you took his word for it?
17 tenant who would also operate the gas pumps, it is	17 A Well, again, we
18 also probable that at least 40 percent of gas pump	18 Q That's my question. Yes or no?
19 users will travel to the adjacent shopping center,	19 A We wrote that in the statement, and that's
20 thereby reducing the projected number of trips.	20 what it says.
21 So what did the potential grocer tenant tell you	21 Q And you didn't test the data?
22 to support that statement?	22 A There's no need to test the data.
23 A So this is I'll contextualize this in	23 Q That wasn't my question.
24 two ways. This is information that was provided	24 A We did not test the data.
25 by the grocer based on their known operations at	25 Q Thank you. All right. Did you ask the
321	323
1 similar sites. But the point we're making in that	1 grocery store tenant what the hours of operation
2 statement is the trip generation that we've done	2 for the store would be?
3 is all outside of that. It's all just based on	3 A I believe that is actually in Exhibit 3.
4 the what we're told to do by the guidelines	4 Q Okay.
5 using the ITE Manual. We know through experience	5 A So I didn't need to ask because it was
6 that the grocer tenant's experience, as well as	6 provided. It was through the report.
7 experience that my own firm has done looking at	7 Q Do you remember what that was?
8 similar grocers that when you have a gasoline	8 A I could search Exhibit 3. I'd have to
9 fueling station that is adjacent to or actually	9 actually pull it up here, but I don't have that
10 part of a department of a grocer, it is likely	10 off the top of my head.
11 that you'll have combined trips, what we call	11 Q Okay.
12 internal-capture trips. So I will go to the	12 A Yes.
13 grocery store, and then on the way out I'll get	13 Q Have you looked at the design concepts in
14 some gas; or I'll go to the gas station, like, oh,	14 the past for the plan of compliance?
15 you know, I'm going to run in and get some stuff	15 A I've studied Exhibit 18, which is a
16 while I'm at the grocery store. And so from that	16 circulation plan. I think that's one of the ones
17 purpose, that combined trips when we do	17 that's most germane to a traffic analysis.
18 independent trip calculations, we say a grocery	18 Q Okay. So you didn't look at the plan of
19 store generates 10 trips and a gas station	19 compliance, the design concepts? That's what my
20 generates 10 trips, we need to recognize that some	20 question is.
21 of those 10 trips in either way are the same trip,	21 A It's typically provided, so we've reviewed
22 and so it has one or two or three less trip	22 it, but, again, not in great detail because we
23 impacts on external roadways. So that's all that	23 were not that was not our charge.
24 statement says, that we're adding the context that	24 Q Okay. So your charge was simply to look
25 what we've calculated is a conservative number.	25 at the current plan and not the modifications?

326

# Transcript of Hearing Conducted on March 6, 2025

324

1	A No. Our charge was to evaluate the	
2	traffic analysis for the current plan and in	
3	comparison to the past plan.	

MS. POWELL: Can you pull up OZAH 49A, please? There we go. Yeah.

Q Sorry it's sideways. I don't know -- we can't do anything about that.

#### A Is there a specific page?

8

9 Q Yeah, it's Exhibit 49A. So when you look 10 at the design of the Town Center that's reflected 11 in the concept plan, and if you look at -- doesn't 12 have page numbers. I'm sorry.

#### 13 A That's all right. I have it on my screen. 14 I can get to whichever page you're in.

15 Q So when you look at that, you did not 16 analyze the difference in traffic from what was 17 originally proposed in the plan of compliance -- 18 well, let me just break that down. You didn't 19 examine traffic patterns for this plan of 20 compliance?

21 A We examined traffic patterns, or we looked 22 at trip generation referencing what is currently

23 proposed to what is the last approval of the site.

24 Q And the last approval of the site was 25 when?

1 MS. POWELL: I'm trying to establish --

2 so, first of all, the plan of compliance, Madam

3 Examiner, the design concepts -- I'm losing my

4 voice -- it's incorporated in the compliance

5 program and it's binding. And so my question to

6 Mr. Samba is whether the current program was ever

7 evaluated in the context of what was mandated in

8 2006 by this plan of compliance, and I think the

9 answer is no.

MR. HARRIS: Objection again. The plan of 11 compliance was never approved under a preliminary

12 plan of subdivision. What has been approved under

13 the preliminary plan of subdivision are the 1995,

14 the 2009, the 2015 -- and I have to correct that.

15 It was not 2023. It was 2024 when it was last

16 approved. And each of those is what is binding

17 here, not any concept plan which was never

18 evaluated from a traffic standpoint. His job was

19 to compare what was evaluated with what is 20 proposed.

21 MS. POWELL: Respectfully, the plan of 22 compliance design concepts are binding. They are

23 binding on this project. And what I'm trying to

24 establish is that the current program was never

25 evaluated as it relates to the plan of compliance

325

A So that is the 2024 approval, I believe,

2 that has the -- I'll quote out the numbers here

3 for us. That's the approved preliminary plan, the

4 11995042A. That's the 194,000 square feet of

5 retail, and then 12 -- approximately 1,200

6 dwelling units of residential.

7 Q And what year was that?

A I believe that was -- let me grab this and

9 make sure I have it. I have, at least as my

10 memo -- and, again, these things change, but I

11 have in my memo that the preliminary plan

12 amendment was approved in 2023. That was the last 13 approval.

14 Q All right. So if you look -- so you

15 didn't look at the traffic circulation that was in

16 the compliance plan from 2006?

17 A No. But, again, the 2023 plan result was 18 determined to have less density and less traffic

19 impacts compared to the 2006 plan. So --

20 Q Yeah, I'm sorry. I'm talking about

21 traffic circulation. I didn't mean to interrupt

22 you.

23 MR. HARRIS: Objection. The plan of

24 compliance plan was never evaluated from a traffic

25 standpoint, so comparing that is impossible.

1 design concepts, which were incorporated in the

2 compliance program, which were mandated as part of

3 the settlement agreement in 2006. That's what I'm

trying to do.

5 MR. HARRIS: Exhibit 64, our legal

6 memorandum, says just the opposite. The plan of

7 compliance is not binding in the way that

8 Ms. Powell contends. What is binding is the

9 approvals that have occurred since then.

10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So I see us

11 sliding into argument. We have a --

MS. POWELL: I'd just like an answer to my 13 question.

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: No. We have a

15 witness on the stand, and I think -- so if you

16 could just rephrase your question and summarize

17 your question; and, you know, Mr. Samba, if you

18 could kindly --

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. Certainly.

20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: -- just answer

21 if you reviewed it under the compliance plan or

22 not. We will save the argument for later because

23 at the cross-examination you're asking the witness

24 questions about their testimony.

MS. POWELL: And that's what I'm trying to

327

Conducted on	141d1 0, 2023
328	330
1 do.	1 A Again, that is within the Staff I
2 BY MS. POWELL:	2 believe it's Exhibit 3, the Staff Report. It's
3 Q So did you evaluate the circulation,	3 described there.
4 traffic circulation from the design concept plan	4 Q Well, your report's before the Staff
5 of compliance dated April 6, 2006, which is on the	5 Report, right?
6 screen?	6 A Correct. But for our analysis, again, we
7 A I'll just say simply no.	7 do an a.m. peak hour and a p.m. peak hour
8 Q Thank you.	8 analysis. It's the peak it's not specific to
9 A Yes.	9 this is a seven a.m. analysis. It's the peak
10 Q So you do a fair amount of work with	10 hour, so the hour during the morning and during
11 respect to well, you look at traffic patterns,	11 the afternoon when there's the most traffic
12 commuting patterns and things of that nature.	12 anticipated. And so our trip generation, again
13 With respect to this particular community in	13 everything we do in a trip-analysis situation is
14 Clarksburg that you've analyzed here, can we say	14 always to be as conservative as possible to kind
15 or would you agree that the commuting pattern here	15 of find that maximum impact.
16 during the morning is to points south of the	16 Q Did you ever talk to Mr. Edward Steere?
17 development?	17 A I don't think I did directly, unless he
18 A I would generally agree.	18 was a member of one of our kind of group calls.
19 Q And in the evening or in the late	19 Q Did you ever provide him any data?
20 afternoon, they would be to the points north?	20 A The only data I provide is through my
	21 analysis, the Exhibit 6.
	-
1	
23 decrease in commuting during COVID?	23 or Polestar any information in connection with the 24 evaluation of need?
24 A No. The ITE Trip Generation Manual did	
25 not have, like, a COVID	25 A I don't believe so, no.
329	331
1 Q They didn't adjust	1 Q So did you discuss any transit patterns
A adjustment, so these are still	2 with them?
3 conservative trips, or at least at the time they	3 A I do not recall any conversations like
4 were conservative trips.	4 that.
5 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Can you tell me,	5 Q How about volume of traffic coming in and
6 for lay people, what ITE is?	6 out of the Clarksburg Town Center?
7 THE WITNESS: Sorry. That's the Institute	7 A Insofar as much as it was in our or
8 of Transportation Engineers, so that's our	8 maybe described in our Exhibit 6, possibly; but,
9 professional body for us traffic engineers.	9 otherwise, no.
10 That's where we're going to get our kind of	10 MS. POWELL: I have no more questions.
11 manuals and reference texts and the techniques	11 Thank you.
12 that we use to do our analysis.	12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT
13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay.	13 BY MR. HARRIS:
14 Q And could you tell me with whom you spoke	14 Q Mr. Samba
15 at Weis Markets?	15 MR. HARRIS: Could you bring up Exhibit
16 A I believe the information was relayed to	16 36, please, page 16? Down at the bottom there,
17 me through our team.	17 please, so just go back.
18 Q So you don't know where the information	18 Q Mr. Samba, are you familiar with Exhibit
19 A No, I don't have the name.	19 36?
20 Q Okay. And so you don't know if that	20 A I am familiar.
21 person was involved in the gasoline operations at	21 Q Okay. And is there a review at pages 16
22 Weis?	22 and 17 of the transportation impact of the fueling
23 A I wouldn't speculate.	23 station?
24 Q Okay. Were you told the hours that the	24 A There is.
25 gasoline or the filling station would operate?	25 Q And what has the Planning Staff concluded

demonstrating that Staff and Planning Board find that there's adequacy with respect to transportation.  MR. HARRIS: I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Samba. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my understanding, in the we usually do ask the overset, you know, with regard to the planning the exhibit that was referred to is the Planning Staff analysis. Is there any I assume you've staffic that you disagree with? THE WITNESS: No. We actually so that there anything in their analysis with regard to sagreement, and we agree with everything that was written there. Their findings align with ours, so that there are no additional impacts; there's a sadequate in this case.  MR. HARRIS: I have no further questions.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have a case number that you could or could you remember when you last testified?  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have a case number that you could or could you remember when you last testified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have a case number that you could or could you remember when you last testified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last testified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have a case number that you could or could you remember when you last testified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last testified.  THE WITNESS: I honestly oun't put my since when you last estified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my since when you last estified.  LEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just				arch 6, 2025
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24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you. 24 BY MS. POWELL:				
· I	23	adequate in this case.		
	24	-	24	
25 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. 25 Q Mr. Steere, you indicated, I believe, you	25	MR. HARRIS: Thank you.	25	Q Mr. Steere, you indicated, I believe, you

336	338
1 have a Master's from Johns Hopkins?	1 Q 38. Thank you. Can you walk us through
2 A That's correct.	2 your analysis that went into that report and the
3 Q What's that in?	3 conclusions in it?
4 A Real estate.	4 A Certainly. So I'll try to be as brief as
5 Q Could you explain that? I mean, real	5 I can, but it may not be. I'm going to refer to
6 estate is kind of a broad topic here.	6 certain pages in Exhibit 38, but also a couple
7 A It's a Master's of Real Estate	7 other exhibits as well that are not.
8 Development. So Hopkins has several real estate	8 So the issue that the code needs to
9 specialty degrees, some like, for example, for	9 address is whether we can demonstrate need or
10 hotels, or for other real estate development	10 necessity as convenient, expedient or useful.
11 purposes or appraisal. Things like that.	11 That's on case history in Maryland. So, in doing
12 Q And what is your what area of study did	12 that, I approach a gas station needs analysis from
13 you focus on?	13 two directions, two perspectives. One is a
14 A It was real estate development. That's	14 calculation of volume, of supply and demand. The
15 what it's called.	15 other is on the community, you know, whether it's
16 Q Real estate development?	16 convenient, expedient and useful, as to use those
17 A This is part of the Carey Business School	17 simple terms.
18 at Hopkins.	18 So in this case I have done just that. So
19 Q And you also indicate that you have an	19 I have determined that there is a demand of 13.2
20 AICP certification. What does that permit you to	20 million gallons per year in this trade area. I'll
21 do?	21 explain the trade area momentarily. And that,
	22 based on the other gas available, the supply in
22 A It is not a license. The planning 23 profession doesn't have a licensure. But it's a	23 this trade area, there is an unmet demand. So we
_	24 won't exceed that unmet demand with this
24 national certification as a certified planner. In	
25 some jurisdictions, it's a requirement for certain	25 particular proposal.
337	So I will talk about the trade area. If
<ul> <li>roles or certain testimonies, not in Maryland.</li> <li>Q Do you have any degrees in economics?</li> </ul>	
l	2 you could look at the map on page 15 of Exhibit 3 38, the trade area that I've defined here goes to
	4 the county line. It goes down to the Little
5 A Specifically, no.	<ul><li>5 Bennett Stream Valley and the Dickerson and Little</li><li>6 Seneca Lake in the south. It doesn't go as far as</li></ul>
6 Q Okay. Have you published any papers on	_
7 supply and demand?	7 Damascus. It doesn't go as far as the Potomac
8 A I have published hundreds of reports.	8 River, of course. But this is based on the trade
9 Q That's not my question. Public	9 area that Weis gave me that they were using for
10 peer-reviewed papers.	10 their site selection as a starting point. I
11 A No. That's not my business. I have made	11 modified it slightly so that I could fit it with
12 presentations on that, though, as a speaker.	12 these real geographic boundaries. They're
MS. POWELL: I have no more questions	13 stream valleys and certain other features create a
14 during voir dire.	14 trade boundary. Let's say if you were to go
15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: On the basis of	15 north, you're going to go into Damascus, for
16 the resume and, you know, testimony under oath	16 example, ad Damascus has its own grocery store and
17 that you have previously testified before this	17 gas and things like that, and those people aren't
18 body, you're qualified as an expert.	18 going to travel to Clarksburg to get those things
19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.	19 because they have them in their town. So there's
20 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE	20 got to be that natural dividing line between those
21 APPLICANT	21 areas, and that's what this sort of represents.
22 BY MR. HARRIS:	Now, with that I'm able to use census
23 Q Okay. Mr. Steere, you referenced the	
	23 block data, which is the smallest geography the
24 report that you submitted. That's Exhibit 25 A 38.	23 block data, which is the smallest geography the 24 census uses to capture real data. And so it 25 matches up with nine census blocks. So this is

340 342 1 not a neighborhood; this is a trade area. The 1 neighborhood for their review purposes. 2 neighborhood is best shown -- well, there's a The neighborhood I would look at would 3 couple different variations of neighborhood that be -- I believe it's Exhibit 54, page 49. So on 4 people are thinking of here, but the County Staff this one, it's --5 has attributed a neighborhood on Exhibit 54, page Oh, that's good. Right there. 6 49 -- I'm sorry. Exhibit 36. The outline in red is the Clarksburg Town Q Let me interrupt a minute and take a step Center development. That's a more realistic back. Why are you referring to neighborhood? neighborhood for this particular commercial site; 9 Where does that word come from? and in that particular neighborhood, there is no 10 A So in the code section for this particular 10 other commercial. There's no gas stations; 11 conditional use, it states that there has -- that 11 there's no grocery stores. So the requirement of 12 you need to see that a need exists for the 12 the code that the need exists for this to serve 13 proposed use to serve the population in the 13 the population in this neighborhood, considering 14 general neighborhood, considering the present 14 the present availability of identical or similar 15 availability of identical or similar uses to that 15 uses in that neighborhood, there aren't any in the 16 neighborhood. So the code section specifically 16 neighborhood today, so we don't have that 17 calls for a neighborhood analysis. 17 particular issue. 18 I do a trade area analysis to determine 18 The trade area that I developed, like I 19 these things, because people leave their 19 said, was based on the demand that Weis advised me 20 neighborhood to go to get -- to accommodate their 20 they need, and I agree with it, and took those 21 needs, whatever they may be. At this point there 21 nine census blocks and said this is a trade area 22 is no grocery store, nor gas, other than one small 22 that will most likely come to this commercial 23 station in this neighborhood. 23 center for their food and gas. So let me -- if you could, go to that HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I know you say 25 neighborhood map that's Exhibit 36, page four. 25 you would have drawn the neighborhood area to 341 343 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So am I -- the cover a larger area than what Staff indicated. THE WITNESS: Right. neighborhood is smaller than the trade area? 2 THE WITNESS: Absolutely, yes. 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Is there a different conclusion or need based on the --So this is what the County Staff has 4 identified as the neighborhood. You can see that 5 THE WITNESS: No, there is not. Like I 6 it's pretty much the undeveloped area around this say, there is no -- there is no gas or grocery in 7 commercial site, which would have new residential that -- in either neighborhood today. So the need 8 in it. I would argue that the neighborhood is argument that's written into this conditional use 9 bigger than this. So if you were asking what the 9 requirement says it's kind of -- you know, that 10 last witness -- you know, what we agree and 10 it's not available in the neighborhood. And the 11 disagree with in the Staff Report, this is where I 11 subject property's identified there in that 12 would say that the neighborhood is actually, the 12 southern end of that neighborhood. 13 rest of Clarksburg Town Center. 13 Further I discussed in my report -- so HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for my 14 further I discussed in my report that the Weis Gas 15 purposes, because when I go back and listen to 15 is a niche market. Most people get their gas from 16 the -- when I read the transcript, could you just 16 either convenience stores with gas, traditional 17 describe -- are we referring here to the yellow --17 gas station that's got service bays, or they go to 18 if you could give some markers for me so when I go 18 a supermarket or membership club type environment. 19 back and listen to the transcript, I'll be able to 19 There's no doubt that the convenience store market 20 know what you were disagreeing with? 20 is the largest market for gas in the country. I THE WITNESS: So in this particular map --21 get data from the National Association of 22 this is generated by the County Staff -- the 22 Convenience Stores, NACS, and they state that

23 approximately -- in their survey is that 80

24 percent of the fuel sold in America is from

25 convenience stores, and the other 20 percent comes

23 dashed red outline is our site where the grocery

25 be, and the yellow line they've identified as the

24 store and other commercial uses and the gas would

344 346 from places like grocery stores and membership 1 we have to demonstrate that it's not specifically 2 clubs. reserved for metrics of supply and demand, and 3 What I also get from all of that research, that, although we can calculate the supply and and I transpose into my report is that the demand, we are looking at the community. I know consumer is looking for a particular environment 5 I'm going to get a lot of questions about this, 6 for purchasing their gas. And today's consumer, 6 but the supply and demand numbers are elastic, and 7 more and more, is looking at what food is being 7 it's -- there's no requirement to prove absolute 8 offered in the convenience store, for one. That's 8 necessity here. And so I do prove the numbers 9 that I can, but I'm also looking at the efficiency 9 a big deal. It's a growing number every year. 10 And you can see, for example, that Royal Farms 10 of the site and whether it meets the consumer 11 specializes in chicken, and Wawa specializes in 11 demand for expediency, convenience. 12 sandwiches and Sheetz specializes in something Q Can you take a step back? You had talked 13 else. So people are choosing convenience stores 13 about the relationship of the gas to the grocery 14 not just for their gas, but also for the offerings 14 and the convenience. Is there a discount bonus 15 they have inside. 15 factor involved as well? In the case of a grocery store, what 16 A There certainly are. There's bonus 17 they're looking for is the convenience of one-stop 17 discount plans, rewards plans offered at virtually 18 shopping, and that's important in the community. 18 all gas stations these days. The grocery stores 19 So the number one driving factors for consumers 19 at Weis, they have a program where, after you 20 for gasoline is that it's clean, well-lit, has 20 purchase so much, you get credits towards your 21 clean bathrooms and has good food. The older 21 gas. It discounts your gas, or you can use those 22 stations that we're familiar with from decades ago 22 points to discount groceries. The other gas 23 have less and less curb appeal because they don't 23 stations also do similar types of things, or they 24 represent those particular factors. 24 may have a relationship with another grocer, for

345

1 lack of foundation. I don't know what the basis 2 is for these statements that people are selecting gas based on the appearance of the gasoline station. 5 THE WITNESS: I stated that this is data that's based on surveys from the National

MS. POWELL: I'm going to object to the

Association of Convenience Stores. MS. POWELL: I'll deal with this on cross. 9 I don't think that that's sufficient, but --

10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You may proceed.

THE WITNESS: Okay. So what's important

12 about the niche that this particular gas station

13 is is that it is another department of a grocery

14 store, and that's the way grocery store gas

15 stations operate. They are not offering a full

16 convenience store there. They're not competing

17 with a convenience store on the side of a highway.

18 They're competing only for the customer that's in 19 the store.

20 You asked the previous expert about the

21 percentage of crossover customers between the

22 grocery store and the gas. The Weis annual report

23 states that 5.1 percent of their sales are fuel,

24 so that is where you get that crossover number.

25 The important thing is, in case history, some other independent gas stations, and,

2 likewise, with Giant Foods and other grocery

25 example. So Weis has -- its program is offered at

chains. And Exxon and 7-Eleven have their own

discount plans. It's an incentive to get people

5 to come and shop there. They can go in a store,

buy what they're going to buy, and they can get a

discount on gas when they leave.

Q Okay. Thank you. So you were starting to

9 talk about expedient, reasonably convenient,

10 useful to the public. Can you resume with your

11 testimony there?

A Yes. So it's important that -- there's

13 been a lot of discussion in the previous hearing

14 about the location and the access and so forth.

15 It's very important to point out that this site is

16 not on Stringtown Road. It's not well-visible

17 from Stringtown Road. It's not on the side of

18 Route 270. It is a site that's oriented to the

19 community.

20 So a competing gas station, grocer or 21 convenience store's going to go for as much

22 visibility as they can get, and Weis is not doing

23 that here. This is -- this is set up to be a part

24 of the grocery store and to blend into the

25 community, rather than be a place that draws in

347

348 350 one that's in your file, then I would use that 1 people from the highway. That's an important 2 factor in this. It's important. It's important number. 3 for the Weis model, and it's important for the 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So what page 4 community to know that they're not going to be, 4 number are we on in the -- what's the PDF page 5 you know, inundated with traffic that's looking 6 for this from -- you know, as they're driving by, THE WITNESS: 18. 6 7 and they say -- look at their gas gauge, and then HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And the exhibit 8 look at the sign and say I can go get gas here. number is 38. 9 It's not going to be that kind of visibility on THE WITNESS: Exhibit 38, page 18. 10 this site. So this is good for everybody in that 10 Somehow they got the one with the messed up page 11 respect. 11 numbering on it. So anyway, the PDF page number 18, that's People in this community can get their 13 fuel and their food together without driving far. 13 a good way to go. So the 2029 projections here 14 They can reduce their trip time they're ready to 14 are very conservative. There are roughly 1,200 15 reduce their extra trips, or trip on a road. 15 more units approved to be built with 1,200 more 16 That's -- the convenient and expedient part of 16 households, so that household number should be 17 this is very important, that it's within the 17 higher than that by 2029 if the economy doesn't 18 community, rather than having to leave the 18 tank. 19 community to find gas somewhere else. 19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And just so I Next I'll talk about the numbers. I 20 don't get lost when I'm looking at the transcript, 21 discussed demand on page 16 of my report, Exhibit 21 the document we're looking at, the document itself 22 38. What we have in this community, in this trade 22 is -- where we are now says page 10, but it's page 23 area, my numbers are based on that trade area, 23 18 of the PDF? 24 THE WITNESS: Yes. 24 like I said, nine census blocks. There's a rapid 25 growth of population and households in the past 15 25 So I just wanted to clarify that, that 349 351 1 years roughly. 80 percent growth is more than 1 even with these numbers the growth should continue between the 1,200 more units that haven't been 2 most communities. At that same timeframe, only 3 two gas stations were constructed in this trade built, and the future development of the Comsat 4 area, two 7-Elevens, and they are actually -- one site that's under discussion these days. So we 5 of them is on the side of the highway. The other fully expect that the rapid growth curve in this 6 one is in Snowden Farm Parkway at Clarksburg community or in this trade area is going to Village Center. continue for the foreseeable future. THE WITNESS: I'm going to say -- if you Moving down to the next table down, I just 9 go to -- that's not the right page. So what -outlined some of the basic data about the people 10 scroll up, way up. Oh, the page numbers are 10 who live here. What's important in this table is 11 wrong. There, right there. 11 that there's approximately two vehicles per 12 A I have projections up to 2029. This is 12 household, and that two-thirds of workers drive 13 from data from Esri, which consolidates census 13 alone and a third of them drive more than 45 14 data. The 2029 estimate --14 minutes to work. I was pointing that out. This 15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Sorry. What 15 is a bedroom community for people who work 16 page are we at on Exhibit -- what's the exhibit 16 somewhere else, whether it's Frederick or points 17 number and the page number? 17 south, and -- for the most part. I'm sure they 18 work in other places too. That's where I come to THE WITNESS: That's page 10. It should 19 not -- the page numbering is wrong on that 19 computing how much gallonage. Based on the 20 version. I don't know why. 20 Consumer Expenditure Surveys, we know how much 21 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. It's showing 18 on the 21 people pay for fuel in a year, and so I compute 22 that out, and that's where we get 7,584 households 22 screen. THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's -- I thought I 23 at 1,738 gallons per year is 13.2 million gallons 24 submitted the right one with the right paging, 24 of demand.

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Per year?

25

25 page numbering on it, but it's -- if that's the

Conducted on	March 6, 2025	
352		354
1 THE WITNESS: Per year, yes. Yes.	1 convenience store, large convenience store	
2 So what the Consumer Expenditure Survey	2 facilities. The other stations are older or	
3 computed for us on the next page is that an	3 smaller. And the Clarksburg Market has two MPD,	
4 average household is going through just about	4 multi-product dispensers that aren't under canopy	
5 2,000 gallons of gasoline per year. Of course,	5 in a one-way parking lot, for example. It's not	
6 these numbers can vary based on the price of gas.	6 competitive with the new major convenience stores	
7 It's sort of a point in time. When I look at the	7 in that regard.	
8 average price of gas over the year, which was 3.83	8 So on average we know that gas stations	
9 last year, it changes, obviously. So that's where	9 produce an average of 1.4 million gallons per	
10 the 13.2 million gallons of demand is what we're	10 year. If we were to apply that to all of those,	
11 looking at.	11 that would be a total of 7.2 million gallons of	
Then I looked at the supply, and I need to	12 fuel, which is approximately 60 percent of the	
13 go to Exhibit 63A for a map.	13 demand for 13.2 million. We don't believe that	
14 If you can zoom out. There you go. 15 Perfect.	14 every station is producing the average in this	
	15 trade area. We believe that the two 7-Elevens	
This is a map done by GLW. I don't use	16 were probably above average, and the other	
17 radius ever. I'm just going to declare that. I'm	17 stations were more likely below average based on	
18 using the map for something else here. So what's	18 just the design. And, as I said before, curb	
19 shown on this map are red dots for the other gas	19 appeal matters.	
20 stations in the area, and it's an easy map to I	20 So my conclusion is that these five gas	
21 don't know if you can see them.	21 stations are not directly competitive with the	
22 Can you	22 Weis or vice versa. They serve the residents	
So right closest to our site, just to the	23 here, or they serve other commuters and pass-by	
24 left of our site, we have the Clarksburg Market	24 traffic that's using the highway. And so we still	
25 and the Clarksburg Sunoco, and then at the far	25 have approximately seven million gallons of unmet	
353		355
1 lower-right corner you have a 7-Eleven Shell. In	1 demand after those stations.	
2 the lower-left corner, you have a 7-Eleven Exxon.	2 So this conditional use, in my opinion,	
3 And what's out of this picture up north in	3 should be approved on the needs because it's	
4 Hyattstown is another I believe it's Carroll	4 expedient. It's one-stop shopping near home for	
5 Fuel. These are the gas stations that are in the	5 the entire community there. It's convenient.	
6 trade area. You can see what I wanted to point	6 It's colocated with the grocery store and other	
7 out on this map is that all of these other gas	7 commercial uses that will come thereafter in their	
8 stations are located on main roads. Well, the	8 own neighborhood. And it's useful because this is	
9 Clarksburg Sunoco used to be a main road. It's	9 a neighborhood that does not have any alternative	
10 not since Stringtown Road was built. But the	10 means of transportation. Everybody here needs to	
11 other stations are built near the highway, or on	11 have a car, and they all need to get gas to get to	
12 main roads or in shopping centers and they will	12 work or to go wherever they're going to go.	
13 there's a massive population around each one of	13 Q You referenced three words from the code	
14 them. So the Exxon 7-Eleven has an entire	14 requirement for need, being expedient, convenient	
15 development down there, and it's right on the	15 and useful. You previously talked about	
I	_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
16 highway interchange; likewise at the 7-Eleven down	16 availability of identical or similar uses in the	
17 at where Clarksburg Village Center. So that's one	17 neighborhood. Is that part of the need test as	
18 point that's important here. They are oriented to	18 well?	
19 pass-by traffic. Every one of them is oriented to	19 A Correct.	
20 pass-by traffic, and the Weis site is not.	20 Q And how does that apply here to your	
The only two that are new and meet the	21 conclusions in terms of need?	
22 standards that are currently trending amongst	22 A So in the neighborhood itself, which we	
23 convenience store development are the two	23 were talking about as Clarksburg Town Center,	
24 7-Elevens at Route 270 and Clarksburg Village	24 there are no other similar uses. There is a small	
25 Center, which have covered gas pumps and a	25 gas station with a convenience store, but that is	

Conducted on March 6, 2023			
L	356		358
1	it. There's no other similar setup with a grocery	1	A I have looked for publicly-available data
2	store with the department out in a parking lot	2	from MDE and well, not just MDE, from the
3	offering gas and also not as accessible in the	3	Comptroller's Office from the Federal Department
4	same way. The other store on Route 355 is visible	4	of Energy. It's not part of this analysis.
5	to passersby. This one is within the community	5	Q Okay. So you didn't look at tank
6	it's serving. It's designed to serve the nucleus	6	capacities for any of these stations?
7	of the community, rather than the greater	7	A As I pointed out, tank capacity is
8	population of Frederick County and Montgomery	8	immaterial. Tanks get refilled.
9	County.	9	Q They do; don't they? Have you looked at
10	MR. HARRIS: We have no further questions.		any studies that show how frequently the tanks are
11	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Ms. Powell?		refilled for gasoline stations?
12	MS. POWELL: Thank you.	12	•
13	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE OPPOSITION	13	
			of any limitations that are imposed by any
15	Q Mr. Steere, did you talk to any of the		governmental agency on the amount of gasoline that
16			any particular gasoline seller can offer?
17	A Nope.	17	,
18	Q So you didn't talk to the owners of the		3 limited to I believe it's 1.3 million gallons per
19	•		year.
	trade area?	20	
21	A No, I did not.		government regulations that limit the amount of
22	Q And you did not determine whether or not		gasoline that any one particular dealer can offer?
23	they ever ran out of fuel?	23	
24	A I have no expectation that anybody was	24	` .
25	running out of fuel.	25	agency that actually polices the amount of
1	Q Okay. And you also have no expectation	1	gasoline that's being offered on an annual basis?
1	Q Okay. And you also have no expectation that they were overwhelmed by customers?	1 2	A No.
2 3	A To be sure, gas station owners and	3	Q Okay. So we have two different reports,
4	proprietors are very secretive about their	١.	but I don't actually think they're two different
	volumes. This data is not publicly available even	5	reports. Is it fair to say that Exhibit 34 and
5	through the government, and its if I approach	6	Exhibit 38 are basically identical?
6	gas station owners, and I've done this in the	7	A Yeah. I might have edited a couple
8	past, and asked for that information, even when	8	periods or commas in there.
	they were my clients it was withheld. It is a	9	Q Sure. But so I'd like to talk about
	highly-competitive, highly-secretive set of data,	1	Exhibit 34 because that's where I made all my
	so we have to work with other data that we can		notes.
	interpolate and other resources that we can	12	
	interpolate to determine the effectiveness of	13	
	sales and so forth.		counsel?
15		15	
	tankers as they need it. That's not something	16	
	that I would expect is an issue, unless there's		with the couple of changes there.
	some other issue about why their tanks may run	18	
	dry.	19	·
20		20	
	talk to anybody; is that fair to say?	21	-
22			bottom of page one of OZAH 34, your executive
	analyzes, no, I don't go and approach them.		s summary, you make the statement here that these
24			grocery-operated fuel facilities typically operate
	publicly-available data from MDE; did you?		during the same operating hours as the
23	pacific distribution and from the pour	23	dame of the court operating nous to the

360 362 1 supermarket. Where did you get that information? A I don't. I just know there is one. I A That's just observation. don't use it. My wife does. Q Did somebody from Weis tell you that Q Now, the trade area is -- I want to make 4 that's when they were going to operate? sure I'm tracking this, because the trade area was A Initially, yes, and then there was a identified by Weis Market according to your shift. 6 report, right? Q And there was a fairly significant shift; A They proposed their trade area to me, and isn't that fair to say? 8 I modified it slightly. Yes. A That's not up to me. Q Okay. Well, you say that it was defined 10 Q Okay. Well, so the hours went from seven 10 as a geographic area within nine census block 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. to midnight; is that 11 groups identified by Weis Markets and confirmed 12 right? 12 with data. So there's no mention of any 13 13 modification. A That's what I heard. Yes. 14 A I don't have their map handy, but there Q And the reason they went to four a.m., 15 which is not while the store is open, but that was 15 was a slight difference in one area. I'm not sure 16 to capture a commuter market? 16 what it was. I massaged it to fit the nine census 17 A I heard --17 blocks more comfortably than they did. 18 Q What'd you hear? 18 Q Okay. So this statement, then, isn't 19 A I heard they were also talking about 19 accurate? It's not the nine census block groups 20 capturing their employee market. 20 identified by Weis Markets? 21 Q At four a.m.? 21 A It's nine census block groups identified 22 A The employees that --22 by Ed Steere. 23 Q How many employees are at a Weis? Q Okay, so that's different. What was the 24 A I have no idea. 24 basis for selecting these census blocks? Is it 25 based on grocery store trips, or what is it? 25 Q Are you aware that elsewhere in the 361 363 1 submissions here that the change was made to A If Weis had come to me and asked me to do 2 capture the commuter market? this without giving me their particular site A To be sure, Clarksburg is not the closest selection criteria, I would have come up with 4 suburb to Washington, DC, so there is an early these nine census block groups based on the 5 commuter market, and this would fit the convenient availability of services in other communities 6 and expedient side of this use to allow those around here, and the natural ramparts of certain 7 people to get their fuel before they travel into stream valleys and other features and the manmade 8 rush hour and points south. So I don't see an 8 rampart of a county line, which legally we can't 9 issue with that personally, as a market analyst 9 count the other county in this. So we -- and 10 professionally. I think that it fits. 10 we're looking at a town that's on the other side 11 Q But it does affect your report, because 11 of the county line that has its own -- what's 12 you emphasize in your report on several occasions 12 the -- I'm terrible with names. So right up Route 13 that it relates -- that the overwhelming majority, 13 270 is another town in Frederick County. 14 I believe were your words, of the gas customers 14 MR. HARRIS: Urbana? 15 were going to be supermarket customers? 15 A Urbana. That's it, Urbana. 16 A That doesn't suggest that they aren't MS. POWELL: Wait a minute. Wait a 16 17 supermarket customers. It doesn't mean they're 17 minute. 18 supermarket customers at the same time. A I had Union on my -- Urbana is just north 19 Q I see. 19 of the line there. So the county line actually 20 A You still collect points when you go to 20 does make a good barrier of the market in this 21 the supermarket that you can use for gas at any 21 case. So I would determine this market based on 22 time. They have -- in their program they have a 22 those parameters. What the site selectors at Weis

25

23 did I can not answer. I did not talk to site

24 selectors at Weis about how they did this.

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Can you please

23 timeline, deadline for when you have to use your

Q Do you know what the deadline is?

24 points, like weeks or month.

364 366 pull up the -- as you speak, the area, the defined 1 nature is to go to the closest space you can get 2 to get these things. 3 THE WITNESS: Keep going down. It should Q So you're suggesting then that -- are you be page 16. There. suggesting that people north of Clarksburg are HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yeah. Thank going to go south to Clarksburg to get gasoline? A It's quite possible. There is only one 6 you. Q So I'm afraid I wasn't tracking your station in Hyattstown north of Clarksburg. responses to why --Q How many stations are in Urbana? Well, first of all, let's just back up. A I don't know. 10 Do you know -- you don't know why Weis picked that 10 Q Now, you heard the testimony this morning 11 area, is that fair to say, or the area that Weis 11 of Mr. Samba that talked about the direction of 12 didn't pick? I'm a little confused now. 12 commuter traffic and the volume of commuter 13 A I can't certify why Weis picked this area. 13 traffic and the majority of which is -- from 14 I can assume why because they're professionals 14 Clarksburg is heading south. Do you agree with 15 like me, but I can't certify that. That would 15 that statement? 16 A I would generally agree with that 16 have to be a question for Weis. 17 Q Okay. So but you say, We believe this 17 statement, but I have not studied it. 18 area demonstrates the customer base likely to shop Q Well, why didn't you consider it in terms 19 at the Weis store and purchase gas. So what's the 19 of your gasoline analysis? Wouldn't it be 20 basis for that statement? 20 important to consider the traffic pattern, the 21 A Well, the beginning point is there's no 21 commuting pattern? 22 other grocery stores in this market area or this 22 A I pointed out in my analysis how many 23 trade area that's shown here. 23 people are commuting. I described that they 24 Q Well, in the trade area as you define it. 24 commute to mostly points south, more than north. 25 I mean, there are other grocery stores that are 25 I believe that I also pointed out that most of 365 367 1 within a couple of miles' proximity of Clarksburg 1 them are not carpooling, and they're driving alone 2 Town Center. in their cars for a great distance or time. I'm A That's a different trade area, and those not certain about distance. It's time. And, 4 grocery stores are serving a different trade area. therefore, I have established all that I need to 5 Their trade area today includes Clarksburg, but it know about the commuter in that particular 6 also covers stuff at points south. There's a neighborhood or trade area. I don't have to know 7 group of grocery stores south of this right up at how many people drove on which roads in which 8 Route 355 and Ridge Road, and those grocery stores direction. That's not critical to this study. 9 are serving a large residential market in that Q Well, in determining whether or not gas, 10 area down there and over towards Germantown. So 10 you know, falls within the need definition of the 11 their primary trade area is different than this 11 Montgomery County Code, or an additional filling 12 primary trade area. 12 station is, wouldn't it be appropriate to consider 13 Q As you defined it? 13 the fact that these commuters are heading south, 14 A Yes. 14 and, because it's on their way to work, that they 15 Q All right. So but people aren't stopped 15 would also consider buying gasoline at those 16 at the boundary of the trade area to get services? 16 stations? A Absolutely not. You're correct. A Yes and no. Yes, they're doing that Q Now, you state next that Weis correctly 18 today. They don't have a choice. We're providing 19 assumes that most grocery customers from the rural 19 the alternative so that they don't have to do that 20 northern parts of Montgomery County will travel to 20 now, so they don't have to pull off the road on 21 either Clarksburg or Damascus for groceries and 21 their way to work to get gas. They can get it 22 purchase gas while there. What's the basis for 22 before they leave, or they can get it when they 23 that statement? 23 come home the night before. 24 A It reduces their trips. They don't have 24 Q But you've excluded the commuter market? A I have not excluded the commuter market.

25

25 to drive in the congestion of Germantown. Human

370

#### Transcript of Hearing Conducted on March 6, 2025

1 I excluded the Route 270 commuter market. Let's THE WITNESS: No, no, no. That yellow 1 2 say the bypass traffic. I did not exclude anybody boundary is what the County called the 3 in the local neighborhood. They're all included. neighborhood. Q So your entire determination of need is HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Sorry, the 5 hinged upon your specific definition of the trade neighborhood. area; is that fair to say? THE WITNESS: Yes, and I think it was too MR. HARRIS: Objection. He talked about small. It was too precise the way they did it, the need in the neighborhood, which is the because there is an entire community of new homes standard in the code. He said that he analyzed just next -- just around that, which is the rest 10 the trade area as well. 10 of Clarksburg Town Center. So Clarksburg Town MS. POWELL: This neighborhood is used --11 Center, the community is a neighborhood that was, 11 12 is an elastic concept. And the neighborhood for 12 you know, a planned community that has integrated 13 gasoline purchases is different than the 13 services and so forth, and homeowner's 14 neighborhood in the context of, you know, this 14 associations, whatever that makes it the 15 particular application, because he's been tasked 15 neighborhood. 16 to testify to the determination of need for an 16 The rural areas, you know, north of Little 17 additional filling station to serve this 17 Bennett Regional Park have nothing to do with 18 particular market, to serve this area. So the 18 Clarksburg Town Center. They're not part of their 19 gasoline market is not the same as the quote, 19 neighborhood. So that's what I mean by a 20 unquote, Clarksburg neighborhood, and that's why 20 neighborhood is a far more precise and defined 21 he's talking about his trade area, which is 21 space. 22 different than the Clarksburg neighborhood. And 22 BY MS. POWELL: 23 what I'm suggesting is, is that his determination Q But when you look at the number of 24 of neighborhood in order to come up with his 24 gasoline stations that are available to serve the 25 analysis is based on the trade area as he has 25 neighborhood, as you justified it, that also 369 371 1 defined it under his supply and demand heading in includes gasoline stations that are located to the his own report. south that are on the way to work on 355 or 2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Are you able to adjacent to 270, correct? 4 just clarify for us again your distinction between 4 A The gas stations that are out here are the neighborhood and the trade area? serving the people in this trade area today. THE WITNESS: Yes. So the trade area is Q And, in fact -- and you say that in the loosely defined as the area that we would expect 7 report the demand is being met with supply from customers to come from within to this use. outside the immediate trade area, as gas stations 9 located in other markets and near commuters' A neighborhood is a far more precise 10 description of a community. It is not -- I didn't 10 places of work? 11 write the County Code or this case law, but what I 11 A That's correct. 12 can say is that a neighborhood is not a trade Q Okay. Isn't it true that the most 13 area. Trade areas do differ for different types 13 motivating factor for a gasoline purchaser is 14 of uses, and in some cases I call it a primary 14 price, as opposed to how shiny and pretty the 15 market area. But a neighborhood is -- the word is 15 station is? 16 slipping me right now, but a neighborhood is a far 16 A Actually, the trend is shifting, that 17 more refined community, much like a subdivision 17 people will definitely -- price is very important, 18 would be for a, you know, particular -- that's the 18 but the trend is shifting now to favorite products 19 best example, or a planned community or something 19 and brands and foods, and I didn't cite all of 20 like that. 20 that in this report. I'm telling you what HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So when we were 21 professionally I deal with in research. 22 earlier looking at that Staff Report where they But the overwhelming factor that I did 23 had the yellow boundary, that would be -- the 23 describe in the report that is still important is 24 yellow boundary represented what you're calling a 24 that, yes, the consumer does not want to go to a 25 trade area? 25 station that doesn't feel welcoming when they pull

Conducted on	March 6, 2025
372	374
1 in, and that has been proven over and over again	1 Q What were they when you wrote your report?
2 in surveys year after year, market surveys by the	2 A I don't know. I don't have that written
3 industry experts.	3 here.
4 Q Have you looked at the actual sales data,	4 Q Did you study it?
5 the volume, volume of sales for those gasoline	5 A We look at it, but I don't have it. I
6 stations?	6 don't have it here.
7 A I have discussed volume of sales data with	7 Q Was it part of your report?
8 some of those companies, and their numbers are	8 A No. Gas prices are never mind.
9 significantly higher than the averages. And in	9 Q Go ahead.
10 the NACS reports they identify that I have it	10 A No, thank you. I'm good. The gas
11 in my report. Let me look real quickly. They	11 prices I'll say this. Gas prices are
12 identified the difference in production. I	12 subjective to each site. It isn't necessarily
13 discussed on page 22 of the same report, I	13 uniform how gas is priced at every station.
14 discussed the different types of convenience	14 Q But if price is a component of the person
15 stores.	15 who's purchasing gas, it's an important factor; is
16 Q Hm-hm.	16 it not?
17 A So the expectations for certain	17 A It's important to the consumer, sure.
18 facilities, as I mentioned earlier here, was they	18 Q So it's fair to say that in your
19 want a canopy over there so they don't get wet.	19 determination of need that you did not consider
20 They want clean bathrooms. Good food is becoming	20 gasoline stations that are located to points
21 a bigger thing. Every year the percentage has	21 south, say, within a five-mile radius of the site
22 gone up. Well over 50 percent of customers that	22 as being within the trade area, even though they
23 pull up to a convenience store are going inside	23 are on the commuter pathway?
24 for something now. And so the move today with	24 A I didn't as a starting point. No true
25 convenience stores is to their profit margins	25 market study uses a radius to determine anything.
373	375
1 on their fuel is low so that they can get people	1 Q Well, I'm asking you if you considered any
2 in a store where they have high profit margins on	2 of the gasoline stations on the commuter pathway,
3 food stuffs. And so they're trying to	3 which people have to travel, whether they want to
4 Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.	4 or not, that are to points south of your trade
5 A They are trying to market their foods	5 area, which are available to serve the individuals
6 more, and all the marketing that you see right now	6 in the neighborhood. That's my question.
7 for most of the big performing convenience stores	7 A In the effort to find whether the proposed
8 is about food, not about their gas.	8 gas station is convenient, expedient and useful to
9 Q Well, if you look at the bottom of page 22	9 the neighborhood, I have to see what is working
10 of your report, the same reports that you were	10 for them in their neighborhood. There is nothing
11 just discussing say that consumers will drive up	11 else. One other small station that does not have
12 to 10 minutes out of their way to save pennies on	12 canopies and you have to go through a residential
13 gas purchases.	13 drive to get into a one-way parking lot. The
14 A That's true.	14 ability to drive out of the trade area to get fuel
15 Q So price is important?	15 is considered as the standard of not the
16 A Yeah, I did say that. I did agree it is	
16 A Yeah, I did say that. I did agree it is	16 standard, but as the basis for what's happening
17 important, but so are some other factors are	17 today that I'm trying to overcome by suggesting
•	

A I'm not sure today what they are, but they

24 A Because it's not on Route 270.

19 importance in another direction. The gas prices

20 in this community are all very similar.

21 Q What are they?

24

22 A I'm not sure today.

23 Q I beg your pardon?

**25 change daily.** 25 Q Well, it's -- or 355. They're adjacent.

19 more useful to the neighborhood than driving out

20 of their path off of Route 270 to get to a gas

22 morning, or on their way home in the evening.

21 station on 355 on their way to work in the

23 Q Why is it driving out of their path?

376 378			
1 A But it's not I mean, it's adjacent. I	1 but the other stations do in some form. They're		
2 don't know the distance offhand, but that's added	2 all different.		
3 time in your travel, in your commute. So people	3 Q Sure. Just bear with me just for a		
4 don't want to do that. I'm talking human nature.	4 minute. I think I'm finished, but I just want to		
5 You don't want to get off your path once you're on	5 make sure.		
6 your path, if you can. That's why the stations	6 A Sure.		
7 like the 7-Eleven in Clarksburg is right there on	7 Q Why did you rely on the Traffic Generation		
8 the highway. It's got a sign on the highway that	8 Manual from 2017, the 10th edition, instead of the		
9 can be seen, and people look at it and say I can	9 11th?		
10 get there and get back on the highway without	10 A I was citing a statement from that. I		
11 having to go through a lot more hassle.	11 wasn't relying on it for anything.		
12 To get over to the Giant Foods at 355 and	12 Q You weren't?		
13 Ridge Road is a lot more traffic congestion than	13 A I didn't calculate from that		
14 just staying on Route 270. So the logic is, I	14 Q Okay.		
15 found, that putting a gas station right near their			
16 home is far more convenient and expedient than	15 A is what I'm saying. Yes. 16 Q Isn't there a point at which gasoline		
_	17 usage caps out? I mean, you used a straight up		
17 having to get out of the highway traffic flow, go			
18 down some side streets to get to your gas, and get	18 formula of 3.3 percent of income and determined 19 that gasoline usage would increase the more the		
19 back to the highway and then get back down to 20 where you're going, whether it's going to work or	20 higher someone's income would be, right? If		
21 going to home. So there is a significant	21 somebody makes \$200,000 a year and they spend 3.3		
22 improvement in that part of your trip in your day	22 percent of their income on gasoline, that amount		
	23 is obviously less than somebody who makes \$300,000		
<ul><li>23 by not having to get off Route 270.</li><li>24 Q What's the basis for that statement? What</li></ul>	l · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	24 a year, right? 25 A I understand.		
25 independent data do you have, other than your			
1 belief in human nature that people will make a	379 1 Q And there's a certain point at which,		
1	2 perhaps, people will stop increasing by 3.3		
2 different trip within a neighborhood, as opposed 3 to passing by a gas station on their way to work?	3 percent. I mean, I think it's fair to say that		
4 What's the basis for that?	4 Bill Gates doesn't spend 3.3 percent of his income		
5 A I've been doing this for decades, and I			
	l		
l			
	8 number. The data that I'm using is from the		
9 into this. I can't nail that one down, but I can	9 Consumer Expenditure Survey by the Department of		
10 tell you that from years of experience in doing	10 Labor and Census, which is averaged. So the		
11 Q That's you're not answering my	11 computation is just to illustrate the trend. It's		
12 question. You don't know. You can not	12 not an absolute number.		
MR. HARRIS: He didn't say he didn't know.	So in this in the theory that you're		
14 A I didn't say I didn't know. I said I	14 putting forth here, how many Bill Gateses would		
15 can't identify the source.	15 live in this particular community, for example?		
16 Q Okay. Do you know what the price of	16 Q That's not my question, sir.		
17 gasoline is that the Weis store intends to offer?	17 A I know that's not your question. What I'm		
18 A No, and that would be a daily change.	18 suggesting is that the average works because the		
19 That wouldn't be something they could declare	19 anomalies get dropped off.		
20 anyway.	20 Q What's the standard deviation? Do you		
21 Q And I do believe you said that there were	21 know?		
22 other discount stations available even within your	22 A I do not know.		
23 trade area, correct?	MS. POWELL: I have no further questions.		
24 A Yes. I believe all the stations have a	24 MR. HARRIS: Just a couple.		
25 discount. I'm not sure about the Patel station,	25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT		

	Warch 6, 2023	
380		382
BY MR. HARRIS:	1 Staff did what the Planning Staff did.	
Q You were asked extensively about gas	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And I will	
3 stations farther south in Germantown or maybe even	3 overrule, because we do that all the time. The	
4 farther south than that. If there were no gas	4 Planning Staff have provided their analysis. We	
5 stations anywhere in Clarksburg, would people	5 want to know if the experts agree or disagree. I	
6 still find a place to buy gas?	6 think it's relevant.	
7 A Yes, absolutely. They have to.	7 A Yes, I agree with what is stated here.	
8 Q Would that make to what extent would	8 Q And do you have an opinion as to whether	
9 having to go all the way to Germantown be	9 these gas pumps are important to the operation of	
10 expedient, reasonably convenient or useful to the	10 the proposed Weis supermarket?	
11 public in Clarksburg? Would it be?	MS. POWELL: I'm going to object to that.	
12 A No. It would in the alternative of	12 The issue is the gasoline filling station. It's	
13 this site, there's no comparison. However, if	13 not the Weis Supermarket.	
14 that's all they have to work with, that's as	MR. HARRIS: They're interconnected, as	
15 reasonably convenient as they can make it. It's	MS. POWELL: No, they're not.	
16 not expedient. So this site, on that theory	MR. HARRIS: he has testified	
17 alone, is far more reasonably convenient,	17 extensively.	
18 expedient and useful than commuting anywhere to	MS. POWELL: That doesn't make them so.	
19 get the same services.	19 For the purposes of this hearing, the issue is	
20 Q And does the presence of a gas station	20 whether or not the filling station should have a	
21 somewhere that could have the capacity mean that	21 conditional use approval.	
22 the County can not approve any gas station	MR. HARRIS: The issue is whether it's	
23 anywhere else because the customer for the	23 expedient, reasonably convenient and useful to the	
24 prospective gas station could go to the existing	24 public.	
25 gas station?	25 Q Is it useful to the public then for the	
381		383
1 A No. There's no relationship to that at	1 Weis Market to have gas pumps?	
2 all. The capacity of gas stations is not taken	2 A Okay. Yes, I believe it is useful to the	
3 into consideration in zoning.	3 public for the Weis Market to have gas pumps for	
4 MR. HARRIS: Turn to Exhibit 36, please.	4 the entire Clarksburg Town Center commercial	
5 Q I think you referenced that. That's the	5 development, actually.	
6 Staff Report on this.	6 MR. HARRIS: No further questions. I'm	
7 MR. HARRIS: And page 20 in particular.	7 sorry.	
8 Right there. Thank you.	8 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Could I ask why	
9 Q Would you read for the record below the	9 you believe that?	
•		
10 letter D where it says the Applicant?	THE WITNESS: It's a the principle of a	
10 letter D where it says the Applicant?  11 A The Applicant has provided a needs	10 THE WITNESS: It's a the principle of a 11 shopping center is that you have an anchor and you	
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Conducted on Materi 0, 2023			
1 BY MS. POWELL:	1 they in the same neighborhood in the same	386	
2 Q I believe that the question was posed to	2 MR. HARRIS: Back to 54, page 49 maybe.		
3 you about whether the Planning Staff analysis	THE WITNESS: Yeah, that would be it.		
4 comported with yours. And, in fact, the Planning	4 A Yeah. Yeah. If I could point to it I		
5 Staff in the Staff Report simply adopted your	5 don't know if anybody can see that up there, but		
6 report without doing any independent analysis.	6 the Patel station is right here.		
7 MR. HARRIS: We don't know what analysis	7 Q You're pointing to the bottom left of the		
8 they did. Objection.	8 screen?		
9 MS. POWELL: That was my objection before	9 A Yes, yes. So this is Route 355, and they		
10 and so	10 own these two buildings there and the gas pumps		
11 Q And it says here, if we go back to the	11 are behind the building.		
12 page that you were talking about, the Applicant	12 Q Are they considered competitors of this to		
13 has provided a needs analysis. The study shows	13 the extent that you can say?		
14 that a filling station use is needed. The needs	14 A They had a different use. So they have		
15 analysis indicates that. This is all based simply	15 a they have I'm sure they'll describe it for		
16 on the needs analysis; isn't that correct? That's	16 you better, but they have a deli, which was more		
17 what	17 or less a convenience store, small type of not		
18 MR. HARRIS: If they disagreed with the	18 like a 7-Eleven, but something different than		
19 study, they would have said that. This implicitly	19 that, and a liquor store next to that. And they		
20 says they agree.	20 have in their back parking lot behind this,		
21 MS. POWELL: It doesn't demonstrate in any	21 they have two gas pumps for four positions to		
22 way that they actually undertook any analysis	22 fill.		
23 whatsoever on their own.	23 Q I'm curious. You had some numbers. You		
24 MR. HARRIS: Or maybe that they even read	24 know, you had, you know, the projections, I think,		
25 it.	25 an 80 something percent increase in population		
385		387	
1 MS. POWELL: That's possible.	1 over a certain period of time, and you were		
2 MR. HARRIS: Yeah.	2 drawing conclusions about, you know, demand for		
3 MS. POWELL: didn't read it.	3 gas. Is any of this analysis impacted in any way		
4 MR. HARRIS: Come on.	4 by the electric car market, or is that outside of		
5 MS. POWELL: The question was whether or	5 the purview of anything you've looked at?		
6 not the Staff analysis comported with his.	6 A I did not study the electric car market.		
7 MR. HARRIS: And he answered that it does.	7 What I can tell you is I have studied the it's		
8 MS. POWELL: There's no indication of any	8 not in the report. I have studied the volume of		
9 Staff analysis is my point.	9 vehicles registered based on what type of fuel		
10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Your opinion is	10 they use, whether it's gas, diesel, electric,		
11 noted.	11 hybrid, and gasoline is significantly larger than		
MS. POWELL: Thank you, ma'am.	12 all the others for this. So the electric market		
13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have	13 is still very, very small. It wouldn't it		
14 that was redirect after cross. Are we done?	14 wouldn't change the demand number. It will impa	act	
15 I just have some	15 it eventually, but today it's not bringing it down		
16 THE WITNESS: Sure.	16 in any significant way that in other words, the		
17 EXAMINATION BY HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI	17 indicator that fuel that we would test for all of		
18 Q To the extent that you can answer these	18 this, for gas stations would be gasoline and not		
19 questions. Relative to this project, are you	19 the others.		
20 familiar with where the Patel parties have a	20 Q And last question from me is are you		
21 gas station as well. Are you familiar with where	21 familiar with so the section that you've been		
22 that is located relative to this project?	22 reviewing for us in the Zoning Code is Section		
23 A Yes, ma'am.	23 7.3.1.(e)(5), which is the standard. It reads		
24 Q Could you point that out to me, or just	24 and I'm reading straight out of the Zoning Code		
25 give some general description? Are they are	25 Section 7.3.1(e)(5).		

	Water 6, 2025
388	390
1 A (E)(5), correct.	1 Q from a Zoning Code standpoint?
2 Q The following conditional uses may only be	2 A That's correct.
3 approved when the Hearing Examiner finds from a	3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. Thank you
4 preponderance of the evidence of record that the	4 so much.
5 need exists for the proposed use to serve the	5 MR. HARRIS: I think that is the extent of
6 population in the general neighborhood,	6 our witnesses today, ma'am. We do want to keep
7 considering the present availability of identical	7 this moving so that we can meet Ms. Presley's
8 or similar uses to that neighborhood. And so, you	8 schedule this afternoon, so we're ready for the
9 know, gas stations is one of the things that that	9 opposition, I think.
10 standard applies to.	10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have an
11 There's a second and this may very well	11 estimate of how much time you need?
12 be outside of your analysis, but I just would like	12 MS. POWELL: I don't anticipate that it'll
13 to ask. Contrasted with the separate standard in	13 be terribly long, but I do have a question about
14 Subsection six, which applies to funeral homes and	14 the process. So are the people that are going
15 hotels and motels, are you familiar with the	15 to the individual public comment or individual
16 difference between the two standards?	16 public testimony for versus anti, does that come
	·
	17 after Mr. Harris', or how does this work?
18 Q So, in layperson's terms, are you able	18 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So with
19 to and this was briefed in Mr. Harris' memo of	19 Mr. Harris having closed on his case in chief,
20 law. What's the difference between the standard	20 we're now turning to what we call the opposition
21 for gas stations and the other standard?	21 case. And with Ms. Presley not being here
22 THE WITNESS: Okay. So first, to clarify,	22 MS. POWELL: Sure
23 as we all know, number six does not apply to gas	23 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: certainly you
24 stations.	24 can go first. I had suggested having her, you
25 Q Correct.	25 know, at one, but I think we've agreed to 2:00.
389	391
1 A And number six is talking about a result	MS. POWELL: I think she asked for two.
2 of multiplicity or saturation of similar uses in	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: No, no. She did
3 the neighborhood. So here before this Board I	3 ask for 2:00, and I told her that was perfectly
4 have discussed this in regards to drive-throughs,	4 fine. So although I had earlier intended to take
5 for example. It's an issue in Montgomery County.	5 a break for lunch between noon and one, I'm happy
6 So there we're looking at whether there's too many	6 to get you know, we can proceed.
7 drive-throughs, and it's a different issue	7 MS. POWELL: If I could have a bathroom
8 altogether, because those types of uses they're	8 break.
9 listing here, a couple of these, drive-throughs is	9 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Let's stick with
10 one of them, funeral homes another is that you	10 the plan for noon why don't we break for lunch
11 could have a traffic problem, that there's too	11 now for an hour, come back and then you'll start
12 many of them in a certain vicinity and they	12 your case. And maybe that gives everyone and
13 they're popular. So Dunkin Donuts, for example,	13 opportunity to regroup and
14 or Chick-fil-A, those kinds of things become	MS. POWELL: Yeah. I just needed the
15 controversial over those issues. In a	15 bathroom break.
16 multiplicity and saturation consideration is that	MR. HARRIS: Will that be sufficient to
17 there's lots and lots of opportunities for you to	
	17 accommodate Amy at 2:00 then do you believe?
18 get that cup of coffee without getting out of your	, and the second
18 get that cup of coffee without getting out of your 19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?	MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so.
19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?	18 MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so. 19 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine.
<ul><li>19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?</li><li>20 Q And that's not the standard for gas</li></ul>	<ul> <li>MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so.</li> <li>MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine.</li> <li>MS. POWELL: It's dependent on you.</li> </ul>
19 car; therefore, do we really need another one? 20 Q And that's not the standard for gas 21 stations?	18 MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so. 19 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine. 20 MS. POWELL: It's dependent on you. 21 MR. HARRIS: I want to respect her time.
<ul> <li>19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?</li> <li>20 Q And that's not the standard for gas</li> <li>21 stations?</li> <li>22 A And that's not the standard for gas</li> </ul>	18 MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so. 19 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine. 20 MS. POWELL: It's dependent on you. 21 MR. HARRIS: I want to respect her time. 22 MS. POWELL: Well, I mean, we can I
<ul> <li>19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?</li> <li>20 Q And that's not the standard for gas</li> <li>21 stations?</li> <li>22 A And that's not the standard for gas</li> <li>23 stations. No.</li> </ul>	18 MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so. 19 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine. 20 MS. POWELL: It's dependent on you. 21 MR. HARRIS: I want to respect her time. 22 MS. POWELL: Well, I mean, we can I 23 mean, obviously we would stop if she needed
<ul> <li>19 car; therefore, do we really need another one?</li> <li>20 Q And that's not the standard for gas</li> <li>21 stations?</li> <li>22 A And that's not the standard for gas</li> </ul>	18 MS. POWELL: Well, I hope so. 19 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Fine. 20 MS. POWELL: It's dependent on you. 21 MR. HARRIS: I want to respect her time. 22 MS. POWELL: Well, I mean, we can I

	394
1 for being so accommodating on her request.	1 Q One thing you have to do you're very
2 MR. HARRIS: It's an unfortunate	2 soft. You need to keep your voice up.
3 situation. None of us would want to be there.	3 Mr. Patel, could you state your full name,
4 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: It is. So we	4 and your current position and where you work?
5 can break now for and hour, reconvene at 12:50.	5 A Name is Ishan Patel. I'm a general
l	6 manager at the Clarksburg Market property.
6 Then we'll start with the opposition case, and 7 then we'll break for her at two.	7 Q And what's your educational background?
8 MS. POWELL: Got it.	
9 (A luncheon recess was taken.) 10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We're convening	9 Q From where?  10 A Mount St. Mary's.
11 for part two of today's hearing. So before we	11 Q Can you tell me where the Clarksburg Deli,
12 turn it over to Ms. Powell for the opposition	12 convenience store and gasoline station are
13 case, Mr. Harris, I did want I know people have	13 located?
14 the option to do closing statements, so you	14 A Yeah, we're right in downtown Clarksburg,
15 certainly mentioned that. So I don't know if you	15 the historic downtown right off of 355. Our
16 were planning to or not, but you do have that	16 entrance is through the Clarksburg Square Road.
17 option.	17 Q And how long have you worked at the
18 Before we conclude, I did want to get the	18 Clarksburg facility?
19 Applicant's I did want to ask about the	
20 Applicant's views on the conditions proposed by	-
21 the Planning Staff. So that's not something you	20 Q And was the entrance always off the road 21 going into the neighborhood?
22 need	22 A No. Before the County wanted to put
23 MR. HARRIS: Right now or	23 Clarksburg Square Road, we had three entrances to
24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You don't have	24 355 directly.
25 to address it right this minute. I'm just	25 Q Okay. And why did you change the location
1 throwing it out there as a heads up. I do want us	395 1 of the entrance?
1) to address even though Planning Statt are	17 A I helieve it's hecause they wanted the
2 to address even though Planning Staff are 3 recommending approval and I believe the Planning	2 A I believe it's because they wanted the 3 path to the development, so we had to relocate one
3 recommending approval, and I believe the Planning	3 path to the development, so we had to relocate one
<ul> <li>recommending approval, and I believe the Planning</li> <li>Board also recommended approval, but there are</li> </ul>	<ul><li>3 path to the development, so we had to relocate one</li><li>4 of the buildings. The gas pumps went to the back,</li></ul>
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Conducted on March 6, 2025		
396	398	
1 mentioned changing the entrance, I just want to	1 BY MS. POWELL:	
2 get my bearings. Changing from where to where?	2 Q So looking at and this is 49B is	
THE WITNESS: So the entrance was directly	3 also up on the screen. You can see that. Can you	
4 from 355 onto the property. Now that the	4 describe, please, for the Hearing Examiner what	
5 Clarksburg Square Road is there, the entrance is	5 that is?	
6 on the it's shifted from direct from the 355 to	6 A So it's a five-mile radius of the	
7 entering through the Clarksburg Square Road.	7 Clarksburg Town Center. I used Google Maps to	
8 BY MS. POWELL:	8 create this, used a tool to add a radius in. I	
9 Q And that was done as part of the		
10 Clarksburg development plan?	10 with the MDE facility ID and their tank storage	
11 A Yes.	11 gallon count.	
12 Q And you agreed to move that?	12 Q Okay. And then if you turn to the second	
13 A Yes.	13 page of Exhibit B, which is a little bit sideways	
14 Q Now, has the gasoline service station ever	14 and upside down there we go. We have can	
15 run out of gas?	15 you describe what that is? Well, first of all,	
16 A Not recently. We did one time in 2021, I	16 did you create this?	
17 believe, when there was a shortage of some	17 A Yes. So it's the same cadence as before.	
18 pipeline issue. Most of the region was out during	18 It's just this is just a three-mile radius.	
19 that time.	19 Q Okay. And then the same thing going down	
20 Q So it was the entire east coast?	20 to the third page of 49B?	
21 A Yeah.	21 A Yeah. This is the 1.5-mile radius.	
22 Q Is that right?	22 Q And why did you use this radius?	
23 A Yeah.	23 A Well, it shows where 270 is and 355 is,	
24 Q And is that the only occasion on which	24 which are like the commuter patterns.	
25 you've run out of gas?	25 Q And you heard the testimony previously of	
397	399	
1 A Yes.	1 Mr. Steere and of Mr. Samba that the commuters	
2 Q Have ever had any queuing into the street	2 from Clarksburg are typically heading south?	
3 for gasoline?	3 A Yes.	
4 A No.	4 Q In the morning?	
5 Q What are the peak times that you	5 A In the morning. North in the evening.	
6 provide in your experience that you've noticed	6 Q And north in the evening, okay. Have you	
7 that people come for gasoline?	7 ever had any complaints or comments about the	
8 A It's usually commuters going back home, so	8 features of your gasoline station?	
9 from like four p.m. to six p.m. they're usually	9 A No. We do pretty well with the upkeep,	
10 coming north from 355.	10 simply because we have other businesses right on	
11 Q Now, if you look at	11 the property such as the Italian ice and a	
12 MS. POWELL: If you could pull up 49B,	12 restaurant, like a deli and a beer and wine store.	
13 49B, please.	13 Q Are you able to serve more gasoline or	
14 Q And we'll go through each page.	14 filling station customers than you do currently?	
15 A Okay.	15 A Yes.	
16 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Before we even	16 Q Do you have any limitations on the amount	
17 proceed further, can we just get a sound check	17 of gasoline that you can offer for sale?	
18 from the people on Zoom? Can someone on Zoom	18 A No.	
19 confirm that they can hear us, please?	19 Q Can you tell Madam Examiner what the	
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can hear.	20 current pricing is for, say, for example, a gallon	
21 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Could someone on	21 of regular gasoline at the Clarksburg store?	
22 the Zoom	22 A As of last night, I think it was 2.89.	
MD HADDIC, He said was	22 O And if you look at the vehatic it on	

Q And if you look at the -- what is it on

24 the nearby other gas stations? What is Shell?

25 A They're typically -- I think it was 3.09,

MR. HARRIS: He said yes.

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. Thank you

23 24

25 very much.

Conducted on March 6, 2025			
400	402		
1 if I'm	1 A Yeah. My family bought it back in 2004.		
2 Q For regular?	2 I started working there in 2005.		
3 A For regular.	3 Q Okay, fine. I think I saw some data that		
4 Q Okay. And what about for high test? Do	4 the gas pumps were out of operation for a number		
5 you know?	5 of years from like 1975 to 2018; is that correct?		
6 A High test we're typically 50 cents higher	6 A No, they were they were active when we		
7 than our regular.	7 bought them. There was I believe between the		
8 Q Shell is higher than you?	8 part of the development thing that the gas		
9 A Shell high test, yes.	9 pumps were much older, so they had issues where		
10 Q No. I'm sorry. I'm getting confused.	10 they were not sorry, allergies operational,		
11 You mean 50 cents higher for your price for high	11 but part of the reshuffle for the road to come		
12 test?	12 through, all the pumps are new. I think I		
13 A Yes.	13 believe that happened in 2018.		
14 Q Okay. So the high test gasoline that you	14 Q Okay. So I'm confused a little bit. Are		
15 offer is 3.60	15 you saying there was or there was not a period of		
16 A 3.59ish.	16 time when there was no gas operation there?		
17 Q Okay. And then what about for the Shell?	17 A There was a period of time where there was		
18 A They're typically higher as well. It's	18 no gas operation there.		
19 kind of like the same ratio.	19 Q What period of time was that?		
20 Q Okay. So if they're regular's 3.09, then	20 A It was a few years, I believe.		
21 what's the high test?	21 Q A few years?		
22 A 3.69.	22 A Yes.		
23 Q Okay. Has anyone ever complained about	23 Q Okay. So just before 2018, maybe like		
24 access to the facility, to the gasoline station?	24 2015 to 2018?		
25 A No.	25 A Yes, around that time I would say.		
401	403		
1 Q Okay. Did you notice a reduction in	1 Q And the stores were able to stay in		
2 consumers when you moved from 355 to off of	2 business without selling any gas then?		
3 Clarksburg Road?	3 A Yeah. We struggled just because the		
4 A Yes. The buildings are historic, so they	4 part of the construction that was going on for the		
5 have to be 355 facing. So the gas pumps are kind	5 moving of the gas tanks and all that		
6 of covered by the building, the two buildings. So	6 Q Yeah.		
7 other than a small sign in the front, we're not	7 A kind of		
8 allowed to post anything more because it's a	8 Q That would have interrupted your		
9 historic building.	9 operation?		
10 Q And for your customer base, where are	10 A Yes.		
11 people coming from in your experience?	11 Q On that, by the way, just I think that		
12 A Mostly from in the neighborhood from the	12 the County and Newlands, I think, paid all the		
13 back, just because they use the Clarksburg Square	13 money for building the road and installing the new		
14 Road to come out of their development, their	14 gas pumps and all of that?		
15 homes.	15 A I can't speak to that. I don't know the		
16 Q And when you say the neighborhood, is that	16 specifics. I do know that part of the we did		
17 the neighborhood that we've been talking about?	17 give up some land for Clarksburg Square Road to		
18 A Yes, behind the gas station.	18 come through, so it was part of the package.		
19 MS. POWELL: No other questions.	19 Q Okay. I don't assume you're prepared to		
20 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT	20 share your annual income statements with us to		
21 BY MR. HARRIS:	21 show what your business operations are and where		
22 Q Thank you, Mr. Patel. A few questions for	22 your profits come from?		
23 you. You say you bought the store in 2005? I	23 A I am not.		
24 think you said 19 years, so maybe it's 20 years	24 Q Okay. You did say, though, that in		
25 ago?	25 addition to the gas you have a store. There's a		

Conducted on	March 6, 2025
1 deli there?	406  1 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Has our court
l	
3 Q I think you said Italian ice? 4 A Yes.	Okay. If you may kindly, Mr. Patel, raise your right hand.
4 A Yes. 5 Q I don't know that you mentioned it, but I	5 (The witness was sworn.)
	i
6 think there's a beer and wine 7 A Yes.	6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you. 7 AJAY PATEL,
8 Q operation there. What other facilities	8 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, was
9 do you have there?	9 examined and testified as follows:
10 A That's it.	10 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE OPPOSITION
11 Q That's it, okay. You don't offer customer	11 BY MS. POWELL:
12 rewards on gas sales, or discounts for customers?	12 Q Could you please state your affiliation
13 Is the price that's on the pump the price that	13 with what I've been referring to as the Patel
14 everyone pays?	14 parties?
15 A Yes.	15 A Sure. So my family, with Ishan and my
16 Q Your customer profile I think you said	16 sister, they own the Clarksburg Market, and I help
17 and this would make sense to me are local	17 them manage it, as well as one of my company owns
18 people who get along with you, like your small	18 the property.
19 business, like to support you? Is that a	19 Q So could you please just briefly describe
20 significant part of your business?	20 your educational background?
21 A Significant, yes.	21 A I have about 20 years of telecommunication
22 Q And to what extent it sounded as if you	22 engineering background and private consulting for
23 said that the drive-by business, the gas customers	23 the 1,400 companies.
24 on 355 declined substantially when you had to move	24 Q Okay. And what do you devote your time to
25 the pumps behind the store. So to what extent are	25 now?
405	407
1 your customers drive-by customers?	1 A Mostly I do the strategy of the family
2 A I can't quantify that simply because	2 companies, as well as help them guide for the
3 it's my major interaction with them is when	3 management.
4 they come in the store.	4 Q Where do you live?
5 MR. HARRIS: Sure. Okay. I don't think I	5 A I live in Urbana.
6 have any other questions. Thank you for	6 Q Okay.
7 testifying.	7 A Alittle bit about eight miles from the
8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.	8 Clarksburg.
9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE OPPOSITION	9 Q Okay. And Urbana, is there a grocery
10 BY MS. POWELL:	10 store in the Town Center there?
11 Q I just wanted to clarify something. So	11 A Yeah, it's a Giant Foods.
12 when your family purchased the gasoline station,	12 Q Does it have a gasoline station?
13 the pumps were operating?	13 A Not in the core neighborhood. All the gas
14 A Yes.	14 stations are located in the surrounding areas
15 Q And it wasn't until the road relocation	15 where the commercial development is. So there is
16 work commenced that the pumps ceased operation?	16 a Royal Farms. Sheetz is coming up. 7-Eleven is
17 A Around that time, yes.	17 there. Exxon is there, and a Shell.
18 Q And that took place over a fairly	18 Q So they're outside of the Town Center?
19 significant period of time?	19 A It's on a periphery of it. It's not
20 A Yes.	20 within the Town Center.
21 MS. POWELL: Approximately three years.	21 Q And the Giant doesn't have a gas station
22 Okay. No more questions.	22 affiliated with it?
23 If you would please introduce yourself to	23 A Giant ties up with the Shell gas station,
24 Madam Examiner, and she will swear you in.	24 which is outside on the
25 THE WITNESS: I'm Ajay Patel.	25 Q So it has a relationship with Shell?

408	410
1 A Yeah.	1 radius of Germantown, that's a capacity yeah.
2 Q The gas station excuse me. The	2 Q No. Let's start with the first part,
3 markets, the grocery stores that are proximate	3 which is the Valbridge
4 to well, what are the other grocery stores	4 A Okay.
5 proximate to the Clarksburg Town Center?	5 Q trade area, because we she's going
6 A So the nearest one is Harris Teeter, which	6 to have to go back and look at this record and be
7 is on the south we call it the Clarksburg	7 able to track what you're talking about. So this
8 Village.	8 is the first part here.
9 Q Hm-hm.	9 A Okay.
10 A Then the Wegmans, which is further down	10 Q So if we look at the Valbridge trade area,
11 the street. Next to that is a Walmart, and this	11 if we take those five tanks or five tank capacity
12 side is where the Giant Foods is.	12 numbers, do you get the total that's reflected
13 Q Do any of those grocery stores have	13 here?
14 gasoline stations?	14 A Yeah. 203,000, yes.
15 A None of them have.	15 Q Okay. And then we're going to get to the
16 Q Okay. Now I'd like you to go to Exhibit	16 attachments in a minute.
17 49D. OZAH 49D, that's what this is. We're going	17 A Okay.
18 to be referring to two, so B, which was the map	18 Q So then you have a total combined
19 that was shown previously, and talking about this	19 potential output per year. Could you please
20 exhibit, 49D. So if you could please describe to	20 explain to Madam Examiner how you came up with
21 Madam Examiner what is reflected on the first page	21 these numbers?
22 of 49D?	22 A So typically on gas stations I review this
23 A So if you look at the top table, that's	23 analysis for the expert part of it, but my
24 basically five stations on the earlier map close	24 analysis comes from owning multiple stations for
25 to the vicinity of the Clarksburg area, Clarksburg	25 the last 17 years. So even though he doesn't have
409	411
1 Market, Sunoco, which is on the Clarksburg Road,	1 an ability to glean from what owners does not want
<ol> <li>Market, Sunoco, which is on the Clarksburg Road,</li> <li>7-Eleven Exxon, which is near the outlets,</li> <li>7-Eleven Shell, which is near the Harris Teeter,</li> </ol>	1 an ability to glean from what owners does not want
<ol> <li>Market, Sunoco, which is on the Clarksburg Road,</li> <li>7-Eleven Exxon, which is near the outlets,</li> <li>7-Eleven Shell, which is near the Harris Teeter,</li> <li>and Carroll Fuel, which is on the Urbana Pike</li> </ol>	1 an ability to glean from what owners does not want 2 to share with him, I have actual data from my 3 experience as well as other businesses. So 4 typically, if we go back to very high level at the
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Conducted on March 6, 2023		
412	414	
1 MR. HARRIS: Okay.	1 A Yeah.	
2 THE WITNESS: So Costco has a similar	2 Q And is that how you came up with your	
3 sizing as a Shell gas station near Harris Teeter	3 total combined output?	
4 and the Exxon near the outlet.  MR HARRIS, Olay, And to get her these	4 A Yes.	
5 MR. HARRIS: Okay. And together those	5 Q And what is that total combined output?	
6 three you're saying could do 10 million gallons?	6 A That is 24 million gallons. 24,850,000	
7 Is that what you're saying?	7 gallons.	
8 THE WITNESS: Two of them, they should be 9 able to do 10 million.	8 Q Okay. And then just if you would just 9 look at there are several attachment pages to	
	10 the summary pages. Could you just you don't	
10 MR. HARRIS: Okay. 11 BY MS. POWELL:	11 have to go through each one, but explain generally	
12 Q So could we get back to the first page?	12 to Madam Examiner what those are.	
13 Because this we're looking at the page that	13 A So this is a facility report you can	
14 we're not talking about, and so it's a little bit	14 download from the MD website. And summary page	
15 confusing. Okay. So now you	15 what you see, that's where we build the data from.	
16 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And we're still	16 So what is the each capacities, what kind of tank	
17 at Exhibit 49D?	17 it is, are they operational or not operational.	
18 MS. POWELL: Correct.	18 These are for each of the stations.	
19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Tank capacity.	19 Q Now, you heard Ishan testify about just	
20 MS. POWELL: Yes. Yes, ma'am.	20 the general situation of the Clarksburg facility.	
21 Q So but you have a lower number, the 10	21 Have you ever heard any complaints about the	
22 million 150, 10,150,000 gallons here?	22 gasoline component of your facility?	
23 A So calculation is this is very	23 A We haven't heard any.	
24 conservative. Assuming that every station get	24 Q And the time period of the closure of the	
25 only one-and-a-half tanker load of the gas, okay,	25 pumps, could you please explain that?	
413	415	
1 which is 12,000 gallons, multiply that by the	1 A Sure. So I believe, I mean, this is	
2 stations. That's how I come up with that number,	2 I'm still under oath, but I'm going by my memory.	
3 10 million gallons.	3 Okay? And you asked that question also. So 2011	
4 Q Okay. And that's within this trade area?	4 or 12 when this whole conversation was going on	
5 A Yes.	5 with the Newland and the Elm Street about the road	
6 Q Okay. So then if we go down to staying	6 alignment, during that time we had a very	
7 on the same page, go down to the total gas	7 challenging things to source the part of the old	
8 stations with the five-mile radius. So it	8 gas stations, and those pumps were dial and gauges	
9 includes the five from Mr. Steere's trade area,	9 so they go back in like back in the days. And	
10 but you've added some others, and this is based on	10 not knowing the basically direction of what	
11 the map that Ishan	11 County is going to tell us to do in terms of the	
12 A The five-mile radius, yes.	12 road alignment, investment aspect of it and	
13 Q Right. Okay. So could you then just walk	13 sourcing of those part, station was, I think,	
14 us through that? So how many stations have we 15 added then by heading south?	14 closed at least for three, four years. And 15 between	
, -		
	16 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Sorry. For at 17 least how many years?	
18 A So it's the same logic, adding five plus 19 eight stations, which is on the commuter traffic	18 THE WITNESS: Three to four years.  19 A When the Elm Street came in and they had a	
1		
20 directions, and total capacity of the gallon	20 directive from the County, as well as work with	

21 us, we diligently worked with the County as well

22 as Elm Street. During that time, even though a

23 project was executed by County as well as Elm

24 Street, it took five years to get the permitting.

25 So during that time we could not invest into any

21 available is 497,000 gallons.

23 conservative --

Q -- tank fills?

24 A Yes.

22 Q And then did you apply the same

416 418 1 of the things what we need to do. So that was the A Yeah. 1 2 reason for -- hopefully that answer why it was 2 MS. POWELL: Okay. I have no further 3 closed. One is the very old pump and stations, 3 4 which we can source it. I mean, we source it --CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT 5 like we spend \$20,000 at that time, and then it BY MR. HARRIS: 6 basically went (indiscernible). And then we Q Back to the years of operation, did I hear worked with the County to align that part of it. you correctly -- or in operation, let's say, when 8 One thing in terms of the economic the gas pumps are up, there were three or four impact -- you ask about the things who pay for it, years closed because the pumps were deficient, or 10 and this is the part where us as the citizens do 10 whatever -- my word. 11 what is necessary for the community, as well as A Two of the -- multiple combination, right? 12 helping the County out. Contract was very clear 12 The pumps were old. And if you're familiar with 13 when we had a contract with DOT to have 15 to 20 13 the old dial and gauge --14 parking spot all the time. This was County's Q Yes. 15 contract. We hardly had five, and we went back 15 A -- those pumps, so sourcing of the part, 16 and forth with the DOT Administration, and they 16 as well as this overhang of what's going to happen 17 will refuse to listen to or enforce the contract. 17 with the Clarksburg Master Plan, if alignment's 18 During those times we lost sizable amount of the 18 going to happen or not going to happen, and 19 money during while this gas station was being 19 overlay all of these with the whole Clarksburg 20 built. 20 compliance plan. I'm pretty sure you're familiar 21 Q Can you describe for Madam Examiner your with that time when deficiency of the whole 22 customer base? development happened, there was county-wide ban A So our customer base is typically a 23 for any development, right? So part of that we 24 combination, right; I mean, it's a neighborhood, also suffer through that. No decisions, right? 25 obviously, which is part of our contribution to 25 We can't make decisions about capital investment 417 419 1 the community. It made it easier for them to get or whether County's going to move the house, where 2 out of the community from Town Center to 355. are they going to move it, they going to take the Second thing, by that road alignment and property, what not. So that's a challenge we had. 4 suffering through that construction, Clarksburg And pretty much same challenge Newland had, what 5 Historic District had a sewer line now. If you go they're going to do in the bank as well as the Elm 6 back and examine the sewer connection, there are Street. 7 so many community people affected by not having a Q So if my arithmetic is correct, the 8 sewer connection in the Clarksburg Historic combination of what you talked about and then the 9 District. We agreeing and sacrificing permitting period of time, which I think you said 10 significantly economically gave that alignment. 10 was five years, that meant there was a period of Clarksburg Road was -- if you pull up the 11 eight or nine years --12 map, it was stopped right there at the last house. A No. That includes all of those, yes. 13 The rest was our property. We allowed that. 13 O So the total time was --14 Alignment happens, alignment line happens, right? 14 A Eight years. 15 Our customer base is the community, 355, 15 Q -- eight years when you were not selling 16 as well as all the industrial areas around us, 16 gas there? 17 either north of it or as well as some office 17 A Yes. 18 customers, and also the folks who are fed up with Q Okay, fine. And as I asked -- is it your 19 270 traffic. There is a crash every day, so they 19 son? I'm sorry. 20 get off on the 355 and they are our customers. 20 A Ishan. 21 Q And in your experience, in the morning is 21 Q Yeah, Ishan. You were able to stay in 22 the path of travel to the south? 22 business during that period of time? 23 A Yeah, when everybody goes south. 23 A With a significant economic hardship, yes. 24 Q And in the evening it's in the other 24 Q You're not here opposing the Weis grocery 25 direction? 25 store; are you?

420	422
1 A Weis grocery store, we don't have any	1 study, but you didn't do a demand study as to
2 issues with it.	2 A What do you mean by that?
3 Q And it is something that the community has	3 Q How much gas the public in this upper
4 been looking for for a long time?	4 Montgomery County area wants or needs in a year.
5 A Community's looking for a Town Center.	5 A Sure. I can do that.
6 Q Absolutely.	6 Q Do you have that number?
7 A They're not looking for a Weis grocery	7 A Do you want me to do that now?
8 store. If you do the survey of the grocery	8 Q How do you tell me how you calculate
9 stores, they might be looking for Trader Joe's or	9 that.
10 some other establishment, but Weis is grocery	10 A Okay. What is the population of the
11 store is grocery store, right?	11 Clarksburg area?
12 Q Yeah. And I think you mentioned talking	12 Q I don't know.
13 about the situation up in Urbana where you live,	13 A 35,000.
14 you mentioned I think I counted six stations	,
· · ·	14 Q Okay. 35,000 in Clarksburg. Okay? 15 A 12,000 households.
15 that you had up there in the immediate Urbana	· ·
16 area. And I think you said that the Giant Food	16 Q 12,000?
17 out there has a rewards program that they	17 A Households.
18 A They don't have a gas station.	18 Q 35,000 people, 12,000 households. Okay.
19 Q No, but they team up with Shell gas	19 A Assuming your expert's testimony, two cars
20 stations elsewhere?	20 per household
21 A Yeah. Sure.	21 Q Hm-hm.
22 Q Is it your understanding that that's a	22 A right, and they burn the gasoline, so I
23 benefit to the grocery store, to be able to	23 have done the demand analysis and current and,
24 A They're doing it all over the country.	24 if you want, I can submit those.
25 MS. POWELL: One thing, you're talking	25 Q Look, let me do you disagree with the
421	423
1 excuse me. You need to be sure not to talk over	demand number that he
2 Mr. Harris.	2 A So the demand number, two things, right?
MR. HARRIS: No. You're trying to be	3 If you look at just a neighborhood, neighborhood
4 helpful. I appreciate that.	4 is different than the whole Clarksburg. So you
5 Q So anyway, so they offer a gas rewards	5 can do the 35,000 Clarksburg area populations, and
6 program and that, you believe, is helpful to the	6 then say, like, we need 13 million gallons. 10
7 grocery store?	7 million gallons is supported by these stations.
8 A I don't gauge I don't use it, so I	8 So if the demand is 10 million there, it can be
9 can't tell you.	9 supported.
10 Q Do you have an opinion as to whether that	10 Now, if you want to reduce the population,
11 is appreciated by the Giant Food customers?	11 then you can use 35,000 people. You use whatever
12 A I have no idea.	12 the neighborhood is, right? So I can summarize
13 Q You mentioned other gas stations or	13 this and send it to
14 grocery stores I'm sorry further to the	MS. POWELL: No. You can just answer the
15 south. Harris Teeter, there is a gas station next	15 question. Yeah.
16 to that, I believe, right?	16 A So I have done it, and, according to my
17 A Yeah.	17 calculations going by the demand and your
18 Q But it's not Harris Teeter's gas station?	18 projected demand for 2030, there is sufficient
19 A Correct.	19 capacity for the gas stations.
20 Q And the Wegmans and the Giant and the	20 Q I didn't ask about the capacity. I'm
21 others grocers farther to the south, they don't	21 asking about what the demand is.
22 have gas stations	22 A Yeah, demand is 180,000 gallons.
23 A No.	23 Q Demand is how much?
24 Q I think you said. You did not do a	24 A 180,000 gallons.
25 demand study other than you did this capacity	25 Q 180,000 gallons

	Warch 6, 2025
424 1 A Per week.	426 1 A Yes.
2 Q Per week. And for what area is that?	2 Q Okay. Do you believe customers have a
3 A This is entire Clarksburg, 30,000	3 preference to be able to purchase their gas at the
4 population.	4 same time they go to their grocery store?
5 Q For Clarksburg overall, so 30,000. Okay.	5 A Not really.
6 Let's go to your table here.	6 Q No, you don't think that's a preference?
7 A Sure.	7 A Not really, no.
8 Q And I think you said this is your work,	8 Q Okay. And do they have a preference to
9 but you obtained some data from the State.	9 buy gas when they stop in to a 7-Eleven, or is the
10 A This is all data from State.	10 gas independent in your mind?
11 Q But this is your table?	11 A Independent.
12 A Table, yes.	12 Q Okay. One second, please. Bear with me.
13 Q Okay. All due respect, it looks to me as	13 I'm sorry. There are other people that know more
14 if you've made some mistakes in this.	14 than I do. Sometimes I need to consult them.
15 A Okay.	15 A No problem.
16 Q Okay. It appears to me that you've not	16 MR. HARRIS: Okay. I have nothing
17 when you calculate total capacity, you're not	17 further. Thank you.
18 separating out diesel fuel, which is a different	18 MS. POWELL: So I have I'm sorry. Do
19 demand.	19 you have questions? I just had
20 A Understood.	20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You can do your
21 Q Okay. So that would have to come out, and	21 redirect.
22 that would change the numbers, right?	22 MS. POWELL: Okay. Thank you.
23 A Okay.	23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE OPPOSITION
24 Q Okay. Also I think some of these tanks	24 BY MS. POWELL:
25 are double tanks where there are two products in a	25 Q In your experience, Mr. Patel, are gas
425	427
1 tank, and it looks to me as if you've	1 station purchases influenced by the price of the
2 double-counted some of those tanks.	2 gasoline being offered?
3 A No, that's not	3 A Yes.
4 Q You don't think so?	4 MS. POWELL: I believe that was it.
5 A No.	5 That's all I have.
6 Q Okay. You conclude that there's a	6 MR. HARRIS: Okay. That's it. Thank you.
7 combined potential aggregate per year of 10,150	7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
8 gallons in the trade area that	8 MS. POWELL: Madam Examiner, do you have
9 A 10 million.	9 any questions for him?
10 Q 10 million, yes, in that trade area.	10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Not at this
11 Okay. Wasn't Mr. Steere's demand number	11 time.
12 significantly higher than that?	12 MS. POWELL: Okay. Thank you.
13 A His number is higher because he's using	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So, Ms. Presley,
14 the entire population of the Clarksburg, and this	14 I presume you've completed your
15 is only counting those nearby stations, not	MS. POWELL: Yes.
16 assuming that what commuter is going to fill up at	16 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: My apologies.
17 the gas stations outside.	17 Ms. Powell.
18 Q Okay. Well, we may have to have him come	MS. POWELL: They're very close.
19 back and explain that, because it looked to me	19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I had
20 like you have some errors in here, but I'm not	20 Ms. Presley on my mind because I'm thinking she's
21 sure it is significant anyway.	21 next.
What are your what number of gallons of	MS. POWELL: Yeah. No. That's all the
23 gas do you sell per year?	23 testimony I'm offering.
24 A That's proprietary.	24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I'm turning to
25 Q Proprietary?	25 folks on Zoom. Is there anyone on Zoom who

Conducted on	March 6, 2023
428	430
1 I think we have too many mics on. Is that	1 Page three, sorry, of the PDF. Page four. Well,
2 better?	2 it's marked page three, but I think, if you
3 Okay. So I'm turning to folks on Zoom.	3 exclude the cover, it's page four of the PDF.
4 Is there anyone on Zoom who wishes to testify in	4 So section one of the Staff Report says
5 opposition to the application?	5 recommendations and conditions. Staff recommends
6 Okay. Hearing none, and we still need to	6 approval of Weis filling station, conditional use
7 give Ms. Presley some time, because she's	7 number CU 2025-02 for a filling station subject to
8 scheduled to appear at two. Is there anyone on	8 the following conditions. One, the use is limited
9 Zoom at all who wishes to speak? I mean, I know I	9 to an automobile filling station and must meet all
10 specifically asked for opposition, but who wishes	10 requirements of section 59.3.5.13.C.
11 to speak regardless, you know, in support or in	11 Condition two, the conditional use will be
12 opposition.	12 limited to three or fewer pumps, which is six
Hearing none, is there any members of the	13 positions.
14 public in the hearing room wishing to testify	14 And condition three is the Applicant must
15 either in opposition or in support?	15 amend the preliminary plan, site plan and the
16 Hearing none, we are scheduled to have	16 forest conservation plan to reflect the
17 Ms. Presley at two p.m. So, in the meantime,	17 conditional use approval.
18 maybe in the interest of time, I could dispense	18 Condition four was hours of operation
19 with some	19 shall be limited to six a.m. through 12 a.m.,
20 I can turn back to Mr. Harris. I had a	20 which the Planning Board then modified the start
21 couple of questions for you. Sorry about the back	21 time to four a.m.
22 and forth. Normally you finish the case in chief,	22 Condition five, the filling station must
23 and go to the opposition and then you do closing	23 dispense less than 3.6 million gallons of gas and
24 statements. But I do I really do want to get	24 fuel.
25 your thoughts, or your client's thoughts on the	25 MR. HARRIS: Yes, ma'am. Yes, we agree
23 your moughts, or your effects thoughts on the	431
1 conditions that were and if you need, we have	1 with those conditions.
2 plenty you know, we have close to half an hour	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. As
3 before Ms. Presley is scheduled, so if you wanted	3 modified by the Planning Board?
4 to recess to regroup, that's fine.	4 MR. HARRIS: Yes, as modified by the
5 MR. HARRIS: I think we can answer that	5 Planning Board. Thank you.
6 now, but I was looking for the Planning Board's	6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Then I had an
7 I have the Staff recommendation, but I want to see	7 additional question about that. In the
8 what the final Planning Board conditions were. I	8 application, the hours you were asking, were the
9 think that's	9 hours specified in the application?
10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Exhibit 55.	10 MR. HARRIS: They were. And as we worked
11 MR. HARRIS: 55. Okay. Can you pull that	11 through the process from the filing of the
* * *	12 application, we decided that the hours needed to
<ul><li>12 up a minute, please?</li><li>13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So Exhibit 55</li></ul>	13 be revised and this and the Planning Board's
14 was the transmittal from the Planning Board.	14 decision reflects the revised hours.
• •	
16 conditions as recommended by the Staff as modified 17 by the Planning Board.	16 have the Applicant on the record? You know, 17 because there was no amendment, there was no
18 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And just for	18 formal amendment of the application. However, it
19 clarity, I just want to the Staff Report was?	19 can be amended in a public hearing by you know,
20 MR. HARRIS: Exhibit 36.	20 so if the Applicant wants to take the stand
21 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. So I'm	21 this is a recommendation of the Planning Board,
22 just going to call it up. Would you kindly pull	22 but I just want to have the Applicant on record
23 up Exhibit 36, the Staff Report? And I believe on	23 indicating that they are formally amending their
24 the very first page well, the first page is the 25 cover, but I guess the second page is the summary.	<ul> <li>24 application to conform with this recommendation.</li> <li>MR. HARRIS: We can certainly do that.</li> </ul>
	MR. HARRIS: We can certainly do that.

432	434
1 That's a good suggestion. Kate Kubit is here and	1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
2 could do that right now, if you wish.	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We do not have
3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Please. Thank	3 any other speakers, so we'll you know, we have
4 you.	4 20 minutes before two p.m., which is when we'll
5 MS. KUBIT: Hello.	5 have Ms. Presley testify. In the meantime, I
6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Hi. I don't	6 do I'll let we'll have time, ample time for
7 think we have administered an oath today, so I	7 closing statements at the end.
8 will. If you could kindly raise your right hand.	8 I did want to explain to the attorneys I
9 (The witness was sworn.)	9 do have a request, and I can dispense with some of
10 KATE KUBIT,	10 these details now. We typically leave the record
11 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, was	11 open for 10 business days for production of the
12 examined and testified as follows:	12 transcript and for inclusion of the transcript in
13 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY THE HEARING EXAMINER	13 the record. I will check with Ms. Presley if she
14 Q Okay. So can you confirm it what hours	14 needs to make any formal written presentation.
15 of operation were you asking for in the underlying	15 She sent an e-mail yesterday that she had
16 application?	16 indicated she wanted included, but it was clear to
17 A In the initial application?	17 me that she was very it was written in haste
18 Q Correct.	18 not knowing whether she would have time to get
19 A What was written in the initial	19 something in, so I'll check in with her. So we
20 application was – it's my understanding that it	20 usually have the record open for 10 business days.
21 was the same hours of the operations of the	21 I actually do have a request of the
22 grocery store, which was six to –	22 attorneys. There is a tool in the Hearing
23 Q The six to 11?	23 Examiner's toolbox that I wish to invoke. Under
24 A Yes.	24 Rule 4.29(a) the Hearing Examiner may ask the
25 Q And so where did the modification happen?	25 parties on the record to submit proposed findings
433	435
1 A It happened as we started to work our way	1 of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do
1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has
1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application 3 several months before we actually got to the	1 of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do 2 that. This has been a complex case. It has 3 spanned two days of it has stretched over two
1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application 3 several months before we actually got to the 4 Planning Board. And as we were working our way	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has spanned two days of it has stretched over two days of a combination of motion, argument and
1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application 3 several months before we actually got to the 4 Planning Board. And as we were working our way 5 through the process with Weis Markets, it came to	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has spanned two days of it has stretched over two days of a combination of motion, argument and testimony. There is no you present your
1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application 3 several months before we actually got to the 4 Planning Board. And as we were working our way 5 through the process with Weis Markets, it came to 6 our attention that some additional hours of	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has spanned two days of it has stretched over two days of a combination of motion, argument and testimony. There is no you present your proposed findings of fact, and, of course, it's
A It happened as we started to work our way through the process. We filed the application several months before we actually got to the Planning Board. And as we were working our way through the process with Weis Markets, it came to our attention that some additional hours of operation would be helpful.	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has spanned two days of it has stretched over two days of a combination of motion, argument and testimony. There is no you present your proposed findings of fact, and, of course, it's almost like being asked to present a proposed
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1 A It happened as we started to work our way 2 through the process. We filed the application 3 several months before we actually got to the 4 Planning Board. And as we were working our way 5 through the process with Weis Markets, it came to 6 our attention that some additional hours of 7 operation would be helpful. 8 Q So is it your position that you are 9 formally amending your application to conform with 10 these hours?	of fact. I would like to ask the parties to do that. This has been a complex case. It has spanned two days of it has stretched over two days of a combination of motion, argument and testimony. There is no you present your proposed findings of fact, and, of course, it's almost like being asked to present a proposed order in court. There's no obligation on my part
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e onate to a on	March 6, 2025
436	438
1 supposed to be subject to cross-examination, and	1 request for findings of fact should extend
2 that doesn't happen if people are submitting	2 beyond
3 substantive information after the hearing. And	3 MS. POWELL: I think it would be
4 we've been at this hearing for now well over a	4 appropriate, because, otherwise, we're going to be
5 month.	5 relying on our notes.
6 I appreciate Ms. Presley's situation. I	6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Correct.
7 think she will be able to explain her position	7 MS. POWELL: Which are not part of the
8 orally today, and I would like to see the record	8 record.
9 closed after the conclusion of the hearing but for	9 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Correct.
10 the transcript.	MS. POWELL: And I don't know what time
11 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I will make a	11 you think is necessary, but I do think it should
12 final call on that after Ms. Presley testifies,	12 be after that.
13 because it's entirely possible that her concern	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: After the
14 was because she wasn't sure she would be able to	14 transcript. That's I agree.
15 testify. And so I'll make a final determination	MR. HARRIS: I'm fine with that. Yes. A
16 on that. If I was going to leave the record open,	16 reasonable amount of time again, this case,
17 it would be for the limited purpose of the	17 from your perspective as well as ours, has taken
18 transcript and giving her an opportunity to get	18 more time than we anticipated and we do want to
19 her statement in. If I did that, the Applicant	19 get to the finish line. So yeah, okay.
20 would have a corresponding opportunity to respond.	20 MS. POWELL: Yeah. I just I need a
21 MR. HARRIS: Exactly.	21 date.
HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Not just the	22 MR. HARRIS: Right, right.
23 Applicant. Everyone else would have I would	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So in the 10, 15
24 say she gets, you know, 10 business days or I	24 minutes that we'll be waiting, we can recess and I
25 don't think she would need 10 business days, but,	25 will go and confer with my calendar and count my
25 don't tillik she would need to susiness days, suc,	23 win go take confer with my carefulat and count my
1 you know, let's say five she can get her	1 10 business days plus. So how many business
2 statement in within that 10 business days, and	2 days how many days after the transcript do you
3 then I would extend the time for a response.	3 think you need?
4 MR. HARRIS: If that's necessary, we think	4 MS. POWELL: Well, I have I've got
5 that's I think that's an appropriate course of	5 my trial schedule's my trial schedule, and so I
6 action.	6 need to look at my calendar also, and I'm sure
7 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Correct, but	7 that you have other things on your calendar. But
8 we'll cross that bridge when we get to it, because	8 I don't think, frankly, that it would be more than
9 it depends on what she is asking.	9 just I would say two regular weeks, not no
10 MR. HARRIS: Exactly. You know, despite	10 business days, but just two weeks from that time,
11 the fact that she's an opponent here, I want to	11 you know, and maybe sooner.
12 be, you know, very respectful of her situation.	12 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So I allow 10
13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: It's good for	13 business days for the transcript, and maybe 14
14 the process, and I appreciate that.	14 days after that.
15 MS. POWELL: Could I request a little	15 MS. POWELL: I think that's a reasonable
16 clarification on certainly I get submitting the	16 period of time.
17 proposed findings of fact; but, if the	
18 transcript's not ready, what's the timeframe that	
	18 would be, let's call that St Patrick's Day, March 19 17. And then two weeks after that would be
19 you're looking for? Because, typically, we would	
20 refer back to a transcript to be sure we're a	20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Is that business
21 hundred percent right.	21 days?
22 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: In that case	MR. HARRIS: I beg your pardon?
23 that's an excellent point. The transcript should	23 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Is that business
24 be ready within 10 business days, so let me get to	24 days?
25 the calendar. So what you're asking is that my	MR. HARRIS: No. That was carrying over

442 from a Sunday. Two weeks calendar days would be our thoughts and everybody here has been extremely on a Sunday, the 16th. I'm sorry. 10 days after accommodating. Thank you so much. the 6th would be the 16th, which is a Sunday. MS. PRESLEY: I appreciate it. I want to 3 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I believe our -state for the record that it shows on my name at 5 MS. POWELL: Calendar days. the bottom -- it looks like it says Amy Presley MR. HARRIS: Business days, okay. and Andy Spagnolo, but it's only me on the 6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The transcript conference. This is my account, so it's just me. people require 10 business days. 8 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yeah, yeah. MR. HARRIS: I see. Misunderstood. Okay. Understood. Okay. So, you know, you're the last 10 So let's see if I can do the arithmetic on this. 10 person speaking. You know, we had a whole morning 11 You got -- that would be the 20th of March, I 11 of proceedings, so we're now at the opposition 12 believe, would be the transcript, I think. 12 stage. And, you know, you may go ahead. I will 13 Subject to objection --13 administer the oath. If you could kindly raise 14 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The 20th is 10 14 your right hand. 15 business days. 15 (The witness was sworn.) MR. HARRIS: Yes. Okay. And then what HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. You may 16 17 was the proposition in terms of finding --17 proceed. And once you're done, then the other 18 MS. POWELL: 14 regular days after that. 18 side will have the option for cross-examination. 19 MS. KUBIT: It's 10 business days. MS. PRESLEY: Great. Then I'm not the fat 20 lady singing. 20 MS. POWELL: Pardon me? 21 MS. KUBIT: It's the same as 10 business 21 AMY PRESLEY, 22 days. 22 having been first duly sworn or affirmed, was 23 MS. POWELL: Oh, well, what do you know? 23 examined and testified as follows: 24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: April 3? 24 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF THE OPPOSITION 25 MR. HARRIS: April 3. 25 MS. PRESLEY: Okay. I think it's 441 443 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: That takes us to 1 important -- this has been on the record in prior testimony, but I want to begin by just a brief April 3, I believe. MR. HARRIS: And both parties submit their background. I believe that will substantiate the findings of fact simultaneously. It's not a reply applicability of not just the master plan, but 5 situation. 5 also the compliance program in decisions on this 6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Correct. MR. HARRIS: I think that -- I think we 7 My role in this is that I've been a can make that work. resident of the Town Center at 23506 Sugarview HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Sounds good. 9 Drive. It's approximately 1,000 feet from the 10 proposed site. And I've been here since 2002. 10 MS. POWELL: Thank you. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We can take a 11 Early on in the development process, when it was 11 12 10-minute recess, and we will reconvene at two. 12 still under the hands of Newland, I was involved 13 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. 13 with a community group. In fact, I became the 14 (A recess was taken.) 14 leader of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory 15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Good afternoon. 15 Committee. 16 Ms. Presley, you're joining us by Zoom? We did, in fact, in April of 2005 present 17 MS. PRESLEY: Yes. Good afternoon. 17 to the Planning Board a list of numerous alleged HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yes. Is this a 18 violations. They were heard by the Board, 18 19 rejected and then heard again in July, and they 19 good time? Are you ready to proceed? MS. PRESLEY: Yes, I am, and I appreciate 20 actually found for multiple violations, including 21 you making the accommodations for me to join by 21 such things as heights that had been exceeded, 22 Zoom. Thank you. 22 and, you know, basically things that were on the 23 site plan that were not adhered to. And it became HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Absolutely. 24 That's a difficult circumstance you're dealing 24 so contentious with more and more violations

25 coming forward such as streets too narrow for

25 with, and you're in our thoughts. Your mom's in

Conducted on March 0, 2023				
444	446			
1 emergency vehicles to transgress and so forth that	1 and really the satisfaction of any penalties that			
2 it not only was a huge deal in the newspapers, but	2 would have otherwise been levied against the			
3 the County Council put a stop-work order on all	3 developer for the violations.			
4 projects in the County for a number of months	4 At the time the Board Staff and the Board			
5 while they tried to look into this.	5 did get to review the settlement agreement under			
6 Ultimately, what happened is we continued	6 the monitoring of Judge Barbara Kerr Howe, but			
7 to have hearings. Violations continued to be	7 none of that was made public. Only what was made			
8 found. They had the Planning Board had started	8 public was the result, which was the compliance			
9 to assess fines and penalties and had already	9 program. So in my attachments 1A, B and C, which			
10 reached	10 I'm sure the opposition has as well, that is where			
11 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Ms. Presley, I	11 the specific drawings, details, etcetera of what			
12 apologize for interrupting you. I just want to	12 was to be provided, that's where they are			
13 make sure it looks like	13 included. So I'm not going to rehash that.			
Do we have the video on?	What is important to note is that in the			
15 I feel like we just lost your video, and	15 Board's resolution I want to pull this up for a			
16 to testify we need to be able to see you.	16 moment so I can be very specific. In the Board's			
17 THE WITNESS: My video shows it as being	17 resolution there were several findings that speak			
18 on.	18 to the importance of providing every element			
19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: There you go.	19 contained in the compliance program.			
20 Sorry. Okay.	20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Could you please			
21 THE WITNESS: Thank you. So, in essence,	21 refer to the exhibit number you're referencing?			
22 I don't want to take too much time on that,	22 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm sorry. So right			
23 because it's also in the record in attachments and	23 now I'm on EXHIBIT 1C, and that is the Planning			
24 so forth. But the bottom line was that we were,	24 Board resolution			
25 we the CTC, were asked by the County Council and	25 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: One moment.			
445	447			
1 the Planning Board to enter into mediation with	1 THE WITNESS: the compliance program.			
2 Newland and the builders of the time to try to	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: One moment. So			
3 resolve this apart from the press and the public,	3 I want to get to the OZAH exhibits.			
<ul><li>3 resolve this apart from the press and the public,</li><li>4 and we did.</li></ul>	<ul> <li>3 I want to get to the OZAH exhibits.</li> <li>4 MS. POWELL: I think it's OZAH 45.</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>3 resolve this apart from the press and the public,</li> <li>4 and we did.</li> <li>5 So those proceedings took place really</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>3 I want to get to the OZAH exhibits.</li> <li>4 MS. POWELL: I think it's OZAH 45.</li> <li>5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry. I don't have</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>resolve this apart from the press and the public,</li> <li>and we did.</li> <li>So those proceedings took place really</li> <li>over a period of five months, and resulted in what</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>3 I want to get to the OZAH exhibits.</li> <li>4 MS. POWELL: I think it's OZAH 45.</li> <li>5 THE WITNESS: Okay. Sorry. I don't have</li> <li>6 that reference.</li> </ul>			
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450 terms and in accordance with the resolution, that 1 inside and out. But, you know, the first finding is that it must satisfy any applicable previous then the compliance program constitutes a lawful and appropriate alternative to imposing fines or approval on the subject site, or, if not, that monetary penalties. previous approval must be amended. And what I am And, most importantly, based on the stating here, the compliance program itself, history post this adoption is that, in accordance neither the compliance plan program nor the with all three findings, the Board then hereby Board's initial resolution adopting it with orders the Respondents to comply strictly with specific implementation requirements, has never each of the elements, terms and conditions of the been amended. So if errors have proceeded since 10 compliance program and expressed otherwise under 10 then, it has not changed the fact that these have 11 the resolution. The Board further instructs --11 not been amended and must be followed. 12 and this is where I think there's been a gross What I want to state regarding the 13 failure on the Staff's part, the Board further 13 settlement agreement -- and I can say some of the 14 instructs the Planning Staff to undertake all 14 players who were there; Mr. Brewer of Lerch, 15 reasonable measures to detect and report to the 15 Early, Brewer; there were folks from some of the 16 Board the Respondent's compliance and 16 other developers, including Pulte and, gosh, 17 noncompliance, as the applicable case may be. 17 Craftstar Homes and so forth. Over a period of 18 I'm going to come back to that in a 18 five months, the focus of the debate and what 19 moment; but, further, the Board in its authority, 19 actually held up the settlement agreement was 20 even though it reserves it, it states how in this 20 specifically the constitution of the retail core. 21 matter under -- I'm still on page six -- under 21 It's what initially sent the advisory group into 22 paragraph five, except as expressly provided in 22 the search for violations and etcetera, because 23 this resolution, states nothing will reduce the 23 that was a response to the at-the-time developer, 24 Board's ability to impair their discretion or 24 Newland, changing what the approved site plan was 25 authority. But it states that the Board --25 in terms of a pedestrian-oriented retail core. 449 451 1 according to the terms of this resolution, the They changed it into what appeared as what we Board will act, and then it reserves its right to would refer to as a strip mall, a grocery station, only such changes as are required by law. you know -- I mean grocery on one side, a dry So in this what I want to point out with cleaner, and, you know, beer and wine shop on the reference to the Board's order to the Staff is other. So that's why it became such a heated 6 that for many years the Staff reported on an debate. And the focus of all provisions that 7 item-by-item basis, actually, in comparison to the would be made, they were really centered on the 8 compliance program elements, not broad-stroke 8 Town Center retail core and how it would be laid 9 statements, but physical elements, what was and 9 out. 10 was not in compliance. 10 So in the compliance program flowing from What has occurred in this most recent 11 the settlement agreement, there were details down 12 request on the gas station's conditional use, 12 to the type of pavement to be included. It wasn't 13 there was no comparison in their recommendation 13 merely a statement that this should be pedestrian 14 for approval, no comparison to the compliance 14 oriented. There were specific drawings, and I'll 15 program or what it recommended. 15 refer to the -- let me find the -- sorry. Hang 16 with me just a minute. I want to reference the So going back to now my position, I agree 17 with the Patels. I would like to adopt all the 17 compliance program drawings. I believe they're 18 1C. Nope, they would be 1B. So my Exhibit 1B --18 argumentation of Ms. Powell in agreement with 19 that. Specifically I, as an individual, am 19 I don't know what that exhibit would equate to in 20 saying, in accordance with the compliance program 20 your records, but 1B is the compliance program 21 and the master plan, grocery store yes, and gas 21 design concepts. Those were incorporated into the 22 station no. 22 Staff Report, the whole set of concepts, on June The necessary findings -- I'm looking now 23 1, 2006. And the importance there is that the 24 just at the excerpts from Montgomery County Code 24 Board recognized that these were the elements --

25 under Section 73.1, which I know Ms. Sokoni knows

25 as the Board itself described in its resolution,

	Conducted on	1716	<u> </u>	
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1	the elements to be provided. They incorporated		completely different than what the four corners of	
2	the Staff Report by reference as a requirement		the document say, and she's going	
3	under that 1C adoption resolution. So when it	3	THE WITNESS: Can I reply?	
4	comes to specifics as to even types of retail, in	4	MR. HARRIS: on and on about her	
5	the settlement agreement what the community was		interpretation of it. I think the document speaks	
6	trying to achieve, at least through those who	6	for itself, and her, you know, speculation and	
7	recognized the CTCAC as representative, was to	7	opinion is irrelevant.	
8	achieve specific types of retail, such as dining	8	THE WITNESS: Bob, it's not speculation or	
9	as entertainment.		opinion, because what I'm tying it to is the	
10	There was a very critical focus placed on	10	settlement agreement, of which I was a party to.	
11	what would be referred to as a view shed. We were	11	I still am. And in the settlement agreement, it	
12	working with Duany Plater-Zyberk as consultants on	12	was spelled out how the compliance program had to	
13	the design side. It was actually their concepts	13	be presented to the Board and how it was adopted.	
	put forth that established things such as the		So I do find it's relevant, because it's not a	
15	Clarksburg Town Center, the road, Clarksburg		mere interpretation. I was there until two a.m.	
	Square Road as what they call a spine road and		on many mornings arguing about the language that	
17	very critical, and then the crossroad, which was	17	had to be defined to prevent just such a thing as	
18	General Store Drive, but has since been renamed, I	18	this from happening.	
19	believe, Saint Clair. Bob can correct me if I'm	19	MR. HARRIS: Well, if	
20	wrong, but I think that's Saint Clair that comes	20	THE WITNESS: And I was there. I was a	
21	from Stringtown Road and goes up through and	21	witness. You know, if we needed to, we could call	
22	crosses Clarksburg Square Road. That's called a	22	Robbie Brewer. He'll remember many nights, 1:00,	
23	spine road, and it's detailed within the		2:00, where the judge wouldn't let us leave, and	
24	compliance program with specific notation. And	24	the contention was how this would be presented.	
25	this was what was driven by the settlement, that		That's not my interpretation. That's my	
	453			455
1	the view shed, a person approaching from	1	experience.	
2	Stringtown Road would not be seeing what others	2	MR. HARRIS: If the settlement	
3	would have typically thought of as a strip mall or	3	agreement are you going to put the settlement	
4	something of that nature that looked like a	4	agreement into evidence?	
5	drive-through place. It was to be fronted by	5	THE WITNESS: I would like to do that,	
6	retail that was facing the Stringtown and what was	6	Bob; but, just as your client can not put the	
7	at that time called General Store Drive.	7	contract into evidence, neither can I put the	
8	So the notion of putting a gas station	8	settlement agreement because there are areas that	
9	there as an entry point, wholly apart from the	9	would have to be redacted. I can speak to	
	parking field, which originally was, you know,	10	settlement terms that I helped craft, and I could	
	secluded and now it's not I'm not arguing that,		seek to find if I could submit something redacted,	
	but putting a gas station there is in direct		but just like the contract I mean Ms. Kubit's	
	opposition to what was required as an element of		testifying as to what's required under the	
	provision on the design		contract, and you guys aren't submitting the	
15	MR. HARRIS: Madam Sokoni, may I		contract. The only thing I can do at this point	
16	THE WITNESS: of the retail core.		is testify to what I participated in. I'm	
17	MR. HARRIS: Amy, excuse me for a second.		actually an individual signatory to the settlement	
	I want to note an objection here.		agreement. I would have a right to go to a court	
19	THE WITNESS: Okay.		separate from this proceeding to try to claim	
20			damages. I haven't done that. I don't want to do	
	on about what the plan of compliance does or		that. But I can speak to my direct experience in	
	doesn't say. The plan of compliance is in the		the settlement process and that document which I	
	record. It speaks for itself. As our memo,		signed.	
			_	
	perception is of the plan of compliance is	25	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Mr. Harris, l	've
24	Exhibit 64, mentioned, what Ms Presley's	24	MR. HARRIS: Well, okay. I	['ve

456 458 noted your objection. THE WITNESS: Got it. Perfect. 1 2 Ms. Presley, I've been a bit flexi 3 the -- you know, it's an administrative Ms. Presley, I've been a bit flexible with 2 Okay. So we're still under 7.3.1, conditional use, what must be approved, and I am proceeding, so I'm actually allowing you much more looking at -- right now I'm referring to the use leeway than -must comply with the master plan. So under page THE WITNESS: Okay. six of the master plan -- and I don't know what 6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: But if you exhibit that is in the files, but page six of the 8 could -- you know, if you could contain your --Clarksburg Master Plan, I just want to reiterate please go ahead, testify to the facts and avoid three quick points. 10 being repetitive, because, remember, we did have a 10 It says the concept plan for Clarksburg 11 motion argument at the outset specifically to the 11 features a Town Center, which includes the 12 compliance plan. 12 Historic District. It also states that the plan 13 THE WITNESS: Got it. 13 continues the town scale of development, and that 14 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And you had the 14 it proposes a pattern of development similar to 15 chance to argue -- legal arguments were made then 15 traditional town squares, which I would argue 16 which were outside of fact, but were opinion and 16 don't include a gas station in the face. 17 argument. 17 Secondly, on page 26 of the master plan, 18 THE WITNESS: Okay. 18 it says that the Town Center, which is compatible 19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So this part of 19 with the scale and character of the Clarksburg 20 the process is for factual testimony. I do have 20 Historic District. So I find that would have to 21 some questions for you, but if you could -- I do 21 be a finding made, that this is compatible with 22 want to allow you the opportunity to testify. 22 the district. THE WITNESS: I'll just make it briefer 23 23 And then it states that assuring 24 then, and conclude by stating that I was a party 24 compatibility of future development with the 25 to the settlement agreement. I still am today. 25 Historic District has been a guiding principle of 457 459 1 And, in fact, post the Board's adoption -- and the planning process. Those are important things 2 this is on record, Bob. Post the Board's adoption to consider. 3 of the compliance program, the entire group got On Section 7.3.1 again, (d), it must be 4 sent back to mediation over a point as what could harmonious with and will not alter the character 5 be now deemed as insignificant as landscaping. We of the surrounding neighborhood in a manner 6 had -- we were sent back to mediate because the inconsistent with the plan. And the reason that I 7 developer wanted to change roughly \$100,000 worth am so, you know, strongly reiterating the 8 of landscaping. So my point in bringing up the compliance program and even the underlying 9 settlement agreement at all is that is the driving settlement agreement is that those plans required 10 legal underpinning and document for the compliance 10 a character that this would jeopardize. 11 program. That's all I want to say about that. 11 Further --HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. There'll 12 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I was going to 13 be an opportunity -- is that the end of your 13 hold my questions for the end, but can I just --14 testimony? 14 THE WITNESS: Sure. 15 THE WITNESS: No. That was just for the 15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: -- interject 16 plans. I'll try to move on. Did you want to ask 16 here? 17 me the questions about that now? 17 THE WITNESS: Sure. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I don't want to HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So the Planning 19 interrupt the flow of your testimony. If you can 19 Staff recommendations, the Planning Staff Report, 20 proceed, I do have some questions for you at the 20 I believe it's exhibit --21 end. 21 MR. HARRIS: 36, ma'am. 22 THE WITNESS: Okav. 22 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: 36, their HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And, of course, 23 conditions, right, that they are recommending. 24 on factual testimony there's an opportunity for 24 And one of the conditions is that the Applicant 25 cross. 25 must amend the preliminary plan, the site plan and

462

### Transcript of Hearing Conducted on March 6, 2025

460

the forest conservation plan to reflect the 1 Examiner that they move for approval, they are, 2 conditional use approval. without stating so on paper, saying it's okay, it THE WITNESS: Right. passes the compliance program. But they've made HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So there's an no comparison even to the Board, which, by the understanding here that if -- and that's an if -way, is a Board who's so far removed from it they if this conditional use was approved, then they have not even been told by the Staff what they would have to take it -- it goes back to Planning should have been looking for in addition to the for amendment of the preliminary plan, site plan standards for conditional use. It's too late once and forest conservation plan. a conditional use is approved. 10 THE WITNESS: And my argument is that the 10 But I understand your point. I'm not 11 Staff did not even compare before suggesting --11 suggesting that the Board has the authority to HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: But is that not 12 approve or disapprove, ultimately, the conditional 13 premature? Isn't that putting --13 use. But I confirm they had the responsibility to 14 THE WITNESS: That's actually the reverse. 14 state to the Board, the Staff did, any conflict. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: -- before the 15 15 Just as the resolution stated, they must present 16 horse? Don't you do the conditional use first and 16 any conflict in any presentations on this, this 17 then go to site plan? 17 entire project. They had to present any 18 THE WITNESS: No. In this case they have 18 adherences or failure to adhere to the compliance 19 an existing plan that they had to compare even a 19 program, and it wasn't done. 20 conditional use application against. It's HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The question I 21 required that they compare every --21 have for you is -- Exhibit 45, the Planning Board HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The Applicant is 22 resolution you were reading from at page -- I 23 here with a condition on use, not with a site 23 guess it's page seven of the PDF, the section 24 plan. Site plan would -- if they got the 24 five, which says Planning Board authority 25 approval, then they would come back for site plan. 25 expressly reserved. 461 463 Is that -- do you -- is that your understanding? THE WITNESS: Yes, and it states --1 2 THE WITNESS: Except that the inversion HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: It's my 2 3 here is that the use itself as a conditional use question, Ms. Presley. 4 had to have been compared in submission and review 4 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Okay, go ahead. It 5 by the Bard against the requirements of the specifically reserves. 6 compliance program, because the compliance program 6 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The planning --7 speaks to specific retail, speaks to the character let's see. 8 and the nature. So if it gets approved first as a 8 THE WITNESS: You're at the top paragraph? 9 conditional use and then goes back, that's already 9 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So page seven of 10 the PDF. Okay. And if you scroll further down so 10 missed the boat, because to compare it then to the 11 compliance program doesn't undo a gas station. 11 we can see a little bit -- yeah, let's go down a 12 So, therefore, how can you undesign an actual use 12 little bit further. So is it possible to get a 13 where the use itself would not have been permitted 13 little bit of --14 under the compliance program? 14 THE WITNESS: I have that in front of me 15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Are you arguing 15 as well. 16 that the Planning Board has jurisdiction over HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The Planning 17 conditional uses? 17 Board recognizes that the compliance plan is THE WITNESS: No. I'm arguing that they 18 conceptual in nature, and that additional review 19 failed their duty in comparing this specific 19 of more detailed plans may involve modifications, 20 application prior to sending it out for your 20 except otherwise required by or relating to 21 review, that they should have stated that here are 21 physical project conditions unforeseen by the 22 some issues when it comes to doesn't alter the 22 Board or applicable law, in parenthesis, including 23 character and etcetera and complies with the 23 the requirements of the Montgomery County Zoning 24 plans, underlying plans. Those are 24 Ordinance. The Planning Board intends to require 25 recommendations that, in telling the Hearing 25 only such modifications that are reasonably

Conducted o	n March 6, 2025	
464	T	466
1 consistent with a compliance plan. So do you see	1 to take in hearsay, so I	
2 that they were carving out things such as the law	But, Ms. Presley, if you could you	
and the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance?	3 know, we specifically scheduled you to have the	
4 THE WITNESS: But they state specifically	4 opportunity to testify, but if you could proceed	
5 as required, and the reason is rooted in the	5 and conclude so that, you know, people can	
6 settlement agreement. We were concerned that	6 cross-examine and	
7 there would be changes at a later point. And the	7 THE WITNESS: I would respectfully ask	
8 Board, I believe, that's why specifically states	8 that when you review this that you would refer	
9 that only such as legally required and so forth.	9 back to the plan approvals by Rose Crasnow. They	
10 And if you look at the next sentence, it says,	10 are included, and they do corroborate what I	
11 Subject only to unforeseen project conditions,	11 stated about the Board's intent. Any	
12 applicable law and regulations, express terms of	12 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: To your	
13 the resolution. And, of course, they would have	13 knowledge, is there anything are there things	
14 to we had discussion on that. They had we	14 that were in the plan, you know, this plan that	
15 couldn't tie the Board's hands for their legal and	15 just won't be there anymore?	
16 lawful right to review and approve and consider.	16 THE WITNESS: Yes.	
17 But this resolution was presented with the	17 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Anything,	
18 compliance program specifically with the retail	18 libraries or are there any things that were in	
19 core design concepts, and they knew that it had to	19 the plan that will not be there anymore?	
20 be submitted for another approval, which is why	THE WITNESS: There are things that have	
21 I believe that is why it was included. Subject	21 been moved, you know, over time. One of the most	
22 only to unforeseen project conditions, those have	22 significant things early on was the elimination of	
23 not occurred. There are no unforeseen physical	23 two parking structures that were to hide parking.	
24 conditions which they mention. The physical	24 And there was a large debate over that. And my	
25 conditions unforeseen, that's because we knew what	25 exhibit let me see which one this is. It was	
465		467
1 was on the ground. And I don't see this as	1 Rose Crasnow's. It would have been my exhibit	
2 limiting the Board's authority, but I do see it as	2 under appendix number three, which is the first	
3 actually upholding what they state in the prior	3 amendment to the compliance program plans. That	
4 paragraphs that that they order the Respondents	4 is the Staff Report to the Board of November 6,	
5 to comply strictly with each of the elements, and	5 2008.	
6 they request the Staff to undertake all reasonable	6 In addition, appendix my submission	
7 measures to detect and report compliance and	7 number two, which is submission of revised site	
8 noncompliance. So that is I understand your	8 plans for plan of compliance. That's the one I	
9 question. I don't believe that is what they	9 was talking about, Staff Report November 30, 2007.	
10 intended. It's very explicitly written in a way.	10 Both that report and the November 6, 2008,	
11 I guess I'd have to compare it to other	11 Ms. Crasnow as chief of staff states specifically	
12 resolutions to see the comparison of the	12 where the Applicant has failed to comply with the	
13 definition. But I recall at the time with Rose	13 compliance program; and yet, to your point,	
14 Crasnow the pending of that was particular.	14 Ms. Sokoni, the Board did retain its right to	
15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay.	15 eliminate one of the garages. They gave a	
MR. HARRIS: Just for the record I want to	16 justification for it and stated why it was	
17 restate my objection. What we're getting into	17 important, and then the plan went forward. So	
18 here is an incredible amount of hearsay and	18 yes, garages have been removed.	
19 individual interpretation of documents that,	Over time what was planned in the	
20 frankly, we've already been through before. And,	20 compliance program as a central gathering point,	
21 you know, it's, you know well, whatever.	21 which was the dedicated land for the library, that	
22 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I have a	22 also has changed and I my understanding is I	
23 litigation background, so the other day I ruled	23 haven't been as much a participant in that. My	
24 out testimony based on hearsay. And then I was	24 understanding is that the County itself wanted to	
25 surprised to find out that our rules do allow me	25 go for a larger regional library, and felt that	

168 470 the corner of Stringtown and 355 was a better --1 neighborhood. And that gas station is used by 2 you know, better site than the proposed. Those many people I know and I go there. It makes no are the two major changes. sense to me why that's not included. And I know But, other than that, as you stated, that I've never waited in line. I have waited in 5 there's still an element that is there somewhere line there once, but I've never waited in line at 6 else. Elements that are missing are things like 6 any of the other surrounding stations, the Sunoco, live-work units and things maybe physically I the one at the Harris Teeter, which is, you know, 8 would say. Looking again at my exhibit, the 8 attached to the 7-Eleven. So, for me, I find it 9 compliance program 1B, where it specifically hard to understand how there can be a verifiable 10 detailed why there should be street-facing retail 10 need to, quote, serve the population in the 11 at the entry point. That's gone. But other than 11 general neighborhood, considering the present 12 that, no. 12 availability of identical or similar uses. So I 13 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. 13 did, you know, take offense to that, and I 14 THE WITNESS: Changes on things like 14 don't -- I can't hire an analyst to show that it's 15 putting in retail -- I mean, sorry, rental units 15 different, but I didn't see anything inclusive of 16 where other things were supposed to be, but I 16 the Patels' station, and neither did I see 17 don't find that to be pertinent, you know, in view 17 anything that shows that there's an inadequate 18 of the one conditional use. 18 amount of such services presently here. So that's So I only have a few more points, brief. 19 really it on that point. 20 So relative to the filling station itself, I 20 There's one thing that I had asked to -- I 21 understand that a filling station conditional use 21 had submitted, Ms. Sokoni, the last time, but 22 may only be approved when you find from a 22 didn't have an appropriate link, and that was for 23 preponderance of the evidence that the need exists 23 Mr. Flanagan's own testimony on an interview with 24 to serve the population in the general 24 COE where there were some specific things stated, 25 neighborhood considering the present availability 25 and you had asked if I could provide a link to the 469 471 of identical or similar uses. 1 YouTube, you know, through YouTube, but it's not 2 on YouTube. I don't know if it's possible for me I know Mr. Harris submitted what he called 3 a memorandum of law. And I'm not an attorney, to share a screenshot, but I have the two clips 4 Bob, but, you know, I like to dabble, but I at 4 I'd like to share -- it's got his face, it's got 5 least wanted to read the cases from what you've his voice that just state in his own words that he 6 drawn, and I don't understand how you're equating bought the plan for a dollar, and he specifically 7 the cases to a conditional use when my states that he understood that there were 8 understanding -- correct me if I'm wrong -settlement agreement requirements. I think that's 9 important for the record. I have them. 9 Kreatchman v Ramsburg and Aspen Hill, they were 10 zoning, rezoning matters, not conditional use 10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Our process for 11 permits. If I'm wrong, please correct me on that, 11 recordings is it has to be a YouTube link, because 12 but I understood that those are zoning. And so, 12 everyone has to have access to it and an 13 therefore, that would be a different requirement, 13 opportunity to weigh in and comment on it so 14 because my understanding is Montgomery County 14 nobody -- we haven't reviewed it. 15 Zoning President has upheld that an Applicant has 15 MS. PRESLEY: Okay. May I submit within 16 to provide quantifiable proof that existing 16 the 10 days post -- I don't know how to create a 17 services are inadequate, so like documented 17 YouTube link. I can research it, because there --18 service gaps and demonstrated inadequacy of 18 it's not my -- you know, that's not hearsay. It's 19 stations like operational deficiencies and things 19 there for anybody. If that's something that's 20 along that nature. 20 allowed to be submitted within the 10 days post 21 So what's confusing to me in this is, 21 hearing, I can find a way to do it and submit it 22 first and foremost, in the analysis by the 22 to everyone. 23 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So we had a 23 Applicant, they don't even include the Patels' gas 24 station in the neighborhood. The master plan 24 discussion before you came on. It will be -- the 25 specifically includes that area as part of the 25 record is only open for 10 business days for

470	474
1 submission of the transcript. I was actually	474 1 technical inadequacy, but I understand.
2 going to ask I mean, you had you sent an	technical madequacy, but I understand.  HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You're not alone
3 e-mail yesterday	3 there. I don't think I could figure out how to do
THE VIEW WILLIAM AND A STATE OF THE STATE OF	4 a YouTube link if my life depended on it.
•	
6 were not sure you would be able to testify today,	
7 and you had asked if that could get into the	
8 record.	
9 THE WITNESS: I see.	9 MR. HARRIS: Yes.
10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: So my	10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT
11 question I was waiting to make a final ruling	11 BY MR. HARRIS:
12 until you testified. Now that you've had the	12 Q Yes, I do, Amy. And before I start the
13 chance to testify and I'm assuming were you	13 cross-examination, you know, while you're an
14 still looking to submit I'm assuming that your	14 opponent, I again want to say I feel sorry for
15 need to submit that e-mail has become moot, right?	15 your situation, so don't take any of my
16 THE WITNESS: That's correct, other than	16 cross-examination as personal. I'm trying
17 the points I made in it that I would like to adopt	17 A No. We've managed to be on opposite sides
18 by reference the argumentation of Ms. Powell, as	18 many times and come up friends, Bob, so have at
19 well as any testimony from the Patels.	19 it.
20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Unfortunately,	20 Q Yes. Okay. Thank you. So I'm going to
21 YouTube link is a problem because nobody has had	21 ask you some questions.
22 the opportunity to review it and testify either in	MR. HARRIS: Although, I think, Madam
23 support or against it.	23 Examiner, that our memo on the plan of compliance
24 THE WITNESS: Mm-hm. Okay. Well	24 addresses everything that Ms. Presley has
25 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: But what I did	25 testified here to; but, just to nail it down, I'm
473	475
offer the parties here was that I would only leave	1 going to go back.
2 the the hearing is closing today.	2 Q Can you go to the plan of compliance and
THE WITNESS: Okay.	3 show me exactly where in there it uses the word
4 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The record will	4 gas, filling station or any or automobile
5 be left open for 10 business days for the limited	5 filling station?
6 purpose of including the transcript, and then I	6 A Of course not, Bob, because you know it
7 was giving the parties I was giving the	7 doesn't do that. It uses other specific terms
8 attorneys the opportunity to give me their	8 about retail, about, you know, dining, things like
9 proposed findings of fact.	9 that. There's nowhere that it and I think we
10 THE WITNESS: Okay.	10 had that on our last hearing too. There's nowhere
11 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You're certainly	11 that it says it. There's nowhere it approves or
12 welcome to provide your proposed findings of fact.	12 disapproves specifically of that use. It was only
13 THE WITNESS: Okay. Then that would	13 in the designs evident and the language about what
14 eliminate this, because this is just you know,	14 the look and feel should be that I referred to.
15 someone's got to evaluate it and make their own	15 There's nowhere that says gas station.
16 decision about what he speaks so	16 Q Show me in any of the documents that you
17 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. But we'll	17 produced where it uses the word gas station, 18 filling station at all.
18 have no more testimony so 19 THE WITNESS: I will	
	19 A It won't. No. It only shows the design
20 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And just for the	20 specific that would by itself to any other person
21 record, I believe I did cover the I provided	21 be obvious that a filling station can't be plunked
22 the information that we would take this in as a 23 YouTube link.	22 there. For example, there's a literal design. If
	23 the design is a circle, you can't fit a square in
24 THE WITNESS: You did. I just wasn't able	24 it. It doesn't say no squares allowed. The
25 to get it there. I didn't know how to do it, so	25 design itself speaks for itself, and I can not

478

# Transcript of Hearing

Conducted on March 6, 2025

1 I know there's nowhere that the word gas station,

- 2 filling station, petrol, nothing like that is used
- 3 anywhere. No, you're correct.
- Q And then, other than a grocery store, does
- 5 it make any specific recommendations affirmatively
- 6 or negatively with respect to any other retail
- use?
- 8 A It does, Bob. You won't approve of that
- 9 because it's in the settlement agreement, and then
- 10 in language -- let me see if I can find it --
- 11 about the purpose, which was to -- I'm trying to
- 12 find it. There's places where it talks about
- 13 dining as entertainment and blah, blah, blah.
- 14 Hang on. You know, nowhere -- if what you're
- 15 getting at is anywhere does it say a pizza place
- 16 or dry cleaner, like things like that, no.
- 17 Q Right. Okay.
- 18 A There's general terminology, but I think 19 that's your point is that there are no specifics
- 20 as to exact retail, but what they're --
- 21 Q Yeah, exactly. Okay. We're on the same
- 22 page.
- 23 A Okay.
- Q Okay. So I know that you've talked about
- 25 being friendly and walkable objectives, and you

- 1 or a gathering, because that's going to be
- eliminated. And I have consistently stated
- pedestrian scale and orientation. That is what
- the compliance program states, and that's what the
- master plan states.
- Q You're saying that putting these gas pumps
- 7 in there makes that area inaccessible to
- pedestrians?
- A No, not at all. Of course, because how's
- 10 a pedestrian going to fill their tank? What I'm
- 11 saying is it flies in the face of the design that
- 12 was intended to activate that space for
- 13 pedestrians on a pedestrian scale. What I'm
- 14 saying is that would no longer be a place where
- 15 pedestrians would gather from the Town Center
- 16 using a parking lot, as many do across the county,
- 17 for farmers markets and things of that nature. No
- 18 one's going to do that with a gas station there.
- 19 And part of the original plan in the
- 20 descriptions -- no one says farmers market.
- 21 Actually, I think it does in one place. But again
- 22 it's not a --

477

- Q Are you maintaining that the parking lot
- 24 is going to be a gathering spot for pedestrians,
- 25 the parking lot for the Weis store?

1 maintain that adding these gas pumps to the

- 2 parking lot for the grocery store will make it
- 3 unwalkable and unproductive and not --
- A No.
- Q -- pedestrian friendly.
- A I think you might be confusing that
- 7 testimony with Ms. Powell. I'm specifically
- 8 referring to pedestrian scale, which is a specific
- 9 term used in the settlement and the compliance
- 10 program and the Staff Report, pedestrian oriented
- 11 and pedestrian scale. And you can still have a
- 12 pedestrian -- sorry. Back just for a moment, the
- 13 compliance program isn't referring to the entirety
- 14 of the Town Center. It's specifically referring
- 15 to the walkability, pedestrian orientation of the
- 16 retail core.
- 17 So it was bad enough to see a field of
- 18 parking put where it wasn't originally in the
- 19 compliance program, so I would have contended
- 20 that. And then a gas station, though, goes beyond
- 21 the pale, because no, it absolutely prohibits
- 22 pedestrians there. No one's going to be standing
- 23 around, other than filling their gas tank. No
- 24 one's going to potentially be using that space of 25 the parking lot for, let's say, a farmers market

- A What I'm maintaining, Bob, is that putting
  - 2 a gas station specifically -- that's all I'm
  - maintaining -- putting a gas station there will
  - 4 prohibit the pedestrian orientation and scale that
  - 5 was intended in the compliance program for the
  - retail core.
  - Q Okay. So you're maintaining that the
  - 8 Kentlands is not pedestrian friendly?
  - A I'm not maintaining that because this
  - 10 doesn't have to do with the Kentlands. This is
  - 11 specifically pertinent to the compliance program
  - 12 and the Town Center retail core. That's all.
  - Q You're avoiding the question. 13
  - A Actually, you're right. No. I do believe
  - 15 some of the Kentlands is not pedestrian friendly.
  - 16 Some of it is not; some of it is.
  - 17 Q And the same thing --
  - A -- town area. And using your own
  - 19 question, in the very area that is where they have
  - 20 the tiny little street-facing retail and they've
  - 21 got the movie theater and everything, that's
  - 22 completely walkable. There's no gas station
  - 23 there. You know where the gas stations are; over
  - 24 in the area where it's not pedestrian friendly
  - 25 where you've got the big box stores. That's where

479

480 482 1 it's not friendly. That's my answer. 1 inconsistent with the plan of compliance. Is that Q So how about the King Farm? You maintain something ---3 that's not pedestrian friendly either? 3 A And as was stated before --A Same thing. There are areas of King Farm Q Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. Let me 5 that I believe are pedestrian friendly. But, finish my question, please. Do you agree that the overall, do I think that's a pedestrian scale in Planning Board has the discretion to change things certain areas, but not -- not in that area where that were contemplated in the plan of compliance? you go towards the grocery store, no. A Only as it limited itself by specifically O Okay. 9 with its own wording in the resolution and the 10 A But they didn't -- I don't know what their 10 incorporation of the Staff Report, and, as they 11 underlying design is, but it wasn't a compliance 11 quoted, commanding the developer to provide every 12 program design that even included the parking 12 element, and they included that. So I believe 13 lots, the grocery store, the building facing. And 13 that that is why it was so carefully worded. 14 to me, again, I find that to be irrelevant to 14 They're not hamstringing themselves as to their 15 this, because this I'm comparing only to the 15 legal authority and rights, but they are 16 compliance program and the master plan, not the 16 specifically limiting what they could amend. Has 17 Kentlands and not King Farm. 17 that been transgressed since then, I believe so in 18 Q Okay. The Planning Staff, the Planning 18 the most recent years. But no, they did not state 19 Board, our expert planner, Kevin Foster, and even 19 that in a way that gave license to the same type 20 our transportation expert, David Samba, all 20 of revision that any other site plan would 21 concluded that the end result with the grocery 21 receive. 22 store and with the gas pumps would be pedestrian Q The settlement agreement to which you 23 friendly and walkable. You're disagreeing with 23 referenced, I've looked at that as well, and I see 24 them? 24 nothing in there that mentions gas stations. 25 A Absolutely. And of course they would find 25 And --481 483 1 that it's necessary --A No. There isn't. Of course not. 1 2 Q Okay. 2 O So --A But, yeah, of course I disagree. Yeah. 3 A I didn't say there was. Q You can't point to anything in there that Q Do you acknowledge that the design 4 concepts envisioned in the plan of compliance have prohibits that? been changed multiple times since 2006? A I can. A Yeah. And specifically on that point, 7 Q Okay. Where? 8 Bob, I included, I think, in my first letter of A It doesn't prohibit, quote, gas station. 9 testimony when that stopped in the last few 9 It specifically requires certain types of 10 reviews. Now, the design concepts didn't change. 10 retail --11 Specific site plan amendments have been made. So Q Where? 11 12 no, no one ever -- no one ever made any amendments 12 A And the --13 to the initial Planning Board resolution or to the 13 Q Which page? 14 program of compliance. There have been site plan A Bob, I'm interested to know how you have a 15 revisions, the recent of which I disagree with. 15 settlement plan, because I understood we weren't 16 After five or six changes of Planning Board and a 16 allowed to distribute them; but, if we are and you 17 Staff that now fails to adhere to what the 17 can put it into the record, I'd be happy for you 18 resolution was, yes, there have been changes, but 18 to put it into the record so I could have a chance 19 it hasn't been anything that, as the original 19 to rebut your comment on it because --20 resolution required, would go back and amend the 20 Q I've got it in front of me. I'm just 21 program of compliance or the resolution. 21 looking to see --22 Q I didn't ask if the program of compliance A -- a physical copy. I don't have it in 23 was amended. My position is that it does not need 23 front of me. It's a physical copy only, so refer 24 to be amended because it gives the Planning Board 25 the discretion to approve plans that are Q That's fine. I've been through it. I

Conducted on	March 6, 2025
484	486
1 don't see anything in there that says that. Until	1 I am not allowed to by nature of what I signed,
2 you can prove that it does	2 I can't divulge if you can, I'd love to have it
3 MS. POWELL: Wait a minute. No. He's	3 in the record.
4 testifying. Objection. He's absolutely	4 Q I can do that.
5 testifying to what's in a document that is not	5 A Okay.
6 MR. HARRIS: She's testifying what's in	6 Q So long as it doesn't delay things. I
7 the document too, and I'm saying it's wrong.	7 don't want you using this as a tactic to delay the
8 THE WITNESS: I never testified that a gas	8 hearing further. You've had two months.
9 station was in the document, Bob. I stated that,	9 A Bob, I don't want to delay the hearing.
10 being present, I knew the intent of the retail	10 Q Excuse me. I'm talking. You've had two
11 core specifically, what we strove for hour after	11 months to introduce it if you wanted to.
12 hour until midnight and beyond for five months.	12 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Are we getting
13 And I can guaran, blank, tee you that there was	13 the settlement agreement into the record?
14 never anyone who would have approved a gas	14 MR. HARRIS: I can see that it's going to
15 station.	15 be useful, yes.
16 In fact, specific language is in there	16 THE WITNESS: You're not prohibited, Bob,
17 that if we need to do an extension so I can go	17 under the terms of the settlement agreement?
18 back and review it and find and cite the	18 Because I heard from my attorney that I'm
19 paragraphs, there's specific language on the	19 prohibited and that everyone's prohibited from
20 incorporation of a design. The design itself was	20 submitting that, unless it becomes
21 incorporated into the plan by the settlement	21 MR. HARRIS: I'm not prohibited from doing
22 agreement. That's what the settlement was about,	22 it at all. I'm not a party to
23 what was to be delivered specifically. And there	23 THE WITNESS: Okay.
24 is no gas station there. There is no gas station	24 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Do you have
25 because it was never intended to be part of the	25 any
485	487
1 new and hard-fought design that was in exchange	1 MS. POWELL: No, I don't have that.
2 for multiple violations that we had already	2 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Ms. Powell will
3 exceeded a point of \$8 million in fines should the	3 need a copy.
4 Planning Board continue. That's	4 MR. HARRIS: Yep. I've got it. Thank
5 Q Do you agree that page three of the	5 you.
6 settlement agreement says, Notwithstanding	6 THE WITNESS: So, Ms. Sokoni, how do we
7 anything to the contrary set forth in this	7 respond to this? It can be in the record. And I
8 settlement agreement, the exhibits to the	_
9 development terms for CTC provide a guide for	8 understand, if you're saying that's it for the 9 evidence, that's now submitted as factual, which
10 purposes of determining the financial commitment	
11 of the developer and the general conceptual	10 is good and you can review it. Perhaps there's no
12 agreements regarding design? That seems	11 need for me to respond at all, because you have
	12 the evidence in front of you. And if that's all
13 A Well	13 that's required, you know
14 Q to me; doesn't it?	MR. HARRIS: I think that's correct. You
15 A Bob, I know you. I like you. Like you	15 have the actual document, not my interpretation,
16 said, no hard feelings. But you pick and choose,	16 not Ms. Presley's interpretation.
17 just like you referred to the Zoning Ordinance for	17 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Ms. Presley, do
18 something that's not a specific use. So I	18 you
19 understand you could pick paragraph C if we're	19 THE WITNESS: On that point only, Bob, I
20 going to do that, I need to have time to look at	20 want to say it's not my interpretation. I was
21 the document again to show you all the other	21 there, so I am a primary I'm a witness. I'm a
22 paragraphs that specifically do incorporate the	22 party to it. I don't know if you were there. I
23 design as it is. Because if you're going to	23 know Robbie was for some of it. But my statements
24 eliminate one, then I would ask Ms. Sokoni to	24 were based on my presence at those hearings,
25 require that you submit the settlement agreement.	25 mediations and final settlement.

# Transcript of Hearing

Conducted on March 6, 2025 490 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: The settlement 1 I'll ask my colleagues here to remind me if I 2 agreement has been offered into evidence. Our 3 last exhibit was Exhibit 66. Sorry about that. 3 BY MR. HARRIS: The last exhibit was 65. No. Q A couple more questions. I believe you've MR. HARRIS: 67, I think. seen the community support for this --HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: 67. So we're A Absolutely. now on -- so now, if this is introduced, it would Q -- conditional use? be Exhibit 68. A Yep, I sure have. I know what it's 8 9 9 contingent on, too, Bob, so yeah. MR. HARRIS: Yes. 10 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Any objections Q You know what? A I know what that was contingent on. As 11 to its inclusion in the record? MS. POWELL: I'm confused, because there's 12 you know, I've been here since 2002. I've heard 13 a lot of interlineation on this document, so I 13 everything, and I've heard all the threats and 14 don't know if it's the final version or not and --14 everything. So I understand why the community MR. HARRIS: It's the final version. It 15 supported. They've been told they will not get 16 any grocery without a gas station so --16 has all the signatures on it. MS. POWELL: Yeah, but there's no initials 17 Q That is true. 18 where you typically put initials. 18 A I don't constitute that as support for a MR. HARRIS: -- done that formally. This 19 plan. I constitute that -- you call it community 20 is the document. Trust me. 20 support. I call it community fear to testify in 2.1 MS. POWELL: Excuse me. 21 any other way because they've been waiting so THE WITNESS: I have all the -- I have 22 long. 23 all -- the one I have, Bob, from the thing itself 23 Q Other than you, I'm not aware of any 24 has -- it was a series of some handwritten changes 24 resident of Clarksburg Town Center who opposes 25 that the --25 this. Are you aware of any? 489 491 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. A Yeah. Uh-huh. Both Fantels. Let's see. MS. POWELL: That's all I'm --2 What is her name? Jim and Lynne Crimm. People 2 THE WITNESS: But the signatures of all who -- Bob, people are sick and tired. I mean, parties are on yours as well? 4 that's not going to be the argument. I knew when 5 (Crosstalk.) 5 I came out like the last thing --THE WITNESS: There's one thing -- and I'm Q They oppose it, but they haven't put 7 saying this, like, as a friend. Are you sure you 7 anything in the record? 8 don't want to redact parts that were agreed to as A That's right, Bob, because people are 9 not ever being revealed based on builder 9 afraid and there's a bunch of stuff being pushed 10 contributions and so forth? That was a specific 10 around. And, you know, that's not on me. All I 11 thing that was requested that we not do. 11 can do is a final piece in a long, long line of 12 MS. POWELL: I don't think you can. 12 participation that is a last straw for me so --13 THE WITNESS: You need to have, if you --13 yeah, it's not --14 I mean, that's on you. I'm not submitting it. 14 Q Isn't it true --15 MR. HARRIS: I'm fine with it as it is. 15 A And aside from that, I'd like to answer THE WITNESS: Okay. 16 your question further. Ms. Sokoni's -- any 16 17 Hearing Examiner's acceptance or denial has 17 MR. HARRIS: Just a few more --

20 under law.

24 application?

18 absolutely zero to do with community support and 19 everything to do with the requirements of finding

Q Is it true that since at least January 16

23 Listsery soliciting people to oppose this

22 you've been communicating on your neighborhood

A No. You said since January -- there's one

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We have entered

HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Could you kindly

19 the -- it's entered as Exhibit 68.

(Exhibit 68 was admitted.)

MR. HARRIS: Yes. Thank you.

23 ensure that we have an electronic copy as well for

MR. HARRIS: I will do that. Thank you.

20

21

25

24 posting?

402 494 1 time I posted one thing; and, based on the 1 be necessary in the first hearing. I said okay. 2 response, I privately dealt with one gentleman who I agreed. I never said I was going to have them 3 said -- he thanked me, but he wasn't going to support my position. I wanted them to come 4 participate. He hoped I could win. I had -- I cross-examine them. 5 didn't post again because the responses were 5 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: -- objecting, 6 exactly as you had stated, We want a grocery and you're not representing that. 7 store; we're not -- we're not in opposition. So MS. POWELL: No, I'm not, but I am -- I'm 8 you're right, but that's only once. I mean, I -here and I'm entitled to object on behalf of my 9 it's -- the way you stated it, it sounded as if I clients, and that's why I'm making the objection. 10 have been communicating there since. No. Once. 10 MR. HARRIS: I have no further questions. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Anyone else 11 Once. 11 12 Q If it's once, okay. Despite your effort, 12 wishing to cross-examine? I don't think there's 13 those people have not come forward to oppose this; 13 anyone online. 14 is that correct? THE WITNESS: Ms. Sokoni, may I state for 15 A That's correct. 15 the record that -- in answer to Mr. Harris' 16 Q At one time you -- in fact, at the last 16 question, that I never stated, nor did I 17 hearing you said you were going to ask County 17 anticipate that I would have Planning Board affirm 18 Executive Marc Elrich to come and testify. 18 my position. I wanted them specifically in front 19 of me so that I could cross-examine them as to 19 A As I stated --20 Q May I ask the question, please? Did you 20 when and why they stopped making comparisons to 21 ask -- did you ask him to come and testify today? 21 the compliance program because members of that had 22 A No, I did not. In fact, I sent a message, 22 done so in the past and on this most recent did 23 as I did to you, an e-mail stating that I thought 23 not. I wanted that, and you stated that probably 24 it would be redundant, and I didn't think it was 24 wasn't necessary. And then I went a different 25 kind to make an executive come to a hearing like 25 direction. So no, I didn't get them back. But 493 495 1 this. I did have lunch with him where he said 1 Bob, I never, never anticipated having the 2 things to me that I can testify to, but that's --Planning Staff support what I'm saying to you now. If they did, they would have done it right the Q No. That would be hearsay and --A That's correct, and that's why I wanted first time. 5 him there. But then I thought it's not fair to do 5 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Your 6 to the guy. He's running the County. But, bottom clarification is noted. 7 line, his testimony doesn't matter. He was there. THE WITNESS: Thank you. 8 It's in the record. He was one of the Council HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Just for me 9 members who found our compliance program to be 9 to -- and, by the way, you were cross-examined. 10 sufficient to remediate violations. So no, I 10 So if you had counsel, they could do redirect. 11 wasn't going to get Marc out of his office to come THE WITNESS: I don't know about those 12 things. Well, since I'm not and I don't know what 12 in, and I left him a message, a voicemail message 13 to that effect. And I sent the e-mail I guess it 13 a redirect is --14 was yesterday or the day before stating that it HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: I'm just -- I 15 doesn't make sense to me to do that to him. So 15 just want to make sure you have an opportunity. 16 no. I did not ask him. 16 Was there anything in the cross-examination that 17 Q Okay. Is it the same conclusion -- at one 17 you wanted to clarify? 18 time you had talked about asking Park and Planning REDIRECT TESTIMONY BY THE OPPOSITION 18 19 Staff to come and support your position on this. MS. PRESLEY: Yes, I would. Just going 20 Did you ask them to come? 20 back again as a final time to Mr. Harris' 21 MS. POWELL: This is way out of --21 continued questions about whether there's ever a 22 objection. 22 gas station, and just as we had at the last 23 hearing, went back and forth with Ms. Kubit about 23 A Actually, Bob, that's a misrepresentation 24 of what happened. It's actually Ms. Sokoni who 24 the master plan, the master plan doesn't say

25 anything about gas stations either. There's not a

25 said -- initially encouraged that that might not

_	Conducted on March 6, 2023					
	496	,	498			
	specific use there, and that was never there. My		because it would have been a mutually-agreed-upon			
	point was, and I tried to clarify that, very	2	settlement.			
	specifically, the design of the retail core	3	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: And this was the			
	presented in the compliance program, argued for		final the settlement was in two thousand and			
	and won in the settlement agreement, was the issue	5	THE WITNESS: Five.			
	at hand, not one or two specific uses. It's this	6	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Five. Okay.			
	use, where it's proposed and how it conflicts.	7	THE WITNESS: I believe it			
	That's all. Nothing else. I didn't have anything	8	(Crosstalk.)			
9	else I would redirect.	9	THE WITNESS: for the record. Sorry.			
10	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you.		There's some I thought I had included the			
	Thank you. So just in summary, for me to		formal history with dates. The settlement			
	because you were a party to the settlement		ended the agreement was entered to on April 6,			
	agreement, you were part of the whole compliance		2006. And then the plan of compliance was			
	plan, my understanding, and correct me if I'm		submitted in April, but approved by the Board on			
	wrong, is once, you know, you there were all	15	June 15, 2006. And that's where			
	these violations of, for instance, construction	16				
	happening with, you know, building heights above		that the current version of the Zoning Ordinance			
	what was approved and, you know, narrow streets,		under which this application is made is the Zoning			
	all the things you've described. And so the	19	Ordinance of 2014.			
	settlement was to was corrective, right? That	20	7 7 1 1			
	going forward		Remember, I was a commissioner for eight years. I			
22	THE WITNESS: It was corrective, yes, and		was prohibited from speaking against things that			
23	also		were happening, but I participated in the zoning			
24	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: It was	24	rewrite, so I'm well-aware that it's different.			
25	corrective to address all those violations.	25	Yeah.			
	497		499			
1	THE WITNESS: And also the ones that had	1	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Okay. I would			
	not yet been heard, so it was preventative. In	2	turn it to the attorneys for closing arguments,			
	other words, there was still a list of roughly I	3	closing statements.			
	think it was 18 violations. I can provide that,	4	MR. HARRIS: I assume Applicant first?			
	if necessary. But the ones that had found to date	5	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yes.			
	had included types of homes in areas that were not	6	MR. HARRIS: Madam Examiner, thank you for			
	approved on the site plan. So, for example,		your patience on this. I believe that the record			
	something should be townhouses and instead it was		will show that			
	condos, or something should be one thing and it's	9	HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We need your			
	another, height violations. Those were all found.		mic.			
	The setbacks, the side-street setbacks, the	11	MR. HARRIS: I believe that the record			
	narrowing of streets, there was a those things		will show that this case should be easier for you			
	were already adjudicated. But as more and more		to decide than the lengthy hearing has suggested.			
	violations kept being uncovered, that's when the	14	1			
	desire of the whole County, especially during the		Section 7.3.1 has seven basic standards that have			
	stop-work order, was to change course of how		to be met. Section 3.5.13 has 10 additional			
	things would be done, and that's what the		requirements for filling stations. And 7.3.1			
	settlement agreement was to take care of. And if		calls for a finding of need for a filling station			
	you I believe if you look on the first page of		in the, quote, general neighborhood, considering			
	the Board's resolution, I believe it mentions what		the availability of identical or similar uses in			
	was adjudicated and what was alleged but not		the neighborhood. We had testimony about that			
	adjudicated. So it was covering, as you said,		earlier today. We have provided expert testimony			
23	everything that had occurred as remedial and	23	on each of the standards, each of the requirements			
24	everything that was yet to be heard. That would have removed any need to hear that as well,	24	required for approval of this. Similarly, the Planning Staff has analyzed it, and they support			

502 it. That's Exhibit 36. The Planning Board 1 compliance prohibits the gas pumps accessory to 2 unanimously supports the application. That's the grocery store, the opposition argues that at Exhibit 55. least the plan of compliance envisioned a The opposition does not question most of walkable, pedestrian-friendly community, or those findings. They focus really on two and a various versions of that term, and that, in their half things. The reason I say it's two and a half mind, gas pumps in the parking lot of the grocery is because one is kind of a variation of the store behind the stores, well away from the 8 pedestrian system, well away from the street second. The first is, as we've heard today here, somehow will make the Clarksburg Town Center 10 extensive comment from Ms. Presley about how she 10 unwalkable. Even if pedestrian-friendly 11 believes this would be inconsistent with the plan 11 walkability was a general goal in the plan of 12 of compliance and, indirectly today, inconsistent 12 compliance, it was a very loose ideal, not an 13 with the settlement agreement. So that's sort of 13 explicit standard. And, as we've seen, the 14 their argument number one. 14 Planning Board has interpreted multiple times over The second argument is that we do not meet 15 the years, including here -- our professional 16 the need standard. But as our testimony provided 16 Staff, Kevin Foster, who does planning as his 17 and our legal memorandum, Exhibit 66, explains, we 17 profession, gave detailed expert testimony as to 18 believe the opposition has misconstrued what need 18 why this application is consistent with the plan 19 means, and that the standard is much more flexible 19 of compliance and why it does not make the area 20 than they would have it. 20 unwalkable. He explained the comprehensive 21 I said there are two and a half objections 21 pedestrian system. He explained the location of 22 that they've made. The other half, I think, is an 22 the pumps, away from the pedestrian system. In 23 implicit opposition that approval of this 23 fact, he commented that the addition of the gas 24 application would be anticompetitive to the Patel 24 station and this overall retail adds to the 25 operations that we heard about earlier today. 25 walkability of the community because it provides 501 503 MS. POWELL: We did not make that these services in their neighborhood. The Planning Board and Planning Staff 2 argument. 2 MR. HARRIS: Okay. That's fine. found in their conclusions, Exhibit 66, Exhibit 54 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You will have and Exhibit 55, that this will result in a the opportunity in closing statements. These are walkable, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood. closing statements. Let's see. Ms. Presley at one time MR. HARRIS: No. That makes my job anticipated, suggested she might have expert easier. Thank you. testimony through the Planning Staff or through Let's turn to the plan of compliance. Our the County Executive to defend her position on the 10 memo, Exhibit 54, and the attached exhibits go 10 plan of compliance. She did not do that, so there 11 through this in detail, and I believe that they 11 is no evidence to the contrary, other than 12 show that this application is not in violation of 12 Ms. Presley's testimony. That's the issue of the 13 the plan of compliance. As we heard again today, 13 plan of compliance. 14 there's no prohibition in the plan of compliance The second issue is the need. Need does 15 against gas stations. In fact, there's no 15 not require what some imply it does. We submitted 16 specification for what retail uses will be there 16 a memo, legal memorandum, Exhibit 66, that had 17 or will not be there, other than a grocer, even 17 both Montgomery County Board of Appeals cases, 18 where the plan of compliance is explicit in what 18 Maryland case law and Prince George's County cases 19 it will have, a library, parking garages, 19 dealing with gas stations where it confirms that 20 live-work units, etcetera. The Planning Board has 20 the standard of need is expedient, reasonably 21 repeatedly concluded over the years that the plan 21 convenient and useful to the public based on the 22 of compliance is not to be read so restrictively; 22 neighborhood, and it says to consider the present 23 rather, that it allows things to change per the 23 availability of identical or similar uses in that 24 Planning Board's approval. 24 neighborhood. We provided extensive evidence in Given that nothing in the plan of 25 how there is no identical or similar use in the 25

504 506 1 neighborhood, and that's pretty much irrespective 1 membership department store within a half a mile, 2 of how you define the neighborhood. I'm not I believe, of it -- this is on Rockville Pike many 3 saying that the Patel store shouldn't be part of years ago -- wanted to -- already had those. 4 the neighborhood. That's reasonable to do so, and 4 There were four gas stations at the same corner of 5 I think that Ed Steere did say that, fine, that Rockville Pike. There were 20 gas stations in 6 can be considered in the neighborhood, but that 6 close proximity to that. And on the basis of 7 operation certainly is not identical, not even those facts, the County concluded that there was 8 similar to what Weis is proposing here. The not a need. Those facts are vastly different than 9 neighborhood really is Clarksburg Town Center and 9 ours. 10 its immediate surroundings, and in that area there 10 In closing, Applicant has worked long and 11 are no identical or similar uses. And as the 11 hard to bring the desired retail to Clarksburg. 12 testimony provided both from the operation, the 12 It's been decades. They have finally found a 13 Weis operator, from Ed Steere on behalf of needs, 13 grocery who's willing to come, but that grocer has 14 he maintains -- and I support this -- that the 14 testified under oath that, without the gas pumps, 15 addition of these gas pumps as an accessory use to 15 they aren't coming because that's an important 16 the grocery store will be expedient, reasonably 16 component of their productivity. The site is 17 convenient and useful to the public, and that 17 inferior, and, without that, they are concerned 18 there are no identical or similar operations in 18 that it will fail. And that will be in no one's 19 the neighborhood. 19 interest. There was testimony about how people could 20 We believe the testimony and exhibits that 21 go from Clarksburg to other gas stations, whether 21 we've submitted totally support what I'm saying 22 in Germantown or elsewhere, to purchase gas. We 22 here today. The Planning Staff and the Planning 23 don't deny that. Certainly that is the case, but 23 Board have independently reviewed it, and they 24 that's not the test that we have here. If that 24 affirm propriety of this. We have support from 25 were the case, we would only need one gas station 25 the Clarksburg Homeowner's Association and eight 505 507 1 in the entire metropolitan area, if everybody individual residents. 2 could eventually go to that gas station. Now, 2 And those of you who are still on the 3 that's a bit facetious, but the reality is that phone, I thank you for your commitment. 4 it's not a test of whether there is someplace else Bottom line, the community has been 5 that you can buy gas. It's whether it's waiting for so long for this retail center. Let's 6 expedient, reasonably convenient and in the public make it happen. That's all I have. Thank you. 7 interest. HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Ms. Powell. In terms of the nature of this use, this 8 MS. POWELL: Thank you, Madam Sokoni. 9 is -- you know, we've testified extensively how As we've stated previously, the 10 the gas pumps and the grocery store are 10 application here is not for a grocery store. It's 11 intertwined as an operation, and we think that's 11 not for a convenience store with gas station. It 12 unique. 12 is for a gas station. That's the way the 13 Ms. Powell commented that my legal 13 Montgomery County Code is written. It's a special 14 memorandum on the need issue did not include the 14 exception for conditional use, if you will, for a 15 Lucky Stores case, so let me address that for a 15 gasoline station. 16 minute. I did not include that. That case does, And in this case the Applicant would have 17 however, specifically say that the test for a gas 17 you believe that no consideration of identical or 18 station is expedient, reasonably convenient and in 18 similar uses available to the neighborhood should 19 the public interest based on uses in, you know, 19 be considered. Essentially, what they're arguing 20 the neighborhood. That case did result in a 20 is that, well, it's expedient for Weis to have a 21 denial of the proposed gas station, but you need 21 gas station; it makes Weis competitive, which 22 to look at the facts and those facts bear nothing 22 isn't the test for whether or not a conditional 23 to what we have. That was an instance where a 23 use should be granted; and basically, you know, 24 membership department store wanted to put gas 24 we'd just like to have one here and that's enough. 25 pumps in their parking lot where another 25 Well, it's not enough.

508 510 And so you heard at some length already 1 Except as otherwise required by, or relating to 2 our arguments with respect to the meaning of the physical project conditions unforeseen by the 3 plan of compliance. And nowhere in that document Board or applicable law, including the 4 does it indicate, as Mr. Harris says, that it is, requirements of the Montgomery County Zoning 5 you know, advisory, or, in fact, not controlling. Ordinance such as, you know, ADA. These 6 It says the opposite. It was given in exchange regulations change, and you have to apply the laws 7 for very valuable consideration that Montgomery that exist at the time. The Planning Board 8 County could have otherwise gotten, and it was 8 intends to require only such modifications that given in exchange based on a commitment to develop are reasonably consistent with the compliance 10 the retail center in a certain way. And when Elm 10 program. And the use of a filling station, which 11 Street bought this property, it knew those were 11 is a conditional use, is not reasonably consistent 12 the conditions, and that was clear from the deed 12 with the compliance program itself, and it's 13 as well as from all the matters of record that had 13 subject only to the unforeseen project conditions, 14 taken place up until that time. So those 14 applicable law and regulations and the express 15 modifications had to be made in a retail center, 15 terms of the resolution and compliance program 16 because the County said, Okay, we'll give up our 16 that the Board can go outside and address its 17 right to fines; we'll give up, you know, having to 17 other lawful requirements. It's expressly subject 18 knock down all these buildings and start over; 18 to the compliance program. It says it over and 19 people are living in them; but we'll do this if 19 over again in the resolution. And, you know, if 20 you do this within our retail center. And the 20 part of the compliance program requirements were 21 concept plan, the concept design plan is 21 to identify everything that you couldn't do, that 22 specifically incorporated into the plan of 22 document would go on for a really long time, and 23 compliance. And the plan of compliance is at -- I 23 it wasn't necessary because it is not consistent 24 believe it's at OZAH 45 and it's law. And that 24 with what was envisioned in the concept plan, 25 document, the resolution itself referred 25 which is part of the plan of compliance. It's 509 511 1 specifically to what is incorporated in the plan 1 just not there. 2 of compliance. And the resolution is pretty clear The other thing that's interesting about 3 that, you know, economic necessity isn't part of it is that if anybody wanted to deviate from what 4 the test. It's not part of the program. These was required by the plan of compliance, they had 5 are benefits that were to have been provided. And to go to binding arbitration. That didn't happen 6 you know, if the parking decks hadn't been taken 6 here. As I said in -- as Mr. Harris has also 7 away when people weren't paying attention, there 7 8 wouldn't be a sea of asphalt now in front of the said, you know, we've been talking about that for 9 Giant. That's -- excuse me. In front of the quite awhile, and so I don't need to keep pounding 10 intended Weis Supermarket. 10 the table with respect to that. But really this And also, going back to our memorandum, 11 is not your typical conditional use case, because 12 which is included in the record, you know, 12 it's -- not only does it have the normal 13 violation of the law or an ultra vires act doesn't 13 conditional use tests that have to be applied in 14 mean that subsequent violations are okay. It's 14 connection with any conditional use, it has the 15 not a waiver. It's not a waiver. And urging that 15 gasoline filling station conditional use criteria, 16 against a municipality is tough sledding in the 16 but then it also has this legally-imposed criteria 17 first instance. And we've also briefed that in 17 of the plan of compliance. So it's not just your 18 our memorandum. And the language in the 18 standard application, and it's important that this 19 application be reviewed consistently through that 19 resolution itself is very clear that, while the 20 Board can consider the future applications and 20 lens. 21 plans, it has to be done according to the terms of 21 Excuse me. I lost my spot. I went off 22 the resolution, the law and merits applicable. He 22 script. 23 23 goes on to say that they recognize that it's Again, it's the burden of the Applicant to 24 conceptual in nature and that it may involve 24 demonstrate these criteria that are called for in 25 modifications. And then the next sentence is, 25 meeting the special -- you know, the conditions

	March 6, 2025	514
1 that are imposed through the conditional use.	1 language in the ordinance at the time Lucky Stores	514
2 Schultz versus Prince, which is sort of	2 was decided is very similar to that which we have	
3 something that everybody likes to cite, although	3 now. Actually, it might even be a little bit	
4 it's an application in Montgomery County is just	4 stricter, because now there isn't any reference to	
5 for fraud principles, because you are it's a	5 public convenience and service, which was, in	
6 code county, and you've got your code that sets	6 fact, included in the prior ordinance. That's not	
7 forth all the specific things you have to	7 there anymore. But the court there noted that the	
8 consider. But the Schultz versus Prince decision	8 term neighborhood is flexible and relative, and it	
9 recognizes that there are inherent adverse effects	9 varies from case to case, and that, while need	
10 in documents or in uses that are categorized as	10 doesn't mean absolute necessity, it still means	
11 conditional uses or, in other jurisdictions,	11 something. And the court said it is the	
12 special exceptions. And I would suggest to you	12 requirement of need that goes to the very heart of	
13 that at the outset this means that you can't	13 the Zoning Ordinance and enables the Board to	
14 reconcile something that has inherent adverse	14 effectively carry out the intent of the ordinance.	
15 effects on the neighborhood with the plan of	The court goes on to say, We have	
16 compliance. It just it doesn't even get out of	16 consistently held that a Zoning Board may give	
17 the box.	17 important consideration to the presence of other	
18 Now, the first criterion is that it	18 filling stations, stations in the general area	
19 satisfies any applicable previous approvals, and	19 doesn't say neighborhood in reaching its	
20 again we would say that you have to revert back to	20 decision in regard to granting or refusing an	
21 the plan of compliance. That is, in fact,	21 application for another filling station. The lack	
22 mandatory, and it has to conform with the	22 of need for another gasoline filling station in	
23 recommendations of the master plan.	23 the vicinity of other stations is, as we have	
Now, when you look at the specific	24 previously noted, an important factor that courts	
25 criteria with respect to the need component and	25 have relied upon in refusing a permit for a	
513		515
1 you've heard a lot about that well, what's	1 filling station.	
2 really important to remember is that it's not	Now, the testimony was really interesting,	
3 what the ordinance says is not in the	3 because there was a lot of emphasis on, you know,	
4 neighborhood; it's the services to the	4 one-stop shopping and the discount program here as	
5 neighborhood, available to the neighborhood, and	5 justifications for allowing this particular	
6 there is a big difference. And so they have to	6 conditional use. Well, in Lucky Stores the court	
7 demonstrate that the need exists for the proposed	7 said absolutely not. The court rejected the	
8 use to serve the population in the general	8 testimony that the station was necessary because	
9 neighborhood, considering the present availability	9 it completed its, quote, one-stop shopping	
10 of identical or similar uses to that neighborhood.	10 complex, because it had no bearing on the	
Now the Lucky Stores decision is	11 determination of need. This argument is, frankly,	
12 controlling law. It was decided by the Supreme	12 identical to the one made by Mr. Steere as well as	
13 Court. I have copies, if anybody wants.	13 the Vice President of Weis Markets. Nor does the	
14 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yes, please.	14 loyalty program demonstrate need. And in Lucky	
15 MS. POWELL: And there	15 Stores, the court looked at it as, well, if you	
16 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: We really should	16 have evidence in the record, as you do here, that	
17 have a water fountain in here. I apologize.	17 numerous other stations have discount programs,	
MS. POWELL: So in this case they talk	18 whether or not this particular store or this	
19 about service to the population in the general	19 gasoline station offers a discount program is	
20 neighborhood. And Mr. Harris is absolutely right,	20 beside the point, and it doesn't even demonstrate,	
21 there were a lot of gasoline stations, but the	21 frankly, that gas will be sold at a discount from	
22 court it wasn't necessarily hinged on the fact	22 the prices available elsewhere. I mean, it's a	
23 that there were numerous gas stations. What the	23 marketing tool. You know, people will think	
24 court talked about were the tests that are applied	24 they're getting a great deal, when, in fact, you	
25 in the context of a filling station. And the	25 can just go around the corner and get gas for a	

1 lot less money.  2 Then Mr. Steere's testimony and his  516  1 Ms. Powell stated. I guess I would only reit 2 the point that the compliance program was	518
	ieraie
,	
3 opinion are really they're very interesting. 4 And, as I said, it his decision or his 4 inclusive of a specific design, and it didn't s 4 gas station, as Mr. Harris said, and it didn	•
	l t
5 determination rested very heavily on the market 5 in any way say gas station, but the designs 6 that either he on Weig determined. The not own	and this
6 that either he or Weis determined. I'm not sure 6 themselves were incorporated by the Board	and this
7 who. I mean, his report said it was Weis, but 7 is just a flagrant opposition to that.	1
8 that was the grocery store market. But that 9 doesn't address the fact that there are all these 9 Just some details, the exhibits are	ank you.
	_
10 other gas stations in the area which vastly exceed  10 we're now at Exhibit 68. All the exhibits, as	
11 the 13.2 million gallons that may or may not be 11 published on the OZAH website and added t	o today,
12 required by this particular trade area. And 12 are all entered into the record.	
13 there's no indication that anybody is not able to  13 And, with that, the record shall only	V C 41
14 meet the demands of the neighborhood. And, in	
15 fact, in Mr. Steere's own report he indicates that  15 limited purpose of adding the court transcri	=
16 the need is met with supply from outside the	a
17 immediate trade areas located in other markets and 17 then further through April 3 for the further	·
18 near commuters' places of work. I mean, the	
19 testimony is unrebutted that in the morning people 19 fact by both parties in this matter. Other that	an
20 are going south; and, if you look at all those gas	
21 stations, there are plenty that meet the capacity.  21 Yes, Ms. Presley?	
22 And even if you don't want to use my client's 22 MS. PRESLEY: I just had one questio	
23 calculations, which are actually based on tank 23 I'm sorry to interrupt the flow. I know we're	
24 capacity and personal experience, using 24 trying to end here, but, based on Mr. Harris'	
25 Mr. Steere's determination of 1.44 per station on 25 cross of me, he rephrased that I was unable	
517	519
1 an annual basis, heading south, it still vastly  1 achieve Mr. Elrich's support or statement, v	
2 exceeds the \$13.2 million need that or 13 2 again, anything said on it would be hearsay,	
3 not 13.2 million. Excuse me. 13.2 million gallon 3 my understanding, based on what you're say	-
4 need. 4 about what the record is open for, it sounds	
5 So when you look at what the code 5 even if I now would be able to get his affida	
6 requires, it's not whether or not a filling 6 to this effect or note from him that it would	l not
7 station is identical. In the Lucky Stores case, 7 be admissible because that's not	
8 they compared regular gas stations, convenience 8 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: W	
9 stores, other stores. It's not so restricted, 9 we're not including the hearing concludes	s today
10 because the test is for a filling station. And,	
11 for that reason and the fact that Lucky Stores 11 MS. PRESLEY: Okay.	
12 is it's pretty clear you've still got to look 12 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI:	remaining
13 at the other gas stations in the area that are 13 in fairness, I think we've been	
14 available to the individuals in that neighborhood 14 MS. PRESLEY: Yeah. It's been	
15 that they haven't met their burden of establishing   15 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI:	dragged out
16 need. 16 longer than usual, but, you know, rightly so	
17 Thank you. 17 because the issues were complex. The hear	-
18 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Thank you very 18 concludes today, and the record closes in al	1
19 much. With that, Ms. Presley, are you still 19 respects, except as specified, which is 10	
20 there? 20 business days for the transcript, and then an	
21 MS. PRESLEY: Yes, I am. I had just muted 21 10 business days, or 14 calendar days through	-
22 myself. 22 April 3 for submission of proposed findings	
HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Did you have a 23 fact. Except for those specific items, the re-	ecord
24 brief closing statement? 24 is closed. Just to be clear, the record remains	
25 MS. PRESLEY: I agree with everything that 25 open through April 3, but for the limited put	rpose

520	522
1 of transcript and findings of fact and nothing	1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER
2 else.	2 I, Nicole Mastrosimone, do hereby certify
MS. PRESLEY: Okay. Thank you.	3 that this transcript was prepared from the digital
4 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: With that I	4 audio recording of the foregoing proceeding; that
5 and I've attended to exhibits. Mr. Harris, you	5 said transcript is a true and accurate record of
6 will kindly give us an electronic copy of the	6 the proceedings to the best of my knowledge,
7 settlement agreement.	7 skills, and ability; and that I am neither counsel
8 Thank you all so much for your time and	8 for, related to, nor employed by any of the
9 your patience. It's important for the process,	9 parties to the case and have no interest,
10 and I just I really appreciate sort of your	10 financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
11 professionalism and your assistance through this	11 1/20 Particular
12 process.	11 Nicole Mastrosimone
Once the record closes from the date of	13 Nicole Mastrosimone,
14 closing of the record, the Hearing Examiner must	14 Stenographic Reporter, Legal Transcriptionist
15 render a written decision within 30 days.	15 March 18, 2025
MR. HARRIS: And we appreciate your	16
17 patience, too. Thank you.	17
MS. POWELL: We certainly do.	18
19 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: You're welcome.	19
20 MS. POWELL: Thank you very much.	20
MR. HARRIS: And, Amy, best wishes for	21
22 your mom.	22
23 HEARING EXAMINER SOKONI: Yes.	23
24 MS. PRESLEY: Thank you.	24
25 (The hearing adjourned at 3:39 p.m.)	25
521	
1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC	
2 I, Cody Handlir, the officer before whom	
3 the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby	
4 certify that any witnesses in the foregoing	
5 proceedings were fully sworn; that the proceedings	
6 were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to	
7 typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that	
8 said digital audio recording of said proceedings	
9 are a true and accurate record to the best of my	
10 knowledge, skills, and ability, and that I am	
11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by	
12 any of the parties to this case and have no	
13 interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.	
14	
15	
16 J Kandin	
17 CODY HANDLIR,	
19 NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND	
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1			
A	414:21, 415:5,	accommodate	358:25, 359:4,
ability	416:9, 418:25,	340:20, 391:17	363:19, 371:16,
375:14, 411:1,	419:8, 420:13,	accommodating	383:5, 384:22,
	423:20, 423:21,	392:1, 442:2	395:10, 433:3,
448:24, 521:10,	428:21, 431:7,	accommodations	434:21, 443:20,
522:7	435:24, 445:22,	441:21	445:8, 449:7,
able	453:21, 454:4,		450:19, 452:13,
293:15, 300:16,		accordance	
304:6, 304:8,	454:16, 457:11,	447:21, 448:1,	455:17, 456:4,
322:13, 339:22,	457:17, 466:11,	448:6, 449:20	460:14, 465:3,
341:19, 369:3,	467:9, 473:16,	according	472:1, 478:21,
388:18, 399:13,	475:8, 475:13,	362:5, 423:16,	479:14, 493:23,
403:1, 410:7,	476:11, 476:12,	447:17, 447:25,	493:24, 514:3,
412:9, 419:21,	476:24, 480:2,	449:1, 509:21	516:23
420:23, 426:3,	484:22, 488:3,	account	ad
436:7, 436:14,	493:18, 495:11,	442:7	339:16
	495:21, 495:23,	accurate	ada
444:16, 472:6,	495:25, 499:21,		510:5
473:24, 516:13,	500:10, 500:25,	362:19, 521:9,	add
519:5	504:20, 511:2,	522:5	289:16, 398:8,
about	511:8, 513:1,	achieve	398:9
293:25, 307:6,	513:19, 513:24,	452:6, 452:8,	
307:24, 308:16,	519:4	519:1	added
310:7, 313:21,		acknowledge	316:25, 320:10,
324:7, 325:20,	above	481:4	320:12, 376:2,
327:24, 331:5,	354:16, 496:17	across	413:10, 413:15,
332:4, 335:10,	above-referenced	317:6, 478:16	518:11
339:1, 345:12,	291:11	act	adding
345:20, 346:5,	absolute	449:2, 509:13	321:24, 409:23,
346:13, 347:9,	346:7, 379:12,	action	413:18, 477:1,
347:14, 348:20,	514:10	437:6	518:15
351:9, 352:4,	absolutely	actions	addition
355:15, 355:23,	341:3, 365:17,	303:16, 303:17	301:13, 308:23,
357:4, 357:18,	380:7, 381:24,	activate	316:23, 403:25,
359:9, 359:16,	420:6, 441:23,		462:7, 467:6,
360:19, 363:24,	477:21, 480:25,	478:12	502:23, 504:15
	484:4, 490:6,	active	additional
366:11, 367:3,	491:18, 513:20,	402:6	301:12, 311:6,
367:5, 368:7,	515:7	activity	313:7, 333:20,
368:21, 373:8,	acceptance	311:7	
377:25, 380:2,	289:15, 491:17	actual	367:11, 368:17,
384:3, 384:12,		372:4, 411:2,	431:7, 433:6,
387:2, 389:1,	accepting	461:12, 487:15	463:18, 499:16
390:13, 392:19,	518:18	actually	address
399:7, 400:4,	access	300:20, 302:4,	338:9, 392:25,
400:17, 400:23,	289:4, 289:22,	304:3, 308:4,	393:2, 496:25,
401:17, 406:21,	347:14, 400:24,	308:24, 313:22,	505:15, 510:16,
407:7, 408:19,	471:12	321:9, 323:3,	516:9
410:7, 411:23,	accessible	323:9, 332:6,	addresses
412:14, 414:19,	356:3		474:24
	accessory	332:25, 333:16,	adds
	502:1, 504:15	341:12, 349:4,	502:24
		<u> </u>	

adequacy	adopted	438:12, 438:13,	366:14, 366:16,
309:9, 311:16,	384:5, 454:13	439:2, 439:14,	373:16, 382:5,
311:18, 311:20,	adopting	439:19, 440:2,	382:7, 384:20,
311:23, 312:1,	450:7	440:18, 481:16,	430:25, 438:14,
312:3, 312:21,	adoption	484:11	449:16, 482:5,
333:4	448:6, 452:3,	afternoon	485:5, 517:25
adequate	457:1, 457:2	300:18, 328:20,	agreed
308:10, 308:19,	adverse	330:11, 390:8,	390:25, 396:12,
310:16, 310:20,	308:13, 512:9,	441:15, 441:17	489:8, 494:2
311:2, 333:23	512:14	again	agreeing
adhere	advised	291:20, 292:4,	417:9
462:18, 481:17	342:19	297:2, 297:20,	agreement
adhered	advisors	300:1, 301:2,	290:52, 327:3,
443:23	335:15, 335:16,	307:20, 307:22,	333:18, 433:17,
adherences	335:19	308:18, 311:10,	433:19, 433:22,
462:18	advisory	311:11, 311:15,	445:9, 445:10,
adjacent	443:14, 450:21,	317:5, 319:10,	445:20, 446:5,
320:19, 321:9,	508:5	319:18, 322:11,	449:18, 450:13,
322:15, 371:3,	affect	322:17, 323:22,	450:19, 451:11,
375:25, 376:1	361:11	325:10, 325:17,	452:5, 454:10,
adjoining	affected	326:10, 330:1,	454:11, 455:3,
288:10	308:11, 328:22,	330:6, 330:12,	455:4, 455:8,
adjourned	417:7	369:4, 372:1,	455:18, 456:25,
520:25	affidavit	438:16, 443:19,	457:9, 459:9,
adjudicated	288:14, 290:5,	459:3, 468:8,	464:6, 471:8,
497:13, 497:21,	290:20, 290:34,	474:14, 478:21,	476:9, 482:22,
497:22	519:5	480:14, 485:21,	484:22, 485:6,
adjust	affiliated	492:5, 495:20,	485:8, 485:25,
329:1	407:22	501:13, 510:19,	486:13, 486:17,
adjustment	affiliation	511:23, 512:20,	488:2, 496:5,
319:7, 329:2	406:12	519:2	496:13, 497:18,
administer	affirm	against	498:12, 500:13,
298:14, 334:4,	494:17, 506:24	446:2, 460:20,	520:7
393:11, 442:13	affirmatively	461:5, 472:23, 498:22, 501:15,	agreements 485:12
administered	476:5	509:16	agrees
432:7	affirmed	agency	381:21
administration	393:22, 406:8,	358:15, 358:25	ahead
416:16	432:11, 442:22	aggregate	296:14, 373:4,
administrative	affordable	425:7	374:9, 442:12,
284:1, 285:6,	334:17	ago	456:9, 463:4
293:21, 456:3	afraid	310:14, 316:18,	aicp
admissible	364:7, 491:9	344:22, 401:25,	336:20
519:7	after	506:3	ajay
admitted	295:17, 346:19,	agree	287:15, 290:34,
290:52, 302:19,	355:1, 357:22,	328:15, 328:18,	294:25, 300:10,
489:20	372:2, 385:14,	332:8, 333:18,	405:25, 406:7
adopt	390:17, 436:3,	341:10, 342:20,	align
449:17, 472:17	436:9, 436:12,		333:19, 416:7
			'

	Conducted on N	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
alignment	490:13, 491:10,	332:13, 332:17,	amenities
415:6, 415:12,	496:8, 496:15,	332:21, 336:19,	447:20
417:3, 417:10,	496:19, 496:25,	338:6, 344:3,	america
417:14	497:10, 507:6,	344:14, 346:9,	343:24
alignment's	508:13, 508:18,	346:23, 356:3,	among
418:17	512:7, 516:9,	357:1, 357:24,	290:50
all	516:20, 518:10,	360:19, 365:6,	amongst
293:23, 299:18,	518:12, 519:18,	366:25, 367:15,	353 <b>:</b> 22
302:18, 304:13,	520:8	370:25, 393:4,	amount
307:3, 308:23,	alleged	395:19, 395:20,	310:25, 311:7,
311:22, 313:8,	443:17, 497:21	398:3, 415:3,	328:10, 358:15,
315:9, 317:5,	allergies	417:18, 418:24,	358:21, 358:25,
321:3, 321:23,	402:10	424:24, 439:6,	378:22, 399:16,
322:25, 324:13,	allow	443:5, 444:23,	416:18, 438:16,
325:14, 326:2,	295:18, 295:19,	458:12, 467:22,	465:18, 470:18
332:10, 335:20,	310:21, 361:6,	496:23, 497:1,	amounts
344:3, 346:18,	439:12, 456:22,	509:11, 509:17,	314:8
353:7, 354:10,	465:25	511:7, 511:16	ample
355:11, 359:10,	allowed	alter	434:6
359:18, 364:9,	295:25, 401:8,	459:4, 461:22	amy
365:15, 367:4,	417:13, 471:20,	alternative	287:21, 287:22,
368:3, 371:19,	475:24, 483:16,	355:9, 367:19,	289:39, 289:40,
373:6, 373:20,	486:1	380:12, 448:3	289:42, 290:17,
377:24, 378:2,	allowing	although	290:19, 290:28,
380:9, 380:14,	456:4, 515:5	346:3, 391:4,	295:2, 300:14,
381:2, 382:3,	allows	474:22, 512:3	391:17, 442:5,
384:15, 387:12,	501:23	altogether	442:21, 453:17,
387:17, 388:23,	almost	389:8	474:12, 520:21
398:15, 402:12,	394:19, 435:7	always	analyses
403:5, 403:12,	alone	330:14, 394:20	311 <b>:</b> 17
403:14, 407:13,	296:11, 351:13,	amend	analysis
416:14, 417:16,	367:1, 380:17,	289:16, 289:18,	289:23, 289:28,
418:19, 419:12,	474:2	430:15, 459:25,	290:14, 294:22,
420:24, 424:10,	along	481:20, 482:16	310:22, 311:5,
424:13, 427:5,	404:18, 469:20	amended	312:2, 314:23,
427:22, 428:9,	already	431:19, 450:4,	317:22, 317:25,
430:9, 444:3,	295:22, 295:24,	450:9, 450:11,	318:11, 318:23,
448:7, 448:14,	301:2, 314:22,	481:23, 481:24	323:17, 324:2,
449:17, 451:6,	318:24, 319:14,	amending	329:12, 330:6,
457:9, 457:11,	332:3, 332:5,	431:23, 433:9,	330:8, 330:9,
465:6, 474:6,	433:16, 444:9,	433:11	330:21, 332:9,
475:18, 478:9,	461:9, 465:20,	amendment	332:17, 333:12,
479:2, 479:12,	485:2, 497:13,	312:13, 325:12,	333:14, 334:13,
480:20, 485:21,	506:3, 508:1	332:13, 431:17,	334:14, 334:15,
486:22, 487:11,	also	431:18, 460:8,	334:25, 335:19,
487:12, 488:16,	286:18, 293:11,	467:3	338:2, 338:12,
488:22, 488:23,	299:8, 300:13,	amendments	340:17, 340:18,
489:2, 489:3,	320:17, 320:18,	481:11, 481:12	358:4, 366:19,

384:17, 384:16, answering 475:20, 476:5, 427:16 384:22, 385:6, 377:11 476:6, 481:12, apologize 384:12, 385:6, 390:16 488:10, 490:16, 409:16, 4		e ondaeted on i		
381:12, 381:15, 429:5, 480:1, 466:11, 466:18, 473:39 384:3, 384:6, 384:13, 385:7 384:7, 384:13, 385:6, 377:11 388:12, 382:4, 475:20, 476:5, 475:16, 476:5, 4	366:22, 368:25,	416:2, 423:14,	462:16, 462:17,	476:15
381:12, 382:4, 491:15, 494:15 384:3, 384:6, answered 384:7, 384:16, 385:7 384:15, 384:16, answering 384:2, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 385:6, 386:12, 496:12, 490:23, 490:24, 490:23, 490:24, 490:23, 490:24, 490:23, 490:25, 491:16, 306:5, 344:23, 390:12, 494:17 3818:12, 312:2, 361:9, 301:12, 438:18, 512:19, 514:4, 497:25, 511:14, 354:19 3818:12, 312:3, 303:22, 304:20, 303:23, 30			I	apart
384:7, 384:13, 384:6, answered			470:6, 472:19,	
384:17, 384:13, 385:7  384:15, 384:16, answering 384:22, 385:6, 377:11 385:9, 387:3, anti 388:12, 410:23, anticipate 390:12, 494:17 390:16 490:21, 490:23, 490:23, 490:25, 491:16, 301:25, 344:23, analyze 390:12, 494:17 497:55, 511:14, 301:25, 344:23, anticipate 390:12, 495:1, 503:7 303:12, 438:18, 512:19, 514:4, 518:5, 521:4, 301:25, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 303:25, 305:8, 305:15, 387:23 305:15, 387:23 305:15, 387:23 305:15, 387:23 306:21, 313:3, 31:1, 331:3, 303:22, 304:20, 303:23, 333:12, 337:2, 303:23, 333:12, 337:2, 303:25, 305:8, 305:15, 383:11, 383:12 318:2 32:5, 326:17, 307:18, 333:12, 337:2, 329:24, 292:16, 292:4, 292:16, 301:19 338:11, 383:12 337:6, 342:15, 328:14, 358:16, 328:14, 358:16, 328:14, 358:16, 338:12, 375:24, 358:16, 329:24, 292:16, 301:19 338:2, 345:12, 358:14, 358:16, 388:22, 388:13, 358:13, 333:14, 374:25, 379:19 362:12, 375:1, 358:20, 358:22, 384:6, 384:21, 384:22, 386:13, 373:19, 399:16, 403:2, 499:15, 403:20, 379:16, 399:7, 383:10, 399:16, 403:2, 499:15, 403:20, 379:16, 399:7, 399:7, 383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 499:15, 409:25, 514:21, 514:22, 415:25, 418:23, 499:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 499:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 499:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 429:16	384:3, 384:6,		474:7, 474:15,	
384:15, 384:16, 377:11 476:6, 481:12, apologize 385:9, 387:3, 390:16 488:10, 490:16, 444:12, 513:17 388:12, 410:23, anticipate 490:21, 490:25, 491:16, 301:25, 344:23, analyst analyst analyst 294:12, 361:9, 495:1, 503:7 309:3, 324:16 309:2, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3,	384:7, 384:13,	385:7	475:4, 475:16,	
384:22, 385:6, anti anti: 385:9, 387:3, 388:62, 387:3, 388:12, 410:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 422:23, 410:24, 429:12, 361:9, 300:12, 494:17 497:25, 511:14, 354:19 3294:22, 361:9, 330:12, 438:18, 512:19, 514:4, 354:19 330:23, 303:2, 303:23, 304:16 309:3, 328:14, 331:10, 301:11, 315:18, 328:14, 331:10, 301:11, 315:18, 328:14, 331:10, 301:11, 318:2 302:4, 303:10, 303:23, 303:23, 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 302:4, 303:10, 303:19, 330:23, 333:11, 333:12, 333:12, 337:2, 333:12, 337:2, 339:10, 345:2 345:3	384:15, 384:16,	answering	<b> </b>	
388:12, 410:23, 380:16       488:10, 490:16, 444:12, 513:17         410:24, 422:23, 499:12       390:12, 494:17       490:25, 491:16, 301:25, 344:23, 301:25, 344:23, 330:124, 438:18, 497:25, 511:14, 356:19         294:22, 361:9, 470:14       495:1, 503:7 anticompetitive 500:24       518:5, 521:4, 301:23, 303:3, 303:3, 315:18, 500:24         309:3, 324:16 analyzed analyzed 315:18, 328:14, 303:10, 301:11, 315:18, 328:14, 303:22, 304:20, 303:10, 303:11, 315:18, 356:24, 357:21, 368:2, 386:5, 428:8       471:19, 511:3, 3ppearance 345:3         305:15, 357:23 analyzed 304:21, 313:6, 292:6, 304:20, 303:12, 303:22, 303:22, 304:20, 303:12, 303:22, 304:20, 303:13, 333:12, 337:2, 322:5, 326:17, 320:22, 326:17, 320:22, 326:17, 320:22, 326:17, 320:22, 326:19, 320:22, 320:	384:22, 385:6,	_		
388:12, 410:23, anticipate 410:24, 422:23, anticipate 390:12, 494:17 300:25, 491:16, appeals 470:14 301:27, 438:18, 497:25, 511:14, appeals 470:14 301:29, 324:16 301:27, 338:18, 512:19, 514:4, 512:19, 514:4, 512:19, 514:4, 512:18, 328:14, 328:16, 298:8, 336:24, 330:10, 301:11, 305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, 303:10, 305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 302:25, 326:17, 303:22, 304:20, 304:21, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:3, 313:4, 378:22, 359:1, 388:14, 358:16, 337:24, 358:6, 337:24, 358:6, 337:24, 358:6, 338:22, 359:1, 388:14, 358:16, 338:20, 359:19 305:23, 386:24, 386:25, 386:27, 386:27, 386:28, 386:29,	385:9, 387:3,	anti	482:20, 486:25,	
410:24, 422:23, anticipate 390:12, 494:17 490:25, 491:16, anticipated 497:25, 511:14, 354:19 301:25, 344:23, analyst 495:1, 503:7 anticompetitive 518:5, 521:4, 301:23, 303:3, analyze 309:3, 324:16 analyzed 315:18, 328:14, 293:16, 298:8, 368:2, 386:5, 428:8 analyzed 303:22, 304:20, 303:22, 304:20, 303:12, 333:12, 331:3, 516:13 303:25, 305:8, 303:22, 304:20, 303:18:2 302:5, 326:17, 303:19, 330:27, 304:20, 303:11, 331:1, 331:3, 303:11, 333:12, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:2, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1	388:12, 410:23,	390:16	488:10, 490:16,	
469:22 390:12, 494:17 anticipated 294:22, 361:9, 470:14 330:12, 438:18, 512:19, 514:4, 495:1, 503:7 anticompetitive 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:17 309:31 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:11 301:23, 303:3, 303:3, 303:23, 303:25, 303:25, 305:8, 309:22, 386:5, 306:2, 342:8 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:2, 386:5, 310:2, 309:2, 309:18, 309:2, 309:2, 309:2, 309:19 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 309:2, 328:8, 329:2, 329:2, 329:14 309:2, 329:2, 329:14 309:2, 329:2, 329:14 309:2,	410:24, 422:23,		490:21, 490:23,	
analyst         anticipated         497:25, 511:14,         354:19 appeals           294:22, 361:9,         330:12, 438:18,         512:19, 514:4,         3ppeals           470:14         495:1, 503:7         518:5, 521:4,         301:23, 303:3,           309:3, 324:16         300:24         356:24, 357:21,         303:25, 305:8,           315:18, 328:14,         293:16, 298:8,         366:2, 386:5,         428:8           368:9, 499:25         301:10, 301:11,         513:13, 516:13         345:3           305:15, 357:23         303:22, 304:20,         anymore         appearance           318:2         322:5, 326:17,         514:7         appeared           318:2         30:19, 330:23,         anymore         46:15, 46:19,           318:1, 383:12         337:6, 342:15,         292:24, 298:18,         301:19           331:1, 331:2, 337:2,         292:24, 298:18,         301:19         301:19           345:22, 359:1,         356:10, 358:13,         402:2, 427:25,         428:4,         428:8           403:20, 517:1         358:24, 361:21,         338:12,         428:4,         428:4,           403:20, 517:1         358:24, 361:21,         338:12,         378:11,         387:25,           403:20, 517:1         358:24, 361:21, <th>469:22</th> <td></td> <td>490:25, 491:16,</td> <td></td>	469:22		490:25, 491:16,	
294:22, 361:9, 470:14 470:14 495:1, 503:7 analyze 309:3, 324:16 309:3, 324:16 any 315:18, 328:14, 368:9, 499:25 301:10, 301:11, 305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, analyzing 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 322:5, 326:17, 330:12, 337:2, 330:12, 337:2, 330:12, 337:2, 330:24, 299:14, 331:1, 383:12 331:1, 383:13 33	analyst	•	497:25, 511:14,	
## 495:1, 503:7    **anticompetitive**   **a	294:22, 361:9,	_	512:19, 514:4,	
analyzed analyzed analyzed         anticompetitive 50:0:24         521:12, 522:8 anybody         303:25, 305:8, 503:17 appear           315:18, 328:14, 368:9, 499:25         301:10, 301:11, 301:11, 31:13, 516:13 analyzes         302:4, 303:10, 513:13, 516:13 appear         428:8 appearance           305:15, 357:23         303:22, 304:20, 304:20, 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 anchor         303:19, 330:23, 301:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:29, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300:23, 300:19, 300:23, 300	470:14		518:5, 521:4,	
analyzed any 315:18, 328:14, 293:16, 298:8, 368:2, 386:5, 428:8 308:9, 499:25 301:10, 301:11, 513:13, 516:13 305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, anymore analyzing 304:21, 313:6, 466:15, 466:19, 451:1 318:2 3111, 383:12 331:1, 383:1	analyze	- I	521:12, 522:8	
analyzed       any       356:24, 357:21, 368:2, 386:5, 368:9, 499:25       appear       428:8         368:9, 499:25       301:10, 301:11, 301:11, 303:10, 305:15, 357:23       302:4, 303:10, 303:10, 513:13, 516:13       345:3       appearance         305:15, 357:23       303:22, 304:20, 304:20, 304:21, 313:6, 466:15, 466:19, 318:2       322:5, 326:17, 303:23, 303:22, 303:23, 303:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 303:19, 330:23, 333:11, 331:3, 292:14, 292:16, 300:19       appears         anchor       330:19, 330:23, 331:1, 331:3, 292:14, 292:16, 300:19       appears         andrew       333:12, 337:2, 292:24, 298:18, 300:19       appears         442:6       357:24, 358:6, 428:4, 428:8, 428:4, 428:8, 449:11, 494:11,	309:3, 324:16			
315:18, 328:14, 328:16, 298:8, 368:29, 499:25 301:10, 301:11, 471:19, 511:3, 345:33 appearance 305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, 303:22, 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 322:5, 326:17, 303:11, 331:3, 303:23, 303:11, 331:3, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:23, 303:22, 304:21, 313:6, 311:1, 331:3, 303:23, 3	analyzed		356:24, 357:21,	
368:9, 499:25 301:10, 301:11, 302:4, 303:10, 303:22, 304:20, 303:22, 304:21, 313:6, 318:2 302:5, 326:17, 303:11, 383:12 303:19, 330:23, 333:11, 383:12 331:1, 383:12 331:1, 331:3, 292:14, 292:16, 301:10 301:10 303:22, 304:20, 303:22, 304:20, 466:15, 466:19, 514:7 309eared 451:1 3ppears 424:16 47:2, 467:2, 467:6 47:2, 467:6 47:2, 467:6 47:2, 467:6 47:	315:18, 328:14,			
analyzes       302:4, 303:10,       303:22, 304:20,       303:22, 304:20,       303:22, 304:20,       303:22, 304:20,       466:15, 466:19,       451:1       3ppeared       461:1       451:1       3ppears       424:16       428:16       429:11,       427:25,       428:41,       428:18       429:21,       428:18       428:18       428:16       428:14,       428:8,       428:14,       428:8,       428:14,       428:14,       428:14,       428:11,       443:4       428:4,       428:8,       428:11,       428:13,       424:14       428:14       428:13,       424:14       428:14       428:13,       424:14       428:13,       424:14       428:14       428:13, <th>368:9, 499:25</th> <td>•</td> <td></td> <td></td>	368:9, 499:25	•		
305:15, 357:23 303:22, 304:20, 304:21, 313:6, 306:21, 313:6, 318:2 322:5, 326:17, 330:19, 330:23, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:3, 331:1, 331:3, 331:2, 337:2, 326:19 337:6, 342:15, 329:14, 292:16, 321, 301:19, 321:14, 343:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 443:14, 4	analyzes			
analyzing       304:21, 313:6,       466:15, 466:19,       451:1         318:2       322:5, 326:17,       anyone         383:11, 383:12       331:1, 331:3,       292:14, 292:16,         andrew       333:12, 337:2,       292:24, 298:18,       301:19         286:19       337:6, 342:15,       400:23, 427:25,       467:2, 467:6         442:6       357:24, 358:6,       428:4, 428:8,       494:13         annual       358:10, 358:13,       484:14, 494:11,       443:4         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22,       anything       305:6, 448:17,         403:20, 517:1       358:24, 361:21,       299:23, 324:7,       305:6, 448:17,         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22,       anything       305:6, 448:17,         403:21, 375:1,       362:12, 375:1,       333:14, 374:25,       464:12, 509:22,         400:7, 307:18,       384:21, 384:22,       378:11, 387:5,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,         308:3, 345:13,       385:8, 387:3,       466:17, 470:15,       482:19       482:19         383:20, 389:10,       399:16, 403:2,       485:7, 491:7,       291:14, 291:15,         388:19, 464:21,       41:21, 414:23,       496:8, 519:2       292:6, 294:4,         497:10, 505:25,       414:21, 414:	305:15, 357:23			
318:2 anchor 330:19, 330:23, 331:1, 383:12 331:1, 331:3, 33:12, 337:2, 286:19 337:6, 342:15, 355:9, 356:15, 440:6 357:24, 358:16, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:14, 358:16, 428:4, 428:8, 442:16 appended 301:19 appendix 467:2, 467:6 applicability 467:2, 467:6 applicability 443:4 applicable 305:6, 448:17, 494:13 applicable 305:6, 448:17, 433:14, 374:25, 346:17, 470:15, 380:18, 466:13, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 399:9, 299:11, 467:2, 467:6 467:2, 467:6 467:2, 467:6 479:10clust 481:14, 494:11, 494:11 499:13 484:14, 494:11 499:13 484:14, 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 499:13 484:14, 494:11 494:11 499:13 484:14, 494:11 499:13 484:14, 494:11 494:11 499:13 496:13 496:13, 495:16 496:13 496:17, 470:15 496:17, 495:16 496:17 496:18 496:17 496:17 496:18 496:18 496:19 494:18 496:19 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 494:11 496:17 496:18 496:19 494:19 496:19 494:19 494:11 496:18 494:19 496:19 494:19 496:19 494:19 496:19 494:19 494	analyzing	•		
anchor       330:19, 330:23,       anyone       424:16         383:11, 383:12       331:1, 331:3,       292:14, 292:16,       appended         286:19       337:6, 342:15,       299:9, 299:11,       appendix         andy       355:9, 356:15,       400:23, 427:25,       467:2, 467:6         442:6       357:24, 358:6,       428:4, 428:8,       applicability         annual       358:10, 358:13,       484:14, 494:11,       443:4         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22,       anything       305:6, 448:17,         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22,       anything       305:6, 448:17,         379:19       36:12, 375:1,       333:14, 374:25,       464:12, 509:22,         301:7, 307:18,       384:21, 384:22,       378:11, 387:5,       466:13,       510:3, 510:14,         301:7, 307:18,       385:8, 387:3,       466:17, 470:15,       466:17, 470:15,       466:17, 470:15,       486:3, 289:17,         346:24, 353:4,       397:2, 399:7,       483:4, 484:1,       299:14, 291:15,       299:14, 291:15,         389:19, 464:20,       405:6, 408:13,       495:16, 495:25,       496:8, 519:2       298:4, 300:25,         314:15, 326:9,       428:13, 434:3,       428:23,       429:17,       429:19, 296:4,       4294:19, 296:4,	318:2		514:7	
383:11, 383:12 331:1, 331:3, 292:14, 292:16, 292:24, 298:18, 301:19 443:4 46:12, 46:28, 46:12, 46:30 443:4, 494:11 47:40:11 47:40:43:4 404:11 47:40:43:4 401:40:48 44:14 494:11 443:4 494:11 49	anchor		_ <del>_</del>	
andrew       333:12, 337:2, 337:2, 37:2, 37:2, 37:6, 342:15, 37:6, 342:15, 400:23, 427:25, 428:4, 428:8, 428:8, 428:4, 428:8, 484:14, 494:11, 443:4       andy       467:2, 467:6 467:6, 428:4, 428:8, 428:4, 428:8, 484:14, 494:11, 443:4         annual       358:10, 358:13, 484:14, 494:11, 443:4       applicability         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22, 375:1, 358:24, 361:21, 375:1, 333:14, 374:25, 378:11, 387:5, 401:8, 466:13, 378:19, 380:22, 384:6, 384:21, 384:22, 378:11, 387:5, 401:8, 466:13, 378:19, 385:8, 387:3, 466:17, 470:15, 466:17, 470:15, 466:17, 470:15, 470:17, 481:19, 383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2       applicant         383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 514:22, 418:23, 519:20       405:6, 408:13, 427:9, 420:1, 427:9, 428:13, 434:3, 434:3, 434:14, 445:13, 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 445:22, 446:1, 327:12, 327:20, 445:22, 446:1, 380:22, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11, 381:11, 380:22, 380:22, 380:22, 380:18, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:11, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:18, 380:11,	383:11, 383:12	331:1, 331:3,	•	
286:19 andy 337:6, 342:15, 400:23, 427:25, 428:4, 428:8, 428:4, 428:8, 358:10, 358:13, 358:10, 358:13, 358:22, 359:1, 358:20, 358:22, 358:24, 361:21, 358:24, 361:21, 380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 384:21, 384:22, 384:21, 384:22, 383:34, 373:19, 383:20, 389:10, 389:19, 464:20, 497:10, 505:25, 514:21, 514:22, 519:20 answer 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 346:24, 353:4, 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 337:6, 342:15, 400:23, 427:25, 428:4, 428:8, 440:23, 427:10, 484:14, 494:11, 494:11, 494:13 applicability 443:4 applicable 305:6, 448:17, 450:2, 463:22, 464:12, 509:22, 510:3, 510:14, 512:19 applicant 246:17, 470:15, 466:17, 470:15, 470:17, 481:19, 483:4, 484:1, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 anyway 350:12, 377:20, 306:10, 331:12, 334:1, 334:8, 337:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	andrew	333:12, 337:2,		
andy       355:9, 356:15,       400:23, 427:25,       467:2, 467:6         442:6       357:24, 358:6,       428:4, 428:8,       484:14, 494:11,       443:4         345:22, 359:1,       358:14, 358:16,       358:22,       358:24, 361:21,       358:24, 361:21,       333:14, 374:25,       467:2, 467:6       4pplicability         403:20, 517:1       358:20, 358:22,       3mything       305:6, 448:17,       450:2, 463:22,       464:12, 509:22,       464:12, 509:22,       464:12, 509:22,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       512:19       466:17, 470:15,       466:17, 470:15,       466:17, 470:15,       483:4, 484:1,       484:4.       484:11,       484:12, 509:22,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:3, 510:14,       510:19,       466:17, 470:15,       466:17, 470:15,       483:4, 484:1,       484:4, 484:1,       286:3, 289:17,       291:14, 291:15,       292:6, 294:4,       298:4, 300:25,       294:14,       291:14, 291:15,       292:6, 294:4,       298:4, 300:25,       306:10, 331:12,	286:19	337:6, 342:15,		
442:6 annual 357:24, 358:6, 358:10, 358:13, 345:22, 359:1, 358:20, 358:22, 359:19 362:12, 375:1, 362:12, 375:1, 362:12, 375:1, 363:13, 373:19, 363:13, 373:19, 389:19, 464:20, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 497:12, 327:20, 428:4, 428:8, 484:14, 494:11, 494:13 anything 299:23, 324:7, 333:14, 374:25, 378:11, 387:5, 401:8, 466:13, 466:13, 470:17, 481:19, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 anything 305:6, 448:17, 450:2, 463:22, 464:12, 509:22, 510:3, 510:14, 512:19 applicant 306:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 470:17, 481:19, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 anyway 350:12, 377:20, 428:13, 434:3, 434:14, 445:13, 380:5, 380:18, 37:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	andy	355:9, 356:15,		
annual       358:10, 358:13,       484:14, 494:11,       443:4         345:22, 359:1,       358:14, 358:16,       anything       305:6, 448:17,         403:20, 517:1       358:24, 361:21,       333:14, 374:25,       464:12, 509:22,         379:19       362:12, 375:1,       333:14, 374:25,       464:12, 509:22,         301:7, 307:18,       384:21, 384:22,       401:8, 466:13,       512:19         308:3, 345:13,       385:8, 387:3,       466:17, 470:15,       470:17, 481:19,         363:13, 373:19,       397:2, 399:7,       483:4, 484:1,       286:3, 289:17,         383:20, 389:10,       399:16, 403:2,       485:7, 491:7,       291:14, 291:15,         389:19, 464:20,       405:6, 408:13,       495:16, 495:25,       496:8, 519:2       298:4, 300:25,         314:21, 514:22,       415:25, 418:23,       406:8, 519:2       305:6, 448:17,       450:2, 463:22,         401:8, 466:13,       406:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       401:8, 466:13,       40	442:6	357:24, 358:6,		
345:22, 359:1, 403:20, 517:1 358:20, 358:22, anomalies 358:24, 361:21, 379:19 362:12, 375:1, 380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 385:8, 387:3, 346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 387:16, 395:8, 383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 494:13 anything 305:6, 448:17, 450:2, 463:22, 464:12, 509:22, 510:3, 510:14, 512:19 applicant 286:3, 289:17, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 292:6, 294:4, 293:41, 300:25, 305:5, 306:2, 305:5, 306:2, 305:5, 306:2, 305:5, 306:2, 305:5, 306:2, 305:6, 448:17, 450:2, 463:22, 464:12, 509:24, 470:17, 481:19, 485:7, 491:7, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2	annual	358:10, 358:13,		
403:20, 517:1  anomalies  358:20, 358:22, 358:24, 361:21, 379:19  another  380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 384:21, 384:22, 385:8, 387:3, 346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 519:20  answer  314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:22, 446:1, 358:20, 358:22, 361:21, 375:1, 333:14, 374:25, 333:14, 374:25, 464:12, 509:22, 464:12, 509:24, 401:8, 466:13, 400:8, 466:13, 400:8, 466:13, 400:8, 466:17, 470:15, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4 496:8, 519:4	345:22, 359:1,	358:14, 358:16,		
anomalies       358:24, 361:21, 375:1, 362:12, 375:1, 380:22, 384:6, 380:22, 384:6, 384:21, 384:22, 385:8, 387:3, 346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 387:12, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 497:10, 505:25, 510:20       450:2, 463:22, 464:12, 509:22, 509:22, 378:11, 387:5, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 466:17, 470:15, 401:8, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 406:17, 470:15, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:8, 401:1, 401:	403:20, 517:1	358:20, 358:22,		
379:19 another 362:12, 375:1, 380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 384:21, 384:22, 385:8, 387:3, 346:24, 353:4, 397:2, 399:7, 383:20, 389:10, 389:19, 464:20, 405:6, 408:13, 497:10, 505:25, 510:3, 510:14, 512:19 applicant 286:3, 289:17, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 294:19, 296:4, 29	anomalies			
380:22, 384:6, 301:7, 307:18, 384:21, 384:22, 385:8, 387:3, 346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 389:19, 464:20, 405:6, 408:13, 407:10, 505:25, 510:3, 510:14, 512:19  applicant 286:3, 289:17, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2  answer 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:22, 446:1, 378:11, 387:5, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:8, 466:13, 401:10, 381:10, 381:10, 381:11, 510:14, 512:19 applicant 286:3, 289:17, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 anyway 350:12, 377:20, 421:5, 425:21 anywhere 337:21, 334:8, 337:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	379:19			
301:7, 307:18, 308:3, 345:13, 346:24, 353:4, 363:13, 373:19, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 407:10, 505:25, 514:21, 514:22, 512:19 applicant 286:3, 289:17, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 495:16, 495:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 420:1, 427:9, 428:13, 434:3, 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:22, 446:1, 385:8, 387:3, 466:17, 470:15, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 306:10, 331:12, 334:1, 334:8, 337:21, 379:25, 380:5, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11,	another	•		
346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 397:2, 399:7, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 519:20  answer  314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 455:21, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 455:21, 455:21, 455:22, 446:1, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 455:21, 455:22, 446:1, 327:20, 42	301:7, 307:18,	•		
346:24, 353:4, 387:16, 395:8, 397:2, 399:7, 397:2, 399:7, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 519:20  answer  314:15, 326:9, 327:20, 455:2, 465:14, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 465:14, 465:14, 465:25, 465:14, 465:25, 465:26, 465:14, 465:27, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2  anyway  387:16, 395:8, 470:17, 481:19, 483:4, 484:1, 291:14, 291:15, 292:6, 294:4, 292:6, 294:4, 296:8, 519:2  anyway  350:12, 377:20, 426:14, 306:10, 331:12, 377:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11, 381:11,	308:3, 345:13,			applicant
363:13, 373:19, 397:2, 399:7, 399:10, 399:16, 403:2, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 496:4, 294:19, 296:4, 294:19, 296:4, 294:19, 296:4, 296:8, 519:20 420:1, 427:9, 428:13, 434:3, 434:3, 434:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 446:1, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 466:14, 320:2, 476:2, 327:20, 475:20, 475:2, 476:14, 484:1, 484:1, 484:1, 484:1, 485:7, 491:7, 495:16, 495:25, 496:8, 519:2 494:19, 296:4, 294:19, 296:4, 294:19, 296:4, 296:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:8, 519:2 496:10, 306:25, 306:10, 331:12, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11, 379:25, 380:18, 37:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	346:24, 353:4,			
383:20, 389:10, 399:16, 403:2, 405:6, 408:13, 497:10, 505:25, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 519:20 428:13, 434:3, 434:3, 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 455:2, 465:14, 403:2, 455:25, 446:1, 327:20, 427:20,	363:13, 373:19,		•	
497:10, 505:25, 514:21, 514:22, 519:20 <b>answer</b> 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 420:1, 427:9, 428:13, 434:3, 434:14, 445:13, 434:14, 445:13, 445:22, 446:1, 496:8, 519:2 <b>anyway</b> 350:12, 377:20, 421:5, 425:21 <b>anywhere</b> 380:5, 380:18, 380:5, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11,	383:20, 389:10,	•		292:6, 294:4,
497:10, 505:25, 514:21, 514:22, 519:20 <b>answer</b> 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 414:21, 414:23, 415:25, 418:23, 420:1, 427:9, 428:13, 434:3, 434:14, 445:13, 445:22, 446:1, 327:12, 327:20, 414:21, 414:23, 420:1, 427:9, 420:1, 427:9, 421:5, 425:21 <b>anywhere</b> 380:5, 380:18, 337:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	389:19, 464:20,			
305:5, 306:2, 305:5, 306:2, 306:10, 331:12, 314:15, 326:9, 314:15, 327:20, 327:12, 327:20, 350:12, 377:20, 421:5, 425:21 34:14, 445:13, 445:22, 446:1, 380:5, 380:18, 37:21, 379:25, 381:10, 381:11,	497:10, 505:25,	•		
answer 314:15, 326:9, 327:12, 327:20, 428:13, 434:3, 421:5, 425:21 334:1, 334:8, 337:21, 379:25, 380:5, 380:18, 380:5, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11,	514:21, 514:22,			305:5, 306:2,
314:15, 326:9, 434:14, 445:13, anywhere 337:21, 379:25, 380:5, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11,	519:20			
327:12, 327:20, 445:22, 446:1, 380:5, 380:18, 381:10, 381:11,	answer	•	1	
200 22 476 2	314:15, 326:9,			
363:23, 385:18,	327:12, 327:20,			
	363:23, 385:18,	450:2, 462:14,	300:23, 4/0:3,	384:12, 401:20,

```
418:4, 430:14,
                     apply
                                          308:25, 309:7,
                                                               351:6, 352:20,
431:16, 431:20,
                     316:20, 354:10,
                                          311:8, 311:14,
                                                               353:6, 354:15,
431:22, 433:17,
                                          312:12, 313:6,
                     355:20, 388:23,
                                                               356:20, 362:3,
436:19, 436:23,
                                          316:3, 316:9,
                                                               362:4, 362:7,
                     413:22, 510:6
                                                               362:10, 362:15,
459:24, 460:22,
                                          316:13, 319:11,
                     applying
467:12, 469:15,
                                          319:15, 320:3,
                                                               364:1, 364:2,
                     318:9, 318:10,
469:23, 474:10,
                                          325:3, 325:12,
                                                               364:11, 364:13,
                     319:23
499:4, 506:10,
                                          326:11, 326:12,
                                                               364:18, 364:22,
                     appraisal
507:16, 511:23
                                          326:16, 332:16,
                                                               364:23, 364:24,
                     336:11
                                                               365:3, 365:4,
                                          350:15, 355:3,
applicant's
                     appreciate
                                          388:3, 450:24,
                                                               365:5, 365:10,
289:27, 392:19,
                     421:4, 436:6,
392:20, 393:6
                     437:14, 441:20,
                                          458:3, 460:6,
                                                               365:11, 365:12,
                                                               365:16, 367:6,
                                          461:8, 462:9,
applicants
                     442:3, 520:10,
                                          468:22, 484:14,
                                                               368:6, 368:10,
294:11, 300:6,
                     520:16
                                                               368:18, 368:21,
                                          496:18, 497:7,
301:16, 433:19,
                     appreciated
                                          498:14
                                                               368:25, 369:5,
435:12
                     421:11
                                                               369:6, 369:7,
                                          approves
applicant's
                     approach
                                                               369:13, 369:15,
                                          475:11
289:15, 289:16,
                     338:12, 357:6,
                                                               369:25, 371:5,
                                          approximately
290:38
                     357:23
                                                               371:8, 374:22,
                                          325:5, 343:23,
application
                     approaching
                                                               375:5, 375:14,
284:6, 288:4,
                                          351:11, 354:12,
                     453:1
                                                               377:23, 381:14,
289:19, 290:9,
                                          354:25, 381:18,
                     appropriate
                                                               381:17, 381:19,
                                          405:21, 443:9
290:43, 291:5,
                     332:12, 367:12,
                                                               408:25, 409:7,
                                          april
291:6, 291:11,
                     437:5, 438:4,
                                          328:5, 440:24,
                                                               410:5, 410:10,
291:14, 291:25,
                     448:3, 470:22
297:23, 298:2,
                                                               413:4, 413:9,
                                          440:25, 441:2,
                     approval
                                                               420:16, 422:4,
                                          443:16, 498:12,
298:4, 298:5,
                     288:20, 288:31,
                                                               422:11, 423:5,
298:16, 310:17,
                                          498:14, 518:17,
                     288:43, 309:9,
                                                               424:2, 425:8,
368:15, 381:12,
                                          519:22, 519:25
                     318:21, 324:23,
                                                               425:10, 469:25,
428:5, 431:8,
                                          arbitration
                     324:24, 325:1,
                                                               478:7, 479:18,
431:9, 431:12,
                                          511:5
                     325:13, 382:21,
                                                               479:19, 479:24,
431:18, 431:24,
                                          architect
                     393:3, 393:4,
                                                               480:7, 502:19,
432:16, 432:17,
                                          290:39
                     430:6, 430:17,
                                                               504:10, 505:1,
432:20, 433:2,
                                          architectural
                     449:14, 450:3,
                                                               514:18, 516:10,
433:9, 433:11,
                                          289:13
                     450:4, 460:2,
                                                               516:12, 517:13
460:20, 461:20,
                                          area
                     460:25, 462:1,
                                                               areas
491:24, 498:18,
                                          304:11, 309:1,
                     464:20, 499:24,
                                                               339:21, 369:13,
500:2, 500:24,
                                          311:19, 312:10,
                     500:23, 501:24
501:12, 502:18,
                                                               370:16, 407:14,
                                          318:19, 318:23,
                     approvals
                                                               417:16, 455:8,
507:10, 511:18,
                                          318:25, 336:12,
                     327:9, 466:9,
                                                               480:4, 480:7,
511:19, 512:4,
                                          338:20, 338:21,
                     512:19
                                                               497:6, 516:17
514:21
                                          338:23, 339:1,
                     approve
                                                               aren't
applications
                                          339:3, 339:9,
                     380:22, 462:12,
                                                               339:17, 342:15,
509:20
                                          340:1, 340:18,
                     464:16, 476:8,
                                                               354:4, 361:16,
applied
                                          341:2, 341:6,
                     481:25
                                                               365:15, 455:14,
317:2, 511:13,
                                          342:18, 342:21,
                     approved
                                                               506:15
513:24
                                          342:25, 343:1,
                     288:24, 295:14,
                                                               arque
applies
                                          348:23, 349:4,
                     295:15, 307:14,
                                                               341:8, 456:15,
388:10, 388:14
```

		<u> </u>	
458:15	470:20, 470:25,	attached	357:5, 370:24,
argued	472:7	304:7, 393:5,	375:5, 377:22,
496:4	asking	433:20, 470:8,	413:21, 507:18,
argues	327:23, 332:3,	501:10	513:5, 515:22,
502:2	341:9, 375:1,	attachment	517:14
arguing	423:21, 431:8,	381:12, 414:9	avenue
453:11, 454:16,	432:15, 437:9,	attachments	285:7, 286:6
461:15, 461:18,	437:25, 493:18	289:26, 290:33,	average
507:19	aspect	290:44, 301:18,	352:4, 352:8,
argument	411:14, 415:12	304:25, 305:2,	354:8, 354:9,
302:22, 304:2,	aspects	410:16, 444:23,	354:14, 354:16,
327:11, 327:22,	303:3	445:17, 446:9	354:17, 379:18
343:8, 435:4,	aspen	attachments(exhi-	averaged
456:11, 456:17,	304:12, 469:9	bits	379:10
460:10, 491:4,	asphalt	290:49	averages
500:14, 500:15,	509:8	attend	372:9
501:2, 515:11	assess	295:3	avoid
argumentation	444:9	attended	293:4, 299:18,
449:18, 472:18	assist	520:5	456:9
arguments	293:17	attention	avoiding
287:25, 456:15,	assistance	433:6, 509:7	479:13
499:2, 508:2	520:11	attorney	aware
aries	associated	469:3, 486:18	358:13, 358:23,
292:10, 300:9	317:13	attorneys	358:24, 360:25,
arithmetic	associates	434:8, 434:22,	490:23, 490:25
419:7, 440:10	306:20	473:8, 499:2	away
ark	association	attributed	502:7, 502:8,
292:9, 300:8	304:11, 343:21,	340:5	502:22, 509:7
around	345:7, 506:25	audio	awhile
334:3, 341:6,	associations	521:8, 522:4	511:9
353:13, 363:6,	288:11, 370:14	authority	B
370:9, 402:25,	assume	303:5, 448:19,	back
405:17, 417:16,	315:22, 333:12,	448:25, 462:11,	296:1, 299:12,
477:23, 491:10,	364:14, 403:19,	462:24, 465:2,	301:11, 307:11,
515:25	499:4	482:15	315:4, 317:18,
arrangements 300:17	assumes	authorization	318:15, 320:3,
articles	365:19	288:14, 288:15	331:17, 340:8,
377:7	assuming	automobile	341:15, 341:19,
aside	412:24, 422:19,	291:12, 298:3,	346:12, 364:9,
491:15	425:16, 472:13,	430:9, 475:4	376:10, 376:19,
491:15 asked	472:14	availability	384:11, 386:2,
293:25, 330:22,	assuring	340:15, 342:14,	386:20, 391:11,
345:20, 357:8,	458:23 <b>at-the-time</b>	355:16, 363:5,	395:4, 395:11,
363:1, 380:2,	450:23	388:7, 468:25,	397:8, 401:13,
391:1, 415:3,		470:12, 499:20,	402:1, 410:6,
419:18, 428:10,	attach	503:23, 513:9 available	411:4, 412:12,
435:7, 444:25,	303:10, 303:13, 304:20	338:22, 343:10,	415:9, 416:15,
133.7, 111.23,	304:20	330:22, 343:10,	
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

```
been
                                                               402:23, 429:3,
417:6, 418:6,
                     368:25, 384:15,
425:19, 428:20,
                     387:9, 411:13,
                                          302:15, 309:24,
                                                               433:3, 434:4,
428:21, 437:20,
                     413:10, 445:10,
                                          310:19, 316:13,
                                                               445:22, 460:11,
448:18, 449:16,
                     445:12, 448:5,
                                                               460:15, 465:20,
                                          326:12, 334:21,
                                                               471:24, 474:12,
457:4, 457:6,
                     465:24, 487:24,
                                          347:13, 351:2,
460:7, 460:25,
                     489:9, 492:1,
                                          368:15, 372:1,
                                                               482:3, 493:14,
461:9, 466:9,
                     503:21, 505:19,
                                          377:5, 387:21,
                                                               521:2
475:1, 477:12,
                     508:9, 516:23,
                                          393:22, 401:17,
                                                               beg
481:20, 484:18,
                     518:24, 519:3
                                          406:8, 406:13,
                                                               297:18, 373:23,
494:25, 495:20,
                                          420:4, 432:11,
                     basic
                                                               439:22
495:23, 509:11,
                     351:9, 499:15
                                          435:2, 436:4,
                                                               begin
512:20
                     basically
                                          442:1, 442:22,
                                                               443:2
                                          443:1, 443:7,
background
                     315:2, 359:6,
                                                               beginning
394:7, 406:20,
                                          443:10, 443:21,
                     408:24, 409:17,
                                                               364:21
406:22, 443:3,
                     415:10, 416:6,
                                          446:2, 448:12,
                                                               behalf
                                          450:9, 450:11,
                     443:22, 507:23
465:23
                                                               286:3, 286:10,
bad
                                          452:18, 456:2,
                     basis
                                                               292:9, 300:8,
                     303:21, 311:12,
                                          458:25, 461:4,
477:17
                                                               494:8, 504:13
                                          461:13, 462:6,
baltimore
                     337:15, 345:1,
                                                               behind
                                          462:7, 465:20,
                     359:1, 362:24,
304:10
                                                               386:11, 386:20,
                                          466:21, 467:1,
ban
                     364:20, 365:22,
                                                               401:18, 404:25,
                     375:16, 376:24,
                                          467:18, 467:23,
418:22
                                                               502:7
                                          481:6, 481:11,
                     377:4, 409:19,
bank
                                                               being
                                          481:14, 481:18,
                     449:7, 506:6,
419:5
                                                               293:7, 295:14,
                                          481:19, 482:17,
barbara
                     517:1
                                                               300:22, 302:17,
                     bathroom
                                          483:25, 488:2,
446:6
                                                               302:20, 302:21,
                                          490:12, 490:15,
                     391:7, 391:15
                                                               302:23, 304:1,
bard
                                          490:21, 491:22,
                     bathrooms
                                                               304:2, 320:10,
461:5
                                          492:10, 497:2,
                     344:21, 372:20
                                                               320:12, 344:7,
barrier
                                          498:1, 506:12,
                     bays
                                                               355:14, 359:1,
363:20
                                          507:4, 509:5,
                     343:17
                                                               371:7, 374:22,
base
                                          509:6, 511:8,
                                                               383:15, 390:21,
                     bear
364:18, 401:10,
                                          519:13, 519:14
                     378:3, 426:12,
                                                               392:1, 416:19,
416:22, 416:23,
                                          beer
                                                               427:2, 435:7,
                     505:22
417:15
                                          399:12, 404:6,
                                                               444:17, 445:7,
based
                     bearing
                                          451:4
                                                               445:11, 456:10,
                     515:10
311:11, 312:2,
                                          before
                                                               476:25, 484:10,
312:8, 315:6,
                     bearings
                                          284:10, 285:19,
                                                               489:9, 491:9,
                     396:2
319:13, 319:15,
                                          300:20, 302:13,
                                                               497:14
319:17, 320:15,
                     became
                                          316:24, 330:4,
                                                               belief
320:25, 321:3,
                     317:11, 443:13,
                                          334:21, 335:3,
                                                               377:1
                     443:23, 451:5
322:10, 332:1,
                                          335:11, 335:12,
                                                               believe
334:25, 338:22,
                     become
                                          337:17, 354:18, 361:7, 367:22,
339:8, 342:19,
                                                               295:4, 302:10,
                     389:14, 472:15
343:4, 345:3,
                                                               311:2, 312:6,
                     becomes
                                          367:23, 384:9,
                                                               313:20, 317:2,
345:6, 348:23,
                     486:20
                                          389:3, 392:11,
                                                               318:21, 318:22,
351:19, 352:6,
                     becoming
                                          392:18, 394:22,
354:17, 362:25,
                                                               319:19, 320:1,
                     372:20
                                          397:16, 398:17,
                                                               323:3, 325:1,
363:4, 363:21,
                     bedroom
                     351:15
```

	Conducted on iv		00
325:8, 329:16,	best	blend	514:13, 514:16,
330:2, 330:25,	340:2, 369:19,	347:24	518:6
333:21, 335:25,	520:21, 521:9,	block	board's
342:3, 353:4,	522:6		429:6, 431:13,
354:13, 354:15,	bethesda		433:13, 445:21,
358:18, 361:14,	286:7	363:4	446:15, 446:16,
364:17, 366:25,	better	blocks	448:24, 449:5,
377:21, 377:24,	386:16, 428:2,		450:7, 457:1,
383:2, 383:9,	468:1, 468:2	,	457:2, 464:15,
384:2, 391:17,	between	362:24	465:2, 466:11,
393:3, 395:2,	290:18, 290:27,	board	497:20, 501:24
395:10, 395:17,			boards
396:17, 402:7,		290:23, 303:3,	301:25, 303:25,
402:13, 402:20,	345:21, 351:2,		305:8, 335:20
415:1, 421:6,	369:4, 388:16,		board's
421:16, 426:2,	388:20, 391:5,		289:8, 289:9,
427:4, 429:23,	402:7, 415:15	,	289:10
440:4, 440:12,	beverage	,	boat
441:2, 443:3,	304:10	429:14, 429:17,	461:10
451:17, 452:19,	beyond	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	bob
459:20, 464:8,	438:2, 477:20,	•	292:5, 300:4,
464:21, 465:9,	484:12		452:19, 454:8,
473:21, 479:14,	big		455:6, 457:2,
480:5, 482:12,	344:9, 373:7,		469:4, 474:18,
482:17, 490:4,	479:25, 513:6		475:6, 476:8,
497:19, 497:20,	bigger		479:1, 481:8,
498:7, 499:7,	341:9, 372:21	447:9, 447:22,	483:14, 484:9,
499:11, 500:18,	bill	447:24, 448:7,	485:15, 486:9,
501:11, 506:2,	379:4, 379:14	448:11, 448:13,	486:16, 487:19,
506:20, 507:17,	binding	448:16, 448:19,	488:23, 490:9,
508:24	301:24, 302:1,		491:3, 491:8,
believes	302:5, 303:18,	451:24, 451:25,	493:23, 495:1
500:11	303:19, 303:22,		bodies
below	305:6, 326:5,	•	303:17
354:17, 381:9,	326:16, 326:22,		body
409:21	326:23, 327:7,		329:9, 335:3,
beneficial	327:8, 511:5	463:17, 463:22,	337:18
302:4	bit	463:24, 464:8,	boggled
benefit	307:5, 317:16,	467:4, 467:14,	317:16
294:6, 420:23	398:13, 402:14,	480:19, 481:13,	bonus
benefits	407:7, 412:14,	481:16, 481:24,	346:14, 346:16
509:5	456:2, 463:11,	482:6, 485:4,	border
bennet	463:12, 463:13,	494:17, 498:14,	409:11
289:18	505:3, 514:3	500:1, 501:20,	borderline
bennett	blah	502:14, 503:2,	409:10
290:39, 339:5,	476:13	503:17, 506:23,	both
370:17	blank	509:20, 510:3,	304:11, 311:17,
beside	484:13	510:7, 510:16,	311:21, 311:25,
515:20	101.10		<u> </u>

	Conducted on iv		~ ~
312:6, 312:8,	bringing	519:21	calls
316:3, 435:20,	387:15, 457:8	businesses	330:18, 340:17,
441:3, 467:10,	broad	399:10, 411:3	499:18
491:1, 503:17,	336:6	buy	came
504:12, 518:19	broad-stroke	347:6, 380:6,	335:14, 410:20,
bottom	449:8	426:9, 505:5	414:2, 415:19,
331:16, 359:22,	build	buying	433:5, 471:24,
373:9, 386:7,	414:15	367:15	491:5
442:5, 444:24,	builder	bypass	camera
493:6, 507:4	489:9	368:2	292:15, 293:1,
bought	builders	С	293:2, 299:16,
401:23, 402:1,	445:2	cadence	299:17
402:7, 471:6,	building	398:17	can't
508:11	285:8, 386:11,	calculate	319:14, 324:7,
boundaries	401:6, 401:9,		335:8, 363:8,
339:12	403:13, 480:13,	315:5, 315:25, 319:15, 319:16,	364:13, 364:15,
boundary	496:17	346:3, 378:13,	377:6, 377:9,
339:14, 365:16,	buildings	422:8, 424:17	377:15, 403:15,
369:23, 369:24,	386:10, 395:4,	calculated	405:2, 418:25,
370:2	401:4, 401:6,	319:13, 321:25	421:9, 470:14,
box	508:18	calculation	475:21, 475:23,
398:9, 479:25,	built	338:14, 412:23	483:4, 486:2,
512:17	350:15, 351:3,	calculations	512:13
brands	353:10, 353:11,	315:2, 321:18,	cancel
371:19	409:16, 416:20	328:22, 423:17,	295:15
break	bunch	516:23	canopies
324:18, 391:5,	491:9	calendar	375:12
391:8, 391:10,	burden	437:25, 438:25,	canopy
391:15, 392:5,	291:14, 294:5,	439:6, 439:7,	354:4, 372:19
392:7	298:5, 511:23,	440:1, 440:5,	capacities
brewer	517:15	519:21	358:6, 411:15,
286:5, 292:6,	burn	call	414:16
300:5, 450:14,	422:22	291:3, 293:17,	capacity
450:15, 454:22	business	306:2, 321:11,	290:15, 358:7,
bridge	336:17, 337:11,	334:2, 369:14,	380:21, 381:2,
437:8	403:2, 403:21,	390:20, 393:10,	409:14, 409:20,
brief	404:19, 404:20,	408:7, 429:22,	409:22, 410:1,
338:4, 443:2,	404:23, 409:19,	436:12, 439:18,	410:11, 411:10,
447:15, 468:19,	419:22, 434:11,	452:16, 454:21,	412:19, 413:20,
517:24	434:20, 436:24,	490:19, 490:20	421:25, 423:19,
briefed	436:25, 437:2,	called	423:20, 424:17,
388:19, 509:17	437:24, 439:1,	297:21, 305:15,	516:21, 516:24
briefer	439:10, 439:13,	336:15, 370:2,	capital
456:23	439:20, 439:23,	452:22, 453:7,	418:25
briefly	440:6, 440:8,	469:2, 511:24	caps
406:19	440:15, 440:19,	calling	378:17
bring	440:21, 471:25,	369:24	capture
331:15, 506:11	473:5, 519:20,		339:24, 360:16,

361:2         503:18, 504:23, 505:15, 502:9, 504:9, 507:16, 505:16, 505:20, 507:16, 505:16, 505:20, 507:16, 501:11, 508:15, 508:20         361:20         505:16, 505:20, 507:5, 508:10, 508:10, 508:11, 387:4, 387:6, 517:7, 521:12, 508:10, 508:10, 508:10, 389:19         319:14, 225:10, 508:12, 319:14, 225:10, 508:19, 508:10, 508:18, 508:20         319:14, 225:10, 319:14, 225:10, 451:7         377:16, 387:14, 387:14, 387:14, 387:14, 387:14, 387:14, 389:19         304:19, 304:12, 621:10,			naich 0, 2023		
capturing         504:25, 505:15, 505:20, 507:15, 508:10, 507:16, 505:20, 507:16, 505:20, 507:16, 505:20, 507:15, 508:10, 508:15, 508:12, 319:14, 325:10, 319:14, 387:14, 387:14, 387:16, 512:12, 521:13, 501:14, 521:	361:2	503:18, 504:23,	479:12, 490:24,	483:18	
360:20					
car         507:16, 511:11, 513:18, 514:9, centered         319:14, 325:10, 338:25, 338:14, 387:6, 517:7, 521:12, 451:7         319:14, 325:10, 37:18, 387:14, 388:19           care         cases         centers         394:25, 424:22, 422:2, 422:18         304:13, 304:16, 467:20         451:7, 481:10, 482:16, 482:13         451:7, 481:10, 582:10, 621:12, 583:12, 383:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:16         457:7, 481:10, 582:10, 583:12, 583:12, 583:12, 583:18, 582:13, 583:18				316:5, 318:25,	
311:23, 355:11, 387:16, 517:7, 521:12, 451:7 377:18, 387:14, 387:16, 522:9 care cases 394:25, 424:22, 497:18 304:13, 304:16, 467:20 central 482:13 369:14, 469:5, carey 469:7, 503:17, 503:18, 366:17 carpooling categorized 336:25, 337:1, 338:18, 338:18, 338:17 carpooling categorized 336:25, 337:1, 366:22, 481:6 carry 409:4, 308:8, 308:23, 339:22, 339:24, 409:4, 409:4, 405:16 480:7, 483:19, 468:17, 488:10, carrying 339:22, 339:24, 388:10 481:18, 488:24 changes 386:12, 422:19 362:10, 362:16, 388:4, 349:13, 362:24, 363:4, 399:12, 399:10 435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23 changes 399:10, 299:15, 299:17, 302:19, 503:17, 302:19, 503:8, 303:9, 302:16, 302:19, 302:19, 303:18, 303:9, 302:16, 303:18, 303:19, 303:21, 303:18, 303:19, 303:21, 303:18, 303:19, 303:21, 303:19, 303:22, 299:11, 303:8, 303:9, 322:16, 324:10, 338:10, 336:24 approximate and solve					
389:19 522:9 centers 377:18, 387:14, 389:19 522:9 centers 379:425, 424:22, 22.9 centers 379:18 304:9, 304:12, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:14, 25:15, 25:14, 25:1	311:23, 355:11,		centered		
389:19         522:9         centers         394:25, 424:22,           497:18         304:9, 304:12,         central         482:10,         487:77, 481:10,           497:18         304:9, 304:12,         central         482:13         482:13         304:13, 304:16,         467:20         501:23, 510:6         482:13           carey         469:7, 503:17,         400:6, 400:11         318:3, 335:18,         certain         450:10, 451:1,         450:10, 451:1,           carpooling         512:10         338:6, 339:13,         467:22, 481:6         changes           367:1         category         363:6, 367:3,         290:4, 308:23,           353:4, 409:4,         ceased         387:1, 389:12,         359:17, 449:3,           carry         405:16         480:7, 483:9,         464:14, 481:16,           carrying         339:22, 339:24,         339:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         481:18, 488:24           carrying         339:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         468:14, 481:16,         481:18, 488:24           carrying         382:2, 382:15,         382:10, 362:16,         383:4, 346:16,         450:24           carrying         362:10, 362:16,         383:4, 346:16,         450:24           carrying         362:10, 362:16, <td></td> <td></td> <td>451<b>:</b>7</td> <td>377:18, 387:14,</td> <td></td>			451 <b>:</b> 7	377:18, 387:14,	
care         cases         304:9, 304:12, and solid to the properties of the pr	The state of the s		centers		
497:18         304:9, 304:12, 20:416, 467:20         501:23, 510:6           482:13         304:13, 304:16, 467:20         501:23, 510:6           482:13         369:14, 469:5, 20:41         cents         changed           336:17         503:18         certain         450:10, 451:1, 451:1, 20:10           367:1         512:10         38:6, 39:13, 290:4, 308:23, 353:4, 409:4, 409:4, 314:3         372:17, 379:1, 312:12, 352:9, 367:3, 409:8         290:4, 308:23, 39:13, 290:4, 409:3, 409:4         290:4, 409:3, 409:4, 405:16         480:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 464:7, 468:3, 469:16, 480:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 489:12, 359:17, 449:3, 468:16, 489:16, 489:24, 339:25, 342:21, 303:18, 305:23, 481:16, 488:24, 349:13, 307:9, 327:19, 396:1,	care	cases	353:12, 383:16		
### 482:13  ### 369:14, 469:5,	497:18	304:9, 304:12,		482:6, 497:16,	
482:13         369:14, 469:5, 200:11         cents         changed           carey         469:7, 503:17, 503:17         cortain         450:10, 451:1, 450:10, 451:1, 450:10           336:17         503:18         certain         450:10, 451:1, 467:22, 481:6           367:1         512:10         338:6, 339:13, changes           carroll         category         363:6, 367:3, 39:13, changes           353:4, 409:4, 409:4, 409:8         ceased         37:17, 379:1, 312:12, 352:9, 359:17, 49:3, 37:17, 379:1, 312:12, 352:9, 379:10         306:16, 367:3, 39:12, 359:17, 49:3, 362:12, 359:17, 49:3, 369:12, 359:17, 49:3, 369:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:12, 359:15, 339:24, 349:13, 307:9, 327:19, 396:1, 396:12, 396:12, 390:23, 392:15, 369:12, 362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, 459:14, 450:24         481:18, 488:24         480:14, 481:16, 450:24           carrying         362:19, 362:12, 390:23, 392:15, 389:15, 379:10         362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, 459:14, 450:24         450:24         450:24           case         379:10         459:10, 461:7, 461:7, 461:23         459:10, 461:7, 461:23         459:14, 45	carefully	304:13, 304:16,	467:20	501:23, 510:6	
336:17         503:18         certain         450:10, 451:1, 467:22, 481:6           carpooling         categorized         336:25, 337:1, 467:22, 481:6         467:22, 481:6           367:1         category         363:6, 367:3, 290:4, 308:23, 37:1, 353:4, 409:4, 409:8         ceased         387:1, 389:12, 352:9, 352:9, 449:3, 220:4, 409:8           carry         405:16         480:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 469:14, 481:16, certainly         468:14, 481:16, 488:24           carrying         339:22, 339:24, 24, 281:1, 303:18, 305:23, 392:15, 362:10, 362:10, 362:11, 307:9, 327:19, 396:1, 396:2, 439:12, 309:23, 392:15, 450:24         changing           carving         362:10, 362:11, 308:21, 390:23, 392:15, 458:19, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:10, 461:7, 489:4, 439:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23           464:2         362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23         459:10, 461:7, 461:23           291:5, 294:7, 294:10, 295:5, 307:9, 307:14, 296:22, 298:11, 317:10, 320:19, 521:1, 522:1         521:1, 522:1 522:1 522:1         522:11, 522:1 522:1           304:8, 303:9, 303:9, 322:16, 324:10, 308:21, 336:20, 336:24, 320:5         323:23, 323:24, 320:5         323:23, 323:24, 320:5           304:8, 305:13, 342:7, 342:23, 306:17, 306:18, 338:14, 338:18, 381:14, 383:18, 381:14, 383:18, 381:14, 383:18, 381:14, 383:13, 362:24, 362:22, 288:5         366:1, 308:21, 395:16, 398:7, 398:7, 398:16, 398:7, 398:14, 499:3, 419:4 52:22         504:22         288:5         504:22         288:5           30	_	369:14, 469:5,	cents	changed	
336:17         503:18         categorized         336:25, 337:1,         450:10, 451:1,         467:22, 481:6           367:1         512:10         338:6, 339:13,         changes           carroll         314:3         372:17, 379:1,         312:12, 352:9,           369:4         409:4,         409:4         405:16         480:7, 483:9,         464:7, 468:3,           carry         405:16         480:7, 483:9,         464:7, 468:3,         468:14, 481:16,           carrying         339:22, 339:24,         480:10         481:18, 488:24           439:25         339:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         changing           cars         348:24, 349:13,         307:9, 327:19,         396:1, 396:2,           367:2, 422:19         362:10, 362:16,         388:4, 346:16,         450:24           carying         362:19, 362:21,         390:23, 392:15,         458:19, 459:4,           464:2         362:10, 362:16,         388:4, 346:16,         459:10, 461:7,           288:6, 289:20,         291:1, 290:22,         504:23, 520:18         459:10, 461:7,           294:10, 295:5,         307:91,         307:10,         336:20, 336:24         232:23, 323:24,           304:8, 303:9,         322:16, 324:10,         326:21,         365:20, 363:24	carey	469:7, 503:17,	400:6, 400:11	318:3, 335:18,	
367:1         512:10         338:6, 339:13,         changes           carroll         category         363:6, 367:3,         290:4, 308:23,           353:4, 409:4,         ceased         372:17, 379:1,         312:12, 352:9,           409:8         ceased         387:1, 389:12,         359:17, 449:3,           carry         405:16         480:7, 483:9,         464:7, 468:3,           514:14         census         508:10         468:14, 481:16,           carrying         339:22, 339:24,         certainly         481:18, 488:24           439:25         339:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         changing           cars         348:24, 349:13,         307:9, 327:19,         396:12, 396:2,           367:2, 422:19         362:10, 362:16,         338:4, 346:16,         450:24           carving         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         458:19, 459:4,           464:2         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         458:19, 459:4,           288:6, 289:20,         290:11, 290:22,         504:23, 520:18         204:23, 520:18         232:23, 323:24,           291:5, 294:7,         290:11, 290:22,         504:23, 520:18         232:21         322:10, 324:10,           303:8, 303:9,         332:6, 324:10,         32	_	503:18		450:10, 451:1,	
367:1         512:10         338:6, 339:13, 290:4, 308:23, 353:4, 409:4,         category         363:6, 367:3, 379:1, 312:12, 352:9, 379:1, 389:12, 352:9, 387:1, 389:12, 359:17, 449:3, 460:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 460:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 460:14, 481:16, 480:7, 483:9, 464:7, 468:3, 460:14, 481:16, 481:18, 481:1	carpooling	categorized	336:25, 337:1,	467:22, 481:6	
353:4, 409:4, 314:3		512:10	338:6, 339:13,	changes	
353:4, 409:4, d09:4, d09:8 ceased 37:17, 379:1, 379:1, 359:17, 449:3, descry 405:16 480:7, 483:9, de4:7, 468:3, 514:14 census 508:10 480:7, 483:9, de4:7, 468:3, de4:7, 468:3, de4:7, 468:3, de4:7, 468:14, 481:16, dearwing 339:22, 339:24, dearwing 348:24, 349:13, 307:9, 327:19, 396:1, 396:2, 396:2, dearwing 362:10, 362:16, 388:4, 346:16, dearwing 362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, dearwing 464:2 362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, dearwing 464:2 379:10 dearwing 455:23, day defined and dearwing 464:2 362:24, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, dearwing 459:10, de1:7, dearwing 459:10, 295:15, 307:9, 307:14, d25:23, d37:16, d49:10, 295:15, 307:9, 307:14, d25:23, d37:16, d49:10, d29:15, 294:7, 294:10, 295:15, 307:9, 307:14, dearwing 464:0, 304:7, 304:8, 305:13, 308:21, 349:7, 342:7, 342:23, day dearwing 464:0, day dearwing 464:0, day dearwing 464:0, day dearwing 464:0, day dearwing 464:2 dea		category			
409:8         ceased         387:1, 389:12, 459:17, 449:3, 466:7, 468:3, 514:14           carrying         339:22, 339:24, 339:24, 339:25, 342:21, 303:18, 305:23, 26hanging         39:25, 349:21, 307:9, 327:19, 362:10, 362:16, 388:4, 346:16, 458:19, 459:4, 362:24, 363:4, 399:23, 392:15, 458:19, 459:4, 379:10         362:10, 362:11, 390:23, 392:15, 458:19, 459:4, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23           291:5, 294:7, 290:11, 290:22, 294:10, 295:5, 307:9, 307:14, 297:22, 298:11, 317:10, 320:19, 302:19, 303:10, 303:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 308:21, 349:7, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 308:21, 339:12, 353:25, 355:23, 333:14, 383:14, 383:14, 383:14, 383:13, 332:3, 335:6, 383:11, 383:13, 332:14, 390:19, 300:19,					
carry         405:16         480:7, 483:9,         464:7, 468:3,           514:14         census         508:10         468:14, 481:16,           carrying         339:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         changing           cars         348:24, 349:13,         307:9, 327:19,         396:1, 396:2,           367:2, 422:19         362:10, 362:16,         338:4, 346:16,         450:24           carving         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         character           464:2         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         458:19, 459:4,           case         379:10         435:23, 437:16,         459:10, 461:7,           288:6, 289:20,         center         473:11, 504:7,         461:23           294:10, 295:5,         307:9, 307:14,         certificate         323:23, 323:24,           297:22, 298:11,         317:10, 320:19,         521:1, 522:1         324:1           304:8, 305:13,         342:7, 342:23,         366:1, 386:24         320:5           304:8, 305:13,         342:7, 342:23,         366:1, 308:21,         353:25, 355:23,         366:17, 306:18,         397:17, 434:13,           338:11, 338:18,         381:14, 383:4,         364:13, 364:15,         288:6         293:12           338:11, 398:19,					
carrying         339:22, 339:24,         certainly         481:18, 488:24           day:25         349:25, 342:21,         303:18, 305:23,         396:1, 396:2,           cars         348:24, 349:13,         307:9, 327:19,         396:1, 396:2,           367:2, 422:19         362:10, 362:16,         338:4, 346:16,         450:24           carving         362:19, 362:21,         390:23, 392:15,         character           464:2         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         458:19, 459:4,           case         379:10         455:23, 437:16,         459:10, 461:7,           288:6, 289:20,         290:11, 290:22,         473:11, 504:7,         461:23           291:5, 294:7,         290:11, 290:22,         504:23, 520:18         charge           294:10, 295:5,         307:9, 307:14,         201:1, 522:1         324:1           303:8, 303:9,         307:10, 320:19,         521:1, 522:1         324:1           304:6, 304:7,         331:6, 341:13,         336:20, 336:24         320:5           304:8, 305:13,         342:7, 342:23,         36:17, 306:18,         36:17, 306:18,           31:1, 314:19,         365:2, 370:10,         336:24         397:17, 434:13,           338:11, 338:18,         381:14, 383:4,         364:13, 364:15,	carry	405:16	480:7, 483:9,	464:7, 468:3,	
439:25       339:25, 342:21,       303:18, 305:23,       changing         367:2, 422:19       362:10, 362:16,       338:4, 346:16,       450:24         carving       362:19, 362:21,       390:23, 392:15,       character         464:2       362:24, 363:4,       393:14, 431:25,       458:19, 459:4,         case       379:10       435:23, 437:16,       459:10, 461:7,         288:6, 289:20,       290:11, 290:22,       504:23, 520:18       charge         291:5, 294:7,       290:11, 290:22,       504:23, 520:18       323:23, 323:24,         297:22, 298:11,       317:10, 320:19,       521:1, 522:1       324:1         303:8, 303:9,       302:16, 324:10,       336:20, 336:24       320:5         304:6, 304:7,       342:7, 342:23,       36:17, 306:18,       320:5         306:1, 308:21,       349:7, 353:17,       288:8, 306:16,       293:12         309:8, 310:21,       353:25, 355:23,       306:17, 306:18,       397:17, 434:13,         338:23, 335:6,       370:11, 370:18,       364:13, 364:15,       288:5         344:16, 345:25,       383:11, 383:13,       364:13, 364:15,       288:5         357:20, 363:21,       395:16, 398:7,       204:14, 522:2       288:5         369:11, 390:19,       407:10, 407:18,	514:14	census	508:10		
439:25         339:25, 342:21, 303:18, 305:23, 396:1, 396:2, 348:24, 349:13, 307:9, 327:19, 360:1, 396:2, 362:10, 362:10, 362:11, 390:23, 392:15, character         362:10, 362:21, 390:23, 392:15, character         450:24         450:24         459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:4, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 437:10, 504:7, 461:23, 504:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:23, 520:18         435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23, 504:24, 520:18         435:23, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 324:1         521:1, 522:1, 522:1, 324:1         521:1, 522:1, 522:1, 324:1         521:1, 522:1, 522:1, 324:1         521	carrying	339:22, 339:24,	certainly		
367:2, 422:19 362:10, 362:16, 390:23, 392:15, 450:24 carving 464:2 379:10 459:10, 461:7, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23 379:10 379:11 379:12 379:13 379		339:25, 342:21,	303:18, 305:23,	5 5	
Carving         362:19, 362:21,         390:23, 392:15,         Character           464:2         362:24, 363:4,         393:14, 431:25,         458:19, 459:4,           288:6, 289:20,         290:11, 290:22,         473:11, 504:7,         461:23           291:5, 294:7,         290:11, 290:22,         504:23, 520:18         charge           294:10, 295:5,         307:9, 307:14,         certificate         323:23, 323:24,           297:22, 298:11,         317:10, 320:19,         521:1, 522:1         324:1           303:8, 303:9,         322:16, 324:10,         certification         chart           304:6, 304:7,         331:6, 341:13,         336:20, 336:24         320:5           304:8, 305:13,         342:7, 342:23,         certified         chat           306:1, 308:21,         353:25, 355:23,         306:16,         293:12           309:8, 310:21,         353:25, 355:23,         306:17, 306:18,         397:17, 434:13,           33:23, 335:6,         370:11, 370:18,         36:24         397:17, 434:13,           33:11, 38:11, 383:13,         36:24         397:17, 434:13,           344:16, 345:25,         383:11, 383:13,         36:24         397:17, 434:13,           35:20:18         certified         check           33:11,	cars	348:24, 349:13,	307:9, 327:19,		
carving       362:19, 362:21, 362:21, 362:24, 363:4, 363:4, 393:14, 431:25, 458:19, 459:4, 459:10       character         464:2       379:10       435:23, 437:16, 459:10, 461:7, 459:10, 461:7, 461:23         288:6, 289:20, 291:5, 294:7, 290:11, 290:22, 291:1, 290:22, 291:1, 290:22, 307:9, 307:14, 297:22, 298:11, 317:10, 320:19, 317:10, 320:19, 317:10, 320:19, 322:16, 324:10, 324:1       certificate 323:23, 323:24, 324:1         303:8, 303:9, 302:16, 324:10, 31:6, 341:13, 36:20, 336:24       certified chat 320:5       chat 320:5         304:8, 305:13, 342:7, 342:23, 349:7, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 31:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24       293:12       333:23         309:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 336:17, 338:11, 338:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:13, 364:15, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 369:11, 390:19, 407:10, 407:18, 347:3       certify 389:14       389:14         309:11, 390:19, 407:20, 408:5, 392:13, 407:20, 408:5, 443:8, 443:14, 482:22, 435:2, 435:2, 443:8, 443:14, 451:8, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15,	367:2, 422:19	362:10, 362:16,	338:4, 346:16,		
464:2     362:24, 363:4,     393:14, 431:25,     458:19, 459:4,       288:6, 289:20,     290:11, 290:22,     473:11, 504:7,     461:23       294:10, 295:5,     307:9, 307:14,     291:11, 522:1     323:23, 323:24,       297:22, 298:11,     317:10, 320:19,     32:11, 522:1     324:1       303:8, 303:9,     322:16, 324:10,     36:20, 336:24     320:5       304:6, 304:7,     331:6, 341:13,     36:20, 336:24     320:5       304:8, 305:13,     349:7, 353:17,     288:8, 306:16,     293:12       309:8, 310:21,     353:25, 355:23,     306:17, 306:18,     397:17, 434:13,       33:23, 335:6,     370:11, 370:18,     36:17, 306:18,     397:17, 434:13,       338:11, 388:18,     381:14, 383:4,     364:13, 364:15,     364:13, 364:15,       344:16, 345:25,     383:11, 383:13,     364:13, 364:15,     389:14       357:20, 363:21,     395:16, 398:7,     36ains     347:3     389:14       390:21, 391:12,     407:10, 407:18,     347:3     389:14       392:6, 392:13,     407:20, 408:5,     419:3, 419:4     424:11       48:22, 435:2,     433:4,     451:8, 452:15,     419:3, 419:4     424:11       48:20, 438:16,     448:11, 458:18,     458:18, 452:15,     415:7     294:7, 294:10,       43:6, 448:17,     458:18, 452:			390:23, 392:15,		
288:6, 289:20, 290:11, 290:22, 307:9, 307:14, 317:10, 320:19, 322:16, 324:10, 336:20, 336:24 320:5 336:1, 308:21, 349:7, 353:17, 369:11, 311:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 338:11, 344:16, 345:25, 388:11, 389:21, 390:20, 408:5, 438, 443:14, 458:28, 443:14, 458:28, 443:14, 458:18, 452:15, 458:218, 452:15, 458:18, 452:15, 458:18, 452:15, 458:18, 452:15, 458:18, 452:15, 458:18, 45					
291:5, 294:7, 307:9, 307:14, 317:10, 320:19, 321:1, 522:1 324:1 323:23, 323:24, 323:8, 303:9, 322:16, 324:10, 336:20, 336:24 320:5 320:18 320:18, 304:8, 305:13, 342:7, 342:23, 328:8, 306:16, 308:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 311:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24 324:19, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 338:11, 338:18, 381:14, 383:4, 363:11, 345:25, 383:11, 383:13, 345:25, 355:26, 383:11, 383:13, 345:25, 355:26, 383:11, 383:13, 383:14, 383:14, 383:4, 364:15, 365:16, 391:12, 390:19, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 417:2, 420:5, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 45ance 323:23, 323:24, 323:24, 323:24, 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 324:1 320:5 320:5 326:24 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:5 320:12 320:5 320	case				
291:5, 294:7, 290:11, 290:22, 307:9, 307:14, 297:22, 298:11, 317:10, 320:19, 322:16, 324:10, 331:6, 341:13, 342:7, 342:23, 320:5 309:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 311:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 383:11, 383:18, 383:11, 383:18, 383:11, 383:18, 383:11, 383:18, 383:11, 383:18, 395:16, 398:7, 395:16, 398:7, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:6, 392:13, 443:8, 443:14, 451:8, 452:15, 433:6, 448:17, 434:17, 434:10, 306:1, 390:19, 477:24.17, 458:11,	288:6, 289:20,				
294:10, 295:5, 307:9, 307:14, 521:1, 522:1 324:1 323:24, 333:8, 303:9, 322:16, 324:10, 336:20, 336:24 certification 320:5 chat 342:7, 342:23, 342:7, 342:23, 362:1, 306:1, 308:21, 353:25, 355:23, 362:17, 306:18, 311:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24 320:5 chat 338:11, 338:18, 331:14, 383:4, 364:15, 364:15, 369:11, 390:19, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 439:22, 438:16, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 443:14, 300:19, 477:10, 407:19, 407:10, 407:19, 408:21, 436:14, 458:18	The state of the s		•		
303:8, 303:9, 322:16, 324:10, 336:20, 336:24 320:5 321:4, 322:7, 342:23, 349:7, 353:17, 288:8, 306:16, 293:12 320:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 331:11, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24 320:5 321:1, 370:11, 370:18, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 381:14, 383:13, 383:11, 383:13, 383:11, 390:19, 395:16, 398:7, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:6, 392:13, 443:8, 443:14, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 415:7 306:1, 390:19, 407:10, 4	294:10, 295:5,				
303:6, 303:9, 304:7, 304:7, 342:23, 336:20, 336:24 chat 320:5 (chat 309:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 36:17, 306:18, 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 383:11, 338:18, 381:14, 383:4, 369:11, 390:19, 407:10, 407:18, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 437:22, 438:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 453:25, 306:17, 306:14, 306:16, 293:12 chat (chat 293:12 chat 306:16, 293:12 chat 306:17, 306:18, 397:17, 434:13, 366:17, 306:18, 397:17, 434:13, 364:15, 364:13, 364:15, 364	297:22, 298:11,				
304:8, 305:13, 342:7, 342:23, 288:8, 306:16, 293:12 309:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:15, 344:16, 345:25, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 369:11, 390:19, 407:10, 407:18, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:6, 392:13, 443:6, 448:17, 478:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 478:18, 4	303:8, 303:9,				
306:1, 308:21, 353:17, 353:17, 353:25, 355:23, 36:17, 306:18, 306:17, 306:18, 311:1, 314:19, 365:2, 370:10, 336:24 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:15, 344:16, 345:25, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 395:16, 398:7, 395:16, 398:7, 390:21, 391:12, 407:10, 407:18, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:13, 428:22, 435:2, 436:4, 443:8, 443:14, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 451:8, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:14, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18	304:6, 304:7,				
309:8, 310:21, 353:25, 355:23, 306:17, 306:18, 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:15, 397:17, 434:19, 381:14, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 395:16, 398:7, 395:16, 398:7, 390:21, 391:12, 407:10, 407:18, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:6, 392:13, 428:22, 435:2, 438:16, 443:8, 443:14, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 458:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 458:16, 45	304:8, 305:13,				
365:2, 370:10, 336:24 397:17, 434:13, 333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:15, 344:16, 345:25, 395:16, 398:7, 395:16, 398:7, 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 392:6, 392:13, 428:22, 435:2, 438:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 438:14, 458:18, 452:15, 438:14, 458:18, 452:14, 458:18, 453:14,	306:1, 308:21,				
333:23, 335:6, 370:11, 370:18, 381:14, 383:4, 364:15, 364:15, 383:11, 383:11, 383:13, 364:15, 357:20, 363:21, 395:16, 398:7, 407:10, 407:18, 347:3 389:14 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 417:2, 420:5, 428:22, 435:2, 438:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 473:14, 458:18, 453	309:8, 310:21,			000	
381:14, 383:4, 364:15, checklist 383:11, 383:13, 364:13, 364:15, 288:5 25, 357:20, 363:21, 395:16, 398:7, 407:10, 407:18, 347:3 389:14 28:22, 435:2, 438:16, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 452:15, 443:8, 448:17, 458:18, 458					
344:16, 345:25, 383:11, 383:13, 521:4, 522:2 288:5 395:16, 398:7, 407:10, 407:18, 407:20, 408:5, 417:2, 420:5, 428:22, 435:2, 436:43, 458:18,	333:23, 335:6,		_		
395:16, 398:7, chains 399:14 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 417:2, 420:5, 419:3, 419:4 428:22, 435:2, 436:16, 443:14, 443:6, 448:17, 458:18, 4					
369:11, 390:19, 407:10, 407:18, 347:3 389:14 390:21, 391:12, 407:20, 408:5, 417:2, 420:5, 419:3, 419:4 344:11 428:22, 435:2, 438:16, 451:8, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:18, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 458:19, 458:11, 458:18, 458:19, 45					
390:21, 391:12, 392:6, 392:13, 428:22, 435:2, 437:22, 438:16, 437:22, 438:16, 438:41, 458:18, 451:8, 452:15, 451:8, 452		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
392:6, 392:13, 417:2, 420:5, 419:3, 419:4 344:11 437:22, 438:16, 443:8, 443:14, 458:15, 458:11, 458:18, 470:15, 470:16					
428:22, 435:2, 437:22, 438:16, 443:8, 443:14, 451:8, 452:15, 458:11, 458:18, 473:14, 458:18, 473:14, 458:18, 473:14			_		
451:8, 452:15, 443:6, 448:17, 458:11, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18, 458:11, 458:18,		• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•		
458:11, 458:18, chance 306:1, 390:19,					
113.0, 110.17, Substitute Substit					
456:15, 472:13, 428:22, 467:11					
	460:18, 499:12,		456:15, 472:13,	428:22, 467:11	

choice	290:14, 290:22,	434:16, 508:12,	387:24, 390:1,
300:25, 367:18	307:13, 319:8,	509:2, 509:19,	449:24, 507:13,
choices	328:14, 331:6,	517:12, 519:24	512:6, 517:5
316:22	339:18, 341:13,	clearly	codes
choose	342:6, 349:6,	303:1	317:13
485:16	352:24, 352:25,	client	cody
choosing	353:9, 353:17,	455:6	285:19, 521:2,
344:13	353:24, 354:3,	client's	521:18
circle	355:23, 361:3,	428:25, 516:22	coe
475:23	365:1, 365:5,	clients	470:24
circulation	365:21, 366:4,	300:1, 357:9,	coffee
289:6, 323:16,	366:5, 366:7,	494:9	389:18
325:15, 325:21,	366:14, 368:20,	clips	colleagues
328:3, 328:4	368:22, 370:10,	471:3	490:1
circumstance	370:18, 376:7,	close	collect
441:24	380:5, 380:11,	294:9, 408:24,	361:20
citation	381:14, 381:16,	427:18, 429:2,	colocated
305:22	383:4, 383:13,	506:6	332:23, 355:6
cite	394:6, 394:11,	closed	color-coded
371:19, 484:18,	394:14, 394:16,	390:19, 415:14,	289:7
512:3	394:18, 394:23,	416:3, 418:9,	colors
cited	395:15, 396:5,	436:9, 519:24	316:6
303:8, 304:10,	396:7, 396:10,	closes	column
305:17	398:7, 399:2,	519:18, 520:13	409:14
citing	399:21, 401:3,	closest	combination
378:10	401:13, 403:17,	352:23, 361:3,	416:24, 418:11,
citizens	406:16, 407:8,	366:1	419:8, 435:4
304:11, 416:10	408:5, 408:7,	closing	combined
city	408:25, 409:1,	287:25, 392:14,	307:15, 321:11,
317:10	414:20, 417:4,	428:23, 434:7,	321:17, 409:22,
civic	417:8, 417:11,	473:2, 499:2,	410:18, 414:3,
288:11	418:17, 418:19,	499:3, 501:5,	414:5, 425:7
civil	422:11, 422:14,	501:6, 506:10,	come
306:20	423:4, 423:5,	517:24, 520:14	296:1, 312:2,
claim	424:3, 424:5,	closure	340:9, 342:22,
455 <b>:</b> 19	425:14, 443:14,	414:24	347:5, 351:18,
clair	452:15, 452:22,	club	355:7, 363:1,
452:19, 452:20	458:8, 458:10,	343:18	363:3, 367:23,
clarification	458:19, 490:24,	clubs	368:24, 369:8,
437:16, 495:6	502:9, 504:9,	344:2	383:22, 385:4,
clarify	504:21, 506:11, 506:25	coast	390:16, 391:11,
335:13, 350:25,	506:25 clean	396:20	397:7, 401:14,
369:4, 388:22,		code	402:11, 403:18,
405:11, 495:17,	344:20, 344:21, 372:20	315:20, 338:8,	403:22, 405:4,
496:2	cleaner	340:10, 340:16,	413:2, 424:21,
clarity		342:12, 355:13,	425:18, 448:18,
429:19	451:4, 476:16 clear	367:11, 368:9,	460:25, 474:18,
clarksburg		369:11, 387:22,	492:13, 492:18,
289:36, 290:11,	304:22, 416:12,		
200.00, 200.11,			

492:21, 492:25,	communities	406:17	complies
493:11, 493:19,	349:2, 363:5	compare	461:23
493:20, 494:3,	community	326:19, 460:11,	comply
506:13	328:13, 338:15,	460:19, 460:21,	448:8, 458:5,
comes	344:18, 346:4,	461:10, 465:11	465:5, 467:12
301:20, 343:25,	347:19, 347:25,	compared	complying
410:24, 452:4,	348:4, 348:12,	311:8, 312:15,	322 <b>:</b> 3
452:20, 461:22	348:18, 348:19,	325:19, 332:16,	
comfortable			component
	348:22, 351:6,	461:4, 517:8	374:14, 383:20,
296:17, 301:4	351:15, 355:5,	comparing	414:22, 506:16,
comfortably	356:5, 356:7,	319:10, 325:25,	512:25
362:17	369:10, 369:17,	461:19, 480:15	comported
coming	369:19, 370:8,	comparison	384:4, 385:6
331:5, 397:10,	370:11, 370:12,	316:4, 324:3,	composite
401:11, 407:16,	373:20, 379:15,	380:13, 449:7,	288:38
443:25, 506:15	416:11, 417:1,	449:13, 449:14,	comprehensive
commanding	417:2, 417:7,	462:4, 465:12	502:20
482:11	417:15, 420:3,	comparisons	comptroller's
commas	443:13, 447:19,	494:20	358:3
359:8	452:5, 490:5,	compatibility	computation
commenced	490:14, 490:19,	458:24	379:11
405:16	490:20, 491:18,	compatible	
comment	502:4, 502:25,		compute
	507:4	458:18, 458:21	351:21
390:15, 471:13,	community's	competing	computed
483:19, 500:10	420:5	345:16, 345:18,	352:3
commented		347:20	computing
502:23, 505:13	commute	competitive	351:19
comments	366:24, 376:3	354:6, 354:21,	comsat
399:7	commuter	507:21	351 <b>:</b> 3
commercial	360:16, 361:2,	competitors	concept
307:15, 307:24,	361:5, 366:12,	386:12	288:43, 324:11,
308:4, 310:18,	367:5, 367:24,	complained	326:17, 328:4,
311:7, 318:14,	367:25, 368:1,	400:23	368:12, 458:10,
341:7, 341:24,	374:23, 375:2,	complaints	508:21, 510:24
342:8, 342:10,	398:24, 413:19,	399:7, 414:21	concepts
342:22, 355:7,	425:16	complete	323:13, 323:19,
383:4, 407:15	commuters	296:22, 383:21	326:3, 326:22,
commissioner	354:23, 367:13,	completed	
498:21	371:9, 397:8,	289:25, 427:14,	327:1, 451:21,
commitment	399:1, 516:18		451:22, 452:13,
	commuting	515:9	464:19, 481:5,
485:10, 507:3,	328:12, 328:15,	completely	481:10
508:9	328:23, 366:21,	454:1, 474:5,	conceptual
committee	366:23, 380:18	479:22	463:18, 485:11,
443:15	companies	completion	509:24
communicating	372:8, 406:23,	447:16, 447:25	concern
491:22, 492:10	407:2	complex	435:24, 436:13
communications		435:2, 515:10,	concerned
300:14	company	519:17	464:6, 506:17
	334:22, 335:17,		

	Conducted on N	<u>,                                      </u>	
conclude	512:11, 515:6	congestion	consolidates
392:18, 425:6,	conditions	365:25, 376:13	349:13
456:24, 466:5	392:20, 393:5,	connection	constitute
concluded	429:1, 429:8,	330:23, 417:6,	490:18, 490:19
331:25, 332:14,	429:16, 430:5,	417:8, 511:14	constituted
332:17, 332:22,	430:8, 431:1,	conservation	445:25
480:21, 501:21,	433:20, 433:23,	288:25, 288:32,	constitutes
506:7	448:9, 459:23,	430:16, 460:1,	448:2
concludes	459:24, 463:21,	460:9	constitution
519:9, 519:18	464:11, 464:22,	conservative	450 <b>:</b> 20
conclusion	464:24, 464:25,	321:25, 322:2,	constructed
312:3, 312:23,	508:12, 510:2,	329:3, 329:4,	349:3
343:4, 354:20,	510:13, 511:25	330:14, 332:19,	construction
436:9, 493:17	condos	332:21, 350:14,	403:4, 417:4,
conclusions	497:9	412:24, 413:23	496:16
338:3, 355:21,	confer	conservatively	consult
387:2, 503:3	438:25	411:16	426:14
concur	conference	consider	consultants
429:15	442:7	303:12, 304:20,	452:12
condition	confirm	332:12, 366:18,	consulting
309:5, 313:5,	295:24, 310:2,	366:20, 367:12,	406:22
316:4, 430:11,	310:5, 310:23,	367:15, 374:19,	consumer
430:14, 430:18,	310:24, 333:22,	459:2, 464:16,	
430:22, 460:23	397:19, 432:14,	503:22, 509:20,	344:5, 344:6,
conditional	462:13	512:8	346:10, 351:20,
288:4, 288:18,	confirmed	considerably	352:2, 371:24,
288:21, 289:19,	362:11, 433:17	411:11	374:17, 379:9, 383:15
289:21, 290:9,	confirming	consideration	consumers
290:42, 291:4,	433:18	381:3, 389:16,	
291:12, 291:13,	confirms	507:17, 508:7,	344:19, 373:11,
297:22, 298:2,	503:19	514:17	383:17, 401:2
298:4, 340:11,	conflict	considered	contain
343:8, 355:2,	462:14, 462:16	310:20, 375:1,	456:8
382:21, 388:2,	conflicts	375:15, 386:12,	contained
430:6, 430:11,	496:7	504:6, 507:19	446:19
430:17, 449:12,	conform	considering	contemplated
458:3, 460:2,	431:24, 433:9,	340:14, 342:13,	482:7
460:6, 460:16,	433:12, 512:22	388:7, 468:25,	contended
460:20, 461:3,	•	470:11, 499:19,	477:19
461:9, 461:17,	confronting	513:9	contends
462:8, 462:9,	288:10		327:8
462:12, 468:18,	confused	consistent	content
468:21, 469:7,	359:18, 364:12,	464:1, 502:18,	296:11
469:10, 490:7,	400:10, 402:14,	510:9, 510:11,	contention
507:14, 507:22,	488:12	510:23	454:24
510:11, 511:11,	confusing	consistently	contentious
511:13, 511:11,	412:15, 469:21,	478:2, 511:19,	443:24
511:13, 511:14, 511:15, 512:1,	477:6	514:16	context
J11.1J, J12.1,	confusion	consists	305:16, 316:25,
	359:16	301:21, 301:22	

```
301:1, 303:7,
317:10, 317:24,
                     344:8, 344:13,
                                                               335:6, 336:5,
321:24, 326:7,
                     344:17, 345:7,
                                          305:1, 305:4,
                                                               339:2, 339:11,
368:14, 513:25
                     345:16, 345:17,
                                                               340:24, 341:16,
                                          313:25, 314:4,
contextualize
                     346:11, 346:14,
                                          314:5, 314:24,
                                                               341:18, 377:19,
320:23
                     347:21, 353:23,
                                          319:25, 320:8,
                                                               380:21, 380:24,
                     354:1, 354:6,
                                          326:14, 330:6,
                                                               383:8, 383:20,
contingent
                                                               385:24, 386:4,
                     355:25, 372:14,
                                          336:2, 355:19,
295:13, 490:9,
                     372:23, 372:25,
                                          365:17, 371:3,
                                                               389:11, 391:7,
490:11
                     373:7, 386:17,
                                          371:11, 377:23,
                                                               393:18, 394:3,
continual
                                          384:16, 388:1,
                                                               397:12, 397:21,
                     394:12, 507:11,
409:18
                     514:5, 517:8
                                          388:25, 389:25,
                                                               406:12, 406:19,
continuation
                     convenient
                                          390:2, 391:24,
                                                               408:20, 410:19,
291:8, 294:3,
                                          391:25, 402:5,
                                                               412:6, 412:12,
                     338:10, 338:16,
297:24, 298:1
                     347:9, 348:16,
                                          412:18, 419:7,
                                                               413:13, 414:10,
continue
                                          421:19, 432:18,
                                                               414:25, 415:25,
                     355:5, 355:14,
294:8, 295:10,
                                          437:7, 438:6,
                                                               428:18, 431:15,
                     361:5, 375:8,
351:1, 351:7,
                     375:18, 376:16,
                                          438:9, 441:6,
                                                               432:2, 432:8,
485:4
                                          447:10, 452:19,
                                                               437:15, 442:13,
                     380:10, 380:15,
continued
                     380:17, 382:23,
                                          469:8, 469:11,
                                                               446:20, 454:21,
289:1, 290:6,
                     503:21, 504:17,
                                          472:16, 476:3,
                                                               455:10, 455:11,
337:20, 444:6,
                                                               456:8, 456:21,
                     505:6, 505:18
                                          487:14, 492:14,
444:7, 495:21
                                          492:15, 493:4,
                                                               457:4, 466:2,
                     convening
continues
                                          496:14
                                                               466:4, 470:25,
                     392:10
458:13
                                                               472:7, 474:3,
                                          corrections
                     conversation
contract
                                                               482:16, 483:18,
                                          290:3
                     322:6, 322:7,
295:13, 295:15,
                                                               485:19, 489:22,
                                          corrective
                     415:4
416:12, 416:13,
                                          496:20, 496:22,
                                                               492:4, 494:19,
                     conversations
416:15, 416:17,
                                                               495:10, 504:20,
                                          496:25
                     331:3
455:7, 455:12,
                                                               505:2, 508:8
                                          correctly
                     copies
455:14, 455:15
                                                               couldn't
                     305:19, 513:13
                                          365:18, 418:7
contrary
                                                               297:19, 464:15,
                                          correlate
                     copy
485:7, 503:11
                                                               510:21
                                          411:8
                     306:23, 483:22,
contrasted
                                                               council
                                          corresponding
                     483:23, 487:3,
388:13
                                                               444:3, 444:25,
                     489:23, 520:6
                                          436:20
contribute
                                                               493:8
                                          corroborate
                     core
313:6
                                                               counsel
                     317:10, 407:13,
                                          466:10
contribution
                                                               294:16, 299:25,
                     450:20, 450:25,
                                          costco
416:25
                                                               301:9, 306:10,
                     451:8, 453:16,
                                          411:5, 411:6,
contributions
                                                               313:12, 331:12,
                     464:19, 477:16,
                                          411:23, 412:2
489:10
                                                               334:8, 335:22,
                     479:6, 479:12,
                                          could
controlling
                                                               337:20, 356:13,
                     484:11, 496:3
                                          292:2, 292:14,
508:5, 513:12
                                                               359:14, 379:25,
                     corner
                                          293:8, 295:15,
controversial
                                                               383:25, 393:24,
                     353:1, 353:2,
                                          297:5, 297:15,
389:15
                                                               401:20, 405:9,
                     468:1, 506:4,
                                          299:1, 305:21,
convened
                                          309:11, 309:19,
                                                               406:10, 418:4,
                     515:25
297:25, 301:8
                                                               426:23, 433:16,
                                          323:8, 327:16,
                     corners
convenience
                                                               474:10, 495:10,
                                          327:18, 329:14,
                     454:1
343:16, 343:19,
                                                               521:11, 522:7
                                          331:15, 334:4,
                     correct
343:22, 343:25,
                     297:14, 298:25,
```

	I		
count	379:24, 389:9,	crasnow's	ctc
317:17, 363:9,	428:21, 490:4	467:1	284:7, 290:13,
398:11, 438:25	course	create	291:6, 297:23,
counted	309:21, 310:11,	308:13, 339:13,	444:25, 485:9
420:14	339:8, 352:5,	398:8, 398:16,	ctcac
counting	435:6, 437:5,	471 <b>:</b> 16	452 <b>:</b> 7
425:15	457:23, 464:13,	credits	cu
country	475:6, 478:9,	346:20	284:7, 291:5,
315:10, 317:6,	480:25, 481:3,	crimm	297:22, 430:7
343:20, 420:24	483:1, 497:16	491:2	cua
county	court	criteria	290:35
284:2, 285:5,	286:13, 293:7,	292:1, 298:17,	cup
285:8, 304:10,	299:19, 301:23,	363:3, 511:15,	389:18
305:17, 307:10,	302:5, 302:6,	511:16, 511:24,	curb
319:2, 319:3,	302:15, 303:5,	512:25	344:23, 354:18
319:9, 339:4,	406:1, 435:8,	criterion	curious
340:4, 341:4,	455:18, 513:13,	512 <b>:</b> 18	386:23
341:22, 356:8,	513:22, 513:24,	critical	current
356:9, 363:8,	514:7, 514:11,	367:8, 452:10,	293:10, 308:15,
363:9, 363:11,	514:15, 515:6,	452:17	310:17, 317:17,
363:13, 363:19,	515:7, 515:15,	cross	319:16, 319:17,
365:20, 367:11,	518:15, 518:16,	345:8, 385:14,	319:20, 319:23,
369:11, 370:2,	521:1	437:8, 457:25,	323:25, 324:2,
380:22, 389:5,	courts	518:25	326:6, 326:24,
394:22, 403:12,	305:9, 514:24	cross-examination	394:4, 399:20,
415:11, 415:20,	cover	294:1, 313:12,	422:23, 498:17
415:21, 415:23,	288:19, 288:26,	327:23, 356:13,	currently
416:7, 416:12,	288:37, 289:21,	401:20, 418:4,	324:22, 353:22,
422:4, 444:3,	343:1, 429:25,	436:1, 442:18,	399:14
444:4, 444:25,	430:3, 473:21	474:8, 474:10,	curve
449:24, 463:23,	covered	474:13, 474:16,	351:5
464:3, 467:24,	299:22, 299:23,	495:16	customer
469:14, 478:16,	353:25, 401:6	cross-examine	345:18, 364:18,
492:17, 493:6,	covering	294:12, 393:12,	380:23, 401:10,
497:15, 503:9,	497:22		404:11, 404:16,
503:17, 503:18,	covers	494:12, 494:19	416:22, 416:23,
506:7, 507:13,	365:6	cross-examined	417:15
508:8, 508:16,	covid	495:9	customers
510:4, 512:4,	328:23, 328:25	crosses	345:21, 357:2,
512:6	craft	452 <b>:</b> 22	361:14, 361:15,
county's	455:10	crossover	361:17, 361:18,
416:14, 419:1	craftstar	345:21, 345:24	365:19, 369:8,
county-wide	450:17	crossroad	372:22, 399:14,
418:22	crash	452:17	404:12, 404:23,
couple	417:19	crosstalk	405:1, 417:18,
295:19, 338:6,	crasnow	293:6, 299:18,	417:20, 421:11,
340:3, 359:7,	465:14, 466:9,	489:5, 498:8	426:2
359:17, 365:1,	467:11	crowd	D
		315:7, 317:5	<u>d</u>
			459:3

351:9, 357:5,       deal       318:8       355:1, 369:1,         357:10, 357:11,       305:20, 344:9,       dedicated       371:7, 381:15,         357:25, 358:1,       345:8, 371:21,       467:21       381:17, 387:2,         362:12, 372:4,       444:2, 515:24       deed       387:14, 421:25,         379:8, 402:3,       dealer       508:12       422:1, 422:23,         379:8, 402:3,       358:22       deemed       423:1, 423:2,         411:2, 414:15,       dealing       445:25, 457:5       423:8, 423:17,         424:9, 424:10       300:21, 441:24,       503:9       423:22, 423:23,         438:21, 497:5,       dealt       503:9       424:19, 425:11         520:13       305:8, 305:10,       469:19		Conducted on i	,	
469:4     434:11, 434:20, daily     301:23, 431:14, daily     degrees       373:25, 377:18     436:24, 436:25, daily     513:11, 514:20, delay       485:20     439:1, 439:12, decisions     486:6, 486:7, decisions       439:1, 439:17, 399:15, 339:16, 365:21     439:11, 439:17, 302:6, 303:1, 386:16, 394:11, 339:16, 406:1, 440:2, 439:14, 439:17, 303:4, 303:15, daily     decisions       440:1, 440:2, 439:24, days:24, days:23, data     440:1, 440:1, 440:1, days:33, decks     delivered       440:1, 440:1, 440:19, days:31, 32:10, 32:24, 418:24, days:24, days:317:3, 317:13, 317:13, days:317:3, 317:13, days:32:10, 322:21, days:24, days:32:10, 322:21, days:24, days:32:24, days:32:10, 322:21, days:24, days:32:10, 322:21, days:33:19, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:14, days:33:29, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:33:24, days:4, days:33:34, days:4, days:33:34, days:14, days:33:34, days:14, days:33:34, days:14, days:33:34, days:14, days:33:34, days:14, days:33:34, days:14, days:34:24, days:4, d	dabble	351:4, 415:9,	decision	465:13
daily     435:3, 435:4,     473:16, 512:8,     336:9, 337:2       damages     437:2, 437:24,     436:25,     513:11, 514:20,     delay       damages     437:2, 437:24,     439:12, 439:13,     439:13, 439:13,     486:6, 486:7,       damascus     439:10, 439:13,     301:25, 302:5,     301:25, 302:5,       339:16, 365:21     439:21, 439:24,     303:43, 303:15,     399:12, 404:11,       331:21, 317:7,     440:1, 440:12,     440:1, 440:15,     440:15,       440:8, 440:15,     440:18,     440:15,     440:15,       313:21, 317:7,     440:18, 440:19,     440:2, 471:16,     486:17       313:21, 317:7,     440:18, 440:19,     400:18, 440:19,     411:5       313:21, 317:7,     440:22, 471:16,     440:12,     411:5       313:21, 317:7,     440:22, 471:16,     440:13,     440:13,       322:10, 322:19,     471:20, 471:25,     440:22, 471:16,     440:22, 471:16,       333:19, 333:24,     435:14,     435:21, 437:3     440:22, 471:16,       333:19, 333:24,     436:24, 342:24,     338:19, 338:23,       332:10, 322:21,     437:5, 519:20,     404:24     338:19, 338:23,       339:13, 349:14,     330:12, 42, 333:4,     346:2, 346:14,     332:24,     342:19,       48     48     48     48     48<		•	301:23, 431:14,	
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##			•	1 -
damages         437:2, 437:24, 440:14, 440:2, 440:15, 440:15, 440:15, 440:18, 440:15, 440:18, 440:15, 440:18, 440:15, 440:18, 440:15, 440:18, 440:19, 440:22, 471:16, 422:24, 471:20, 471:25, 352:17, 377:19, 377:7, 338:14, 322:24, 322:24, 473:5, 519:20, 509:6         411:5         declare           332:10, 322:11, 322:21, 322:24, 330:12, 339:22, 473:5, 519:20, 523:27, 377:19, 337:7, 338:14, 424:24, 330:19, 337:24, 444:2, 424:24, 333:24, 345:8, 371:21, 424:33, 349:14, 345:8, 371:21, 424:33, 349:14, 345:8, 371:21, 424:33, 349:14, 345:8, 371:21, 424:23, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24         decrease         366:2, 346:4, 312:24, 313:4, 346:6, 346:11, 343:27, 376:25, 358:12, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24         decreased         335:10, 354:13, 355:14, 369:11, 369:12, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24         decreased         337:7, 381:15, 369:10, 469:12, 372:4, 422:23, 422:23, 422:23, 423:23, 423:24, 423:24, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423:24, 423:24, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423				•
435:20         439:10, 439:13, 301:25, 302:5, 302:5, 339:16, 365:21         439:10, 439:13, 302:6, 303:1, 366:16, 394:11, 339:16, 365:21         439:14, 439:17, 302:6, 303:1, 366:16, 394:11, 368:16, 394:11, 339:16, 365:21         439:14, 439:17, 303:24, 410:24, 418:25, 443:5         400:14, 400:2, 418:25, 443:5         406:16, 394:11, 360:16, 394:12, 471:16,				<b>1</b>
damascus				•
339:7, 339:15, 439:14, 439:17, 439:24, dashed 40:1, 440:2, 440:1, 440:6, 440:5, 440:1, 440:19, 440:18, 440:19, 440:18, 317:13, 317:13, 440:22, 471:16, 322:10, 322:21, 473:5, 519:20, 40:1ed declare declared and single specified and single sp				
339:16, 365:21     439:21, 439:24, 430:24, 303:24, 418:24, delivered       440:1, 440:2, 440:6, 440:6, 440:8, 440:15, 440:8, 440:15, 317:13, 317:13, 317:13, 440:22, 471:16, declare     400:8, 440:15, 460:6       322:6, 322:9, 471:20, 471:25, 322:10, 322:21, 519:20, 519:21, 520:15     400:22, 471:16, declare       339:23, 339:24, 339:24, 339:23, 330:24, 40:24     338:19, 336:23, 361:4       330:29, 322:24, 339:23, 361:4     40:24 338:24, 342:19, 40:24, 338:24, 342:19, 40:24       339:23, 339:24, 339:24, 349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25     40:24 338:24, 342:19, 40:24       339:27, 339:24, 349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25     40:24 338:21, 351:24, 40:24       339:27, 37:4, 444:22, 515:24     46:24 338:14, 346:16, 346:11, 421:25, 422:3, 422:17, 377:19       357:10, 357:11, 305:20, 344:9, 357:25, 358:1, 369:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21     381:17, 387:2, 462:2       372:7, 376:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21     381:17, 387:2, 462:2       372:7, 376:25, 358:1, 369:1, 362:12, 372:4, 441:15, 462:19     440:24 421:19, 422:23, 422:1,				
dashed         440:1, 440:2, 440:6, 440:6, 481:24, 440:5, 440:6, 440:15, 440:15, 440:15, 440:15, 440:18, 440:19, 440:18, 313:21, 317:17, 317:13, 440:22, 471:16, 402:28, 471:20, 471:25, 322:6, 322:9, 473:5, 519:20, 519:20, 322:22, 322:24, 433:5, 519:20, 322:22, 322:24, 361:4 declined         declare declined         demand           330:19, 330:20, 321:33, 361:24, 349:13, 349:14, 349:13, 379:19, 379:		439:21, 439:24,		
341:23     440:5, 440:6, 440:15, decks     484:23       data     440:8, 440:15, 509:6     411:5       313:21, 317:13, 317:13, 440:22, 471:16, 322:16, 322:9, 473:5, 519:20, declined     352:10, 377:19     337:7, 338:14, 322:10, 337:7, 338:14, 421:19, declined       322:10, 32:21, 473:5, 519:20, dc     404:24     388:19, 338:23, 404:24       339:23, 339:24, 361:4     40:23, 404:24     388:19, 338:14, 421:19, decrease       339:23, 339:24, 361:4     312:24, 313:4, 346:6, 346:11, 328:23     346:6, 346:11, 328:23       349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25     462     352:10, 354:13, 348:21, 351:24, decreased     352:10, 354:13, 348:12, 351:24, decreased       357:25, 358:1, 365:20, 344:9, 357:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21     381:17, 387:2, 387:2, dealer     381:8     355:17, 369:1, 387:12, 472:25, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24     46eed     371:7, 381:15, 387:12, 467:21     381:17, 387:2, deed     387:14, 421:25, 422:23, deed     371:7, 381:15, 387:12, 422:23, deed     422:1, 422:23, deed     423:1, 423:2, deed	•	440:1, 440:2,		•
data         440:8, 440:15, 440:19, 440:19, 313:21, 317:7, 440:18, 440:19, 471:25, 471:26, 322:6, 322:9, 471:20, 471:25, 352:17, 377:19         declare demand           322:6, 322:9, 473:5, 519:20, 322:21, 519:21, 520:15         352:17, 377:19         337:7, 338:14, declare 388:19, 338:23, 381:23, 381:21, 520:15           330:19, 330:20, 361:4         361:4         312:24, 313:4, 346:2, 346:4, 312:24, 313:4, 346:6, 346:11, 349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25         322:23         348:21, 351:24, 313:4, 366:6, 369:1, 357:10, 357:11, 305:20, 344:9, 318:8         355:10, 354:13, 318:8         355:10, 354:13, 318:8, 355:1, 369:1, 369:1, 372:7, 376:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21         381:17, 387:2, 464:4, 387:14, 421:25, 467:21         381:17, 387:2, 464:4, 387:14, 421:25, 468:4         387:14, 421:25, 422:23, 423:23, 423:22, 423:23, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423:22, 423:23, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423:22, 423:23, 423:24, 423:		440:5, 440:6,	1	
313:21, 317:7,   317:8, 317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   317:13,   322:6, 322:9,   322:10, 322:21,   322:12, 519:21, 520:15   dc   338:19, 338:23,   338:19, 338:23,   338:24, 342:19,   dc   decrease   346:2, 346:4,   349:13, 349:14,   349:13, 349:14,   361:23, 361:25   declined   338:24, 342:19,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 351:24,   346:6, 346:11,   328:23   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 351:24,   348:21, 369:1,   348:21, 369:1,   348:21, 421:25,   358:12   36emed   423:11, 421:25,   379:4, 241:15,   469:10   469:10   469:10   418:21   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   418:21   469:10   418:21   469:10   418:21   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   418:21   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   418:21   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   418:21   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:10   469:		440:8, 440:15,	decks	
317:8, 317:13,       440:22, 471:16,       471:20, 471:25,       declare       demand         322:16, 322:9,       473:5, 519:20,       352:17, 377:19       337:7, 338:14,         322:22, 322:24,       519:21, 520:15       40:24       338:24, 342:19,         330:23, 339:24,       361:4       40:24       338:24, 342:19,         343:21, 345:5,       deadline       328:23       348:21, 351:24,         349:13, 349:14,       361:23, 361:25       decreased       352:10, 354:13,         357:10, 357:11,       305:20, 344:9,       decicated       371:7, 381:15,         357:25, 358:1,       345:8, 371:21,       decicated       371:7, 381:15,         372:7, 376:25,       dealer       508:12       422:1, 422:23,         379:8, 402:3,       355:22       deemed       423:1, 423:2,         441:2, 414:15,       dealing       45:25, 457:5       423:8, 423:17,         424:9, 424:10       300:21, 441:24,       defend       423:1, 423:2,         444:29, 424:10       300:21, 441:24,       deficiencies       423:1, 423:21,         438:21, 497:5,       dealt       503:19       deficiencies         328:5       450:18, 451:6,       46ficiencies       423:12, 423:23,         499:12       debate <td< td=""><th></th><td>440:18, 440:19,</td><td>509:6</td><td></td></td<>		440:18, 440:19,	509:6	
322:6, 322:9, 471:25, 473:5, 519:20, declined 338:14, 338:14, 322:22, 322:24, 519:21, 520:15 dc 338:24, 342:19, 338:23, 339:24, 345:5, 361:4 decrease 346:2, 346:4, 346:11, 349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25 dc 357:10, 357:11, 357:10, 357:11, 357:25, 358:1, 349:14, 361:23, 361:24 decreased 355:10, 354:13, 357:10, 357:11, 357:25, 358:1, 349:24, 444:2, 515:24 decreased 355:10, 354:13, 357:25, 358:1, 349:24, 444:2, 515:24 decreased 371:7, 381:15, 367:12, 372:4, 372:4, 376:25, 358:2 deemed 387:14, 421:25, 372:7, 376:25, 358:2 deemed 422:1, 422:23, 379:8, 402:3, 358:22 deemed 422:1, 422:23, 379:8, 402:3, 358:22 deemed 423:14, 423:22, 423:12, 424:10 300:21, 441:24, defend 423:18, 423:21, deficiencies 424:19, 425:11 deficiency 418:21 demonstrate 328:5, 450:18, 451:6, deficient 311:6, 318:5, dated 492:2 deficiency 418:21 demonstrate 498:11 decorable 492:2 defined 338:11, 384:21, 515:24 defined 333:19, 480:20 decide 333:10, 411:13, 369:1, 363:13 deconstrates 333:19, 480:20 decide 333:10, 411:13, 369:1, 369:1, 364:18 demonstrates 333:19, 480:20 decide 333:10, 411:13, 369:1, 369:1, 363:18 demonstrates 333:3 demonstrates 333:3 definitely 333:3 demonstrate 346:22, 411:6, 412:19, 439:18, 431:12, 513:12, 513:12, definition 499:17, 505:21 deciding 367:10, 388:5, dennis		440:22, 471:16,	declare	demand
322:10, 322:21, 473:5, 519:20, 519:21, 520:15 do do 338:19, 338:23, 330:19, 330:20, dc decrease 346:2, 346:4, 338:21, 346:4, 338:21, 345:5, deadline 328:23 38:210, 354:13, 349:14, 361:25 decreased 352:10, 354:13, 351:24, 345:19, 357:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21 381:17, 387:2, deadl 377:7, 381:15, 345:24, 344:2, 515:24 decd 377:14, 387:24, 346:14, 328:23 38:19, 348:23, 346:4, 330:19, 346:4, 312:24, 313:4, 346:6, 346:11, 328:23 38:210, 354:13, 349:14, 361:25, decreased 352:10, 354:13, 351:9, 357:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21 381:17, 387:2, deed 377:14, 421:25, deed 377:14, 421:25, deed 377:14, 421:25, deed 421:14, 421:21, deficiencies 421:14, 425:21, deficiency 421:14, 425:11 demands 421:14, 425:11 demands 421:14, 425:11 demands 421:14, 425:11 demands 421:14, 501:		471:20, 471:25,	352:17, 377:19	
322:22, 322:24, 330:20, dc  dc  dc  dc  330:19, 330:20, 361:4  343:21, 345:5, deadline  349:13, 349:14, 361:23, 361:25  deal  355:9, 357:5, deal  355:10, 357:11, 305:20, 344:9, dedicated  377:7, 381:15, 362:12, 372:4, 444:24, 372:14, 372:				
330:19, 330:20,         dc         decrease         346:2, 346:4,           339:23, 339:24,         361:4         312:24, 313:4,         346:6, 346:11,           349:13, 349:14,         361:23, 361:25         decreased         352:10, 354:13,           351:9, 357:5,         deal         318:8         355:10, 369:1,           357:25, 358:1,         345:8, 371:21,         467:21         381:17, 387:2,           362:12, 372:4,         444:2, 515:24         deed         387:14, 421:25,           372:7, 376:25,         dealer         508:12         422:1, 422:23,           379:8, 402:3,         358:22         deemed         423:1, 423:2,           411:2, 414:15,         dealing         445:25, 457:5         423:18, 423:21,           424:9, 424:10         300:21, 441:24,         deficiencies         423:18, 423:21,           438:21, 497:5,         dealt         503:19         423:22, 423:23,           438:21, 497:5,         dealt         466:10encies         424:19, 425:11           520:13         305:8, 305:10,         469:19         516:14           48exts         450:18, 451:6,         46ficient         311:6, 318:5,           498:11         deborah         424:19, 425:11         489:19           487:4, 288:48,<			404:24	
339:23, 339:24, deadline 349:13, 349:14, 361:25 deal) 349:13, 349:14, 361:25 deal) 351:9, 357:5, deal 357:25, 358:1, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21 362:12, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24 dealer 372:7, 376:25, dealer 372:7, 376:25, dealer 379:8, 402:3, 358:22 dealing 445:25, 457:5 deal 300:21, 441:24, definition definitely 300:31, 450:12, 462:1, 423:18, 423:21, demonstrated demonstrated demonstrated 312:24, 313:4, 346:6, 346:11, 349:12, 355:1, 369:1, 3				
343:21, 345:5,			312:24, 313:4,	•
349:13, 349:14,     361:23, 361:25     deal     352:10, 354:13,       357:10, 357:5,     305:20, 344:9,     358:8     355:1, 369:1,       357:25, 358:1,     345:8, 371:21,     467:21     381:17, 387:2,       362:12, 372:4,     444:2, 515:24     deed     387:14, 421:25,       372:7, 376:25,     dealer     508:12     422:1, 422:23,       379:8, 402:3,     358:22     deemed     423:1, 423:2,       411:2, 414:15,     dealing     445:25, 457:5     423:8, 423:17,       424:9, 424:10     300:21, 441:24,     defend     423:18, 423:21,       438:21, 497:5,     dealt     deficiencies     424:19, 425:11       438:21, 497:5,     dealt     deficiencies     424:19, 425:11       489:45, 290:21,     debate     469:19     demands       328:5     450:18, 451:6,     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       498:11     deborah     define     384:21, 511:24,       498:11     deborah     define     384:21, 511:24,       487:4, 288:48,     decades     362:9, 364:1,     362:9, 364:1,       334:19, 480:20     decide     365:13, 369:1,     369:7, 370:20,       465:22, 411:6,     decided     459:7, 370:20,     demonstrates       487:11     decided     459:17, 370:20,     demonstrates </td <th>The state of the s</th> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	The state of the s			
351:9, 357:5,     deal     318:8     355:1, 369:1,       357:10, 357:11,     305:20, 344:9,     dedicated     371:7, 381:15,       362:12, 372:4,     344:2, 515:24     deed     387:14, 421:25,       372:7, 376:25,     dealer     508:12     422:1, 422:23,       379:8, 402:3,     dealing     445:25, 457:5     423:1, 423:2,       411:2, 414:15,     dealing     445:25, 457:5     423:18, 423:17,       424:9, 424:10     300:21, 441:24,     defend     423:18, 423:21,       date     503:19     deficiencies     424:19, 425:11       dated     492:2     deficiency     469:19     demands       dated     492:2     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       dates     450:18, 451:6,     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       david     289:32     decident     364:24, 504:2     513:7, 515:14,       david     289:32     decide     50:12     364:24, 504:2     513:7, 515:14,       david     289:32     364:24, 504:2     513:7, 515:14,     515:20       david     289:32     364:24, 504:2     515:20     demonstrated       334:19, 480:20     362:9, 364:1,     369:7, 370:20,     364:18     demonstrates       376:22, 411:6,     431:12, 513:12,     454:17     46finitely	349:13, 349:14,	361:23, 361:25	decreased	
357:10, 357:11, 305:20, 344:9, 345:8, 371:21, 467:21 381:17, 387:2, 358:12, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24 deed 387:14, 421:25, deed 422:1, 422:23, 372:4, 444:2, 515:24 deed 422:1, 422:23, 379:8, 402:3, 358:22 deemed 423:1, 423:2, 411:2, 414:15, dealing 445:25, 457:5 423:8, 423:17, 424:9, 424:10 300:21, 441:24, defend 423:18, 423:21, 423:23, deemed 423:1, 423:21, defend 423:18, 423:21, defend 423:18, 423:21, defend 423:18, 423:21, defend 423:18, 423:21, deficiencies 424:19, 425:11 demonstrate 424:19, 425:11 demonstrate 466:24 deficient 311:6, 318:5, deficient 384:21, 498:11 deborah define 384:21, 511:24, defined 384:21, 511:24, defined 384:21, 511:24, defined 384:21, 511:24, defined 384:21, 515:20 demonstrated 334:19, 480:20 decide 303:10, 411:13, 369:7, 370:20, 411:8, 439:18, 431:12, 513:12, definition 491:17, 505:21 demonstrate 491:17, 505:21 demonstrated 337:10, 368:5, demonstrating 491:17, 505:21 demonstrated 491:17, 5	351:9, 357:5,		318:8	
362:12, 372:4,     444:2, 515:24     deed     387:14, 421:25,       372:7, 376:25,     358:22     deemed     422:1, 422:23,       411:2, 414:15,     dealing     445:25, 457:5     423:8, 423:17,       424:9, 424:10     300:21, 441:24,     defend     423:18, 423:21,       date     503:19     503:9     423:22, 423:23,       438:21, 497:5,     dealt     deficiencies     424:19, 425:11       520:13     305:8, 305:10,     469:19     demands       dated     492:2     deficiency     516:14       289:45, 290:21,     debate     418:21     demonstrate       328:5     450:18, 451:6,     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       dates     466:24     418:9     338:9, 346:1,       498:11     deborah     define     384:21, 511:24,       287:4, 288:48,     289:32     364:24, 504:2     513:7, 515:14,       287:4, 288:48,     344:22, 377:5,     339:3, 356:19,     312:21, 469:18       334:19, 480:20     decide     362:9, 364:1,     demonstrated       336:10, 411:13,     369:7, 370:20,     demonstrates       3376:22, 411:6,     431:12, 513:12,     454:17     demonstrating       465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12,     454:17     denial       465:23, 493:14 <td< td=""><th>357:10, 357:11,</th><td></td><td>dedicated</td><td></td></td<>	357:10, 357:11,		dedicated	
372:7, 376:25,     dealer     508:12     422:1, 422:23,       379:8, 402:3,     358:22     deemed     423:1, 423:2,       411:2, 414:15,     dealing     445:25, 457:5     423:8, 423:17,       424:9, 424:10     300:21, 441:24,     defend     423:18, 423:21,       503:9     423:22, 423:23,     438:21, 497:5,     dealt     503:9     423:22, 423:23,       438:21, 497:5,     dealt     deficiencies     424:19, 425:11       520:13     305:8, 305:10,     469:19     demands       dated     492:2     deficiency     516:14       289:45, 290:21,     debate     418:21     demonstrate       328:5     450:18, 451:6,     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       498:11     deborah     define     384:21, 511:24,       489:32     364:24, 504:2     513:7, 515:14,       287:4, 288:48,     decades     defined     515:20       294:20, 306:3,     344:22, 377:5,     339:3, 356:19,     312:21, 469:18       306:8, 306:14,     303:10, 411:13,     369:7, 370:20,     demonstrates       334:19, 480:20     decide     365:13, 369:1,     364:18       484:11, 320:3,     499:13     454:17     demonstrating       376:22, 411:6,     490:18     454:17     491:17, 505:21 <t< td=""><th>357:25, 358:1,</th><td></td><td>467:21</td><td>381:17, 387:2,</td></t<>	357:25, 358:1,		467:21	381:17, 387:2,
379:8, 402:3, 411:2, 414:15, 424:9, 424:10 300:21, 441:24, 503:19 423:18, 423:21, 423:2, 423:23, 438:21, 497:5, 520:13 305:8, 305:10, 469:19 424:19, 425:11 469:19 308:45 466:24 498:11 46borah 4289:32 46cades 498:11 46cades 498:11 46cades 498:14, 288:48, 294:20, 306:3, 344:22, 377:5, 306:12 306:12 306:12 306:14, 307:12, 411:13, 309:7, 370:20, 445:23, 493:14 485:25, 457:5 423:1, 423:2, 423:13, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 424:19, 425:11 469:19 46ficiency 418:9 46ficient 311:6, 318:5, 338:9, 346:1, 338:9, 346:1, 338:9, 346:1, 338:9, 346:1, 348:21, 511:24, 513:12, 513:12, 364:18 46monstrates 333:3 46mial 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 465:23, 493:14 462:20, 368:5, 466inition 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:21, 423:18, 423:17, 423:2, 423:24, 423:18, 423:17, 423:2, 423:24, 441:24, 503:9 424:19, 425:11 469:19 48:21	362:12, 372:4,	444:2, 515:24	deed	387:14, 421:25,
411:2, 414:15,       dealing       445:25, 457:5       423:8, 423:17,         424:9, 424:10       300:21, 441:24,       defend       423:18, 423:21,         438:21, 497:5,       dealt       503:9       423:22, 423:23,         438:21, 497:5,       dealt       deficiencies       424:19, 425:11         502:13       dosted       492:2       deficiency       469:19         6ated       492:2       deficiency       516:14         289:45, 290:21,       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         328:5       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         498:11       deborah       deficient       384:21, 511:24,         498:11       decades       defined       384:21, 511:24,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       defined       515:20         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         484:11, 320:3,       499:13       454:17       demonstrates         376:22, 411:6,       decided       definitely       333:3         417:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial	372:7, 376:25,		508:12	422:1, 422:23,
424:9, 424:10     300:21, 441:24,     defend     423:18, 423:21,       438:21, 497:5,     dealt     503:9     423:22, 423:23,       428:20:13     305:8, 305:10,     469:19     demands       dated     492:2     deficiency     516:14       289:45, 290:21,     debate     418:21     demonstrate       328:5     450:18, 451:6,     deficient     311:6, 318:5,       dates     466:24     418:9     338:9, 346:1,       498:11     deborah     define     384:21, 511:24,       287:4, 288:48,     289:32     defined     515:20       294:20, 306:3,     344:22, 377:5,     339:3, 356:19,     312:21, 469:18       334:19, 480:20     decide     365:13, 369:1,     312:21, 469:18       day     303:10, 411:13,     369:7, 370:20,     364:18       284:11, 320:3,     499:13     454:17     46monstrating       376:22, 411:6,     491:17, 505:21     465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12,     471:17     491:17, 505:21       40sy     40sinition     367:10, 368:5,     491:17, 505:21	379:8, 402:3,		deemed	423:1, 423:2,
date       503:19       503:9       423:22, 423:23,         438:21, 497:5,       dealt       deficiencies       424:19, 425:11         520:13       492:2       deficiency       516:14         demands       492:2       deficiency       516:14         demonstrate       311:6, 318:5,       318:5,         dates       466:24       418:9       338:9, 346:1,         day:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         day:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         derined       306:8, 306:14,       306:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         day       371:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       demonstrating         465:23, 493:14       431:12, 513:12,       431:17, 505:21         days       46ciding       367:10, 368:5,       491:17, 505:21         deciding       367:10, 368:5,       491:17, 505:21	411:2, 414:15,	_	445:25, 457:5	423:8, 423:17,
438:21, 497:5,       dealt       deficiencies       424:19, 425:11         520:13       492:2       deficiency       516:14         289:45, 290:21,       debate       418:21       demonstrate         328:5       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         dates       466:24       418:9       384:21, 511:24,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         487:4, 288:48,       decades       364:24, 504:2       513:7, 515:14,         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       369:7, 370:20,       demonstrates         334:19, 480:20       decide       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         441:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial         465:23, 493:14       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       definition         492:2       462:4       471:17, 505:21       471:17, 505:21         448:2       488:4       488:4       488:4       488:4       488:4       488:4       <	424:9, 424:10		defend	423:18, 423:21,
520:13       305:8, 305:10,       469:19       demands         289:45, 290:21,       debate       418:21       demonstrate         328:5       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         dates       466:24       418:9       338:9, 346:1,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       defined       515:20         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       364:18         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         284:11, 320:3,       499:13       454:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       decided       definitely       333:3         417:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial         465:23, 493:14       514:2       definition       491:17, 505:21         deciding       367:10, 368:5,       dennis	date		503:9	
dated       492:2       deficiency       516:14         289:45, 290:21,       debate       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         328:5       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         338:9, 346:1,       338:9, 346:1,       384:21, 511:24,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         488:48,       289:32       364:24, 504:2       513:7, 515:14,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       defined       515:20         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       364:18         439:13       499:13       454:17       demonstrates         376:22, 411:6,       499:13       454:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       491:17, 505:21         465:23, 493:14       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       491:17, 505:21         465:23, 493:14       420:deciding       367:10, 368:5,       491:17, 505:21	438:21, 497:5,		deficiencies	1
289:45, 290:21,       debate       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         dates       466:24       define       384:21, 511:24,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         david       289:32       define       513:7, 515:14,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       demonstrated         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       369:7, 370:20,       demonstrates         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18       demonstrates         376:22, 411:6,       decided       definitely       333:3       demonstrate         417:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       demonstrate         465:23, 493:14       514:2       definition       491:17, 505:21         deciding       367:10, 368:5,       dennis	520:13		469:19	
289:45, 290:21,       debate       450:18, 451:6,       deficient       311:6, 318:5,         328:5       466:24       418:9       338:9, 346:1,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       344:22, 377:5,       362:4, 504:2       513:7, 515:14,         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       515:20       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18       312:21, 469:18         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18       499:13       454:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       499:13       454:17       definitely       333:3       333:3         417:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       514:2       46finition       491:17, 505:21         404y       40ciding       367:10, 368:5,       40cinit       40cinit	dated		deficiency	
dates       466:24       418:9       338:9, 346:1,         498:11       deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         289:32       define       513:7, 515:14,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       344:22, 377:5,       39:3, 356:19,       515:20         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       demonstrates         432:2, 411:6,       499:13       decided       454:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial         418:9       438:21, 511:24,       369:7, 370:20       364:24, 504:2         465:23, 493:14       decided       362:9, 364:1,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         499:13       431:12, 513:12,       454:17       333:3       364:18         499:13       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       491:17, 505:21         465:23, 493:14       42       46finition       491:17, 505:21         465:23, 493:14       46ciding       367:10, 368:5,       491:17, 505:21				
deborah       define       384:21, 511:24,         david       289:32       define         287:4, 288:48,       decades       344:22, 377:5,       364:24, 504:2       513:7, 515:14,         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       515:20         306:8, 306:14,       506:12       362:9, 364:1,       demonstrated         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       demonstrates         day       303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       454:17       demonstrating         284:11, 320:3,       499:13       definitely       333:3         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial         455:23, 493:14       431:12, 513:12,       471:17, 505:21       definition         days       400:days       400:days       400:days       400:days			deficient	1
david       289:32       define       384:21, 511:24,         287:4, 288:48,       decades       364:24, 504:2       513:7, 515:14,         294:20, 306:3,       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       364:18         303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         499:13       decided       454:17       demonstrating         376:22, 411:6,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       denial         465:23, 493:14       431:12, 513:12,       371:17       491:17, 505:21         days       deciding       367:10, 368:5,       dennis			418:9	
287:4, 288:48,       decades       344:22, 377:5,       339:3, 356:19,       312:21, 469:18         306:8, 306:14,       306:12       362:9, 364:1,       312:21, 469:18         334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1,       364:18         303:10, 411:13,       369:7, 370:20,       364:18         499:13       demonstrates         376:22, 411:6,       decided       333:3         417:19, 439:18,       431:12, 513:12,       371:17         465:23, 493:14       514:2       definition       491:17, 505:21         days       deciding       367:10, 368:5,       dennis			define	•
294:20, 306:3, 306:8, 306:14, 334:19, 480:20 day 284:11, 320:3, 303:10, 411:13, 369:7, 370:20, 499:13 decided 417:19, 439:18, 454:17 decided 431:12, 513:12, 465:23, 493:14 deciding definitely 369:7, 370:20, 454:17 definitely 371:17 denial 491:17, 505:21 dennis			364:24, 504:2	
306:8, 306:14, 306:12, decide 362:9, 364:1, 369:7, 370:20, demonstrates 369:7, 370:20, 454:17 demonstrating 376:22, 411:6, 42 deciding 367:10, 368:5, 368:19, 312:21, 469:18 demonstrates 365:13, 369:1, 369:7, 370:20, 454:17 definitely 333:3 denial 491:17, 505:21 denis	1		defined	
306:8, 306:14, 320:34, 480:20 decide 303:10, 411:13, 499:13 decided 417:19, 439:18, 465:23, 493:14 deciding 362:9, 364:1, 369:1, 369:1, 369:7, 370:20, 454:17 definition 491:17, 505:21 deniis			339:3, 356:19,	
334:19, 480:20       decide       365:13, 369:1, 369:1, 369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:18       369:7, 370:20, 454:18       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:18       369:7, 370:20, 454:18       369:7, 370:20, 454:17       369:7, 370:20, 454:18       369:7, 370:20, 45				•
day     303:10, 411:13, 499:13     369:7, 370:20, 454:17     369:7, 370:20, 454:17     333:3       376:22, 411:6, 417:19, 439:18, 417:19, 439:18, 455:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12, 513:12, 514:2 491:17, 505:21     369:7, 370:20, 454:17     333:3       465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12, 513:12, 514:2 491:17, 505:21     369:7, 370:20, 454:18     333:3       465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12, 513:12, 513:12, 513:12, 513:12     369:7, 370:20, 454:18     333:3       465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12, 513:12, 513:12     369:7, 370:20, 454:18     333:3       465:23, 493:14     431:12, 513:12, 513:12     371:17     491:17, 505:21       491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21       485:23, 493:14     491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21       485:23, 493:14     491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21       485:23, 493:14     491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21       485:23, 493:14     491:17, 505:21     491:17, 505:21	-			
376:22, 411:6, 417:19, 439:18, 465:23, 493:14 decided 431:12, 513:12, 514:2 definitely 371:17 definition 367:10, 368:5, denial 491:17, 505:21 dennis	_			
417:19, 439:18, 465:23, 493:14 days  431:12, 513:12, 514:2 definition 367:10, 368:5,  denial 491:17, 505:21 dennis				_
465:23, 493:14 514:2 <b>definition</b> 491:17, 505:21 <b>days</b> deciding 367:10, 368:5,			definitely	
days deciding 367:10, 368:5, dennis				
1307.10, 300.3,			definition	•
295:19, 346:18, 303:13	_	_	367:10, 368:5,	
	295:19, 346:18,	303:13		289:30

	Conducted on iv	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	1
densities	475:19, 475:22,	developed	differences
308:12, 316:12	475:23, 475:25,	315:7, 342:18	316:12
density	478:11, 480:11,	developer	different
307:24, 308:25,	480:12, 481:4,	446:3, 450:23,	314:8, 316:14,
309:6, 310:19,	481:10, 484:20,	457:7, 482:11,	318:9, 319:4,
310:24, 314:14,	485:1, 485:12,	485:11	340:3, 343:4,
314:22, 316:14,	485:23, 496:3,	developers	359:3, 359:4,
316:15, 325:18	508:21, 518:3	450:16	362:23, 365:3,
deny	designed	developing	365:4, 365:11,
290:35, 290:42,	356:6	309:6	368:13, 368:22,
504:23	designs	development	369:13, 372:14,
department	475:13, 518:5	291:16, 298:6,	377:2, 378:2,
321:10, 345:13,	desire	310:18, 318:12,	386:14, 386:18,
356:2, 358:3,	497:15	319:23, 328:17,	389:7, 411:14,
379:9, 505:24,	desired	334:16, 336:8,	423:4, 424:18,
506:1	315:24, 506:11	336:10, 336:14,	454:1, 469:13,
depended	despite	336:16, 342:7,	470:15, 494:24,
474:4	437:10, 492:12	351:3, 353:15,	498:24, 506:8
dependent	destination	353:23, 383:5,	difficult
383:14, 391:20	290:14	395:3, 396:10,	293:6, 299:19,
depending	detail	401:14, 402:8,	441:24
319:7	323:22, 501:11	407:15, 418:22,	digital
depends	detailed	418:23, 443:11,	521:8, 522:3
314:14, 437:9	452:23, 463:19,	458:13, 458:14,	diligently
depicted	468:10, 502:17	458:24, 485:9	415:21
409:9	details	development's	dining
describe	288:22, 288:23,	309:4	452:8, 475:8,
341:17, 371:23,	434:10, 445:23,	deviate	476:13
386:15, 398:4,	446:11, 451:11,	511:3	dire
398:15, 406:19,	518:9	deviation	335:22, 337:14
408:20, 416:21	detect	379:20	direct
described	448:15, 465:7	devote	306:10, 334:8,
308:6, 308:17,	determination	406:24	337:20, 393:24,
311:12, 312:6,	368:4, 368:16,	dial	396:6, 406:10,
330:3, 331:8,	368:23, 374:19,	415:8, 418:13	432:13, 442:24,
366:23, 451:25,	436:15, 515:11,	dickerson	453:12, 455:21
496:19	516:5, 516:25	339:5	direction
description	determine	dictate	366:11, 367:8,
369:10, 385:25	302:3, 340:18,	309:3	373:19, 415:10,
descriptions	356:22, 357:13,	diesel	417:25, 494:25
478:20	363:21, 374:25	387:10, 424:18	directions
design	determined	differ	338:13, 413:20
323:13, 323:19,	325:18, 338:19,	369:13	directive
324:10, 326:3,	378:18, 516:6	difference	415:20
326:22, 327:1,	determining	324:16, 362:15,	directly
328:4, 354:18,	367:9, 485:10	372:12, 388:16,	305:14, 330:17,
451:21, 452:13,	develop	388:17, 388:20,	354:21, 394:24,
453:14, 464:19,	508:9	513:6	396:3, 409:16
<u> </u>			
L			

	Conducted on 1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
disabled	distance	495:3, 497:17,	375:13, 375:14,
293:12	367:2, 367:3,	509:21	443:9, 452:18,
disaggregated	376:2	donuts	453:7
317:11	distinction	389:13	drive-by
disagree	369:4	dot	404:23, 405:1
302:24, 333:15,	distribute	416:13, 416:16	drive-through
341:11, 382:5,	483:16	dots	453:5
422:25, 481:3,	district	352 <b>:</b> 19	drive-throughs
481:15	417:5, 417:9,	double	389:4, 389:7,
disagreed	458:12, 458:20,	313:3, 424:25	389:9
384:18	458:22, 458:25	double-counted	driven
disagreeing	dividing	425:2	452:25
341:20, 480:23	339:20	doubt	driving
disapprove	divulge	343:19	344:19, 348:6,
462:12	486:2	down	348:13, 367:1,
disapproves	document	324:18, 331:16,	375:19, 375:23,
475:12	303:24, 350:21,	339:4, 351:8,	457:9
discount	454:2, 454:5,	353:15, 353:16,	dropped
346:14, 346:17,	455:22, 457:10,	364:3, 365:10,	379:19
346:22, 347:4,	484:5, 484:7,	376:18, 376:19,	drove
347:7, 377:22,	484:9, 485:21,	377:9, 387:15,	367:7
377:25, 515:4,	487:15, 488:13,	398:14, 398:19,	dry
515:17, 515:19,	488:20, 508:3,	408:10, 409:5,	357:19, 451:3,
515:21	508:25, 510:22	413:6, 413:7,	476:16
discounts	documented	451:11, 463:10,	dual
346:21, 404:12	469:17	463:11, 474:25,	306:18
discretion	documents	508:18	
		download	<b>duany</b> 452:12
448:24, 481:25,	302:11, 302:17,	414:14	
482:6	303:14, 309:2,	downtown	due
discuss	465:19, 475:16,		424:13
331:1	512:10	317:10, 394:14,	duly
discussed	doing	394:15	393:22, 406:8,
316:18, 343:13,	308:20, 312:22,	dragged	432:11, 442:22
343:14, 348:21,	313:3, 338:11,	519:15	dunkin
372:7, 372:13,	347:22, 367:17,	drawing	389:13
372:14, 389:4	377:5, 377:10,	387:2	during
discussing	383:19, 384:6,	drawings	312:15, 328:16,
373:11	420:24, 486:21	446:11, 451:14,	328:23, 330:10,
discussion	dollar	451:17	337:14, 359:25,
297:7, 333:2,	471:6	drawn	396:18, 415:6,
347:13, 351:4,	done	342:25, 469:6	415:22, 415:25,
464:14, 471:24	321:2, 321:7,	draws	416:18, 416:19,
dispense	338:18, 352:16,	347:25	419:22, 497:15
294:15, 428:18,	357:7, 385:14,	drill	duty
430:23, 434:9	396:9, 422:23,	294:11, 393:10	461:19
dispensers	423:16, 442:17,	drive	dwelling
354 <b>:</b> 4	455:20, 462:19,	351:12, 351:13,	325:6
disregarded	488:19, 494:22,	365:25, 373:11,	E
303:23			e) (5
			387:23, 387:25,
			301.23, 301.23,

388:1	edition	452:1, 465:5,	457:13, 457:21,
e-mail	378:8	468:6	459:13, 480:21,
290:18, 290:25,	edu	eliminate	518:24
290:27, 290:29,	317:22	467:15, 473:14,	ended
290:50, 301:14,	educational	485:24	498:12
434:15, 472:3,	394:7, 406:20	eliminated	energy
472:15, 492:23,	edward	478:2	358:4
493:13	287:8, 288:49,	elimination	enforce
each	330:16, 334:12	466:22	416:17
299:20, 308:8,	effect	elm	engineer
308:11, 310:14,	302:4, 493:13,	415:5, 415:19,	294:21, 306:15,
317:22, 326:16,	519:6	415:22, 415:23,	306:17
353:13, 374:12,	effectively	419:5, 508:10	engineering
397:14, 414:11,	514:14	elrich	306:21, 307:1,
414:16, 414:18,	effectiveness	492:18	406:22
448:9, 465:5,	357:13	elrich's	engineers
499:23	effects	519:1	312:9, 313:24,
earlier	512:9, 512:15	else	315:8, 315:9,
369:22, 372:18,	efficiency	293:5, 344:13,	317:5, 329:8,
391:4, 408:24,	346:9	348:19, 351:16,	329:9
499:22, 500:25	effort	352:18, 375:11,	enhancements
early	375:7, 492:12	380:23, 436:23,	447:19
286:5, 292:5,	eight	468:6, 494:11,	enough
300:5, 361:4,	407:7, 413:16,	496:8, 496:9,	477:17, 507:24,
443:11, 450:15,	413:17, 413:19,	505:4, 520:2	507:25
466:22	419:11, 419:14,	elsewhere	ensure
easier	419:15, 498:21,	360:25, 420:20,	489:23
417:1, 435:15,	506:25	504:22, 515:22	enter
499:12, 501:8	either	emergency	445:1
east	293:3, 309:6,	444:1	entered
396:20	321:21, 343:7,	emphasis	489:18, 489:19,
easy	343:16, 365:21,	515:3	498:12, 518:12
352:20	417:17, 428:15,	emphasize	entering
economic	472:22, 480:3,	361:12	396:7
334:16, 416:8,	495:25, 516:6	employed	entertainment
419:23, 509:3	elastic	521:11, 522:8	452:9, 476:13
economically	346:6, 368:12	employee	entire
417:10 economics	electric	360:20	353:14, 355:5,
	387:4, 387:6,	employees	368:4, 370:8,
337 <b>:</b> 2	387:10, 387:12	360:22, 360:23	383:4, 396:20,
economy 350:17	electronic	employment	424:3, 425:14,
350:17 ed	489:23, 520:6	334:11	445:24, 457:3,
294:21, 334:2,	element	enables	462:17, 505:1
362:22, 504:5,	446:18, 453:13,	514:13	entirely
504:13	468:5, 482:12	encouraged	436:13
edited	elements	493:25	entirety
359:7	448:9, 449:8,	end	445:11, 477:13
	449:9, 451:24,	343:12, 434:7,	entitled
			494:8

entrance	336:16	330:19, 352:17,	examination
394:16, 394:20,	estimate	356:23, 396:14,	306:10, 331:12,
395:1, 395:5,	349:14, 390:11	397:2, 399:7,	334:8, 335:22,
396:1, 396:3,	estimated	400:23, 414:21,	337:20, 379:25,
396:5	312:11, 332:14,	481:12, 489:9,	385:17, 393:24,
entrances	332:18, 332:19	495:21	405:9, 406:10,
394:23	etcetera	every	426:23, 432:13
entry	446:11, 447:20,	316:2, 344:9,	examine
453:9, 468:11	447:21, 450:22,	353:19, 354:14,	324:19, 417:6
environment	461:23, 501:20	372:21, 374:13,	examined
343:18, 344:5	evaluate	412:24, 417:19,	306:9, 324:21,
envisioned	324:1, 328:3,	446:18, 460:21,	393:23, 406:9,
481:5, 502:3,	473:15	482:11	432:12, 442:23
510:24	evaluated	everybody	examiner's
equate	307:10, 308:12,	348:10, 355:10,	434:23, 491:17
451:19	325:24, 326:7,	417:23, 442:1,	example
equating	326:18, 326:19,	505:1, 512:3	302:18, 314:12,
469:6	326:25	everybody's	315:12, 317:4,
eric	evaluation	296:17	317:22, 318:12,
289:31	307:11, 308:3,	everyone	336:9, 339:16,
erik	330:24	391:12, 404:14,	344:10, 346:25,
289:34	evaluations	436:23, 471:12,	354:5, 369:19,
errors	308:9, 310:15	471:22	379:15, 389:5,
425:20, 450:9	even	everyone's	389:13, 399:20,
especially	302:4, 311:9,	486:19	475:22, 497:7
318:4, 497:15	317:11, 351:1,	everything	exceed
esq	357:5, 357:8,	304:19, 330:13,	338:24, 516:10
290:10	357:20, 374:22,	333:18, 474:24,	exceeded
esquire	377:22, 380:3,	479:21, 490:13,	443:21, 485:3
286:4, 286:11	384:24, 393:2,	490:14, 491:19,	exceeds
esri	397:16, 410:25,	497:23, 497:24,	517 <b>:</b> 2
349:13	415:22, 448:20,	510:21, 517:25	excellent
essence	452:4, 459:8,	evidence	437:23
444:21, 445:15	460:11, 460:19,	291:24, 298:15,	except
essentially	462:4, 462:6,	302:13, 388:4,	294:15, 448:22,
332:11, 507:19	469:23, 480:12,	455:4, 455:7,	461:2, 463:20,
establish	480:19, 501:17,	468:23, 487:9,	510:1, 519:19,
326:1, 326:24	502:10, 504:7,	487:12, 488:2,	519:23
established	512:16, 514:3,	503:11, 503:24,	exception
367:4, 452:14	515:20, 516:22,	515:16	507:14
establishing	519:5	evident	exceptions
517:15	evening	475:13	512:12
establishment	328:19, 375:22,	exact	excerpts
420:10	399:5, 399:6,	476:20	449:24
estate	417:24	exactly	exchange
336:4, 336:6,	eventually	436:21, 437:10,	290:27, 290:29,
336:7, 336:8,	387:15, 505:2	475:3, 476:21,	445:25, 485:1,
336:10, 336:14,	ever	492:6	508:6, 508:9
	326:6, 330:16,		

exchanges       429:13, 429:20,       expediency       explicitly         290:18, 290:50,       429:23, 446:21,       346:11       465:10         301:15       446:23, 447:12,       expedient       express         exclude       451:18, 451:19,       338:10, 338:16,       464:12, 510:14         368:2, 430:3       453:24, 458:7,       347:9, 348:16,       expressed         excluded       459:20, 462:21,       355:4, 355:14,       448:10         367:24, 367:25,       466:25, 467:1,       361:6, 375:8,       expressly         368:1       468:8, 488:3,       375:18, 376:16,       448:22, 462:25,	
290:18, 290:50, 429:23, 446:21, 346:11 465:10 express exclude 451:18, 451:19, 346:11 expedient 338:10, 338:16, 464:12, 510:14 excluded 459:20, 462:21, 355:4, 355:14, 466:25, 467:1, 361:6, 375:8, expressly	
301:15       446:23, 447:12,       expedient       express         exclude       451:18, 451:19,       338:10, 338:16,       464:12, 510:14         368:2, 430:3       453:24, 458:7,       347:9, 348:16,       expressed         excluded       459:20, 462:21,       355:4, 355:14,       448:10         367:24, 367:25,       466:25, 467:1,       361:6, 375:8,       expressly	
exclude       451:18, 451:19,       338:10, 338:16,       464:12, 510:14         368:2, 430:3       453:24, 458:7,       347:9, 348:16,       expressed         459:20, 462:21,       355:4, 355:14,       448:10         367:24, 367:25,       466:25, 467:1,       361:6, 375:8,       expressly	
368:2, 430:3	
<b>excluded</b> 367:24, 367:25,  459:20, 462:21, 367:24, 355:14, 361:6, 375:8, <b>expressly</b>	
367:24, 367:25, 466:25, 467:1, 361:6, 375:8, <b>expressly</b>	
<b>excuse</b> 488:4, 488:8, 380:10, 380:16, 510:17	
322:12, 381:25, 489:19, 489:20, 380:18, 382:23, <b>extend</b>	
408:2, 411:18, 500:1, 500:3, 503:20, 504:16, 437:3, 438:1	
421:1, 453:17, 500:17, 501:10, 505:6, 505:18, <b>extension</b>	
482:4, 486:10, 503:3, 503:4, 507:20 484:17	
488:21, 509:9, 503:16, 518:10 <b>expenditure extensive</b>	
511:21, 517:3 <b>exhibits</b> 351:20, 352:2, 500:10, 503:24	
executed 289:1, 289:42, 379:9 extensively	
415:23 290:6, 290:36, <b>experience</b> 380:2, 382:17.	
executive 290:38, 290:45, 321:5, 321:6, 505:9	
359:22. 492:18.   293:16, 301:7,   321:7, 335:1,   extent	
492:25, 503:9   301:24, 302:3,   377:10, 383:21,   303:21 303:25	
exhibit 302:16, 304:21, 397:6, 401:11, 380:8, 385:18.	
289:12, 289:13, 305:25, 338:7, 411:3, 417:21, 386:13, 390:5.	
301:8. 301:9. 447:3, 485:8, 426:25, 455:1, 404.22 404.25	
301:13. 301:19.   501:10, 506:20,   455:21, 516:24   external	
306:23, 307:12, 518:9, 518:10, <b>expert</b> 318:1 318:7	
307:19, 307:20, 520:5 306:25, 332:8, 321.23	
307:22, 308:6, exist 334:25, 337:18, extra	
308:17, 311:5, 510:7 345:20, 410:23, 348:15	
311:12, 312:6,   existence   480:19, 480:20,   extremely	
313:10, 313:20, 383:16 499:22, 502:17, 442.1	
315:20, 320:2, <b>existing</b> 503:7	
323:3, 323:8, 288:17, 318:11, <b>expert's</b> 347.3 353.2	
323:15, 324:9, 318:12, 380:24, 422:19 353.14 407.17	
327:5, 330:2, 395:8, 460:19, <b>experts</b> 409.2, 411.9	
$ 330:21, 331:8,  ^{469:16}$ $ 333:10, 372:3,  _{411.25, 412.4}$	
331:15, 331:18,   <b>exists</b>   382:5	
332:16, 333:11, 340:12, 342:12, <b>explain</b>	
334:19, 337:24, 388:5, 468:23, 314:1, 315:2,	
330:0, 339:21, 350:31, 350:21, and a second	
340.5, 340.6, Capana 409:14, 410:20,	
340:25, 342:3, 409:25 414:11, 414:25, <b>2</b> 99:5	
348:21, 349:16, <b>expect</b> 425:19, 434:8, <b>face</b>	
350:7, 350:9, 315:15, 315:17, 436:7	
352:13, 359:5, 351:5, 357:17, <b>explained</b> facetious	
302.20, 302.21	
explains	
350.24, 357.1	
412:17, 429:10, expectations explicit 311:24, 354:2,	
372:17 501:18, 502:13	

	Conducted on i	,	
359:24, 372:18,	failed	farther	402:21, 468:19,
404:8, 409:19,	461:19, 467:12	380:3, 380:4,	481:9, 489:17
447:20	fails	421:21	fewer
facility	481:17	fat	312:13, 312:14,
394:18, 398:10,	failure	442:19	430:12
400:24, 411:24,	448:13, 462:18	favorite	field
414:13, 414:20,	fair	371:18	453:10, 477:17
414:22	328:10, 357:21,	fcp	figure
facing	359:5, 360:8,	288:28, 288:29,	474:3
401:5, 453:6,	364:11, 368:6,	288:30, 288:31	file
480:13	374:18, 379:3,	fcp-approval	350:1
fact	445:25, 493:5	288:33, 288:34,	filed
367:13, 371:6,	fairly	288:35	433:2
384:4, 435:1,	360:7, 405:18	fear	files
435:6, 435:11,	fairness	490:20	458:7
435:12, 435:19,	519:13		
437:11, 437:17,	fall	feather	filing
438:1, 441:4,		286:20, 289:38,	431:11
443:13, 443:16,	309:8, 335:18 falls	298:20, 298:25, 299:4	fill
450:10, 456:16,			386:22, 425:16,
457:1, 473:9,	367:10	features	478:10
473:12, 484:16,	familiar	288:17, 339:13,	filling
492:16, 492:22,	331:18, 331:20,	363:7, 399:8,	291:12, 298:3,
501:15, 502:23,	344:22, 385:20,	458:11	329:25, 367:11,
508:5, 512:21,	385:21, 387:21,	february	368:17, 381:13,
513:22, 514:6,	388:15, 388:17,	291:9, 294:3,	382:12, 382:20,
515:24, 516:9,	418:12, 418:20	297:25	384:14, 399:14,
516:15, 517:11,	families	fed	411:11, 430:6,
518:19, 519:23,	318:13	417:18	430:7, 430:9,
520:1	family	federal	430:22, 468:20,
factor	402:1, 405:12,	358:3	468:21, 475:4,
346:15, 348:2,	406:15, 407:1	feel	475:5, 475:18,
371:13, 371:22,	fantels	297:20, 371:25,	475:21, 476:2,
374:15, 571:22, 374:15, 514:24	491:1	444:15, 474:14,	477:23, 499:17,
factors	far	475:14	499:18, 510:10,
319:7, 344:19,	302:16, 339:6,	feelings	511:15, 513:25,
344:24, 373:17	339:7, 348:13,	485:16	514:18, 514:21,
facts	352:25, 369:9,	feet	514:22, 515:1,
302:21, 303:24,	369:16, 370:20,	307:15, 307:16,	517:6, 517:10 <b>fills</b>
456:9, 505:22,	376:16, 380:17,	307:17, 307:25,	
506:7, 506:8	435:22, 462:5	308:1, 308:2,	413:25
factual	farm	308:5, 308:6,	final
456:20, 457:24,	349:6, 480:2,	325:4, 443:9	288:25, 288:28, 288:29, 288:30,
487:9	480:4, 480:17	felt	288:29, 288:30, 288:32,
faded	farmers	467:25	288:33, 288:34,
316:6	477:25, 478:17,	few	288:35, 288:36,
fail	478:20	309:24, 313:16,	288:38, 288:39,
506:18	farms	316:18, 335:21,	288:40, 288:41,
	344:10, 407:16	401:22, 402:20,	200.40, 200.41,
	l		

	Conducted on N	,	
288:42, 290:16,	438:15, 483:25,	430:22, 437:1,	421:11
312:7, 429:8,	489:15, 501:3,	445:6, 448:22,	foods
436:12, 436:15,	504:5	450:18, 462:24,	347:2, 371:19,
472:11, 487:25,	fines	481:16, 484:12,	373:5, 376:12,
488:14, 488:15,	444:9, 448:3,	498:5, 498:6	
		T	407:11, 408:12
491:11, 495:20,	485:3, 508:17	five-mile	foregoing
498:4	finger	374:21, 398:6,	521:3, 521:4,
finally	335:9	409:25, 413:8,	522:4
506:12	finish	413:12	foremost
financial	428:22, 438:19,	flagrant	469:22
485:10, 521:13,	482:5	518:7	foreseeable
522:10	finished	flanagan's	351 <b>:</b> 7
find	378:4	470:23	forest
330:15, 333:3,	finishes	flexible	288:25, 288:32,
348:19, 375:7,	293:10	456:2, 500:19,	430:16, 460:1,
380:6, 435:11,	fire	514:8	460:9
435:12, 451:15,	289:4, 289:22	flies	forget
454:14, 455:11,	firm	478:11	490:2
458:20, 465:25,	306:21, 321:7,	flow	form
468:17, 468:22,	334:15	376:17, 395:22,	378:1
470:8, 471:21,	first	457:19, 518:23	formal
476:10, 476:12,	297:25, 300:21,	flowing	431:18, 434:14,
480:14, 480:25,	307:11, 317:25,	451:10	431:16, 434:14,
484:18		focus	
finding	326:2, 333:17,		formally
440:17, 447:14,	364:9, 388:22,	336:13, 450:18,	431:23, 433:9,
447:24, 450:1,	390:24, 393:22,	451:6, 452:10,	433:11, 488:19
458:21, 491:19,	398:15, 406:8,	500:5	formula
499:18	408:21, 410:2,	focusing	378:18
	410:8, 412:12,	318:2	forth
findings	429:24, 432:11,	folks	292:1, 298:17,
333:19, 434:25,	442:22, 450:1,	417:18, 427:25,	314:23, 347:14,
435:6, 435:11,	460:16, 461:8,	428:3, 450:15	357:14, 370:13,
435:12, 435:19,	467:2, 469:22,	followed	379:14, 416:16,
437:17, 438:1,	481:8, 494:1,	450:11	428:22, 444:1,
441:4, 446:17,	495:4, 497:19,	following	444:24, 450:17,
447:14, 448:7,	499:4, 500:9,	388:2, 395:25,	452:14, 464:9,
449:23, 473:9,	509:17, 512:18	430:8	485:7, 489:10,
473:12, 500:5,	fit	follows	495:23, 512:7
518:18, 519:22,	339:11, 361:5,	306:9, 393:23,	forward
520:1	362:16, 475:23	406:9, 432:12,	443:25, 467:17,
finds	fits	442:23, 518:14	492:13, 496:21
388:3, 447:22,	361:10	followup	foster
447:25	five	383:23	288:46, 395:18,
fine	290:13, 354:20,	food	480:19, 502:16
296:6, 296:11,	408:24, 410:11,		found
296:12, 391:4,	411:16, 413:9,	342:23, 344:7,	
391:19, 402:3,	413:18, 415:24,	344:21, 348:13,	308:9, 308:18,
419:18, 429:4,	416:15, 419:10,	372:20, 373:3,	310:16, 311:11,
	TIO.IO,	373:8, 420:16,	332:11, 376:15,

	0 01145600 011	1 Water 0, 2023	
443:20, 444:8,	fuel	413:20, 517:3	399:8, 399:13,
493:9, 497:5,	343:24, 345:23,	gallonage	399:17, 399:21,
497:10, 503:3,	348:13, 351:21,	351 <b>:</b> 19	400:14, 400:24,
506:12	353:5, 354:12,	gallons	405:12, 407:12,
foundation	356:23, 356:25,	338:20, 351:23,	408:14, 414:22,
345:1	359:24, 361:7,	352:5, 352:10,	422:22, 427:2,
fountain	373:1, 375:14,	354:9, 354:11,	507:15, 511:15,
513:17	387:9, 387:17,	354:25, 358:18,	513:21, 514:22,
four	409:4, 409:9,	381:16, 381:18,	515:19
335:12, 340:25,	424:18, 430:24	411:7, 411:12,	gates
360:14, 360:21,	fueling	411:16, 412:6,	379:4
386:21, 397:9,	308:22, 311:9,	412:22, 413:1,	gateses
415:14, 415:18,	314:17, 314:20,	413:3, 413:21,	379:14
418:8, 430:1,	315:14, 315:23,	414:6, 414:7,	gather
430:3, 430:18,	315:24, 316:2,	423:6, 423:7,	478:15
430:21, 454:1,	321:9, 331:22,	423:22, 423:24,	gathering
506:4	332:12, 411:6,	423:25, 425:8,	467:20, 478:1,
frankly	411:7	425:22, 430:23,	478:24
304:4, 439:8,	full	516:11	gauge
465:20, 515:11,	306:20, 345:15,	gaps	348:7, 418:13,
515:21	394:3	469:18	421:8
fraud	fully	garages	gauges
512:5	351 <b>:</b> 5, 521 <b>:</b> 5	467:15, 467:18,	415:8
frederick	function	501:19	gave
286:14, 351:16,	293:12	garden	339:9, 417:10,
356:8, 363:13	funeral	320:6	467:15, 482:19,
frequently	388:14, 389:10	gasoline	502:17
358:10	further	305:16, 314:1,	general
friend	312:22, 333:6,	314:11, 315:13,	291:15, 298:6,
489:7	343:13, 343:14,	315:21, 317:1,	317:2, 317:11,
friendly	356:10, 379:23,	320:6, 321:8,	317:21, 340:14,
476:25, 477:5,	383:6, 397:17,	329:21, 329:25,	385:25, 388:6,
479:8, 479:15,	408:10, 409:5,	344:20, 345:3,	394:5, 414:20,
479:24, 480:1,	418:2, 421:14,	352:5, 356:16,	452:18, 453:7,
480:3, 480:5,	426:17, 448:11,	358:11, 358:15,	468:24, 470:11,
480:23	448:13, 448:19,	358:16, 358:22,	476:18, 485:11,
friends	459:11, 463:10,	359:1, 366:5,	499:19, 502:11,
474:18	463:12, 486:8,	366:19, 367:15,	513:8, 513:19,
front	491:16, 494:10,	368:13, 368:19,	514:18
334:20, 401:7,	518:17	370:24, 371:1,	generally
463:14, 483:20,	future	371:13, 372:5,	328:18, 366:16,
483:23, 487:12,	351:3, 351:7,	374:20, 375:2,	414:11, 435:25
494:18, 509:8,	458:24, 509:20	377:17, 378:16,	generate
509:9	G	378:19, 378:22,	314:7, 315:5,
fronted	gaining	381:16, 382:12,	315:25
453:5	373:18	387:11, 387:18,	generated
fsd	gallon	394:12, 396:14,	310:23, 315:6,
288:24	398:11, 399:20,	397:3, 397:7,	332:25, 341:22
	•	•	•

	Conducted on N	,	
generates	giving	goes	509:11, 516:20
314:18, 321:19,	293:24, 363:2,	339:3, 339:4,	gone
321:20	436:18, 473:7	417:23, 452:21,	372:22, 468:11
generating	glean	460:7, 461:9,	good
310:18, 311:10	411:1	477:20, 509:23,	292:4, 292:8,
generation	glitch	514:12, 514:15	296:15, 297:10,
312:11, 313:24,	296:23	going	300:4, 300:7,
315:19, 316:20,	qlw	294:1, 295:9,	313:14, 313:15,
316:24, 321:2,	297:11, 352:16	295:17, 306:24,	342:5, 344:21,
324:22, 328:24,	go	309:8, 318:14,	348:10, 350:13,
330:12, 378:7	296:14, 307:11,	318:15, 321:15,	359:20, 363:20,
gentleman	312:21, 321:12,	329:10, 332:2,	372:20, 374:10,
492:2	321:14, 324:5,	332:7, 334:24,	391:24, 432:1,
geographic	331:17, 339:6,		437:13, 441:9,
339:12, 362:10	339:7, 339:14,		441:15, 441:17,
geography	339:15, 340:20,	346:5, 347:6,	441:19, 487:10
339:23	340:24, 341:15,	347:21, 348:4,	goods
george's	341:18, 343:17,	348:9, 349:8,	383:19
503:18	347:5, 347:21,	351:6, 352:4,	google
germane	348:8, 349:9,	352:17, 355:12,	398:7
318:4, 318:7,	350:13, 352:13,	360:4, 361:15,	gosh
323:17	352:14, 355:12,	364:3, 366:5,	450:16
germantown	357:23, 361:20,	372:23, 376:20,	gotten
365:10, 365:25,	366:1, 366:5,	376:21, 381:23,	296:5, 508:8
380:3, 380:9,	371:24, 373:4,	382:11, 390:14,	governed
410:1, 504:22	374:9, 375:12,	394:21, 397:8,	293:22
getting	376:11, 376:17,	398:19, 403:4,	government
296:18, 318:18,	380:9, 380:24,	408:17, 410:5,	303:16, 357:6,
383:19, 389:18,	384:11, 390:24,	410:15, 415:2,	358:21, 358:24
400:10, 465:17,	397:14, 398:14,	415:4, 415:11,	governmental
476:15, 486:12,	408:16, 409:21,	418:16, 418:18,	358 <b>:</b> 15
515:24	410:6, 411:4,	419:1, 419:2,	grab
giant	413:6, 413:7,	419:5, 423:17,	325:8
347:2, 376:12,	414:11, 415:9,	425:16, 429:22,	granted
407:11, 407:21,	417:5, 424:6,	436:16, 438:4,	507:23
407:23, 408:12,	426:4, 428:23,	446:13, 448:18, 449:16, 453:20,	granting
420:16, 421:11,	438:25, 442:12,		514:20
421:20, 509:9	444:19, 455:18,	454:2, 455:3, 459:12, 472:2,	great
give	456:9, 460:17,	474:20, 475:1,	323:22, 367:2,
341:18, 385:25,	463:4, 463:11,	477:22, 477:24,	442:19, 515:24
403:17, 428:7,	467:25, 470:2,	478:1, 478:10,	greater
435:20, 473:8,	475:1, 475:2, 480:8, 481:20,	478:18, 478:24,	356 <b>:</b> 7
508:16, 508:17,	484:17, 501:10,	485:20, 485:23,	gregory
514:16, 520:6	504:21, 505:2,	486:14, 491:4,	289:33
given	510:16, 510:22,	492:3, 492:17,	grocer
314:10, 501:25,	511:5, 515:25	493:11, 494:2,	320:16, 320:21,
508:6, 508:9	goal	495:19, 496:21,	320:25, 321:6,
gives	502:11	, , , ,	321:10, 346:24,
391:12, 481:24			

		, aren 0, 2020	
347:20, 501:17,	groups	handlir	413:15, 447:12,
506:13	362:11, 362:19,	285:19, 521:2,	517:1
groceries	362:21, 363:4	521:18	heads
346:22, 365:21	growing	hands	393:1
grocers	344:9	443:12, 464:15	hear
321:8, 421:21	growth	handwritten	293:13, 296:19,
grocery	348:25, 349:1,	488:24	297:4, 297:12,
321:13, 321:16,	351:1, 351:5	handy	297:15, 297:19,
321:18, 323:1,	guaran	362:14	298:14, 360:18,
332:24, 339:16,	484:13	hang	393:5, 397:19,
340:22, 341:23,	quess	451:15, 476:14	397:20, 418:6,
342:11, 343:6,	313:22, 314:15,	happen	497:25
344:1, 344:16,	332:10, 429:25,	418:16, 418:18,	heard
345:13, 345:14,	462:23, 465:11,	432:25, 436:2,	300:23, 360:13,
345:22, 346:13,	493:13, 518:1	507:6, 511:5	360:17, 360:19,
346:18, 347:2,	quidance	happened	366:10, 398:25,
347:24, 355:6,	317:12	402:13, 418:22,	414:19, 414:21,
356:1, 362:25,	quide	433:1, 444:6,	414:23, 443:18,
364:22, 364:25,	407:2, 485:9	493:24	443:19, 486:18,
365:4, 365:7,	quidelines	happening	490:12, 490:13,
365:8, 365:19,	309:2, 310:20,	375:16, 454:18,	497:2, 497:24,
407:9, 408:3,	311:20, 319:5,	496:17, 498:23	500:9, 500:25,
408:4, 408:13,	319:13, 319:17,	happens	501:13, 508:1,
419:24, 420:1,	319:19, 321:4,	417:14	513:1
420:7, 420:8,	322:4, 322:11	happy	hearings
420:10, 420:11,	guiding	391:5, 483:17	284:1, 285:6,
420:23, 421:7,	309:2, 458:25	hard	444:7, 487:24
421:14, 426:4,	guy	470:9, 485:16,	hearsay
432:22, 449:21,	493:6	506:11	465:18, 465:24,
451:2, 451:3,	guys	hard-fought	466:1, 471:18,
476:4, 477:2,	455:14	485:1	493:3, 519:2
480:8, 480:13,	н	hardly	heart
480:21, 490:16,	h	416:15	514:12
492:6, 502:2,	290:45	hardship	heated
502:6, 504:16,	290:45   <b>half</b>	419 <b>:</b> 23	451:5
505:10, 506:13,	429:2, 500:6,	harmonious	heather
507:10, 516:8	500:21, 500:22,	459:4	289:34
grocery-operated	500:21, 500:22,	hassle	heavily
359:24	hamstringing	376:11	516:5
gross	482:14	haste	height
379:7, 448:12	hand	434:17	497:10
ground	293:4, 309:20,	he'11	heights
465:1	334:5, 393:19,	454:22	443:21, 496:17
group	406:4, 432:8,	head	held
292:10, 300:9,	442:14, 496:6	323:10, 377:7	285:1, 450:19,
304:11, 330:18,	handle	heading	514:16
365:7, 443:13,	411:7	366:14, 367:13,	hello
450:21, 457:3	· · · · /	369:1, 399:2,	432:5
		<u> </u>	

help	507:10, 507:24,	417:8, 458:12,	359:25, 360:10,
295:23, 383:17,	511:6, 513:17,	458:20, 458:25	430:18, 431:8,
406:16, 407:2	515:4, 515:16,	history	431:9, 431:12,
helped	518:24	307:6, 313:10,	431:14, 432:14,
455:10	hereby	338:11, 345:25,	432:21, 433:6,
helpful	448:7, 521:3,	448:6, 498:11	433:10, 433:12
305:22, 421:4,	522:2	hm-hm	house
421:6, 433:7	herson	314:6, 314:21,	417:12, 419:1
helping	289:35	372:16, 404:2,	household
416:12	hi	408:9, 422:21	350:16, 351:12,
here	432:6	hoa	352:4, 422:20
297:19, 299:24,	hide	288:11, 289:36	households
300:16, 304:3,	466:23	hold	348:25, 350:16,
304:10, 305:6,	high	293:9, 359:13,	351:22, 422:15,
306:6, 312:8,	373:2, 400:4,	459:13	422:17, 422:18
313:3, 316:20,	400:6, 400:9,	home	housing
323:9, 325:2,	400:11, 400:14,	355:4, 367:23,	318:12, 334:17
326:17, 328:14,	400:21, 411:4	375:22, 376:16,	how's
328:15, 336:6,	higher	376:21, 397:8	478:9
339:3, 340:4,	350:17, 372:9,	homeowner's	howe
341:17, 346:8,	378:20, 400:6,	370:13, 506:25	446:6
347:23, 348:8,	400:8, 400:11,	homes	however
350:13, 351:10,	400:18, 425:12,	370:8, 388:14,	293:22, 380:13,
352:18, 353:18,	425:13	389:10, 401:15,	431:18, 505:17
354:23, 355:10,	highlighted	450:17, 497:6	huge
355:20, 359:23,	447:16	honestly	444:2
361:1, 363:6,	highly	335:8	human
364:23, 371:4,	305:7	hope	365:25, 376:4,
372:18, 374:3,	highly-competiti-	391:18	377:1
374:6, 379:7,	ve	hoped	hundred
379:14, 382:7,	357:10	492:4	437:21
384:11, 386:6,	highly-secretive	hopefully	hundreds
389:3, 389:9,	357:10	416:2	337:8
390:21, 410:8,	highway	hopkins	hyattstown
410:13, 412:22, 419:24, 424:6,	345:17, 348:1,	336:1, 336:8,	353:4, 366:7,
425:20, 432:1,	349:5, 353:11,	336:18	409:5
437:11, 442:1,	353:16, 354:24,	horse	hybrid
443:10, 450:5,	376:8, 376:10,	460:16	292:13, 292:22,
453:18, 459:16,	376:17, 376:19	hotels	387:11
460:5, 460:23,	hill	336:10, 388:15	I
461:3, 461:21,	304:12, 469:9	hour	ice
465:18, 470:18,	hinged	312:14, 312:15,	399:11, 404:3
473:1, 474:25,	368:5, 513:22	316:9, 316:10,	id
490:1, 490:12,	hire	330:7, 330:10,	398:10
494:8, 500:9,	470:14	361:8, 391:11,	idea
502:15, 504:8,	historic	392:5, 429:2,	358:13, 360:24,
504:24, 506:22,	394:15, 401:4,	484:11, 484:12	421:12
	401:9, 417:5,	hours	
		323:1, 329:24,	

ideal	implicitly	include	318:8
502:12	384:19	311:17, 311:25,	increasing
identical		*	379:2
	imply	445:18, 458:16, 469:23, 505:14,	
340:15, 342:14,	503:15	505:16	incredible
355:16, 359:6,	importance		465:18
388:7, 469:1,	373:18, 373:19,	included	independent
470:12, 499:20,	446:18, 451:23	320:7, 368:3,	321:18, 332:1,
503:23, 503:25,	important	434:16, 446:13,	347:1, 376:25,
504:7, 504:11,	296:21, 344:18,	451:12, 464:21,	384:6, 426:10,
504:18, 507:17,	345:11, 345:25,	466:10, 470:3,	426:11
513:10, 515:12,	347:12, 347:15,	480:12, 481:8,	independently
517:7	348:1, 348:2,	482:12, 497:6,	506:23
identified	348:3, 348:17,	498:10, 509:12,	indicate
341:5, 341:25,	351:10, 353:18,	514:6	336:19, 508:4
343:11, 362:5,	366:20, 371:17,	includes	indicated
362:11, 362:20,	371:23, 373:15,	365:5, 371:1,	335:25, 343:1,
362:21, 372:12,	373:17, 374:15,	413:9, 419:12,	434:16
409:7, 433:12	374:17, 382:9,	445:20, 458:11,	indicates
identify	443:1, 446:14,	469:25	381:15, 384:15,
292:2, 292:21,	459:1, 467:17,	including	516:15
299:25, 372:10,	471:9, 506:15,	305:8, 443:20,	indicating
377:15, 510:21	511:18, 513:2,	450:16, 463:22,	431:23
illustrate	514:17, 514:24,	473:6, 502:15,	indication
379 <b>:</b> 11	520:9	510:3, 519:9	385:8, 516:13
image	importantly	inclusion	indicator
395:8	448:5	301:12, 308:21,	387:17
immaterial	imposed	434:12, 488:11	indirectly
358:8	358:14, 512:1	inclusive	500:12
immediate	imposing	470:15, 518:3	individual
371:8, 420:15,	448:3	income	390:15, 409:23,
504:10, 516:17	impossible	378:18, 378:20,	449:19, 455:17,
impact	325:25	378:22, 379:4,	465:19, 507:1
308:11, 312:25,	improved	403:20	individuals
313:7, 330:15,	313:5	inconsistent	375:5, 517:14
331:22, 332:14,	improvement	459:6, 482:1,	indulgence
387:14, 416:9	376:22	500:11, 500:12	297:18
impacted	inaccessible	incorporate	industrial
387:3	478:7	485:22	417:16
impacts	inadequacy	incorporated	industry
308:13, 309:4,	469:18, 474:1	326:4, 327:1,	372 <b>:</b> 3
321:23, 325:19,	inadequate	451:21, 452:1,	inferior
333:20	469:17, 470:17	484:21, 508:22,	506:17
impair	inappropriate	509:1, 518:6	influenced
448:24	302:25	incorporation	427:1
implementation	inc	482:10, 484:20	informal
450:8	284:7, 289:17,	increase	293:20, 293:21
implicit	291:7, 297:24	378:19, 386:25	information
500:23	incentive	increased	295:22, 302:2,
	347:4	308:4, 317:19,	

220-16 220-24	E14.14	:	461.22 F10.17
320:16, 320:24,	514:14	introduction	461:22, 519:17
329:16, 329:18,	interaction	291:20	it'll
330:23, 357:8,	405:3	inundated	390:12
360:1, 436:3,	interchange	348:5	italian
473:22	353:16	inversion	399:11, 404:3
inherent	interconnected	461:2	ite
512:9, 512:14	382:14	invest	312:8, 313:23,
initial	interest	415:25	315:21, 317:1,
335:14, 432:17,	428:18, 447:23,	investment	319:6, 319:18,
432:19, 450:7,	505:7, 505:19,	292:10, 300:9,	319:21, 321:5,
481:13	506:19, 521:13,	415:12, 418:25	328:22, 328:24,
initially	522:9	invoke	329:6
360:5, 450:21,	interested	434:23	item-by-item
493:25	483:14	involve	449:7
initials	interesting	463:19, 509:24	items
488:17, 488:18	511:2, 515:2,	involved	519:23
inside	516:3	329:21, 346:15,	itself
344:15, 372:23,	interject	443:12	293:20, 318:3,
450:1	459:15	ipad	350:21, 355:22,
insignificant	interlineation	292:19, 292:20	450:5, 451:25,
457 <b>:</b> 5	488:13	irrelevant	453:23, 454:6,
insofar	internal-capture	454:7, 480:14	461:3, 461:13,
331:7	321:12	irrespective	467:24, 468:20,
installing	interpolate	504:1	475:20, 475:25,
403:13	357:12, 357:13	ish	482:8, 484:20,
instance	interpretation	400:16	488:23, 508:25,
496:16, 505:23,	454:5, 454:15,	ishan	509:19, 510:12
509:17	454:25, 465:19,	287:12, 294:25,	J
instead	487:15, 487:16,	300:10, 393:15,	jack
378:8, 497:8	487:20	393:21, 394:5,	295:20, 301:3
institute	interpreted	406:15, 413:11,	january
312:9, 313:23,	502:14	414:19, 419:20,	290:24, 491:21,
315:8, 329:7	interrupt	419:21	491:25
instructs	325:21, 340:7,	issue	jeopardize
448:11, 448:14	457:19, 518:23	305:9, 338:8,	459:10
insufficient	interrupted	342:17, 357:17,	jim
302:2	403:8	357:18, 361:9,	491:2
integrated	interrupting	382:12, 382:19,	job
370:12	293:5, 395:22,	382:22, 389:5,	284:23, 326:18,
intended	444:12	389:7, 389:24,	435:15, 501:7
294:20, 391:4,	intertwined	396:18, 496:5,	ioe's
465:10, 478:12,	505:11	503:12, 503:14,	420:9
479:5, 484:25,	interview	505:14	johns
509:10	470:23	issued	336:1
intends	introduce	290:47	join
377:17, 463:24,	292:15, 393:15,	issues	441:21
510:8	405:23, 486:11	389:15, 402:9,	joining
intent	introduced	411:20, 420:2,	441 <b>:</b> 16
466:11, 484:10,	488:7	•	

	Conducted on		70
judge	kind	kubit's	387:20, 399:22,
446:6, 454:23	308:20, 309:2,	296:7, 455:12	410:25, 417:12,
judicial	315:11, 317:25,	L	442:9, 470:21,
303:16	329:10, 330:14,	labeled	475:10, 481:9,
july	330:18, 336:6,	445:17	488:3, 488:4,
443:19	343:9, 348:9,	labor	491:5, 491:12,
june	400:19, 401:5,	379:10	492:16, 495:22
289:43, 289:45,	403:7, 414:16,	lack	late
447:9, 451:22,	492:25, 500:7		328:19, 462:8
498:15	kindly	345:1, 514:21	later
jurisdiction	292:14, 327:18,	lady	305:20, 327:22,
461:16	334:5, 393:18,	442:20	439:17, 464:7
jurisdictions	406:3, 429:22,	laid	latr
336:25, 512:11	432:8, 442:13,	451:8	312:10
justification	489:22, 520:6	lake	lauralay's
289:11, 467:16	kinds	339:6	292:19
justifications	389:14	land	law
515:5	king	312:18, 314:10,	290:48, 302:23,
justified	480:2, 480:4,	315:20, 316:3,	302:24, 304:19,
370:25	480:17	317:6, 317:8,	304:23, 304:25,
K	knew	317:13, 319:4,	305:3, 305:6,
	464:19, 464:25,	403:17, 467:21	369:11, 388:20,
kate	484:10, 491:4,	landscape	449:3, 463:22,
286:21, 287:18,	508:11	288:23, 290:38	464:2, 464:12,
296:15, 432:1,	knock	landscaping	469:3, 491:20,
432:10	508:18	457:5, 457:8	503:18, 508:24,
keep	knowing	language	509:13, 509:22,
293:2, 293:7,	314:16, 415:10,	454:16, 475:13,	510:3, 510:14,
364:3, 390:6,	434:18	476:10, 484:16,	513:12
394:2, 511:9	knowledge	484:19, 509:18, 514:1	lawful
keeps	445:10, 466:13,		448:2, 464:16,
409:17	521:10, 522:6	large	510:17
keith	known	354:1, 365:9,	laws
289:18, 290:39	320:25	466:24	510:6
kentlands	knows	larger	lay
479:8, 479:10,	449:25	343:1, 387:11,	329:6
479:15, 480:17	krandi	467:25 <b>largest</b>	layperson's
kept	289:31	343:20	388:18
497:14 <b>kerr</b>	kreatchman	last	lc
	304:12, 469:9	291:21, 294:14,	284:7, 291:6,
446:6 <b>kevin</b>	kubit	295:3, 295:10,	297:23
	286:21, 287:18,	295:18, 299:4,	lead
288:46, 395:18,	295:12, 295:25,	300:15, 301:8,	312:23
480:19, 502:16 <b>khandikile</b>	296:15, 296:16,	309:24, 324:23,	leader
	300:23, 432:1,	324:24, 325:12,	443:14
284:10, 291:22,	432:5, 432:10,	326:15, 335:7,	least
298:10	440:19, 440:21,	341:10, 352:9,	320:18, 325:9,
kimley-horn	495:23	332.3,	329:3, 415:14,
306:19			

	Conducted on iv	,	
415:17, 452:6,	310:25, 311:10,	likely	listing
469:5, 491:21,	317:23, 321:22,	321:10, 322:1,	389:9
502:3	322:1, 325:18,	332:18, 332:20,	listserv
leave	344:23, 378:23,	342:22, 354:17,	491:23
296:11, 300:24,	379:7, 386:17,	364:18	literal
340:19, 347:7,	430:23, 516:1	likes	475:22
348:18, 367:22,	let's	512:3	litigation
434:10, 436:16,	299:18, 334:22,	likewise	465:23
454:23, 473:1	339:14, 364:9,	302:1, 347:2,	little
leaving	368:1, 391:9,	353:16	307:5, 316:6,
435:22, 435:24	393:8, 410:2,	limit	317:16, 320:5,
leeway	418:7, 424:6,	358 <b>:</b> 21	339:4, 339:5,
456:5	437:1, 439:18,	limitations	
left	440:10, 463:7,		364:12, 370:16,
	463:11, 477:25,	358:14, 399:16	398:13, 402:14,
295:10, 306:7,	491:1, 501:9,	limited	407:7, 411:19,
352:24, 386:7,	503:6, 507:5	292:10, 300:9,	412:14, 437:15,
473:5, 493:12 <b>legal</b>	letter	358:18, 430:8,	463:11, 463:12,
	288:15, 288:43,	430:12, 430:19,	463:13, 479:20,
293:11, 301:22,	290:23, 290:33,	436:17, 473:5,	514:3
302:22, 303:3,	381:10, 433:13,	482:8, 518:15,	live
303:22, 304:1,	481:8	518:18, 519:25	351:10, 379:15,
327:5, 456:15,	letters	limiting	407:4, 407:5,
457:10, 464:15,	289:29	465:2, 482:16	420:13
482:15, 500:17,	level	line	live-work
503:16, 505:13,		339:4, 339:20,	468:7, 501:20
522:14	308:25, 411:4,	341:25, 363:8,	living
legally	411:5 <b>levels</b>	363:11, 363:19,	508:19
303:18, 363:8,		417:5, 417:14,	llc
464:9	311:25, 317:17	438:19, 444:24,	286:12
legally-imposed	levied	470:4, 470:5,	load
511:16	446:2	491:11, 493:7,	412:25
length	libraries	507:4	local
508:1	466:18	link	309:1, 311:19,
lengthy	library	470:22, 470:25,	312:10, 318:19,
499:13	467:21, 467:25,		318:23, 318:25,
lens	501:19		368:3, 404:17
511:20	license	474:4	located
lerch	336:22, 482:19	liquor	353:8, 371:1,
286:5, 292:5,	licensed	386:19	371:9, 374:20,
300:5, 450:14	304:10	list	385:22, 394:13,
leslie	licensure	288:9, 288:12,	407:14, 516:17
286:11, 290:10,	336:23	409:25, 443:17,	location
290:19, 290:32,	liebermann	497:3	289:12, 290:41,
290:33, 290:37,	289:37	listen	347:14, 383:22,
290:46, 292:8,	life	291:23, 341:15,	394:25, 502:21
300:7	474:4	341:19, 416:17	logic
less	lighting	listening	376:14, 413:18
309:6, 310:18,	289:14	297:12	long
			310:22, 390:13,

```
394:17, 420:4,
                                                               479:1, 479:3,
                     363:10, 369:22,
                                          513:11, 514:1,
486:6, 490:22,
                     389:6, 398:2,
                                          515:6, 515:14,
                                                               479:7, 479:9
491:11, 506:10,
                     412:13, 420:4,
                                          517:7, 517:11
                                                               maintains
507:5, 510:22
                     420:5, 420:7,
                                          lunch
                                                               504:14
longer
                     420:9, 429:6,
                                          391:5, 391:10,
                                                               maior
478:14, 519:16
                     437:19, 449:23,
                                          493:1
                                                               354:6, 405:3,
                     458:4, 462:7,
                                          luncheon
longfellow
                                                               468:3
                     468:8, 472:14,
                                          392:9
286:22, 288:47,
                                                               majority
297:10, 297:11,
                     483:21
                                                               361:13, 366:13
                                          lynne
                     looks
297:16
                                          491:2
                                                               make
                     424:13, 425:1,
look
                                                               298:13, 299:2,
                                                   M
                     442:5, 444:13
314:25, 316:7,
                                                               299:14, 299:17,
                                          ma'am
318:7, 320:1,
                     loose
                                                               303:1, 309:8,
                                          295:12, 297:16,
323:18, 323:24,
                     502:12
                                                               310:21, 311:1,
                                          385:12, 385:23,
324:9, 324:11,
                     loosely
                                                               313:2, 313:17,
                                          390:6, 412:20,
324:15, 325:14,
                     369:7
                                                               322:2, 325:9,
                                          430:25, 459:21
325:15, 328:11,
                     losing
                                                               359:23, 362:3,
                                          madam
339:2, 342:2,
                     326:3
                                                               363:20, 377:1,
                                          301:17, 302:21,
348:7, 348:8,
                                                               378:5, 380:8,
                     lost
                                          303:6, 305:12,
352:7, 357:24,
                                                               380:15, 382:18,
                     350:20, 416:18,
                                          306:22, 313:9,
358:5, 359:21,
                                                               395:25, 404:17,
                     444:15, 511:21
                                          326:2, 399:19,
370:23, 372:11,
                                                               411:18, 411:20,
                     lot
                                          405:24, 408:21,
373:9, 374:5,
                                                               418:25, 434:14,
                     302:15, 317:7,
                                          409:14, 410:20,
376:9, 395:11,
                     346:5, 347:13,
                                                               435:15, 436:11,
                                          414:12, 416:21,
397:11, 399:23,
                     354:5, 356:2,
                                                               436:15, 441:8,
                                          427:8, 453:15,
408:23, 409:13,
                                                               444:13, 456:23,
                     375:13, 376:11,
                                          474:22, 499:6,
410:6, 410:10,
                                                               472:11, 473:15,
                     376:13, 386:20,
                                          507:8
414:9, 422:25,
                                                               476:5, 477:2,
                     477:2, 477:25,
                                          made
423:3, 439:6,
                                                               492:25, 493:15,
                     478:16, 478:23,
                                          289:40, 300:17,
444:5, 464:10,
                                                               495:15, 501:1,
                     478:25, 488:13,
                                          303:24, 337:11,
475:14, 485:20,
                                                               502:9, 502:19,
                     502:6, 505:25,
                                          359:10, 361:1,
497:19, 505:22,
                                                               507:6
                     513:1, 513:21,
                                          417:1, 424:14,
512:24, 516:20,
                                                               makes
                     515:3, 516:1
                                          435:18, 446:7,
517:5, 517:12
                                                               370:14, 378:21,
                     lots
                                          451:7, 456:15,
looked
                                                               378:23, 435:14,
                     389:17, 480:13
                                          458:21, 462:3,
323:13, 324:21,
                                                               470:2, 478:7,
                     love
                                          472:17, 481:11,
352:12, 358:1,
                                                               501:7, 507:21
                     486:2
                                          481:12, 498:18,
358:9, 372:4,
                                                               making
                     low
                                          500:22, 508:15,
387:5, 425:19,
                                                               321:1, 441:21,
                     373:1
                                          515:12
453:4, 482:23,
                                                               494:9, 494:20
                     lower
                                          mailing
515:15
                                                               mall
                     412:21
                                          288:12
looking
                                                               451:2, 453:3
                     lower-left
                                          main
311:23, 317:25,
                                                               manage
                     353:2
                                          353:8, 353:9,
321:7, 344:5,
                                                               406:17
                     lower-right
                                          353:12
344:7, 344:17,
                                                               managed
                     353:1
                                          maintain
346:4, 346:9,
                                                               474:17
                     loyalty
                                          477:1, 480:2
348:5, 350:20,
                                                               management
                     515:14
                                          maintaining
350:21, 352:11,
                                                               407:3
                     lucky
                                          305:5, 478:23,
                     305:15, 505:15,
```

		Waten 0, 2023	
manager	marc	285:7, 285:10,	398:10
394:6	492:18, 493:11	285:20, 286:7,	mean
mandated	march	286:14, 335:20,	303:15, 316:20,
326:7, 327:2	284:13, 291:7,	337:1, 338:11,	316:21, 325:21,
mandatory	439:18, 440:11,	503:18, 521:19	336:5, 361:17,
512:22	518:14, 522:15	massaged	364:25, 370:19,
manmade	margins	362:16	376:1, 378:17,
363:7	372:25, 373:2	massive	379:3, 380:21,
mann	mark	353 <b>:</b> 13	381:25, 391:22,
289:34	289:37	master	391:23, 400:11,
manner	marked	418:17, 443:4,	415:1, 416:4,
459:5	430:2	449:21, 458:5,	416:24, 422:2,
manual	markers	458:6, 458:8,	428:9, 451:3,
313:24, 314:3,	341:18	458:17, 469:24,	455:12, 468:15,
314:9, 315:6,	market	478:5, 480:16,	472:2, 489:14,
316:24, 319:19,	297:23, 301:3,	495:24, 512:23	491:3, 492:8,
319:21, 321:5,	334:15, 334:16,	master's	509:14, 514:10,
328:24, 378:8	343:15, 343:19,	336:1, 336:7	515:22, 516:7,
manuals	343:20, 352:24,	mastrosimone	516:18
329:11	354:3, 360:16,	284:25, 522:2,	meaning
many	360:20, 361:2,	522:13	508:2
294:16, 314:16,	361:5, 361:9,	matches	means
315:15, 315:16,	362:5, 363:20,	339:25	298:12, 355:10,
332:22, 335:10,	363:21, 364:22,	material	409:15, 500:19,
335:16, 360:23,	365:9, 367:24,	315:9	512:13, 514:10
366:8, 366:22,	367:25, 368:1,	matter	meant
367:7, 377:7,	368:18, 368:19,	295:11, 301:7,	419:10
377:8, 379:14,	369:15, 372:2,	448:21, 493:7,	meantime
389:6, 389:12,	373:5, 374:25,	518:19	428:17, 434:5
389:24, 413:14,	381:17, 383:1,	matters	measure
415:17, 417:7,	383:3, 387:4,	298:13, 354:19,	379:7
428:1, 439:1,	387:6, 387:12,	469:10, 508:13	measures
439:2, 449:6,	394:6, 406:16,	maximum	448:15, 465:7
454:16, 454:22,	409:1, 477:25,	330:15, 332:19	mediate
470:2, 474:18,	478:20, 516:5,	maybe	457 <b>:</b> 6
478:16, 506:2	516:8	300:1, 308:15,	mediation
map	marketing	331:8, 380:3,	445:1, 457:4
288:8, 290:40,	373:6, 515:23	384:24, 386:2,	mediations
339:2, 340:25,	markets	391:12, 401:24,	487:25
341:21, 352:13,	284:7, 289:17,	402:23, 428:18,	meet
352:16, 352:18,	291:6, 329:15,	439:11, 439:13,	353:21, 390:7,
352:19, 352:20,	362:11, 362:20,	468:7	430:9, 500:15,
353:7, 362:14,	371:9, 408:3,	mba	516:14, 516:21
395:8, 408:18,	433:5, 478:17,	394:8	meeting
408:24, 413:11,	515:13, 516:17	md	511:25
417:12	mary's	409:17, 414:14	meets
maps	394:10	mde	291:15, 298:5,
398:7	maryland	357:25, 358:2,	346:10
	284:2, 284:12,		

member	516:16, 517:15	363:17, 378:4,	momentarily
330:18	metrics	392:25, 410:16,	338:21
members	346:2	429:12, 441:12,	monetary
301:10, 428:13,	metropolitan	451:16, 484:3,	448:4
493:9, 494:21	505:1	505:16	money
membership	mic	minutes	403:13, 416:19,
343:18, 344:1,	499:10	309:24, 316:18,	516:1
505:24, 506:1	michael	351:14, 373:12,	monitoring
memo	289:35	434:4, 438:24	446:6
304:19, 304:23,	mics	misconstrued	montgomery
304:25, 325:10,	428:1	500:18	284:2, 285:5,
325:11, 388:19,	middle	misrepresentation	305:17, 319:2,
453:23, 474:23,	316:7	493:23	319:3, 356:8,
501:10, 503:16	midnight	missed	365:20, 367:11,
memorandum	360:11, 484:12	299:24, 461:10	389:5, 422:4,
290:48, 302:23,	might	missing	449:24, 463:23,
305:3, 305:14,	299:24, 334:21,	468:6	464:3, 469:14,
313:20, 327:6,	359:7, 420:9,	mistakes	503:17, 507:13,
469:3, 500:17,	477:6, 493:25,	424:14	508:7, 510:4,
503:16, 505:14,	503:7, 514:3	misunderstood	512:4
509:11, 509:18	mile	440:9	month
memory	290:13, 290:40,	mm-hm	361:24, 436:5
415:2	398:21, 506:1	472:24	months
mention	miles	mncppc	433:3, 444:4,
300:2, 362:12,	365:1, 407:7	288:5	445:6, 450:18,
464:24	million	model	484:12, 486:8,
mentioned	338:20, 351:23,	316:20, 348:3	486:11
294:2, 299:3,	352:10, 354:9,	modification	moot
311:4, 372:18,	354:11, 354:13,	362:13, 432:25	472 <b>:</b> 15
392:15, 396:1,	354:25, 358:18,	modifications	more
404:5, 420:12,	381:16, 381:18,	312:18, 323:25,	314:12, 317:7,
420:14, 421:13,	411:7, 411:12,	463:19, 463:25,	317:11, 317:12,
453:24	411:16, 412:6,	508:15, 509:25,	317:13, 317:17,
mentions	412:9, 412:22,	510:8	331:10, 337:13,
482:24, 497:20	413:3, 414:6,	modified	342:7, 344:7,
mere	423:6, 423:7,	339:11, 362:8,	349:1, 350:15,
454:15	423:8, 425:9,	429:16, 430:20,	351:2, 351:13,
merely	425:10, 430:23,	431:3, 431:4,	354:17, 362:17,
451:13	485:3, 516:11,	433:23	366:24, 369:9,
merit	517:2, 517:3	mom	369:17, 370:20,
305:2	mind	520:22	373:6, 375:18,
merits	374:8, 426:10,	mom's	375:19, 376:11,
509:22	427:20, 502:6	441:25	376:13, 376:16,
message	minor	moment	378:19, 379:7,
492:22, 493:12	290:4, 337:4	306:5, 309:14,	380:17, 386:16,
messed	minute	335:9, 446:16,	399:13, 401:8, 405:22, 413:16,
350:10	296:1, 340:7,	446:25, 447:2,	413:17, 426:13,
met	359:13, 363:16,	448:19, 477:12	11J.11, 42U.1J,
371:7, 499:16,			
			1

	Conducted on iv	,	
438:18, 439:8,	moved	muted	409:2, 409:3,
443:24, 456:4,	401:2, 466:21	293:2, 299:17,	412:3, 412:4,
463:19, 468:19,	movie	517:21	516:18
473:18, 489:17,	479:21	mutually-agreed	nearby
490:4, 497:13,			399:24, 425:15
500:19	moving	upon	nearest
	351:8, 390:7,	498:1	
morning	403:5	mvunga	408:6
292:4, 292:8,	mpd	284:10	necessarily
296:15, 297:10,	354:3	myself	303:17, 318:4,
300:4, 300:7,	much	296:8, 517:22	374:12, 513:22
313:14, 313:15,	292:12, 296:21,	N	necessary
328:16, 330:10,	297:9, 299:7,	nacs	416:11, 437:4,
366:10, 375:22,	300:13, 331:7,	343:22, 372:10	438:11, 449:23,
399:4, 399:5,	341:6, 346:20,	nail	481:1, 494:1,
417:21, 442:10,	347:21, 351:19,	377:9, 474:25	494:24, 497:5,
516:19	351:20, 369:17,	•	510:23, 515:8
mornings	390:4, 390:11,	name	necessity
454:16	397:25, 402:9,	291:22, 296:15,	338:10, 346:8,
most	419:4, 422:3,	298:10, 299:2,	509:3, 514:10
308:15, 318:24,	423:23, 433:25,	299:4, 299:11,	need
319:20, 323:17,	435:18, 442:2,	300:2, 306:12,	292:17, 293:17,
330:11, 342:22,	444:22, 456:4,	306:14, 329:19,	295:25, 296:16,
343:15, 349:2,	467:23, 500:19,	334:10, 334:12,	299:9, 301:1,
351:17, 365:19,	504:1, 517:19,	394:3, 394:5,	305:9, 305:16,
366:25, 371:12,	520:8, 520:20	406:2, 442:4,	
373:7, 396:18,		491:2	312:21, 318:5,
448:5, 449:11,	multi-product	names	321:20, 322:10,
466:21, 482:18,	354:4	299:2, 363:12	322:22, 323:5,
494:22, 500:4	multifamily	narrow	330:24, 338:9,
	320:6	443:25, 496:18	340:12, 342:12,
mostly	multiple	narrowing	342:20, 343:4,
366:24, 401:12,	307:10, 410:24,	497:12	343:7, 352:12,
407:1	418:11, 443:20,	national	355:11, 355:14,
motels	481:6, 485:2,	336:24, 343:21,	355:17, 355:21,
388:15	502:14	345:6	357:16, 367:4,
motion	multiplicity	natural	367:10, 368:4,
289:18, 290:35,	389:2, 389:16		368:8, 368:16,
290:42, 290:44,	multiply	339:20, 363:6	374:19, 388:5,
301:13, 435:4,	413:1	nature	389:19, 390:11,
456:11	municipality	293:19, 328:12,	392:22, 394:2,
motivating	509:16	366:1, 376:4,	416:1, 421:1,
371:13	must	377:1, 453:4,	423:6, 426:14,
mount	292:18, 430:9,	461:8, 463:18,	428:6, 429:1,
394:10	430:14, 430:22,	469:20, 478:17,	435:23, 436:25,
move	450:2, 450:4,	486:1, 505:8,	438:20, 439:3,
300:20, 372:24,	450:11, 458:3,	509:24	439:6, 444:16,
396:12, 404:24,	458:5, 459:3,	near	468:23, 470:10,
419:1, 419:2,	459:25, 462:15,	353:11, 355:4,	472:15, 481:23,
457:16, 462:1	520:14	371:9, 376:15,	484:17, 485:20,
107.107 102.1	J2U:14		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

```
487:3, 487:11,
                     367:6, 368:3,
                                          484:25, 494:2,
                                                               428:6, 428:13,
489:13, 497:25,
                     368:8, 368:11,
                                          494:16, 495:1,
                                                               428:16, 446:7
499:9, 499:18,
                     368:12, 368:14,
                                          496:1
                                                               nonmotorized
500:16, 500:18,
                     368:20, 368:22,
                                          new
                                                               311:21
503:14, 503:20,
                     368:24, 369:5,
                                          319:22, 320:4,
                                                               nonvehicular
504:25, 505:14,
                     369:9, 369:12,
                                          320:9, 341:7,
                                                               312:1
505:21, 506:8,
                     369:15, 369:16,
                                          353:21, 354:6,
                                                               noon
511:9, 512:25,
                     370:3, 370:5,
                                          370:8, 402:12,
                                                               391:5, 391:10
513:7, 514:9,
                     370:11, 370:15,
                                          403:13, 433:12,
                                                               nope
514:12, 514:22,
                     370:19, 370:20,
                                          485:1
                                                               356:17, 358:12,
515:11, 515:14,
                     370:25, 375:6,
                                          newer
                                                               451:18
516:16, 517:2,
                     375:9, 375:10,
                                          316:23, 318:10
                                                               normal
517:4, 517:16
                     375:19, 377:2,
                                          newland
                                                               511:12
needed
                     386:1, 388:6,
                                          415:5, 419:4,
                                                               normally
                     388:8, 389:3,
381:13, 384:14,
                                          443:12, 445:2,
                                                               428:22
391:14, 391:23,
                     394:21, 401:12,
                                          450:24
                                                               north
                     401:16, 401:17,
431:12, 454:21
                                          newlands
                                                               286:13, 328:20,
                     407:13, 416:24,
needs
                                          403:12
                                                               339:15, 353:3,
                     423:3, 423:12,
289:23, 289:28,
                                          newspapers
                                                               363:18, 366:4,
294:22, 334:25,
                     459:5, 468:25,
                                          444:2
                                                               366:7, 366:24,
                     469:24, 470:1,
338:8, 338:12,
                                          next
                                                               370:16, 397:10,
340:21, 355:3,
                     470:11, 491:22,
                                          348:20, 351:8,
                                                               399:5, 399:6,
                     499:19, 499:21,
355:10, 381:11,
                                          352:3, 365:18,
                                                               417:17
                     503:1, 503:5,
381:14, 384:13,
                                          370:9, 386:19,
                                                               northern
                     503:22, 503:24,
384:14, 384:16,
                                          408:11, 421:15,
                                                               365:20
                     504:1, 504:2,
422:4, 434:14,
                                          427:21, 447:24,
                                                               notably
                     504:4, 504:6,
504:13
                                          464:10, 509:25
                                                               305:13
                     504:9, 504:19,
negative
                                          niche
                                                               notary
                     505:20, 507:18,
312:25, 313:3,
                                          343:15, 345:12
                                                               285:19, 521:1,
                     512:15, 513:4,
313:7
                                          nicole
                                                               521:19
                     513:5, 513:9,
negatively
                                          284:25, 522:2,
                                                               notation
                     513:10, 513:20,
476:6
                                          522:13
                                                               452:24
                     514:8, 514:19,
neighborhood
                                          night
                                                               note
                     516:14, 517:14
340:1, 340:2,
                                          367:23, 399:22
                                                               293:12, 301:21,
                     neither
340:3, 340:5,
                                          nights
                                                               303:8, 446:14,
                     304:3, 450:6,
340:8, 340:14,
                                          454:22
                                                               453:18, 519:6
                     455:7, 470:16,
340:16, 340:17,
                                          nine
                                                               noted
                     521:11, 522:7
340:20, 340:23,
                                          339:25, 342:21,
                                                               303:12, 385:11,
340:25, 341:2,
                     net
                                          348:24, 362:10,
                                                               456:1, 495:6,
                     311:13
341:5, 341:8,
                                          362:16, 362:19,
                                                               514:7, 514:24
                     network
341:12, 342:1,
                                          362:21, 363:4,
                                                               notes
                     313:1, 318:1
342:2, 342:8,
                                          419:11
                                                               359:11, 438:5
342:9, 342:13,
                     never
                                          nobody
                                                               nothing
342:15, 342:16,
                     325:24, 326:11,
                                          471:14, 472:21
                                                               310:3, 370:17,
                     326:17, 326:24,
342:25, 343:7,
                                          noncompliance
                                                               375:10, 426:16,
343:10, 343:12,
                     374:8, 450:8,
                                          448:17, 465:8
                                                               448:23, 476:2,
355:8, 355:9,
                     470:4, 470:5,
                                          none
                                                               482:24, 496:8,
355:17, 355:22,
                     484:8, 484:14,
                                                               501:25, 505:22,
                                          392:3, 408:15,
```

	Conducted on March 0, 2025			
520:1	350:11	301:22, 304:15,	356:3, 427:23	
notice	numbers	488:10, 500:21	offerings	
288:9, 289:24,	318:16, 324:12,	objectives	344:14	
303:16, 303:19,	325:2, 346:6,	476:25	offers	
401:1	346:8, 348:20,	obligation	515:19	
noticed	348:23, 349:10,	435:8	offhand	
397:6	351:1, 352:6,	observation	376:2	
notion	372:8, 386:23,	360:2	office	
453:8	409:16, 410:12,	observing	284:1, 285:5,	
notwithstanding	410:21, 424:22	298:24	285:8, 297:6,	
485:6	numerous	obtained	307:17, 358:3,	
november	443:17, 513:23,	424:9	417:17, 493:11	
467:4, 467:9,	515:17	obvious	officer	
467:10	0	475 <b>:</b> 21	521:2	
nowhere	o'hara	obviously	official	
475:9, 475:10,	295:20, 301:3	352:9, 378:23,	299:13, 302:11	
475:11, 475:15,	oath	391:23, 416:25	oh	
476:1, 476:14,	293:24, 310:2,	occasion	306:6, 309:18,	
508:3	334:4, 337:16,	396:24	321:14, 342:5,	
nri	393:11, 415:2,	occasionally	349:10, 440:23,	
288:24	432:7, 442:13,	318:25	498:20	
nucleus	506:14	occasions	old	
356:6	oaths	361:12	319:12, 415:7,	
number	298:14	occupation	416:3, 418:12,	
291:5, 297:22,	object	306:13	418:13	
310:23, 311:14,	332:2, 344:25,	occur	older	
315:14, 315:16,	381:23, 382:11,	332:20	344:21, 354:2,	
317:19, 320:20,	494:8	occurred	402:9	
321:25, 322:1,	objected	308:23, 327:9,	omitted	
332:18, 332:19,	295:16	445:14, 449:11,	305:13	
335:6, 344:9, 344:19, 345:24,	objecting	464:23, 497:23	once	
349:17, 350:2,	293:10, 301:18,	offense	317:9, 376:5,	
350:4, 350:5,	304:23, 304:24,	470:13	442:17, 462:8, 470:5, 492:8,	
350:4, 350:3,	305:2, 494:5	offer	492:10, 492:11,	
350:16, 370:23,	objection	334:24, 358:16,	492:10, 492:11, 492:12, 496:15,	
379:8, 379:12,	293:11, 295:21,	358:22, 377:17,	520:13	
387:14, 388:23,	296:6, 301:16,	399:17, 400:15,	one	
389:1, 402:4,	301:21, 303:12,	404:11, 421:5,	294:20, 295:11,	
412:21, 413:2,	303:21, 307:2, 325:23, 326:10,	473:1 offered	296:1, 300:22,	
422:6, 423:1,	368:7, 384:8,	302:20, 302:21,	305:8, 306:5,	
423:2, 425:11,	384:9, 440:13,	302:24, 303:22,	308:8, 309:13,	
425:13, 425:22,	453:18, 456:1,	304:1, 344:8,	310:14, 316:25,	
430:7, 444:4,	465:17, 484:4,	346:17, 346:25,	317:3, 318:15,	
446:21, 467:2,	493:22, 494:9	359:1, 427:2,	318:24, 321:22,	
467:7, 500:14	objections	488:2	323:16, 330:18,	
numbering	300:22, 301:11,	offering	332:11, 338:13,	
349:19, 349:25,	,,	300:11, 345:15,	340:22, 342:4,	
		,		

	Conducted on 1	<u> </u>	
344:8, 344:19,	onerous	402:4, 402:16,	opposite
349:4, 349:6,	317:18	402:18, 403:9,	327:6, 474:17,
349:24, 350:1,	ones	404:8, 405:16,	508:6
350:10, 353:13,	323:16, 497:1,	418:6, 418:7,	opposition
353:17, 353:19,	497:5	430:18, 432:15,	286:10, 290:9,
356:5, 358:22,	online	433:7, 504:7,	290:37, 294:10,
359:22, 362:1,	296:18, 298:18,	504:12, 505:11	294:12, 295:5,
362:15, 366:6,	299:9, 494:13	operational	295:16, 313:12,
375:11, 377:9,	only	402:10, 409:18,	335:23, 356:13,
383:21, 383:23,	293:13, 299:13,	414:17, 469:19	383:25, 390:9,
388:9, 389:10,	319:22, 330:20,	operations	390:20, 392:6,
389:19, 390:25,		288:7, 306:16,	392:12, 393:9,
391:5, 394:1,	345:18, 349:2,	320:25, 329:21,	393:24, 405:9,
395:3, 395:11,	353:21, 366:6,	403:21, 432:21,	406:10, 426:23,
396:16, 406:17,	388:2, 396:24,	500:25, 504:18	
408:6, 409:8,	412:25, 425:15,		428:5, 428:10,
409:9, 411:9,	442:6, 444:2,	operator	428:12, 428:15,
414:11, 416:3,	446:7, 447:15,	293:17, 504:13	428:23, 435:10,
416:8, 420:25,	449:3, 455:15,	opine	442:11, 442:24,
426:12, 430:4,	463:25, 464:9,	332:8	446:10, 453:13,
430:8, 446:25,	464:11, 464:22,	opinion	492:7, 495:18,
447:2, 451:3,	468:19, 468:22,	291:25, 298:16,	500:4, 500:18,
459:24, 466:21,	471:25, 473:1,	355:2, 382:8,	500:23, 502:2,
466:25, 467:8,	475:12, 475:19,	385:10, 421:10,	518:7
467:15, 468:18,	480:15, 482:8,	454:7, 454:9,	option
470:7, 470:20,	483:23, 487:19,	456:16, 516:3	392:14, 392:17,
478:20, 478:21,	492:8, 504:25,	opponent	393:12, 442:18
481:12, 485:24,	510:8, 510:13,	437:11, 474:14	orally
488:23, 489:6,	511:12, 518:1,	opponents	436:8
491:25, 492:1,	518:13	294:24, 300:8	order
492:2, 492:16,	open	opportunities	290:46, 291:4,
493:8, 493:17,	289:5, 360:15,	389:17	294:4, 294:17,
496:6, 497:9,	409:19, 434:11,	opportunity	297:21, 368:24,
500:7, 500:14,	434:20, 435:23,	294:12, 322:8,	435:8, 444:3,
	435:25, 436:16,	333:13, 391:13,	449:5, 465:4,
507:24, 515:12,	471:25, 473:5,	435:20, 436:18,	497:16
518:22	518:14, 519:4,	436:20, 456:22,	orders
one's	519:25	457:13, 457:24,	448:8
477:22, 477:24,	opened	466:4, 471:13,	ordinance
478:18, 506:18	335:17	472:22, 473:8,	291:18, 291:19,
one-and-a-half	opening	495:15, 501:5	292:1, 298:7,
412:25	294:14	oppose	298:9, 298:17,
one-stop	operate	491:6, 491:23,	463:24, 464:3,
344:17, 355:4,	320:17, 329:25,	492:13	485:17, 498:17,
383:17, 515:4,	345:15, 359:24,	opposed	498:19, 499:14,
515:9	360:4	371:14, 377:2	510:5, 513:3,
one-way	operating	opposes	514:1, 514:6,
354:5, 375:13	359:25, 405:13	490:24	514:13, 514:14
331.3, 373.13	operation	opposing	orientation
	323:1, 382:9,	419:24	477:15, 478:3,

	Conducted on N		99
479:4	465:24, 465:25,	overall	P
oriented	474:3, 491:5,	288:27, 290:31,	package
347:18, 353:18,	493:11, 493:21,	310:19, 311:10,	403:18
353:19, 451:14,	512:16, 514:14,	332:14, 333:1,	pad
477:10	519:15	395:13, 424:5,	306:7
original	outcome	480:6, 502:24	page
445:16, 478:19,	521:13, 522:10	overcome	287:3, 287:25,
481:19	outlet	375 <b>:</b> 17	290:52, 307:12,
originally	412:4	overhang	307:21, 307:22,
324:17, 453:10,	outlets	418:16	308:7, 312:7,
477:18	409:2	overlay	320:2, 320:15,
originally-appro-	outline	418:19	324:8, 324:12,
ved	341:23, 342:6	overrule	324:14, 331:16,
312:16	outlined	382:3	333:2, 339:2,
others	351:9, 435:19	overwhelmed	340:5, 340:25,
387:12, 387:19,	output	357 <b>:</b> 2	342:3, 348:21,
413:10, 421:21,	410:19, 414:3,	overwhelming	349:9, 349:10,
453:2	414:5	361:13, 371:22	349:16, 349:17,
otherwise	outset	own	349:18, 349:19,
293:1, 331:9,	456:11, 512:13	312:3, 319:3,	349:25, 350:3,
438:4, 446:2,	outside	321:7, 334:22,	350:4, 350:9,
448:10, 463:20,	321:3, 371:8,	335:17, 339:16,	350:10, 350:12,
508:8, 510:1,	387:4, 388:12,	347:3, 355:8,	350:22, 352:3,
521:13, 522:10	407:18, 407:24,	363:11, 369:2,	359:22, 364:4,
out	409:8, 425:17,	384:23, 386:10,	372:13, 373:9,
291:19, 298:7,	456:16, 510:16,	406:16, 470:23,	381:7, 384:12,
298:9, 321:13,	516:16	471:5, 473:15,	386:2, 397:14,
325:2, 331:6,	over	479:18, 482:9,	398:13, 398:20,
347:15, 351:14,	295:9, 298:12,	516:15	408:21, 412:12,
351:22, 352:14,	299:20, 299:24,	owner	412:13, 413:7,
353:3, 353:7,	300:19, 307:8,	288:14	414:14, 429:24,
356:2, 356:23,	315:9, 316:13,	owners	429:25, 430:1,
356:25, 358:7, 366:22, 366:25,	318:3, 335:20,	356:16, 356:18,	430:2, 430:3,
371:4, 373:12,	352:8, 365:10, 372:1, 372:19,	357:3, 357:7,	447:12, 447:13,
375:14, 375:12, 375:14, 375:19,		411:1	448:21, 458:5,
375:14, 375:19, 375:23, 376:17,	372:22, 376:12, 387:1, 389:15,	owning	458:7, 458:17, 462:22, 462:23,
378:17, 383:19,	392:12, 393:9,	410:24 owns	463:9, 476:22,
385:24, 387:24,	405:18, 420:24,	owns 406:17	483:13, 485:5,
389:18, 393:1,	421:1, 435:3,	406:17 ozah	497:19
396:15, 396:18,	436:4, 439:25,		pages
396:25, 401:14,	445:6, 450:17,	288:2, 288:12,	284:24, 308:17,
402:4, 416:12,	457:4, 461:16,	289:2, 290:7, 291:5, 293:23,	311:13, 331:21,
417:2, 420:17,	466:21, 466:24,	324:4, 335:11,	338:6, 414:9,
424:18, 424:21,	467:19, 479:23,	335:12, 359:22,	414:10
449:4, 450:1,	501:21, 502:14,	408:17, 447:3,	paging
451:9, 454:12,	508:18, 510:18,	447:4, 508:24,	349:24
461:20, 464:2,	510:19	518:11	
L			<u> </u>

	Conducted on iv	141011 0, 2025	100
paid	403:18, 404:20,	489:8	366:21, 458:14
403:12	410:2, 410:8,	party	patterns
pale	410:23, 415:7,	289:40, 454:10,	324:19, 324:21,
477:21	415:13, 416:7,	456:24, 486:22,	328:11, 328:12,
paper	416:10, 416:25,	487:22, 496:12	331:1, 398:24
462:2	418:15, 418:23,	pass-by	pause
papers	435:8, 438:7,	353:19, 353:20,	306:5, 309:13
301:13, 337:6,	448:13, 456:19,	354:23	pavement
337:10	469:25, 478:19,	passersby	451:12
paragraph	484:25, 496:13,	356:5	pay
447:14, 448:22,	504:3, 509:3,	passes	351:21, 416:9
463:8, 485:19	509:4, 510:20,	462:3	paying
paragraphs	510:25	passing	509:7
465:4, 484:19,	participant	377:3	pays
485:22	467:23	past	404:14
parameters	participate	323:14, 324:3,	pdf
363:22	292:17, 292:21,	335:1, 335:18,	350:4, 350:12,
pardon	292:25, 492:4	348:25, 357:8,	350:23, 430:1,
373:23, 439:22,	participated	494:22	430:3, 462:23,
440:20	455:16, 498:20,	patel	463:10
parenthesis	498:23	287:12, 287:15,	peak
463:22	participation	290:34, 292:9,	312:14, 312:15,
park	292:23, 491:12	294:25, 300:10,	316:9, 316:10,
370:17, 381:20,	particular	300:11, 377:25,	330:7, 330:8,
493:18	298:7, 308:21,	385:20, 386:6,	330:9, 397:5
parking	328:13, 338:25,	393:15, 393:18,	peak-hour
354:5, 356:2,	340:10, 341:21,	393:21, 394:3,	332:25
375:13, 381:25,	342:8, 342:9,	394:5, 401:22,	pedestrian
386:20, 416:14,	342:17, 344:5,	405:25, 406:3,	308:19, 311:18,
453:10, 466:23,	344:24, 345:12,	406:7, 406:13,	451:13, 477:5,
477:2, 477:18,	358:16, 358:17,	426:25, 500:24,	477:8, 477:10,
477:25, 478:16,	358:22, 363:2,	504:3	477:11, 477:12,
478:23, 478:25,	367:5, 368:15,	patels	477:15, 478:3,
480:12, 501:19,	368:18, 369:18,	449:17, 469:23,	478:10, 478:13,
502:6, 505:25,	377:6, 379:15,	470:16, 472:19	479:4, 479:8,
509:6	381:7, 465:14,	path	479:15, 479:24,
parkway	515:5, 515:18,	375:20, 375:23,	480:3, 480:5,
349:6	516:12	376:5, 376:6,	480:6, 480:22,
part	parties	395:3, 417:22	502:8, 502:21,
321:10, 327:2,	290:26, 290:30,	pathway	502:22
332:3, 336:17,	290:51, 292:2,	374:23, 375:2	pedestrian-frien-
347:23, 348:16,	292:9, 385:20,	patience	dly
351:17, 355:17,	406:14, 434:25,	499:7, 520:9,	502:4, 502:10,
358:4, 370:18,	435:1, 441:3,	520:17	503:5
374:7, 376:22,	473:1, 473:7,	patrick's	pedestrian-orien-
392:11, 396:9,	489:4, 518:19,	439:18	ted
402:8, 402:11,	521:12, 522:9 parts	pattern	450:25
403:4, 403:16,	365:20, 447:15,	328:15, 366:20,	pedestrians
	JUJ.ZU, 447:13,		477:22, 478:8,

	Conducted on to	,		
478:13, 478:15,	386:25, 437:21	perspectives	planned	
478:24	percentage	338:13	310:19, 369:19,	
peer-reviewed	345:21, 372:21	pertinent	370:12, 447:20,	
337:10	perception	302:11, 445:24,	467:19	
penalties	453:25	468:17, 479:11	planner	
444:9, 446:1,	perfect	petrol	306:18, 336:24,	
448:4	352:15, 435:14,	476:2	480:19	
pending	458:1	phone	planning	
465:14	perfectly	507:3	289:8, 289:9,	
pennies	391:3	phonetic	289:10, 289:45,	
373:12	performing	292:20	290:21, 290:23,	
people	373:7	physical	295:4, 300:24,	
293:4, 293:24,	perhaps	449:9, 463:21,	308:9, 310:15,	
296:18, 297:19,	379:2, 487:10	464:23, 464:24,	311:1, 311:11,	
299:8, 299:20,	period	483:22, 483:23,	331:25, 332:4,	
299:23, 329:6,	387:1, 402:15,	510:2	332:9, 333:3,	
339:17, 340:4,	402:17, 402:19,	physically	333:10, 333:11,	
340:19, 343:15,	405:19, 414:24,	468:7	334:15, 336:22,	
344:13, 345:2,	419:9, 419:10,	pick	381:21, 381:25, 382:1, 382:4,	
347:4, 348:1, 348:12, 351:9,	419:22, 439:16,	364:12, 485:16,	384:3, 384:4,	
348:12, 351:9, 351:15, 351:21,	445:6, 450:17	485:19	392:16, 392:21,	
361:7, 365:15,	<pre>periodically 318:20</pre>	picked	393:2, 393:3,	
366:4, 366:23,	periods	364:10, 364:13	429:6, 429:8,	
367:7, 371:5,	359:8	picture	429:14, 429:17,	
371:17, 373:1,	periphery	353:3 <b>piece</b>	430:20, 431:3,	
375:3, 376:3,	407:19	491:11	431:5, 431:13,	
376:9, 377:1,	permanent	pike	431:21, 433:4,	
379:2, 380:5,	312:12	409:4, 506:2,	433:13, 433:21,	
390:14, 392:13,	permit	506:5	433:23, 435:18,	
397:7, 397:18,	336:20, 514:25	pipeline	443:17, 444:8,	
401:11, 404:18,	permits	396:18	445:1, 445:18,	
417:7, 422:18,	469:11	pizza	445:21, 446:23,	
423:11, 426:13,	permitted	476:15	447:9, 448:14,	
436:2, 440:8,	461:13	place	459:1, 459:18,	
466:5, 470:2,	permitting	347:25, 380:6,	459:19, 460:7,	
491:2, 491:3,	415:24, 419:9	405:18, 445:5,	461:16, 462:21, 462:24, 463:6,	
491:8, 491:23,	person	453:5, 476:15,	462:24, 463:6, 463:16, 463:24,	
492:13, 504:20,	295:3, 300:16,	478:14, 478:21,	480:18, 481:13,	
508:19, 509:7, 515:23, 516:19	329:21, 374:14,	508:14	481:16, 481:24,	
percent	442:10, 453:1,	placed	482:6, 485:4,	
320:18, 322:14,	475:20	452:10	493:18, 494:17,	
343:24, 343:25,	personal	places	495:2, 499:25,	
345:23, 349:1,	474:16, 516:24	344:1, 351:18,	500:1, 501:20,	
354:12, 372:22,	personally	371:10, 476:12,	501:24, 502:14,	
378:18, 378:22,	361:9	516:18	502:16, 503:2,	
379:3, 379:4,	perspective	plain	503:8, 506:22,	
	411:15, 438:17	303:2		
			<u> </u>	

	Conducted on N	3, 2020	102
510:7	378:16, 379:1,	433:8, 436:7,	preliminaries
plans	385:9, 385:24,	449:16, 481:23,	300:21
288:18, 288:25,	386:4, 391:25,	493:19, 494:3,	preliminary
288:36, 289:14,	437:23, 449:4,	494:18, 503:9	290:16, 295:11,
290:1, 290:3,	453:9, 455:15,	positions	301:7, 312:16,
346:17, 347:4,	457:4, 457:8,	308:22, 311:9,	320:3, 320:7,
457:16, 459:9,	462:10, 464:7,	314:17, 314:20,	325:3, 325:11,
461:24, 463:19,	467:13, 467:20,	315:14, 315:23,	326:11, 326:13,
467:3, 467:8,		315:24, 316:2,	430:15, 459:25,
481:25, 509:21	476:19, 481:7,	386:21, 430:13	460:8
plat	483:4, 485:3,	possible	premature
288:44	487:19, 496:2,	322:2, 330:14,	460:13
plater-zyberk	515:20, 518:2	366:6, 385:1,	prepared
452:12	pointed	436:13, 463:12,	403:19, 522:3
players	358:7, 366:22,	471:2	preponderance
450:14	366:25	possibly	388:4, 468:23
please	pointing	331:8	presence
292:2, 292:21,	351:14, 386:7	post	380:20, 487:24,
293:1, 293:9,	points	334:23, 401:8,	514:17
293:12, 299:14,	328:16, 328:20,	448:6, 457:1,	present
306:3, 306:13,	346:22, 351:16,	457:2, 471:16,	286:18, 292:3,
324:5, 331:16,	361:8, 361:20,	471:20, 492:5	292:18, 294:6,
331:17, 334:4,	361:24, 365:6,	posted	295:3, 295:5,
334:11, 363:25,	366:24, 374:20,	492:1	299:11, 299:13,
381:4, 397:13,	375:4, 458:9,	posting	300:15, 340:14,
397:19, 398:4,	468:19, 472:17	289:15, 290:5,	342:14, 388:7,
405:23, 406:12,	polestar	290:20, 489:24	435:5, 435:7,
406:19, 408:20,	330:23, 334:13,	potential	443:16, 462:15,
410:19, 414:25,	334:14, 335:18	320:16, 320:21,	462:17, 468:25,
426:12, 429:12,	polices	410:19, 425:7	470:11, 484:10,
432:3, 446:20,	358:25	potentially	503:22, 513:9
456:9, 469:11,	popular	320:12, 477:24	presentation
482:5, 492:20,	389:13	potomac	294:17, 434:14
513:14	population	339:7	presentations
plenty	340:13, 342:13,	pounding	337:12, 462:16
429:2, 516:21	348:25, 353:13,	511:9	presented
plunked	356:8, 386:25,	powell's	304:2, 335:20,
475:21	388:6, 422:10,	290:37, 290:46	454:13, 454:24,
plus	423:10, 424:4,	precedent	464:17, 496:4
413:18, 439:1	425:14, 468:24,	301:24, 302:1,	presently
point	470:10, 513:8,	303:22	470:18
302:12, 305:15,	513:19	precise	preside
307:23, 308:5,	populations	369:9, 370:7,	298:12
308:21, 321:1,	423:5	370:20	president
339:10, 340:21,	posed	preference	469:15, 515:13
347:15, 352:7,	384:2	296:4, 426:3,	presley
353:6, 353:18,	position	426:6, 426:8	287:21, 287:22,
364:21, 374:24,	334:11, 394:4,	prehearing	287:28, 289:39,
		289:27	<u> </u>

	Conducted on i	<u>'</u>	
289:41, 289:42,	450:4, 512:19	problem	306:17, 306:19,
290:17, 290:19,	previously	389:11, 426:15,	329:9, 381:21,
290:28, 295:2,	297:14, 308:25,	447:7, 472:21	502:15
300:14, 390:21,	309:7, 311:8,	procedure	professionalism
427:13, 427:20,	311:14, 313:5,	293:23, 298:13	520:11
428:7, 428:17,	316:8, 319:11,	proceed	professionally
429:3, 434:5,	337:17, 355:15,	305:25, 306:7,	361:10, 371:21
434:13, 436:12,	398:25, 408:19,	310:9, 345:10,	professionals
441:16, 441:17,	507:9, 514:24	391:6, 397:17,	364:14
441:20, 442:3,	previously-appro-	441:19, 442:17,	profile
442:5, 442:19,	ved	457:20, 466:4	404:16
442:21, 442:25,	310:25	proceeded	profit
444:11, 453:20,	price	450:9	372:25, 373:2
456:2, 463:3,	352:6, 352:8,	proceeding	profits
466:2, 471:15,	371:14, 371:17,	292:13, 292:23,	403:22
474:24, 487:17,	373:15, 374:14,	293:19, 293:20,	program
495:19, 500:10,	377:16, 400:11,	293:22, 302:16,	289:43, 290:3,
503:6, 517:19,	404:13, 427:1	455:19, 456:4,	326:5, 326:6,
517:21, 517:25,	priced	522:4	326:24, 327:2,
518:21, 518:22,	374:13	proceedings	346:19, 346:25,
519:11, 519:14,	prices	294:4, 442:11,	340:19, 340:23, 361:22, 420:17,
520:3, 520:24	373:19, 374:8,	445:5, 521:3,	421:6, 443:5,
presley's	374:11, 515:22	521:5, 521:8,	445:8, 445:15,
390:7, 436:6,	pricing	522:6	445:19, 445:24,
453:24, 487:16,	399:20, 411:14	process	446:9, 446:19,
503:12	primary	315:18, 390:14,	447:1, 447:17,
press	365:11, 365:12,	431:11, 433:2,	447:18, 448:2,
445:3	369:14, 487:21	433:5, 437:14,	448:10, 449:8,
presume	prince	443:11, 455:22,	449:15, 449:20,
427:14	503:18, 512:2,	456:20, 459:1,	450:5, 450:6,
pretty	512:8	471:10, 520:9,	451:10, 451:17,
341:6, 371:14,	principal	520:12	451:20, 452:24,
399:9, 418:20,	334:13, 335:15	produce	454:12, 457:3,
419:4, 504:1,	principle	354:9	457:11, 459:8,
509:2, 517:12	383:10, 458:25	produced	461:6, 461:11,
prevailing	principles	395:18, 475:17	461:14, 462:3,
319:17	512:5	producing	462:19, 464:18,
prevent	prior	354:14	467:3, 467:13,
454:17	319:2, 443:1,	production	467:20, 468:9,
preventative	1	372:12, 434:11	477:10, 477:13,
497:2	445:8, 461:20, 465:3, 514:6	productivity	477:19, 478:4,
prevented	465:3, 514:6 private	506:16	479:5, 479:11,
296:7	406:22	products	480:12, 480:16,
previous	privately	371:18, 424:25	481:14, 481:21,
309:9, 310:15,	492:2	profession	481:22, 493:9,
318:21, 332:13,	probable	336:23, 502:17	494:21, 496:4,
332:16, 345:20,	320:18	professional	509:4, 510:10,
347:13, 450:2,	probably	306:15, 306:16,	510:12, 510:15,
, , , , ,		300:13, 300:10,	
	354:16, 494:23		
L	ı		

	Colladotta oli 1	*	
510:18, 510:20,	324:17, 324:23,	provides	pulte
515:4, 515:14,	326:20, 332:15,	447:18, 502:25	450:16
515:19, 518:2	340:13, 362:7,	providing	pump
programs	375:7, 382:10,	367:18, 446:18	320:18, 322:15,
515:17	388:5, 392:20,	proving	404:13, 416:3
prohibit	434:25, 435:6,	291:15, 294:5,	pumps
479:4, 483:8	435:7, 437:17,	298:5	295:14, 308:22,
prohibited	443:10, 445:19,	provision	320:6, 320:17,
445:11, 486:16,	468:2, 473:9,	453:14, 499:14	353:25, 382:9,
486:19, 486:21,	473:12, 496:7,	provisions	383:1, 383:3,
498:22	505:21, 513:7,	451:6	386:10, 386:21,
prohibition	518:18, 519:22	proximate	395:4, 401:5,
501:14	proposes	408:3, 408:5	402:4, 402:9,
prohibits	458:14	proximity	402:12, 403:14,
477:21, 483:5,	proposing	365:1, 506:6	404:25, 405:13,
502:1	504:8	public	405:16, 414:25,
project	proposition	285:19, 289:24,	415:8, 418:8,
290:22, 290:41,	440:17	291:10, 292:16,	418:9, 418:12,
326:23, 385:19,	proprietary	297:25, 301:10,	418:15, 430:12,
385:22, 415:23,	425:24, 425:25	311:24, 337:9,	477:1, 478:6,
462:17, 463:21,	proprietors	347:10, 380:11,	480:22, 502:1,
464:11, 464:22,	357:4	382:24, 382:25,	502:6, 502:22,
510:2, 510:13	propriety	383:3, 390:15,	504:15, 505:10,
projected	506:24	390:16, 422:3,	505:25, 506:14
320:20, 423:18	prospective	428:14, 431:19,	purchase
projections	380:24	445:3, 446:7,	346:20, 364:19,
349:12, 350:13,	prove	446:8, 447:22,	365:22, 426:3,
386:24	346:7, 346:8,	503:21, 504:17,	504:22
projects	484:2	505:6, 505:19,	purchased
444:4	proven	514:5, 521:1,	405:12
proof	372:1	521:19	purchaser
469:16	provide	publicly	371 <b>:</b> 13
property	322:5, 330:19,	357 <b>:</b> 5	purchases
307:8, 335:15,	330:20, 330:22,	publicly-availab-	368:13, 373:13,
335:16, 335:19,	397:6, 469:16,	le	427:1
394:6, 396:4,	470:25, 473:12,	357:25, 358:1	purchasing
399:11, 406:18,	482:11, 485:9,	published	344:6, 374:15
417:13, 419:3,	497:4	337:6, 337:8,	purpose
508:11	provided	518:11	321:17, 436:17,
property's	295:24, 320:16,	pull	473:6, 476:11,
343:11	320:24, 323:6,	323:9, 324:4,	518:15, 518:18,
proposal	323:21, 381:11,	334:22, 364:1,	519:25
338:25	382:4, 384:13,	367:20, 371:25,	purposes
proposed	446:12, 448:22,	372:23, 397:12,	336:11, 341:15,
312:12, 312:18,	452:1, 473:21,	417:11, 429:11,	342:1, 382:19,
316:4, 316:11,	499:22, 500:16,	429:22, 446:15	485:10
316:13, 316:14,	503:24, 504:12,	pulling	pursuant
316:15, 319:16,	509:5	293:18	291:25, 298:16

	Conducted on N	viaicii 0, 2023		105
purview	479:19, 482:5,	rampart	336:8, 336:10,	
387 <b>:</b> 5	491:16, 492:20,	363:8	336:14, 336:16,	
pushed	494:16, 500:4,	ramparts	339:12, 339:24,	
491:9	518:22	363:6	372:11	
put	questions	ramsburg	realistic	
311:1, 335:8,	293:25, 313:16,	304:12, 469:9	342:7	
394:22, 444:3,	327:24, 331:10,	ran	reality	
452:14, 455:3,	333:6, 335:21,	356:23	505:3	
455:6, 455:7,	337:13, 346:5,	rapid	realized	
477:18, 483:17,	356:10, 379:23,	348:24, 351:5	309:14	
483:18, 488:18,	383:6, 385:19,	rate	really	
491:6, 505:24	401:19, 401:22,	316:25, 317:3	296:21, 389:19,	
putting	405:6, 405:22,	rates	426:5, 426:7,	
376:15, 379:14,	418:3, 426:19,	315:12, 315:13,	428:24, 445:5,	
453:8, 453:12,	427:9, 428:21,	319:1, 319:4,	446:1, 451:7,	
460:13, 468:15,	456:21, 457:17,	319:1, 319:4,	470:19, 500:5,	
478:6, 479:1,	457:20, 459:13,	rather	504:9, 510:22,	
479:3	474:21, 490:4,	301:20, 347:25,	511:10, 513:2,	
Q	494:10, 495:21	348:18, 356:7,	513:16, 515:2,	
	queuing	501:23	516:3, 520:10	
qualified	397:2	ratio	reason	
337:18, 521:7	quick	314:25, 400:19	360:14, 416:2,	
qualify	300:2, 458:9	reach	459:6, 464:5,	
294:5	quickly	315:1	500:6, 517:11	
quality	372:11	reached	reasonable	
288:36, 288:38,	quite	444:10	438:16, 439:15,	
288:39, 288:40,	366:6, 511:9	reaching	448:15, 465:6,	
288:41, 288:42,	quote	_	504:4	
290:16	325:2, 368:19,	311:15, 514:19	reasonably	
quantifiable	470:10, 483:8,	reactions	347:9, 380:10,	
469:16	499:19, 515:9	393:6	380:15, 380:17,	
quantify	quoted	read	382:23, 463:25,	
405:2	482:11	312:7, 332:10,	503:20, 504:16,	
question	R	341:16, 377:7,	505:6, 505:18,	
322:13, 322:18,		381:9, 384:24,	510:9, 510:11	
322:23, 323:20,	radius	385:3, 469:5,	reassess	
326:5, 327:13,	290:13, 352:17,	501:22	311:4	
327:16, 327:17,	374:21, 374:25,	reading	rebut	
337:9, 358:20,	398:6, 398:8,	387:24, 447:15,	483:19	
364:16, 375:6,	398:18, 398:21,	462:22	recalculate	
377:12, 379:16,	398:22, 410:1,	reads	319:12	
379:17, 383:24,	413:8, 413:12	387:23	recall	
384:2, 385:5,	raise	ready	331:3, 465:13	
387:20, 390:13,	293:3, 309:20,	348:14, 390:8,	recap	
415:3, 423:15,	334:5, 393:18,	437:18, 437:24,	310:13	
431:7, 462:20,	406:3, 432:8,	441:19	receive	
463:3, 465:9,	442:13	real	482:21	
472:11, 479:13,	raising	300:1, 336:4,	received	
	293:11	336:5, 336:7,	290:23	
			2,00.20	
		1		

	Conducted on 1	<u> </u>	
recent	434:20, 434:25,	495:13, 495:18,	445:7, 452:11,
318:24, 449:11,	435:22, 435:25,	496:9	475:14, 485:17,
481:15, 482:18,	436:8, 436:16,	reduce	508:25
494:22	438:8, 442:4,	332:24, 348:14,	referring
recently	443:1, 444:23,	348:15, 383:17,	340:8, 341:17,
396:16	453:23, 457:2,	383:18, 423:10,	406:13, 408:18,
recess	465:16, 471:9,	448:23	447:8, 458:4,
392:9, 429:4,	471:25, 472:8,	reduced	477:8, 477:13,
438:24, 441:12,	473:4, 473:21,	307:24, 311:7,	477:14
441:14	483:17, 483:18,	521:6	refilled
recited	486:3, 486:13,	reduces	358:8, 358:11
313:10	487:7, 488:11,	365:24	refined
recognize	491:7, 493:8,	reducing	369:17
321:20, 509:23	494:15, 498:9,	320:20	reflect
recognized	499:7, 499:11,	reduction	430:16, 460:1
451:24, 452:7	508:13, 509:12,	311:13, 316:17,	reflected
recognizes	515:16, 518:12,	332:15, 333:21,	320:5, 324:10,
463:17, 512:9	518:13, 519:4,	401:1	408:21, 410:12
recommendation	519:18, 519:23,	reductions	reflects
429:7, 431:21,	519:24, 520:13,	316:17	316:12, 431:14
431:24, 449:13	520:14, 521:9,	redundant	refuse
recommendations	522:5	492 <b>:</b> 24	416:17
430:5, 459:19,	recorded	reevaluated	refusing
461:25, 476:5,	302:6, 302:12,	308:1	514:20, 514:25
512:23	302:17, 521:6	reevaluating	regard
recommended	recording	307:23	291:13, 298:3,
393:4, 429:16,	521:8, 522:4	reevaluation	304:21, 333:10,
449:15	recordings	307:18, 307:21	333:14, 354:7,
recommending	471:11	refer	514:20
393:3, 459:23	records	338:5, 437:20,	regarding
recommends	395:8, 451:20	446:21, 451:2,	290:46, 291:10,
430:5	recovered	451:15, 466:8,	450:12, 485:12
reconcile	313:22	483:23	regardless
512:14	recross-examinat-	reference	428:11
reconvene	ion	329:11, 447:6,	regards
392:5, 441:12	383:25	449:5, 451:16,	389:4
record	red	452:2, 472:18,	region
288:44, 289:40,	341:23, 342:6,	514:4	396:18
292:5, 292:17,	352:19	referenced	regional
293:14, 295:22,	redact	319:18, 337:23,	370:17, 467:25
296:16, 297:7,	489:8	355:13, 381:5,	register
299:10, 299:13,	redacted	482:23	297:2
300:13, 303:11,	455:9, 455:11	references	registered
306:13, 332:3,	redirect	319:20	387:9
334:11, 381:9,	331:12, 379:25,	referencing	regroup
388:4, 410:6,	385:14, 393:13,	324:22, 446:21	391:13, 429:4
431:16, 431:22,	405:9, 426:21,	referred	regular
434:10, 434:13,	426:23, 495:10,	333:11, 395:19,	399:21, 400:2,
		<u> </u>	' ' ' '

	0011444444 011		107
400:3, 400:7,	rely	290:1, 323:6,	300:5, 494:6
439:9, 440:18,	302:8, 303:1,	330:2, 330:5,	represents
517:8	378:7, 435:9	333:13, 335:14,	339:21
regular's	relying	337:24, 338:2,	request
400:20	313:23, 378:11,	341:11, 343:13,	289:16, 289:40,
regulations	438:5	343:14, 344:4,	290:32, 290:37,
358:21, 464:12,	remain	345:22, 348:21,	290:47, 302:7,
510:6, 510:14	518:14	361:11, 361:12,	392:1, 434:9,
rehash	remaining	362:6, 369:2,	434:21, 437:15,
446:13	519:12	369:22, 371:7,	438:1, 449:12,
reiterate	remains	371:20, 371:23,	465:6
296:1, 458:8,	519:24	372:11, 372:13,	requested
518:1	remedial	373:10, 374:1,	315:9, 489:11
reiterated	497:23	374:7, 381:6,	require
301:3	remediate	384:5, 384:6,	440:8, 463:24,
reiterating	493:10	387:8, 414:13,	485:25, 503:15,
459:7	remember	429:19, 429:23,	510:8
rejected	323:7, 335:7,	430:4, 445:21,	required
443:19, 515:7	454:22, 456:10,	448:15, 451:22,	312:18, 312:20,
relate	498:21, 513:2	452:2, 459:19,	449:3, 453:13,
301:24	remind	465:7, 467:4,	455:13, 459:9,
related	490:1	467:9, 467:10,	460:21, 463:20,
521:11, 522:8	removed	477:10, 482:10,	464:5, 464:9,
relates	462:5, 467:18,	516:7, 516:15	481:20, 487:13,
326:25, 361:13	497:25	report's	499:24, 510:1,
relating	renamed	330:4	511:4, 516:12
313:21, 463:20,	452:18	reported	requirement
510:1	render	304:6, 304:8,	336:25, 342:11,
relationship	291:24, 298:16,	304:9, 304:12,	343:9, 346:7,
346:13, 346:24,	520:15	304:13, 304:16, 305:13, 449:6	355:14, 452:2,
381:1, 407:25	rental	reporter	469:13, 514:12
relative	468:15	293:7, 299:19,	requirements
385:19, 385:22,	repeated	406:2, 518:16,	291:16, 291:17,
468:20, 514:8	295:20	521:1, 522:14	298:6, 312:11,
relayed	repeatedly	reports	430:10, 450:8, 461:5, 463:23,
329:16	501:21	337:8, 359:3,	471:8, 491:19,
relevant	repetition	359:5, 372:10,	499:17, 499:23,
302:10, 302:18,	297:19	373:10	510:4, 510:17,
305:7, 308:15,	repetitive	represent	510:20
332:7, 382:6,	456:10	344:24	requires
454:14	rephrase	representative	483:9, 517:6
reliable	327:16	452:7	research
317:7	rephrased	representatives	344:3, 371:21,
relied	518:25	300:10	471:17
303:2, 514:25	reply	represented	reserved
relocate	290:42, 290:44,	369 <b>:</b> 24	346:2, 462:25
395:3	441:4, 454:3	representing	reserves
relocation	report	292:6, 300:3,	448:20, 449:2,
405:15	289:25, 289:43,	<u>'</u>	
		1	1

463:5	326:21, 466:7	347:10	318:25, 331:21,
reshuffle	respects	resumes	332:1, 333:13,
402:11	519:19	288:45	342:1, 410:22,
residence	respond	resupplied	446:5, 461:4,
314:13	304:18, 436:20,	357:15	461:21, 463:18,
resident	487:7, 487:11	retail	464:16, 466:8,
443:8, 490:24	respondent's	284:7, 291:6,	472:22, 484:18,
residential	448:16	297:23, 307:9,	487:10
314:16, 315:16,	respondents	307:16, 325:5,	reviewed
325:6, 341:7,	448:8, 465:4	383:21, 450:20,	323:21, 327:21,
365:9, 375:12	response	450:25, 451:8,	333:17, 471:14,
residents	302:9, 437:3,	452:4, 452:8,	506:23, 511:19
354:22 <b>,</b> 507:1	450:23, 492:2	453:6, 453:16,	reviewing
resolution	responses	461:7, 464:18,	387 <b>:</b> 22
289:8, 289:9,	364:8, 492:5	468:10, 468:15,	reviews
289:10, 289:45,	responsibility	475:8, 476:6,	481:10
290:21, 445:22,	462:13	476:20, 477:16,	revised
446:15, 446:17,	rest	479:6, 479:12,	289:19, 289:20,
446:24, 447:9,	341:13, 370:9,	479:20, 483:10,	289:21, 289:22,
448:1, 448:11,	417:13		290:1, 431:13,
448:23, 449:1,	restate	501:16, 502:24,	431:14, 467:7
450:7, 451:25,	465:17	506:11, 507:5,	revision
452:3, 462:15,	restaurant	508:10, 508:15,	482:20
462:22, 464:13,	399:12	508:20	revisions
464:17, 481:13,	rested	retain	481:15
481:18, 481:20,	516:5	467:14	rewards
481:21, 482:9,	restricted	retained	346:17, 404:12,
497:20, 508:25,	517:9	288:2, 289:2,	420:17, 421:5
509:2, 509:19,	restrictively	290:7	rewrite
509:22, 510:15,	501:22	return	498:24
510:19	result	328:21	rezoning
resolutions	312:13, 312:25,	reveal	469:10
465:12	313:4, 325:17,	445:13	ridge
resolve	389:1, 446:8,	revealed	365:8, 376:13
445:3	480:21, 503:4,	489:9	right
resources	505:20	reverse	306:6, 307:3,
357:12	resultant	460:14	309:20, 310:12,
respect	316:5, 445:19	reversed	314:14, 314:20,
317:15, 319:22,	resulted	300:22	316:23, 316:25,
320:14, 328:11,	445:6	reversing	320:5, 322:25,
328:13, 333:4,	resulting	296:8	324:13, 325:14,
348:11, 391:21,	308:24	revert	330:5, 334:5,
424:13, 476:6, 508:2, 511:10,	results	512:20	342:5, 343:2, 349:9, 349:11,
512:25	316:15, 316:17,	review	349:24, 352:23,
respectful	317:7	291:24, 298:15,	353:15, 360:12,
437:12	resume	307:7, 309:2, 311:20, 312:10,	362:6, 363:12,
respectfully	306:24, 334:20,	311:20, 312:10, 318:20, 318:24,	365:7, 365:15,
302:24, 305:12,	334:25, 337:16,	J10.20, J10:24,	500.7, 500.10,
002.21, 000.12,			
		1	

	Conducted on N	141011 0, 2025	-	109
369:16, 373:6,	453:2	ruling	sales	
376:7, 376:15,	roads	300:22, 472:11	345:23, 357:14,	
378:20, 378:24,	353:8, 353:12,	rulings	372:4, 372:5,	
381:8, 386:6,	367:7	298:13	372:7, 404:12	
392:23, 392:25,	roadways	run	samba	
393:18, 394:14,	321:23	321:15, 357:18,	287:4, 288:48,	
394:15, 396:22,	robbie	396:15, 396:25	294:20, 306:3,	
399:10, 406:4,	454:22, 487:23	running	306:8, 306:12,	
411:5, 413:13,	robert		306:14, 307:5,	
416:24, 417:12,		356:25, 493:6	309:10, 313:14,	
417:14, 418:11,	286:4, 290:19,	rural	326:6, 327:17,	
418:23, 418:24,	290:43, 290:48	316:21, 365:19,	•	
420:11, 421:16,	rockville	370:16	331:14, 331:18,	
422:22, 423:2,	284:12, 285:10,	rush	333:7, 366:11,	
423:12, 424:22,	506:2, 506:5	361:8	399:1, 480:20	
432:2, 432:8,	role	S	samba's	
437:21, 438:22,	291:23, 443:7	s-o-k-o-n-i	306:24	
442:14, 446:22,	roles	291:22, 298:10	same	
	337:1	sacrificing	291:21, 315:15,	
449:2, 455:18, 458:4, 459:23,	room	417:9	316:2, 321:21,	
460:3, 464:16,	285:9, 299:8,	safety	349:2, 356:4,	
467:14, 472:15,	299:12, 299:25,	306:18	359:25, 361:18,	
	428:14	said	368:19, 372:13,	
476:17, 479:14, 491:8, 492:8,	rooted	292:22, 293:7,	373:10, 380:19,	
The state of the s	464:5	295:17, 295:19,	386:1, 393:9,	
495:3, 496:20, 508:17, 513:20	rose	296:2, 310:13,	398:17, 398:19,	
	465:13, 466:9,	342:19, 342:21,	400:19, 413:7,	
<pre>rightly 519:16</pre>	467:1	348:24, 354:18,	413:18, 413:22,	
	rouff	368:9, 377:14,	419:4, 426:4,	
rights	286:19	377:21, 384:19,	432:21, 435:21,	
482:15	roughly	397:23, 401:24,	440:21, 476:21,	
river	349:1, 350:14,	404:3, 404:16,	479:17, 480:4,	
339:8	457:7, 497:3	404:23, 419:9,	482:19, 493:17,	
road	route	420:16, 421:24,	506:4	
306:18, 347:16,	347:18, 353:24,	424:8, 485:16,	sample	
347:17, 348:15,	356:4, 363:12,	491:25, 492:3,	317:4	
353:9, 353:10,	365:8, 368:1,	492:17, 493:1,	sandwiches	
365:8, 367:20,	375:20, 375:24,	493:25, 494:1,	344:12	
376:13, 394:16,	376:14, 376:23,	494:2, 497:22,	satisfaction	
394:20, 394:23,	386:9	500:21, 508:16,	446:1	
396:5, 396:7,	royal	511:7, 511:8,	satisfied	
401:3, 401:14,	344:10, 407:16	514:11, 515:7,	296:4	
402:11, 403:13,	rule	516:4, 516:7,	satisfies	
403:17, 405:15,	434:24	518:4, 519:2,	512:19	
409:1, 415:5,	ruled	521:8, 522:5	satisfy	
415:12, 417:3,	296:6, 465:23	saint	450:2	
417:11, 452:15,	rules	452:19, 452:20	saturation	
452:16, 452:21,	293:22, 293:23,	sale	389:2, 389:16	
452:22, 452:23,	302:13, 465:25	399:17	save	
			327:22, 373:12	

	Conducted on to		
saw	says	second	seeking
402:3	319:20, 320:15,	294:21, 307:21,	294:6
say	321:24, 322:20,	310:14, 334:1,	seem
293:9, 297:20,	327:6, 343:9,	388:11, 398:12,	333:22
308:8, 308:20,	350:22, 381:10,	417:3, 426:12,	seems
312:19, 320:15,	384:11, 384:20,	429:25, 447:14,	485:12
321:18, 328:7,	430:4, 442:5,	453:17, 500:8,	seen
328:14, 339:14,	458:10, 458:18,	500:15, 503:14	376:9, 490:5,
341:12, 342:24,	462:24, 464:10,	secondly	502:13
343:6, 348:7,	475:11, 475:15,	458:17	selecting
348:8, 349:8,	478:20, 484:1,	secretive	345:2, 362:24
357:21, 359:5,	485:6, 503:22,	357:4	selection
360:8, 362:9,	508:4, 508:6,	section	339:10, 363:3
364:11, 364:17,	510:18, 513:3	291:17, 333:2,	selectors
368:2, 368:6,	scale	340:10, 340:16,	363:22, 363:24
369:12, 371:6,	458:13, 458:19,	387:21, 387:22,	self-adequate
373:11, 373:16,		387:25, 430:4,	318:6
374:11, 374:18,		430:10, 449:25,	sell
374:21, 376:9,	479:4, 480:6	459:3, 462:23,	425:23
377:13, 377:14,	schedule	499:15, 499:16	seller
379:3, 386:13,	390:8, 439:5	sections	358:16
399:20, 401:16,	schedule's	298:8	selling
401:23, 402:25,	439:5	see	403:2, 419:15
403:24, 418:7,	scheduled	292:18, 301:1,	send
423:6, 436:24,	295:6, 428:8,	315:20, 316:5,	423:13
437:1, 439:9,	428:16, 429:3,	327:10, 333:17,	sending
450:13, 453:22,	466:3	334:22, 340:12,	461:20
454:2, 457:11,	school	341:5, 344:10,	seneca
468:8, 474:14,	336:17	352:21, 353:6,	339:6
475:24, 476:15,	schultz	361:8, 361:19,	sense
477:25, 483:3,	512:2, 512:8	373:6, 375:9,	311:24, 404:17,
487:20, 495:24,	screen	386:5, 398:3,	435:15, 470:3,
500:6, 504:5,	293:16, 293:18,	414:15, 429:7,	493:15
505:17, 509:23,	316:8, 324:13,	435:9, 436:8,	sent
512:20, 514:15,	328:6, 349:22,	440:9, 440:10,	434:15, 450:21,
514:19, 518:3,	386:8, 398:3	444:16, 463:7,	457:4, 457:6,
518:5	screenshot	463:11, 464:1,	472:2, 492:22,
saying	471:3	465:1, 465:2,	493:13
313:19, 378:15,	script	465:12, 466:25,	sentence
379:6, 402:15,	511:22	470:15, 470:16,	464:10, 509:25
412:6, 412:7,	scroll	472:9, 476:10,	separate
435:10, 447:21,	349:10, 463:10	477:17, 482:23,	314:3, 388:13,
449:20, 462:2,	sea	483:21, 484:1,	455:19
478:6, 478:11, 478:14, 484:7,	509:8	486:14, 491:1,	separated
487:8, 489:7,	search	503:6	335:17
495:2, 504:3,	323:8, 450:22	seeing	separating
506:21, 519:3	secluded	453:2	424:18
300.21, 319.3	453:11	seek	series
		455:11	301:14, 488:24
			, , , , , ,

	Conducted on N			111
serve	455:3, 455:8,	301:9	show	
340:13, 342:12,	455:10, 455:17,	sheetz	305:7, 358:10,	
354:22, 354:23,	455:22, 456:25,	344:12, 407:16	395:20, 398:9,	
356:6, 368:17,	457:9, 459:9,	shell	403:21, 470:14,	
368:18, 370:24,	464:6, 471:8,	353:1, 399:24,	475:3, 475:16,	
375:5, 388:5,	476:9, 477:9,	400:8, 400:9,	485:21, 499:8,	
399:13, 468:24,	482:22, 483:15,	400:17, 407:17,	499:12, 501:12	
470:10, 513:8	484:21, 484:22,	407:23, 407:25,	showing	
served		409:3, 411:9,	349:21	
447:23	485:25, 486:13,	411:25, 412:3,	shown	
service	486:17, 487:25,	420:19	307:12, 315:19,	
	488:1, 496:5,	shift	•	
306:20, 314:2,	496:12, 496:20,		340:2, 352:19,	
315:13, 315:21,	497:18, 498:2,	360:6, 360:7	364:23, 408:19	
317:1, 343:17,	498:4, 498:11,	shifted	shows	
383:21, 396:14,	500:13, 520:7	395:5, 396:6	381:13, 381:17,	
469:18, 513:19,	setup	shifting	384:13, 398:23,	
514:5	356:1	371:16, 371:18	442:4, 444:17,	
services	seven	shiny	470:17, 475:19	
363:5, 365:16,	330:9, 354:25,	371:14	sick	
370:13, 380:19,	360:10, 381:18,	shop	491:3	
383:19, 469:17,	462:23, 463:9,	347:5, 364:18,	side	
470:18, 503:1,	499:15	451:4	345:17, 347:17,	
513:4	several	shopping	349:5, 361:6,	
serving	336:8, 361:12,	320:19, 322:15,	363:10, 376:18,	
356:6, 365:4,	414:9, 433:3,	344:18, 353:12,	393:11, 395:5,	
365:9, 371:5	446:17	355:4, 383:11,	408:12, 411:22,	
set	sewer	383:13, 383:16,	442:18, 451:3,	
291:19, 292:1,	417:5, 417:6,	383:17, 515:4,	452:13	
298:7, 298:9,	417:8	515:9	side-street	
298:17, 314:9,	shall	shortage	497:11	
314:23, 318:15, 334:21, 347:23,	430:19, 518:13	396:17	sides	
357:10, 451:22,	shankar	should	435:20, 474:17	
485:7	292:9, 300:8	299:3, 301:9,	sideways	
setbacks	share	302:19, 303:23,	324:6, 398:13	
497:11	293:16, 381:20,	319:6, 349:18,	sign	
sets	403:20, 411:2,	350:16, 351:1, 355:3, 364:3,	289:12, 348:8, 376:8, 401:7	
512:6	471:3, 471:4	382:20, 395:20,	•	
settings	shared	411:21, 412:8,	sign-up	
316:25	445:11	437:23, 438:1,	299:12	
settlement	shed	438:11, 451:13,	signatory	
290:52, 327:3,	452:11, 453:1	461:21, 462:7,	455:17	
445:9, 445:20,	sheet	461:21, 462:7, 468:10, 475:14,	signature-lapgj	
445:23, 446:5,	288:19, 288:20,	485:3, 497:8,	522:11	
450:13, 450:19,	288:22, 288:26,	497:9, 499:12,	signature-sc3	
450:13, 450:19, 451:11, 452:5,	288:33, 288:34,	507:18, 507:23,		
452:25, 454:10,	288:35, 288:37,	513:16	signatures	
454:11, 455:2,	289:21, 299:12,	shouldn't	488:16, 489:3 signed	
	,,	504:3		
			455:23, 486:1	
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	

	Conducted on N	3, 2020	112
significant	490:12, 491:21,	414:20, 420:13,	sokoni's
360:7, 376:21,	491:25, 492:10,	436:6, 437:12,	491:16
387:16, 404:20,	495:12	441:5, 474:15	sold
404:21, 405:19,	singing	six	343:24, 515:21
419:23, 425:21,	442:20	314:19, 315:23,	soliciting
466:22	single	315:24, 388:14,	491:23
significantly	318:13	388:23, 389:1,	some
372:9, 387:11,	single-family	397:9, 411:7,	297:18, 297:20,
417:10, 425:12	314:13	420:14, 430:12,	299:18, 300:21,
signs	sir	430:19, 432:22,	301:11, 317:6,
289:15	379:16	432:23, 447:13,	317:16, 321:14,
silver	sister	448:21, 458:6,	321:15, 321:20,
319:8	406:16	458:7, 481:16	336:9, 336:25,
similar	sit	sizable	341:18, 347:1,
294:11, 321:1,	411:21	416:18	351:9, 357:18,
321:8, 332:17,	site	size	357:22, 369:14,
332:22, 340:15,	288:21, 288:22,	411:10	372:8, 373:17,
342:14, 346:23,	288:38, 289:4,	sizes	376:18, 378:1,
355:16, 355:24,	290:3, 290:16,	317:4	385:15, 385:25,
356:1, 373:20,	290:31, 309:6,	sizing	386:23, 396:17,
388:8, 389:2,	311:8, 317:20,	412:3	402:3, 403:17,
411:8, 411:10,	318:1, 318:2,	skills	413:10, 417:17,
412:2, 458:14,	319:16, 324:23,	521:10, 522:7	420:10, 424:9,
469:1, 470:12,	324:24, 339:10,	sledding	424:14, 424:24,
499:20, 503:23,	341:7, 341:23,	509:16	425:2, 425:20,
503:25, 504:8,	342:8, 346:10,	sliding	428:7, 428:19,
504:11, 504:18,	347:15, 347:18,	327:11	433:6, 434:9,
507:18, 513:10,	348:10, 351:4,	slight	445:9, 445:12,
514:2	352:23, 352:24,	362:15	450:13, 450:15,
similarly	353:20, 358:17,	slightly	456:21, 457:20,
499:24	363:2, 363:22,	339:11, 362:8	461:22, 470:24,
simple	363:23, 374:12,	slipping	474:21, 479:15, 479:16, 487:23,
338:17	374:21, 380:13,	369:16	488:24, 498:10,
simply	380:16, 395:13,	small	503:15, 508:1,
295:23, 298:23,	430:15, 443:10,	340:22, 355:24,	518:9
322:6, 323:24,	443:23, 450:3, 450:24, 459:25,	370:7, 375:11,	somebody
328:7, 384:5, 384:15, 399:10,	460:8, 460:17,	386:17, 387:13,	360:3, 378:21,
405:2	460:23, 460:24,	401:7, 404:18	378:23
simultaneously	460:25, 467:7,	smaller	somehow
441:4	468:2, 481:11,	308:24, 317:4,	350:10, 502:9
since	481:14, 482:20,	317:8, 341:2,	someone
308:24, 319:1,	497:7, 506:16	354:3 smallest	292:20, 293:5,
319:5, 327:9,	sites	339:23	297:4, 297:5,
353:10, 394:19,	317:12, 321:1,	snowden	297:6, 297:9,
433:18, 443:10,	409:17	349:6	397:18, 397:21
450:9, 452:18,	situation	349:0 soft	someone's
481:6, 482:17,	330:13, 392:3,	394:2	378:20, 473:15
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		JJ4•2	

	Conducted on	3, 2020		113
someplace	500:13, 512:2,	397:20	485:22, 494:18,	
505:4	520:10	speakers	496:3, 505:17,	
something	sound	434:3	508:22, 509:1	
292:19, 293:9,	397:17	speaking	specification	
293:14, 344:12,	sounded	293:5, 299:16,	501:16	
352:18, 357:16,	404:22, 492:9	442:10, 498:22	specifics	
369:19, 372:24,	sounds	speaks	403:16, 452:4,	
377:19, 386:18,	441:9, 519:4	453:23, 454:5,	476:19	
386:25, 392:21,	source	461:7, 473:16,	specified	
405:11, 420:3,	377:15, 415:7,	475:25	431:9, 519:19	
434:19, 453:4,	416:4	special	speculate	
455:11, 471:19,	sourced	301:23, 507:13,	329:23	
482:2, 485:18,	315:7, 317:5	511:25, 512:12	speculation	
497:8, 497:9,	sourcing	specializes	454:6, 454:8	
512:3, 512:14,	415:13, 418:15	344:11, 344:12	spelled	
514:11	south	specialty	299:5, 454:12	
sometimes	328:16, 339:6,	336:9	spelling	
426:14	351:17, 361:8,	specific	406:2	
somewhat	365:6, 365:7,	314:10, 324:8,	spend	
293:20	366:5, 366:14,	330:8, 368:5,	378:21, 379:4,	
somewhere	366:24, 367:13,	446:11, 446:16,	416:5	
348:19, 351:16,	371:2, 374:21,	450:8, 451:14,	spine	
380:21, 468:5	375:4, 380:3,	452:8, 452:24,	452:16, 452:23	
son	380:4, 399:2,	461:7, 461:19,	split	
419:19	408:7, 413:15,	470:24, 475:7,	307:15	
soon	417:22, 417:23,	475:20, 476:5,	splitting	
295:17	421:15, 421:21,	477:8, 481:11,	317:9	
sooner	516:20, 517:1	484:16, 484:19,	spoke	
439:11	southern	485:18, 489:10,	329:14	
sorry	343:12	496:1, 496:6,	spoken	
307:19, 310:7,	space	512:7, 512:24,	310:2	
324:6, 324:12,	289:5, 366:1,	518:3, 519:23	spot	
325:20, 329:7,	370:21, 477:24,	specifically		
340:6, 349:15,	478:12	316:1, 337:3,	416:14, 478:24, 511:21	
359:16, 370:4,	spagnolo	337:5, 340:16,	spring	
373:4, 383:7,	442:6	346:1, 383:16,	319:8	
395:7, 400:10,	spanned	428:10, 449:19,	springloch	
402:10, 415:16,	435:3	450:20, 456:11,	304:11	
419:19, 421:14,	speak	463:5, 464:4,		
426:13, 426:18,	292:25, 293:3,	464:8, 464:18,	<b>square</b>	
428:21, 430:1,	293:15, 297:5,	466:3, 467:11,	307:15, 307:16,	
440:2, 444:20,	299:15, 313:10,	468:9, 469:25,	307:17, 307:25,	
446:22, 447:5,	364:1, 403:15,	471:6, 475:12,	308:1, 308:5,	
451:15, 468:15,	428:9, 428:11,	477:7, 477:14,	308:6, 325:4, 394:16, 394:23,	
474:14, 477:12,	446:17, 455:9,	479:2, 479:11,	394:16, 394:23, 396:5, 396:7,	
488:3, 498:9,	455:21	481:7, 482:8,	401:13, 403:17,	
518:23	speaker	482:16, 483:9,	452:16, 452:22,	
sort	293:10, 337:12,	484:11, 484:23,	475:23	
339:21, 352:7,			1/0.40	

	Colladoted off i	<u> </u>	
squares	375:15, 375:16,	468:4, 470:24,	352:20, 353:5,
458:15, 475:24	379:20, 387:23,	478:2, 482:3,	353:8, 353:11,
st	388:10, 388:13,	484:9, 492:6,	354:2, 354:8,
394:10, 439:18	388:20, 388:21,	492:9, 492:19,	354:17, 354:21,
staff	389:20, 389:22,	494:16, 494:23,	355:1, 356:19,
289:25, 289:43,	500:16, 500:19,	507:9, 518:1	358:6, 358:11,
290:1, 292:19,	502:13, 503:20,	statement	366:8, 367:16,
308:9, 308:18,	511:18	288:6, 288:13,	370:24, 371:1,
310:15, 311:2,	standards	289:11, 289:20,	371:4, 371:8,
311:10, 311:11,	291:16, 291:19,	289:27, 289:36,	372:6, 374:20,
330:1, 330:2,	298:6, 298:9,	312:4, 312:5,	375:2, 376:6,
330:4, 331:25,	319:24, 353:22,	312:20, 313:9,	377:22, 377:24,
332:4, 332:9,	388:16, 462:8,	320:22, 321:2,	378:1, 380:3,
333:3, 333:12,	499:15, 499:23	321:24, 322:14,	380:5, 381:2,
333:13, 340:4,	standing	322:19, 359:23,	387:18, 388:9,
341:4, 341:11,	477:22	362:18, 364:20,	388:21, 388:24,
341:22, 343:1,	standpoint	365:23, 366:15,	389:21, 389:23,
369:22, 381:6,	325:25, 326:18,	366:17, 376:24,	398:9, 399:24,
381:21, 382:1,	390:1	378:10, 436:19,	407:14, 408:14,
382:4, 384:3,	stands	437:2, 451:13,	408:24, 409:6,
384:5, 385:6,	304:19	517:24, 519:1	410:22, 410:24,
385:9, 392:21,	start	statements	411:6, 411:8,
393:2, 429:7,	317:9, 391:11,	294:14, 320:14,	411:10, 411:11,
429:16, 429:19,	392:6, 410:2,	345:2, 392:14,	411:12, 411:17,
429:23, 430:4,	430:20, 474:12,	403:20, 428:24,	413:2, 413:8,
430:5, 435:18,	508:18	434:7, 449:9,	413:14, 413:17,
445:21, 446:4,	started	487:23, 499:3,	413:19, 414:18,
448:14, 449:5,	291:9, 294:7,	501:5, 501:6	415:8, 416:3,
449:6, 451:22,	307:25, 402:2,	states	420:14, 420:20,
452:2, 459:19,	433:1, 444:8	340:11, 345:23,	421:13, 421:22,
460:11, 462:6,	starting	448:20, 448:23,	423:7, 423:19,
462:14, 465:6,	339:10, 347:8,	448:25, 458:12,	425:15, 425:17,
467:4, 467:9,	374:24	458:23, 463:1,	469:19, 470:6,
467:11, 477:10,	state	464:8, 467:11,	479:23, 482:24,
480:18, 481:17,	285:20, 306:12,	471:7, 478:4,	495:25, 499:17,
482:10, 493:19,	311:15, 334:10,	478:5	501:15, 503:19,
495:2, 499:25,	343:22, 365:18,	stating	504:21, 506:4,
502:16, 503:2,	394:3, 406:12,	450:5, 456:24,	506:5, 513:21,
503:8, 506:22	424:9, 424:10,	462:2, 492:23,	513:23, 514:18,
staff's	442:4, 445:13,	493:14	514:23, 515:17,
448:13	450:12, 462:14,	station's	516:10, 516:21,
stage	464:4, 465:3,	449:12	517:8, 517:13
442:12	471:5, 482:18,	stations	stay
stand	494:14, 521:19	290:40, 305:16,	403:1, 419:21
305:25, 327:15,	stated	314:2, 342:10,	staying
431:20, 433:18	345:5, 382:7,	344:22, 345:15,	376:14, 413:6
standard	461:21, 462:15,	346:18, 346:23,	stays
318:10, 368:9,	466:11, 467:16,	347:1, 349:3,	304:23
		<u> </u>	

steele       stops       345:7, 346:18, 353:10, 452:21, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453	
287:8 383:18 354:6, 364:22, 453:2, 453:6,	
steere   storage   364:25, 365:4,   468:1	
288:49, 294:21, 398:10 365:7, 365:8, <b>strip</b>	
330:16, 334:2, <b>store</b> 372:15, 372:25, 451:2, 453:3	
334:10, 334:12, 321:13, 321:16, 373:7, 403:1, <b>strongly</b>	
334:24, 335:2, 321:19, 323:1, 408:3, 408:4, 459:7	
335:25, 337:23, 323:2, 339:16, 408:13, 420:9, <b>strove</b>	
356:15, 362:22, 340:22, 341:24, 421:14, 479:25, 484:11	
395:17, 399:1, 343:19, 344:8, 502:7, 505:15, <b>structure</b>	
504:5, 504:13, 344:16, 345:14, 513:11, 514:1, 319:1	
515:12 345:16, 345:17, 515:6, 515:15, <b>structures</b>	
steere's 345:19, 345:22, 517:7, 517:9, 466:23	
334:20, 409:7, 347:5, 347:24, 517:11 <b>struggled</b>	
413:9, 425:11, 353:23, 354:1, <b>straight</b> 403:3	
516:2, 516:15, 355:6, 355:25, 378:17, 387:24 <b>studied</b>	
516:25 356:2, 356:4, <b>strategy</b> 323:15, 366:17,	
stenographic 360:15, 362:25, 407:1 387:7, 387:8	
522:14 364:19, 372:23, <b>straw studies</b>	
step 373:2, 377:17, 491:12 334:16, 334:17,	
312:22, 340:7, 383:14, 383:15, <b>stream</b> 358:10	
346:12 386:17, 386:19, 339:5, 339:13, <b>study</b>	
steve 394:12, 399:12, 363:7 312:17, 312:22,	
286:20, 289:38, 399:21, 401:23, <b>street</b> 318:6, 336:12,	
298:20, 299:4 403:25, 404:25, 286:13, 397:2, 367:8, 374:4.	
stick   405:4, 407:10,   408:11, 409:5,   374:25, 377:6.	
391:9 419:25, 420:1, 415:5, 415:19, 381:13, 384:13.	
still 420:8, 420:11, 415:22, 415:24, 384:19, 387:6,	
311:9, 329:2, 420:23, 421:7, 419:6, 502:8, 421:25, 422:1	
354:24, 361:20, 426:4, 432:22, 508:11 study's	
371:23, 380:6, 449:21, 452:18, street-facing 312:19	
387:13, 412:16, 453:7, 476:4, 468:10, 479:20 <b>stuff</b>	
415:2, 428:6, 477:2, 478:25, <b>streets</b> 321:15, 365:6.	
443:12, 448:21, 480:8, 480:13, 376:18, 443:25, 4 <sub>91.9</sub>	
454:11, 456:25, 480:22, 492:7, 496:18, 497:12 <b>stuffs</b>	
458:2, 468:5, 502:2, 502:7, stretched 373:3	
472:14, 477:11, 504:3, 504:16, 435:3 style	
497:3, 507:2,   505:10, 505:24,   stricken   320.6	
514:10, 517:1, 506:1, 507:10, 302:7 sub-anchor	
517:12, 517:19 507:11, 515:18, strict 383:12	
stop	
379:2, 391:23, store's stricter 326:12, 326:13,	
426:9 514:4 369:17	
stop-work stores strictly subject	
444:3, 497:16 305:15, 332:24, 448:8, 465:5 307:7, 343:11,	
stopped   342:11, 343:10,   strike   430:7, 436:1,	
365:15, 417:12, 343:22, 343:25, 303:11, 304:24 440:13, 447:25,	
481:9, 494:20 344:13, stringtown 450:3, 464:11,	
347:16, 347:17,	

	Conducted on N	1011-011-0, 2-0-2-0	110
464:21, 510:13,	suburb	361:18, 361:21,	395:25, 405:5,
510:17	361:4	382:10, 382:13,	406:15, 411:19,
subjective	suburban	509:10	411:20, 415:1,
374:12	316:21, 317:2,	supplement	418:20, 420:21,
submission	317:10	288:16	421:1, 422:5,
290:1, 445:16,	suffer	supply	424:7, 425:21,
445:18, 461:4,	418:24	337:7, 338:14,	436:14, 437:20,
467:6, 467:7,	suffering	338:22, 346:2,	439:6, 444:13,
472:1, 519:22	417:4	346:3, 346:6,	446:10, 459:14,
submissions	sufficient	352:12, 369:1,	459:17, 472:6,
361:1	345:9, 391:16,	371:7, 516:16	489:7, 490:8,
submit	423:18, 493:10	support	495:15, 516:6
422:24, 434:25,	sugarview	289:29, 302:22,	surprised
441:3, 455:11,	443:8	304:1, 320:22,	465:25
471:15, 471:21,	suggest	404:19, 428:11,	surrounding
472:14, 472:15,	304:3, 361:16,	428:15, 472:23,	407:14, 459:5,
485:25	512:12	490:5, 490:18,	470:6
submitted	suggested	490:20, 491:18,	surroundings
289:18, 289:42,	319:5, 390:24,	493:19, 494:3,	504:10
290:5, 290:10,	499:13, 503:7	495:2, 499:25,	survey
290:17, 290:38,	suggesting	504:14, 506:21,	343:23, 352:2,
290:43, 290:48,	366:3, 366:4,	506:24, 519:1	379:9, 420:8
301:18, 305:3,	368:23, 375:17,	supported	surveys
306:23, 337:24,	379:18, 460:11,	423:7, 423:9,	345:6, 351:20,
349:24, 464:20,	462:11	490:15	372:2, 377:8
469:2, 470:21,	suggestion	supports	swear
471:20, 487:9,	432:1	500:2	309:17, 393:16,
498:14, 503:15,	suite	supposed	405:24
506:21	286:6, 286:13	309:3, 436:1,	swihart
submitting	summarize	468:16	289:30
436:2, 437:16,	327:16, 423:12	supreme	swm
455:14, 486:20,	summarized	513:12	288:43
489:14	315:12	sure	sworn
subpoena	summary	299:2, 299:14,	309:22, 334:6,
290:32, 290:37,	359:23, 414:10,	299:17, 306:14,	393:20, 393:22,
290:46	414:14, 429:25,	313:2, 313:17,	406:5, 406:8,
subsection	435:10, 496:11	313:18, 315:4,	432:9, 432:11,
388:14	sunday	322:3, 325:9,	442:15, 442:22,
subsequent	440:1, 440:2,	333:1, 351:17,	521:5
509:14	440:3	357:3, 359:9,	synthesized
substantial	sunoco	359:15, 361:3,	315:11
447:19	352:25, 353:9,	362:4, 362:15,	system
substantially	409:1, 470:6	373:22, 373:24,	308:10, 308:14,
404:24	super	374:17, 377:25,	310:16, 502:8,
substantiate	359:21	378:3, 378:5,	502:21, 502:22
443:3	supermarket	378:6, 385:16,	T
substantive	343:18, 360:1,	386:15, 390:22, 393:7, 395:23,	table
436:3	361:15, 361:17,	090.1, 090:20,	301:9, 301:10,

	Conducted on iv	,	
315:19, 316:8,	511:8	360:3, 377:10,	306:9, 335:3,
351:8, 351:10,	talks	387:7, 394:11,	335:7, 335:11,
408:23, 424:6,	476 <b>:</b> 12	399:19, 415:11,	337:17, 382:16,
424:11, 424:12,	tank	421:9, 422:8	393:23, 406:9,
511:10		telling	432:12, 442:23,
tabulations	290:15, 350:18,		
	358:5, 358:7,	371:20, 461:25	472:12, 474:25, 484:8, 505:9,
288:32	398:10, 409:22,	tenant	506:14
tactic	410:11, 411:11,	320:17, 320:21,	testifies
486:7	412:19, 413:25,	323:1	436:12
take	414:16, 425:1,	tenant's	
303:16, 303:19,	477:23, 478:10,	321:6	testify
340:7, 346:12,	516:23	tender	295:5, 296:12,
391:4, 410:11,	tanker	306:24	296:16, 297:2,
419:2, 431:20,	412:25	term	298:19, 300:15,
441:11, 444:22,	tankers	477:9, 502:5,	300:17, 301:2,
460:7, 466:1,	357:16	514:8	332:4, 368:16,
470:13, 473:22,	tanks	terminology	414:19, 428:4,
474:15, 497:18	357:18, 358:8,	476:18	428:14, 434:5,
taken	358:10, 403:5,	terms	436:15, 444:16,
381:2, 392:9,	409:18, 410:11,	312:3, 338:17,	445:9, 455:16,
438:17, 441:14,	424:24, 424:25,	355:21, 366:18,	456:9, 456:22,
508:14, 509:6,	425:2	388:18, 415:11,	466:4, 472:6,
521:3	tasked	416:8, 440:17,	472:13, 472:22,
takes	368:15	445:12, 447:17,	490:20, 492:18,
441:1	team	448:1, 448:9,	492:21, 493:2
talk	329:17, 420:19	449:1, 450:25,	testifying
313:21, 330:16,	technical	455:10, 464:12,	298:21, 298:23,
339:1, 347:9,	297:7, 474:1	475:7, 485:9,	300:24, 309:24,
348:20, 356:15,	technician	486:17, 505:8,	405:7, 455:13,
356:18, 357:21,	286:19	509:21, 510:15	484:4, 484:5,
359:9, 363:23,	techniques	terrible	484:6
421:1, 513:18	329:11, 332:21	363:12	testimonies
talked	technological	terribly	337:1
346:12, 355:15,	296:23	390:13	testimony
366:11, 368:7,	tee	test	289:39, 291:24,
411:23, 419:8,	484:13	311:21, 322:9,	293:24, 293:25,
476:24, 493:18,	teeter	322:10, 322:14,	295:17, 295:18,
513:24	408:6, 409:3,	322:21, 322:22,	295:20, 295:24,
talking	412:3, 421:15,	322:24, 355:17,	296:5, 296:7,
299:20, 308:16,	470:7	387:17, 400:4,	298:14, 300:11,
325:20, 355:23,	teeter's	400:6, 400:9,	301:4, 302:15,
360:19, 368:21,	421:18	400:12, 400:14,	317:16, 327:24,
376:4, 384:12,	telecommunication	400:21, 504:24,	337:16, 347:11,
389:1, 401:17,	406:21	505:4, 505:17,	366:10, 390:16,
408:19, 410:7,	tell	507:22, 509:4,	398:25, 422:19,
412:14, 420:12,	296:17, 307:5,	517:10	427:23, 435:5,
420:25, 445:22,	315:14, 320:21,	testified	435:25, 442:24,
467:9, 486:10,	329:5, 329:14,	295:12, 301:2,	443:2, 456:20,
L			

```
339:18, 340:19,
457:14, 457:19,
                     433:24, 434:1,
                                                               426:6, 428:1,
457:24, 465:24,
                     435:17, 441:10,
                                          346:23, 366:2,
                                                               429:5, 429:9,
470:23, 472:19,
                     441:13, 441:22,
                                          377:8, 388:9,
                                                               430:2, 432:7,
473:18, 477:7,
                     442:2, 444:21,
                                          389:14, 393:9,
                                                               436:7, 436:25,
481:9, 493:7,
                     474:20, 487:4,
                                          411:8, 415:7,
                                                               437:4, 437:5,
495:18, 499:21,
                     489:21, 489:25,
                                          416:1, 416:9,
                                                               438:3, 438:11,
499:22, 500:16,
                     495:7, 496:10,
                                          423:2, 439:7,
                                                               439:3, 439:8,
                                                               439:15, 440:12,
502:17, 503:8,
                     496:11, 499:6,
                                          443:21, 443:22,
503:12, 504:12,
                     501:8, 507:3,
                                          452:14, 459:1,
                                                               441:7, 442:25,
504:20, 506:20,
                     507:6, 507:8,
                                                               447:4, 448:12,
                                          464:2, 466:13,
515:2, 515:8,
                     517:17, 517:18,
                                          466:18, 466:20,
                                                               452:20, 454:5,
516:2, 516:19
                     518:8, 520:3,
                                          466:22, 468:6,
                                                               471:8, 474:3,
                     520:8, 520:17,
                                          468:7, 468:14,
                                                               474:22, 475:9,
tests
                     520:20, 520:24
                                          468:16, 469:19,
                                                               476:18, 477:6,
311:25, 511:13,
                     thanked
                                          470:24, 475:8,
                                                               478:21, 480:6,
513:24
                                          476:16, 478:17,
                     492:3
                                                               481:8, 487:14,
text
                                          482:6, 486:6,
                                                               488:5, 489:12,
                     theater
398:9
                                          493:2, 495:12,
                                                               492:24, 494:12,
                     479:21
texts
                                          496:19, 497:12,
                                                               497:4, 500:22,
296:18, 329:11
                     themselves
                                          497:17, 498:22,
                                                               504:5, 505:11,
                     299:25, 313:11,
th
                                                               515:23, 519:13
                                          500:6, 501:23,
378:8, 378:9,
                     482:14, 518:6
                                          512:7
                                                               thinking
440:2, 440:3,
                     theory
                     379:13, 380:16
                                          think
                                                               340:4, 427:20
440:11, 440:14
                                          299:22, 299:23,
                                                               third
thank
                     thereafter
                                          301:14, 302:19,
                                                               351:13, 398:20
292:7, 292:11,
                     355:7, 521:6
                                          304:18, 313:8,
                                                               thought
294:23, 294:24,
                     thereby
                                          313:9, 323:16,
                                                               306:6, 349:23,
295:1, 296:20,
                     320:20
                                          326:8, 327:15,
                                                               453:3, 492:23,
297:8, 297:17,
                     therefore
                                          330:17, 332:7,
                                                               493:5, 498:10
299:6, 300:12,
                     367:4, 389:19,
                                          335:12, 345:9,
                                                               thoughts
301:4, 301:6,
                     461:12, 469:13
                                          359:4, 361:10,
                                                               428:25, 441:25,
307:3, 310:6,
                     thing
                                          370:6, 378:4,
310:7, 322:25,
                                                               442:1
                     293:14, 315:15,
                                          379:3, 381:5,
328:8, 331:11,
                                                               thousand
                     333:17, 345:25,
                                          382:6, 386:24,
333:7, 333:24,
                                                               498:4
                     372:21, 394:1,
                                          390:5, 390:9,
333:25, 334:7,
                                                               threats
                     398:19, 402:8,
334:23, 337:19,
                                          390:25, 391:1,
                                                               490:13
                     416:8, 417:3,
                                          395:11, 399:22,
338:1, 347:8,
                                                               three
                     420:25, 454:17,
                                          399:25, 401:24,
356:12, 364:5,
                                                               284:11, 316:22,
                     455:15, 470:20,
374:10, 381:8,
                                          402:3, 402:12,
                                                               320:15, 321:22,
                     479:17, 480:4,
                                          403:11, 403:12,
385:12, 390:3,
                     488:23, 489:6,
                                                               355:13, 394:23,
                                          404:3, 404:6,
391:25, 393:14,
                                                               405:21, 412:6,
                     489:11, 491:5,
                                          404:16, 405:5,
397:24, 401:22,
                                                               415:14, 415:18,
                     492:1, 497:9,
                                          409:8, 409:9,
405:6, 405:8,
                                                               418:8, 430:1,
                     511:2
                                          409:10, 415:13,
406:6, 426:17,
                                                               430:2, 430:12,
                     things
                                          419:9, 420:12,
426:22, 427:6,
                                                               430:14, 447:24,
                     297:20, 310:24,
                                          420:14, 420:16,
427:7, 427:12,
                                                               448:7, 458:9,
                     325:10, 328:12,
                                          421:24, 424:8,
431:5, 432:3,
                     334:18, 335:18,
                                                               467:2, 485:5
                                          424:24, 425:4,
433:14, 433:15,
                     336:11, 339:17,
                                                               three-mile
                                                               398:18
```

	Conducted on N		
through	405:19, 406:24,	436:8, 445:7,	307:14, 324:10,
290:49, 321:5,	414:24, 415:6,	456:25, 472:6,	331:6, 339:19,
323:6, 329:17,	415:22, 415:25,	473:2, 492:21,	341:13, 342:6,
	1		
330:20, 332:20,	416:5, 416:14,	499:22, 500:9,	355:23, 363:10,
335:14, 338:1,	418:21, 419:9,	500:12, 500:25,	363:13, 365:2,
352:4, 357:6,	419:13, 419:22,	501:13, 506:22,	370:10, 370:18,
375:12, 376:11,	420:4, 426:4,	518:11, 519:9,	381:14, 383:4,
394:16, 396:7,	427:11, 428:7,	519:18	383:13, 395:15,
397:14, 402:12,	428:18, 430:21,	today's	398:7, 407:10,
403:18, 413:14,	434:6, 434:18,	291:7, 294:2,	407:18, 407:20,
414:11, 417:4,	437:3, 438:10,	297:24, 344:6,	408:5, 417:2,
418:24, 430:19,	438:16, 438:18,	392:11	420:5, 443:8,
431:11, 433:2,	439:10, 439:16,	together	443:14, 451:8,
433:5, 452:6,	441:19, 444:22,	348:13, 412:5	452:15, 458:11,
452:21, 465:20,	445:2, 446:4,	told	458:13, 458:15,
471:1, 483:25,	453:7, 465:13,	321:4, 329:24,	458:18, 477:14,
501:11, 503:8,	466:21, 467:19,		478:15, 479:12,
		391:3, 462:6,	
511:19, 512:1,	470:21, 485:20,	490:15	479:18, 490:24,
518:14, 518:17,	492:1, 492:16,	took	502:9, 504:9
519:21, 519:25,	493:18, 495:4,	322:16, 342:20,	townhouses
520:11	495:20, 503:6,	405:18, 415:24,	497:8
throwing	508:14, 510:7,	445:5	towns
393:1	510:22, 514:1,	tool	318:13
thursday	520:8	398:8, 434:22,	track
284:13	timeframe	515:23	293:7, 307:13,
tie	349:2, 437:18	toolbox	313:2, 409:17,
377:6, 464:15	timeline	434:23	410:7
ties	361:23	top	tracking
407:23	times	323:10, 377:6,	307:22, 313:17,
tim	299:18, 307:10,	408:23, 463:8	362:4, 364:7
286:22, 288:47,	335:11, 397:5,	topic	trade
297:11	416:18, 474:18,	336:6	338:20, 338:21,
time	481:6, 502:14		338:23, 339:1,
	tiny	total	339:3, 339:8,
291:21, 292:25,	479 <b>:</b> 20	316:9, 316:11,	339:14, 340:1,
293:3, 294:14,	tired	354:11, 409:13,	•
295:3, 295:10,		409:22, 410:12,	340:18, 341:2,
300:15, 316:13,	491:3	410:18, 413:7,	342:18, 342:21,
318:3, 319:14,	today	413:20, 414:3,	348:22, 348:23,
329:3, 334:3,	291:7, 291:8,	414:5, 419:13,	349:3, 351:6,
348:14, 352:7,	294:8, 294:15,	424:17	353:6, 354:15,
361:18, 361:22,	294:20, 298:1,	totally	356:20, 362:3,
367:2, 367:3,	298:19, 308:16,	300:24, 506:21	362:4, 362:7,
376:3, 382:3,	342:16, 343:7,	tough	364:23, 364:24,
387:1, 390:11,	365:5, 367:18,	509:16	365:3, 365:4,
391:21, 396:16,	371:5, 372:24,	towards	365:5, 365:11,
396:19, 402:16,	373:22, 373:24,	346:20, 365:10,	365:12, 365:16,
402:17, 402:19,	375:17, 387:15,	480:8	367:6, 368:5,
402:25, 405:17,	390:6, 432:7,	town	368:10, 368:21,
		290:11, 290:22,	
		Z9U.II, Z9U;ZZ,	
	ĺ		

	eonaactea on n	,	
368:25, 369:5,	350:20, 434:12,	trend	365:24
369:6, 369:12,	435:24, 436:10,	371:16, 371:18,	trouble
369:13, 369:25,	436:18, 437:20,	379:11	411:19
371:5, 371:8,	437:23, 438:14,	trending	trucks
374:22, 375:4,	439:2, 439:13,	353 <b>:</b> 22	357 <b>:</b> 15
375:14, 377:8,	439:17, 440:7,	trends	true
377:23, 409:7,	440:12, 472:1,	373:18	371:12, 373:14,
410:5, 410:10,	473:6, 518:15,	trial	374:24, 490:17,
413:4, 413:9,	518:16, 519:20,	439:5	491:14, 491:21,
425:8, 425:10,	520:1, 522:3,	tried	521:9, 522:5
516:12, 516:17	522:5		trust
trader	transcript's	296:5, 444:5,	488:20
420:9	437:18	496:2	488:20 <b>truth</b>
traditional	transcriptionist	trip	
343:16, 458:15	521:7, 522:14	312:10, 313:24,	310:3, 310:4
traffic		315:12, 315:13,	try
288:13, 294:21,	transgress		293:4, 332:10,
1			338:4, 357:20,
306:15, 306:16, 306:25, 307:7,	transgressed		445:2, 455:19,
	482:17		457:16
308:11, 311:5,	transit		trying
312:4, 312:5,	331:1	328:24, 330:12,	326:1, 326:23,
312:17, 312:19,	transitions	348:14, 348:15,	327:4, 327:25,
312:22, 312:25,	308:19	376:22, 377:2	373:3, 373:5,
313:9, 317:17,	transmittal	trip-analysis	375:17, 379:7,
318:5, 318:8,	290:23, 429:14	330:13	421:3, 452:6,
318:11, 323:17,	transportation	trip-generation	474:16, 476:11,
324:2, 324:16,	306:17, 306:25,	319:3	518:24
324:19, 324:21,	307:7, 308:10,	trips	turn
325:15, 325:18,	308:13, 309:1,	309:7, 310:23,	292:14, 294:9,
325:21, 325:24,	309:4, 309:5,	311:10, 311:14,	295:9, 299:15,
326:18, 328:4,	309:9, 310:16,	312:13, 312:14,	299:24, 300:19,
328:11, 329:9,	310:22, 311:3,	312:24, 313:4,	381:4, 392:12,
330:11, 331:5,	311:15, 311:19,	314:8, 314:12,	393:8, 398:12,
333:15, 348:5,	311:20, 312:9,	314:18, 315:5,	428:20, 499:2,
353:19, 353:20,		315:15, 315:16,	501:9
354:24, 366:12,	315:8, 318:20,	315:25, 316:1,	turning
366:13, 366:20,	318:23, 329:8,	316:9, 316:11,	390:20, 427:24,
368:2, 376:13,	331:22, 333:5,	316:15, 316:16,	428:3
376:17, 378:7,	333:22, 355:10,	317:19, 319:12,	two
389:11, 413:19,	480:20	320:20, 321:11,	294:19, 295:6,
417:19	transpose	321:12, 321:17,	296:23, 300:10,
transcribe	344:4	321:19, 321:20,	300:17, 310:24,
299:20	travel	321:21, 322:1,	311:25, 315:19,
transcribed	311:22, 320:19,	329:3, 329:4,	320:2, 320:4,
284:25	322:15, 339:18,	332:15, 332:18,	320:24, 321:22,
transcriber	361:7, 365:20,	332:20, 332:22,	338:13, 349:3,
522:1	375:3, 376:3,	332:25, 333:21,	349:4, 351:11,
transcript	383:18, 417:22	348:15, 362:25,	353:21, 353:23,
341:16, 341:19,			
1	•	•	

	Conducted on iv		121
354:3, 354:15,	434:10, 437:19,	understanding	unmet
359:3, 359:4,	453:3, 488:18	295:7, 315:1,	338:23, 338:24,
386:10, 386:21,	<del></del>	322:12, 333:9,	354:25, 381:17
388:16, 391:1,	uh-huh	420:22, 432:20,	unproductive
392:7, 392:11,		460:5, 461:1,	477 <b>:</b> 3
401:6, 408:18,	472:4, 491:1	467:22, 467:24,	unquote
411:5, 411:9,	ultimately	469:8, 469:14,	368:20
411:12, 411:25,	444:6, 462:12	496:14, 519:3	unrebutted
412:8, 418:11,	ultra	understood	516:19
422:19, 423:2,	509:13	411:20, 424:20,	unreported
424:25, 428:8,	unable	442:9, 469:12,	301:22, 303:1,
428:17, 430:11,	295:3, 518:25	471:7, 483:15	303:8, 304:7
434:4, 435:3,	unanimously	undertake	until
439:9, 439:10,	500:2	448:14, 465:6	293:2, 293:9,
439:19, 440:1,	uncovered	undertook	301:20, 405:15,
441:12, 454:15,	497:14	384:22	454:15, 472:12,
466:23, 467:7,	under	undesign	484:13, 472:12,
468:3, 471:3,	291:16, 293:24,	461:12	508:14
486:8, 486:10,	309:8, 310:2,	undeveloped	unwalkable
496:6, 498:4,	314:3, 318:21,	341:6	477:3, 502:10,
500:5, 500:6,	326:11, 326:12,	undo	502:20
500:21	327:21, 335:14,	461:11	
two-thirds	335:19, 337:16,	unforeseen	update
351:12	351:4, 354:4,		308:16
tying	369:1, 415:2,	463:21, 464:11,	updated
454:9	434:23, 443:12,	464:22, 464:23,	289:28, 318:20
type	446:5, 448:10,	464:25, 510:2,	upheld
314:10, 316:3,	448:21, 449:25,	510:13	469:15
343:18, 383:12,	452:3, 455:13,	unfortunate	upholding
386:17, 387:9,	458:2, 458:5,	392:2	465:3
451:12, 482:19	461:14, 467:2,	unfortunately	upkeep
types	486:17, 491:20,	472:20	399:9
319:4, 320:4,	498:18, 506:14	unidentified	upper
334:17, 346:23,	underlying	397:20	422:3
369:13, 372:14,	432:15, 459:8,	uniform	upside
389:8, 452:4,	461:24, 480:11	374:13	398:14
452:8, 483:9,	underpinning	union	urban
497:6	457:10	363:18	316:21, 317:3,
typewriting	understand	unique	317:9
521:7	302:13, 303:20,	505:12	urbana
typical	303:23, 314:2,	units	363:14, 363:15,
511:11	316:22, 378:25,	314:16, 315:16,	363:18, 366:8,
typically	379:6, 462:10,	325:6, 350:15,	407:5, 407:9,
317:3, 323:21,	465:8, 468:21,	351:2, 468:7,	409:4, 420:13,
359:24, 399:2,	469:6, 470:9,	468:15, 501:20	420:15
399:25, 400:6,	474:1, 474:5,	unless	urging
400:18, 410:22,	485:19, 487:8,	293:10, 293:11,	509:15
411:4, 416:23,	490:14, 498:16	330:17, 357:17,	usage
111.1, 110.20,		486:20	378:17, 378:19

	Conducted on to		
use	useful	335:16, 335:19,	via
288:4, 288:18,	338:10, 338:16,	410:3, 410:10	286:20, 286:22
288:21, 289:19,	347:10, 355:8,	valley	vice
289:21, 290:9,	355:15, 375:8,	339:5	354:22, 515:13
290:42, 291:4,	375:19, 380:10,	valleys	vicinity
291:12, 291:13,	380:18, 382:23,	339:13, 363:7	389:12, 408:25,
291:18, 297:22,	382:25, 383:2,	valuable	514:23
298:2, 298:4,	486:15, 503:21,	508:7	video
298:8, 312:18,	504:17	variable	
314:10, 315:20,	users		444:14, 444:15, 444:17
316:3, 317:3,	320:19, 322:15	314:17	
	uses	variation	view
		500:7	452:11, 453:1,
	317:6, 317:8,	variations	468:17
	319:4, 320:4,	340:3	views
	320:9, 339:24,	varies	392:20
	340:15, 341:24,	514:9	village
	342:15, 355:7,	various	349:7, 353:17,
	355:16, 355:24,	301:25, 303:25,	353:24, 408:8
	369:14, 374:25,	502:5	violation
	383:12, 383:14,	vary	501:12, 509:13
	388:2, 388:8,	352 <b>:</b> 6	violations
	389:2, 389:8,	vastly	443:18, 443:20,
	461:17, 469:1,	506:8, 516:10,	443:24, 444:7,
	470:12, 475:3,	517:1	446:3, 450:22,
	475:7, 475:17,	vehicle	485:2, 493:10,
	496:6, 499:20,	308:19, 312:24,	496:16, 496:25,
	501:16, 503:23,	313:4, 315:19	497:4, 497:10,
430:11, 430:17,	504:11, 505:19,	vehicles	497:14, 509:14
449:12, 458:3,	507:18, 512:10,	351:11, 387:9,	vires
458:4, 460:2,	512:11, 513:10	444:1	509:13
	using	vehicular	virtually
	319:18, 319:20,	311:18, 311:21,	346:17
461:3, 461:9,	321:5, 339:9,	312:1	visibility
461:12, 461:13,	352:18, 354:24,	venture	347:22, 348:9
	379:8, 425:13,	304:13	visible
462:13, 468:18,	477:24, 478:16,	verifiable	356:4
468:21, 469:7,	479:18, 486:7,	470:9	voice
469:10, 475:12,	516:24	versa	326:4, 394:2,
476:7, 485:18,	usual	354:22	471:5
490:7, 496:1,	519:16	version	voicemail
496:7, 503:25,	usually	319:20, 349:20,	493:12
504:15, 505:8,	333:9, 397:8,	488:14, 488:15,	voir
507:14, 507:23,	397:9, 434:20	498:17	335:22, 337:14
510:10, 510:11,	utility	versions	335:22, 337:14 volume
511:11, 511:13,	289:7	<b>versions</b> 502:5	331:5, 338:14,
511:14, 511:15,	v		357:15, 366:12,
512:1, 513:8,	valbridge	versus	372:5, 372:7,
515:6, 516:22	330:22, 335:15,	314:16, 390:16,	372:5, 372:7,
	330.22, 333.13,	512:2, 512:8	307.0
L	L	I	I .

		<u> </u>	
volumes	444:12, 444:22,	387:16, 403:11,	474:17, 500:9,
357 <b>:</b> 5	446:15, 447:3,	433:1, 433:4,	502:13, 505:9,
	449:4, 450:12,	462:5, 465:10,	506:21, 507:9,
wait	451:16, 453:18,	471:21, 482:19,	509:17, 511:8,
301:20, 363:16,	455:20, 456:22,	490:21, 492:9,	519:13
	457:11, 457:16,	493:21, 495:9,	website
484:3	457:18, 458:8,	507:12, 508:10,	409:17, 414:14,
waited	465:16, 474:14,	518:5	518:11
470:4, 470:5	486:7, 486:9,	ways	week
waiting	487:20, 489:8,	311:22, 320:24	424:1, 424:2
438:24, 472:11,	492:6, 495:15,	we'll	weeks
490:21, 507:5	516:22	293:13, 294:8,	361:24, 439:9,
waiver	wanted	392:6, 392:7,	439:10, 439:19,
509:15	304:17, 322:2,	397:14, 434:3,	440:1
walk	350:25, 353:6,	434:4, 434:6,	wegmans
338:1, 413:13	394:22, 395:2,	437:8, 438:24,	408:10, 421:20
walkability	405:11, 429:3,	447:8, 473:17,	weigh
477:15, 502:11,	434:16, 457:7,	508:16, 508:17,	471 <b>:</b> 13
502:25	467:24, 469:5,	508:19	weight
walkable	486:11, 493:4,	we're	303:10, 303:13,
476:25, 479:22,	494:3, 494:18,	301:4, 301:12,	304:20
480:23, 502:4,	494:23, 495:17,	308:16, 308:20,	weis
503:5	505:24, 506:3,	309:3, 311:2,	284:7, 289:16,
walmart	511:3	318:2, 318:6,	291:6, 295:13,
408:11	wants	319:10, 321:1,	295:21, 297:23,
want	422:4, 431:20,	321:4, 321:24,	301:3, 329:15,
295:23, 296:17,	513:13	322:3, 329:10,	329:22, 339:9,
297:2, 299:9,	washington	334:24, 344:22,	342:19, 343:14,
301:20, 307:13,	361:4	350:21, 352:10,	345:22, 346:19,
308:20, 313:16,	water	358:17, 363:10,	346:25, 347:22,
319:7, 335:13,	288:36, 288:39,	367:18, 389:6,	348:3, 353:20,
362:3, 371:24,	288:40, 288:41,	390:8, 390:20,	354:22, 360:3,
372:19, 372:20,	288:42, 290:16,	392:10, 394:14,	360:23, 362:5,
375:3, 376:4,	513:17	400:6, 401:7,	362:11, 362:20,
376:5, 378:4,	wawa	408:17, 410:15,	363:1, 363:22,
382:5, 390:6,	344:11	412:13, 412:14,	363:24, 364:10,
391:21, 392:3,	way	412:16, 437:20,	364:11, 364:13,
392:13, 392:18,	291:20, 293:13,	438:4, 442:11,	364:16, 364:19,
392:19, 393:1,	315:4, 321:13,	458:2, 465:17,	365:18, 377:17,
395:24, 396:1,	321:21, 327:7,	476:21, 485:19,	381:16, 382:10,
411:1, 411:8,	345:14, 349:10,	488:6, 492:7,	382:13, 383:1,
411:18, 411:20,	350:13, 356:4,	518:10, 518:23,	383:3, 383:14,
422:7, 422:24,	367:14, 367:21,	519:8, 519:9	383:15, 419:24,
423:10, 428:24,	370:7, 371:2,	we've	420:1, 420:7,
429:7, 429:19,	373:12, 375:21,	300:16, 321:2,	420:10, 430:6,
431:22, 434:8,	375:22, 377:3,	321:25, 323:21,	433:5, 478:25,
437:11, 438:18,	380:9, 381:24,	390:25, 401:17,	504:8, 504:13,
442:3, 443:2,	384:22, 387:3,	436:4, 465:20,	507:20, 507:21,

	Conducted on iv	,	
509:10, 515:13,	389:6, 419:1,	367:10, 369:8,	worked
516:6, 516:7	421:10, 434:18,	374:21, 374:22,	394:17, 415:21,
welcome	495:21, 504:21,	377:2, 377:22,	416:7, 431:10,
473:12, 520:19	505:4, 505:5,	407:20, 413:4,	506:10
welcoming	507:22, 515:18,	437:2, 437:24,	workers
371:25	517:6	452:23, 471:15,	351 <b>:</b> 12
well-aware	whichever	471:20, 506:1,	working
498:24	324:14	508:20, 520:15	375:9, 402:2,
well-lit	whole	without	433:4, 452:12
344:20	310:3, 415:4,	296:23, 314:15,	works
well-visible	418:19, 418:21,	348:13, 363:2,	379:18
347:16	423:4, 442:10,	376:10, 384:6,	worth
went	451:22, 496:13,	389:18, 403:2,	457:7
338:2, 360:10,	497:15	462:2, 490:16,	wouldn't
360:14, 395:4,	wholly	506:14, 506:17	296:22, 329:23,
416:6, 416:15,	453:9	witnesses	366:19, 367:12,
467:17, 494:24,	wife	287:3, 294:13,	377:19, 387:13,
495:23, 511:21	362:2	294:16, 294:20,	387:14, 454:23,
weren't	willing	298:15, 390:6,	509:8
378:12, 483:15,	506:13	393:10, 521:4	write
509:7	willitis	won	369:11
wet	289:33	496:5	writing
372:19	win	word	306:7
what'd	492:4	322:16, 340:9,	written
360:18	wine	369:15, 418:10,	322:5, 333:19,
whatever	399:12, 404:6,	475:3, 475:17,	343:8, 374:2,
318:13, 340:21,	451:4	476:1	432:19, 434:14,
370:14, 418:10,	wisconsin	worded	434:17, 465:10,
423:11, 465:21	286:6	482:13	507:13, 520:15
whatsoever	wish	wording	wrong
384:23	296:12, 299:15,	482:9	349:11, 349:19,
whereupon	432:2, 434:23	words	452:20, 469:8,
291:2	wishes	317:19, 355:13,	469:11, 484:7,
wherever	292:16, 292:24,	361:14, 387:16,	496:15
319:8, 355:12	296:12, 298:19,	471:5, 497:3	wrote
whether	300:15, 428:4,	work	322:19, 374:1
295:23, 295:25,	428:9, 428:10,	306:19, 328:10,	Y
297:2, 302:3,	520:21	351:14, 351:15,	yeah
302:12, 312:24,	wishing	351:18, 355:12,	295:8, 297:3,
318:7, 326:6,	292:20, 428:14,	357:11, 367:14,	313:2, 324:5,
332:8, 338:9,	494:12	367:21, 371:2,	324:9, 325:20,
338:15, 346:10,	withheld	371:10, 375:21,	334:23, 349:21,
351:16, 356:22,	357 <b>:</b> 9	376:20, 377:3,	349:23, 359:7,
367:9, 375:3,	within	380:14, 390:17,	359:19, 364:5,
375:7, 376:20,	290:40, 312:5,	394:4, 405:16,	373:16, 385:2,
382:8, 382:20,	319:19, 330:1,	415:20, 424:8,	386:3, 386:4,
382:22, 384:3,	348:17, 356:5,	433:1, 441:8,	391:14, 394:14,
385:5, 387:10,	362:10, 365:1,	516:18	, <b>.</b>

Conducted on March 6, 2025					
395:14, 396:21,	370:1	\$	1,016		
396:23, 398:21,	yep		316:15		
402:1, 403:3,	487:4, 490:8	\$100,000	1,069		
403:6, 407:11,	yesterday	457:7	316:10		
408:1, 409:12,		\$13.2			
	434:15, 472:3,	517:2	1,200		
409:24, 410:1,	493:14	\$20,000	325:5, 350:14,		
410:14, 414:1,	yourself	416:5	350:15, 351:2		
417:23, 418:1,	292:15, 292:21,	\$200,000	1,400		
419:21, 420:12,	405:23	378:21	406:23		
420:21, 421:17,	yourselves	\$300,000	1,738		
423:15, 423:22,	293:2	378:23	351 <b>:</b> 23		
427:22, 438:19,	youtube	\$8	1,782		
438:20, 442:8,	471:1, 471:2,	485:3	316:16		
463:4, 463:11,	471:11, 471:17,	483:3	1.3		
476:21, 481:3,	472:21, 473:23,	•	358:18		
481:7, 488:17,	474:4	.1	1.4		
489:1, 490:9,		387:23, 387:25,	354:9		
491:1, 491:13,	Z	458:2, 459:3,			
498:25, 519:14	zero	499:15, 499:17	1.44		
year	491:18	.13	516:25		
325:7, 338:20,	zoning	430:10, 499:16	1.5		
	284:1, 285:5,	430:10, 499:16 .3	398:21		
344:9, 351:21,	288:8, 291:18,		10		
351:23, 351:25,	291:19, 292:1,	291:17, 298:8	288:24, 290:24,		
352:1, 352:5,	292:18, 298:7,	.5	321:19, 321:20,		
352:8, 352:9,	298:9, 298:17,	430:10	321:21, 349:18,		
354:10, 358:19,	302:14, 381:3,	0	350:22, 373:12,		
372:2, 372:21,	387:22, 387:24,	00	378:8, 411:15,		
378:21, 378:24,	390:1, 463:23,	390:25, 391:3,	412:6, 412:9,		
410:19, 422:4,		391:17, 454:22,	412:21, 412:22,		
425:7, 425:23	464:3, 469:10,	454:23	413:3, 423:6,		
years	469:12, 469:15,	000			
307:8, 335:16,	485:17, 498:17,		423:8, 425:9,		
349:1, 377:10,	498:18, 498:23,	412:22, 414:6	425:10, 434:11,		
394:19, 401:24,	499:14, 510:4,	02	434:20, 436:24,		
402:5, 402:20,	514:13, 514:16	284:7, 289:10,	436:25, 437:2,		
402:21, 405:21,	zoom	291:5, 297:22,	437:24, 438:23,		
406:21, 410:25,	286:20, 286:22,	430:7	439:1, 439:12,		
415:14, 415:17,	292:14, 292:23,	07	439:17, 440:2,		
415:14, 415:17, 415:18, 415:24,	292:24, 293:3,	289:9	440:8, 440:14,		
	293:13, 293:17,	08	440:19, 440:21,		
418:6, 418:9,	297:4, 297:5,	289:8	441:12, 471:16,		
419:10, 419:11,	297:9, 298:18,	1	471:20, 471:25,		
419:14, 419:15,	299:14, 299:23,		473:5, 499:16,		
449:6, 482:18,	352:14, 397:18,	1	519:19, 519:21		
498:21, 501:21,	397:22, 427:25,	454 <b>:</b> 22	10,150		
502:15, 506:3	428:3, 428:4,	1,000	425:7		
yellow		443:9	10,150,000		
341:17, 341:25,	428:9, 441:16,		412:22		
369:23, 369:24,	441:22				
			100		
			285:7		

	Conducted on iv		
100,000	410:25, 439:19	20	2023
307:17	18	291:9, 294:3,	318:23, 325:12,
11	323:15, 349:21,	297:25, 343:25,	325:17, 326:15
288:25, 289:8,	350:6, 350:9,	381:7, 401:24,	2024
	350:12, 350:23,	406:21, 416:13,	289:24, 289:25,
378:9, 432:23	497:4, 522:15	434:4, 440:11,	308:16, 325:1,
11995042	180,000	440:14, 506:5,	326:15
312:13, 312:17,	423:22, 423:24,	518:14	2025
325:4	423:25	200	284:13, 290:5,
12	19	285:9	290:24, 290:25,
288:36, 289:8,	286:13, 394:19,	2002	290:29, 290:31,
289:24, 289:25,	401:24	443:10, 490:12	290:32, 290:33,
325:5, 392:5,	194,000	2004	318:25, 430:7,
411:6, 411:7,	308:5, 325:4	402:1	522:15
411:12, 415:4,	194,720	2005	2029
430:19	308:1	401:23, 402:2,	349:12, 349:14,
12,000	1975	443:16	350:13, 350:17
413:1, 422:15,	402:5	2006	203,000
422:16, 422:18	1995	289:43, 289:45,	410:14
13	307:11, 307:13,	325:16, 325:19,	2030
288:43, 423:6,	308:24, 317:18,	326:8, 327:3,	423:18
517:2	317:23, 318:15,	328:5, 447:9,	206,000
13.2	326:13	451:23, 481:6,	308:5
338:19, 351:23,	1a	498:13, 498:15	20814
352:10, 354:13,	445:17, 446:9	2007	286:7
381:15, 516:11,	1b	467:9	20850
517:3	451:18, 451:20,	2008	285:10
14	468:9	312:16, 467:5,	21701
288:44, 439:13,	1c	467:10	286:14
440:18, 519:21	446:23, 451:18,	2009	22
15	452:3	307:18, 307:23,	290:5, 372:13,
288:45, 289:9,	2	326:14	373:9
289:45, 306:23,	$\frac{2}{2}$	201	23
334:19, 339:2,		286:13	289:9, 290:25
348:25, 416:13,	390:25, 391:3,	2011	23506
438:23, 447:9,	391:17, 454:23 <b>2,000</b>	415:3	443:8
498:15		2014	24
150	352:5 <b>2,402</b>	498:19	289:10, 290:21,
307:14, 412:22	316:11	2015	414:6
150,000	2-	308:3, 326:14,	24,850,000
307:16		402:24	414:6
16	290:25 <b>2-5</b>	2017	25
311:13, 331:16,		319:2, 319:5,	284:7, 290:21,
331:21, 348:21,	290:29, 290:31, 290:32	378:8	290:50, 291:5,
364:4, 440:2,	<b>290:</b> 32 <b>2-7</b>	2018	292:9, 297:22,
440:3, 491:21	290:33	402:5, 402:13,	300:8
17	<b>2.89</b>	402:23, 402:24	250
311:13, 331:22,		2021	318:13
	399:22	396:16	

	Conducted on March 6, 2023				
250,000	306	384	408:22, 412:17		
307:15, 307:25	287:5	287:10	495		
25584	313	3845	287 <b>:</b> 22		
288:44	287:6	286:8	497,000		
26	32	385	413:21		
458 <b>:</b> 17	284:14	287:11	499		
270		39			
	331		287:26		
347:18, 353:24,	287:5	520:25	5		
363:13, 368:1,	334	394	5.1		
371:3, 375:20,	287:9	287:13	345:23		
375:24, 376:14,	335	4	50		
376:23, 398:23,	287:10	4.2	290:16, 372:22,		
417:19	34	447:14	392:5, 400:6,		
284	359:5, 359:10,	4.29	400:11		
284:24	359:22		507		
29	35,000	434:24			
289:10	422:13, 422:14,	40	287:27		
3	422:13, 422:14, 422:18, 423:5,	320:18, 322:14,	51		
	422:18, 423:5, 423:11	357 <b>:</b> 22	290:18, 307:12,		
3		401	307:21		
289:24, 520:25	350	287:14	517		
3-	318:13	405	287:28		
290:21	355	287:13	52		
3-5	356:4, 365:8,	406	290:20, 307:22		
290:50	371:2, 375:21,	287:16	522		
3.09	375:25, 376:12,	418	284:24		
399:25, 400:20	386:9, 394:15,	287:17	53		
3.3	394:24, 396:4,	<b>426</b>	290:21, 308:7,		
	396:6, 397:10,				
378:18, 378:21,	398:23, 401:2,	287:16	312:13		
379:2, 379:4	401:5, 404:24,	432	54		
3.5	417:2, 417:15,	287:19	290:22, 307:12,		
499:16	417:20, 468:1	442	307:19, 307:20,		
3.59	356	287:22	307:22, 308:6,		
400:16		45	308:17, 340:5,		
3.6	287:10	351:13, 447:4,	342:3, 386:2,		
430:23	36	447:12, 462:21,	501:10, 503:3		
3.60	311:12, 331:16,	508:24	55		
400:15	331:19, 340:6,	474	290:23, 429:10,		
3.69	340:25, 381:4,	287:23	429:11, 429:13,		
400:22	429:20, 429:23,	489	500:3, 503:4		
3.83	459:21, 459:22,		56		
	500:1	290:52	290:25		
352:8	38	49	<b>57</b>		
30	337:25, 338:1,	290:9, 324:4,	290:27		
357:22, 467:9,	338:6, 339:3,	324:9, 340:6,	<b>574265</b>		
520:15	348:22, 350:8,	342:3, 386:2,			
30,000	350:9, 359:6	397:12, 397:13,	284:23		
424:3, 424:5	380	398:2, 398:20,	58		
301	287:9	408:17, 408:20,	290:29		
286:8, 286:15	201.9				

	Conducted on r		120
59	7-eleven	,	
290:31, 298:8,	347:3, 353:1,	'attilio	
395:11 <b>,</b> 395:13	353:2, 353:14,	289:32	
59.3	353:16, 376:7,	209.32	
430:10	386:18, 407:16,		
59.7	409:2, 409:3,		
291:17, 298:8	426:9, 470:8		
596	7-elevens		
291:17	349:4, 353:24,		
6	354:15, 356:19		
6	7.2		
289:8, 298:8	354:11		
60	7.3		
290:32, 313:10,	387:23, 387:25,		
354:12	458:2, 459:3,		
61	499:15, 499:17		
288:44, 290:33	700		
<b>62</b>	286:6		
290:37, 315:25	71		
<b>620</b>	308:18		
312:14	73.1		
63	449:25		
290:38, 352:13,	7575		
395:19	286:15		
64	7600		
290:42, 327:5,	286:6		
453:24	8		
65	80		
290:46, 301:8,	343:23, 349:1,		
308:18, 488:4	386:25		
66	83		
290:48, 301:19,	316:1		
488:3, 500:17,	841		
503:3, 503:16	286:8		
668	85		
286:15	308:18		
67	850		
290:50, 301:13,	414:6		
488:5, 488:6	9		
68	9		
290:52, 488:8,	284:14		
489:19, 489:20,	92		
518:10	521:16		
6th	944		
440:3	315:21, 317:1		
7	96,000		
7,584	307:24		
351:22			