

## **Transcript of Hearing**

**Date:** January 23, 2025

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

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1	OFFICE OF ZONING AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS	1 APPEARANCES
2	FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND	2 ON BEHALF OF THE WEIS MARKETS & ELM STREET
	x	3 DEVELOPMENT AND CTC RETAIL, LLC:
IN	RE: :	4 ROBERT R. HARRIS, ESQUIRE
	NDITIONAL USE APPLICATION OF CTC : Case No.	
	TAIL, LLC AND WEIS MARKETS, INC. : CU 25-02	5 LERCH, EARLY & BREWER, CHTD
	x	6 7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
		7 Bethesda, Maryland 20814
		8 301.986.1300
0		9 ON BEHALF OF APPELLANT SHANKER LIMITED, ARK 25, LLC,
1		10 AND ARIES:
2		11 LESLIE POWELL, ESQUIRE
3	PUBLIC HEARING	12 POWELL, LLC
	EFORE KHANDIKILE MYUNGA SOKONI, HEARING EXAMINER	13 19 N. Court Street, Suite 201
+ в 5	Rockville, Maryland	14 Frederick Maryland, 21701
6	Thursday, January 23, 2025	15 301.668.7575
7	9:43 a.m.	16 ALSO PRESENT:
8	55 d.m.	17 JACK O'HARA - Applicant
9		18 KATE KUBIT - Applicant
0		19 KEVIN A. FOSTER - Witness
1		20 EDWARD M. STEERE - Witneses
2		21 ISHAN PATEL - Appellant
	b No.: 568364	22 AJAY PATEL - Appellant
	ges: 1 - 73	
		23 AMY PRESLEY - Appellant
э ке	corded By: Cody Handlir	24 BARRY FANTILE - Appellant
		25 JOE BOZZONETTI - Video/Zoom Technician
	Hearing, held at the location of:	2   4   CONTENTS PAGE
	hearing, here at the rocation or.	
	MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ZONING AND	3
	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS	4 5 EVILIDITS
		5 EXHIBITS
	100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, Maryland 20850	6 (None marked)
	NOCKVIIIE, Maiyianu 20030	7 HEARING EXHIBIT PAGE
		8 Exhibit 52 Affidavit of Posting of Signs 14
a		9 Exhibit 53 Planning Board Resolution 51
0		10 Dated 3/25/2024
1	Purcuant to agreement before Cody Use 13:	11 Exhibit 54 Project Planning Amendment 52
2	Pursuant to agreement, before Cody Handlir,	12 Number 91994004E
	urt Reporter.	13
4		14
5		15
6		16
7		17
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5 1 PROCEEDINGS	7 1 with the criteria set out in the Zoning Ordinance.
2 (Whereupon, the court reporter was duly	2 Before we get into the I guess, on some I've
3 sworn.)	3 covered the tech issues about Zoom. The chat
THE HEARING EXAMINER: So good morning,	4 function is disabled. So that will not be
	7 10 711
	6 are on Zoom, please just unmute yourself. I'll try 7 and keep track of anyone raising their hand, but
8 at the entrance. Please be sure to clearly mark	8 just please feel free to unmute yourself and speak.
9 you enter your name, your contact information.	9 We do ask that we avoid any crosstalking.
10 That's how we'll reach you with any notices after	10 We do have a court reporter and there's a verbatim
11 today. I'll go ahead and call the the hearing	11 verbatim transcript being produced. There is
12 to order, although we have some preliminaries to	12 to the extent that there might be a Zoom recording,
13 deal with. So this is a hearing. It's a public	13 that is purely for the court reporter's any
14 hearing on a Conditional Use Application, Case	14 recording happening is purely for the court
15 Number CU-25-02. It's the application of CTC	15 reporter's benefit. The official record of this
16 Retail, LLC and Weis Markets, Inc.	16 proceeding is the transcript.
17 I would like to check in with the court	We are on the record. I would like
18 reporter. Are we are we good?	18 to just I would like to identify all parties
19 COURT REPORTER: Uh-huh	19 present. Let's start with that, starting with the
20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.	20 Applicant.
21 Checking with folks on Zoom, can you hear us? Can	21 MR. HARRIS: Good morning, Madam
22 you see us in the hearing room? Thank you. Just a	22 Examiner. First off, may I ask, do you prefer to
23 reminder to to Counsel and and your	23 be called Ms. Sokoni or Madam Examiner, or how do
24 witnesses, we have the mics. We have this is a	24 you prefer to be addressed?
25 hybrid proceeding, so we have participants on Zoom.	25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I have no
, r	
6	8
1 When you need to speak, please just press the mic	1 preference. Ms. Sokoni is fine.
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9	11
1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I just want to 1 And this notice issue is material. My clients are	11
2 remind everybody when we do get to the hearing, the 2 directly affected. And, frankly, the scramble	
3 Applicant has the burden of proving that they meet 3 which we, unfortunately, inflicted upon you, was a	
4 the the requirements of the zoning ordinance.  4 result of not, you know, receiving timely notice.	
5 So they get to present their case in chief. To the 5 And further, we are somewhat hindered	
6 extent that they have witnesses and I believe 6 because, as you've heard from Mr. Harris, they will	
7 they have at least five there'll be an 7 be presenting expert witnesses. And with respect	
8 opportunity for cross-examination. And when it's 8 to the question of need, my client has been	
9 time for cross-examination, I just want to remind 9 deprived of the opportunity to present expert	
10 everybody it's not people's opportunity to present 10 testimony regarding any necessity of an additional	
11 their own case. You simply are cross-examining on 11 gas station. Now, while Mr. Patel, Ajay Patel, has	
12 what you have heard that witness testify about. 12 personal experience having operated and owned three	e
13 It's very limited to the testimony that you have 13 different gas stations, to the extent that you're	
14 heard. But the once the Applicant is done with 14 I was going to say, Your Honor, but to the	
15 their case in chief, then we will have an 15 extent you want to give more weight to expert	
16 opportunity for people to present any opposition. 16 testimony rather than my client's personal	
17 And the same rules apply, if you have witnesses, 17 experience with respect to gas station's capacity	
18 they can be cross-examined. Let's start with the 18 and ability to meet the needs of the community,	
19 preliminary 19 shall we say, we are at a disadvantage.	
20 MR. HARRIS: Excuse me. I'm sorry. Ms. 20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Are are your	•
21 Sokoni, you had asked about other speakers. As you 21 clients confronting or abutting neighbors? Do they	
22 noted, we have a number of speakers, but I also 22 do are are they are there	
23 want to clarify here, Ms. Kubit mentioned that she 23 MS. POWELL: So they're they're	
24 is the Applicant, and she is a co-applicant; Weis 24 within the half mile radius where they should have	
25 Markets is a co-applicant as well, and Mr. Jack 25 received the advance notice for this hearing, Your	
10	12
1 O'Hara is here to speak on their behalf, and I've 1 Honor.	
2 provided business cards to the court reporter for 2 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm getting to	
3 everybody's name, including the expert witnesses 3 that, but	
4 that we'll call. 4 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry.	
5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you very 5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: very very	
6 much. 6 specifically, are they abutting or confronting?	
7 MR. HARRIS: Okay. 7 They are they are not. Mr. Harris, do you do	
8 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I know we have 8 we have an affidavit of posting?	
9 some preliminaries to deal with. There were 9 MR. HARRIS: I'm just going to offer	
10 questions raised around notice. So before we 10 that if now it's the proper time, I can do that.	
11 officially start with the public hearing itself,  11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes.	
12 I'd like to hear concerns around notice. Ms. 12 MR. HARRIS: I've got a couple exhibits	
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13	1	15
1 hearing. How many signs how what how many	1 regard to notice, what are you asking? Did you	13
2 signs were placed?	2 want to call expert witnesses? Do your clients	
3 MR. HARRIS: There is an exhibit in the	3 want to call expert witnesses?	
4 application that shows not only the number, but the	4 MS. POWELL: My client would like to	
5 location of the signs. I don't know off of the top	5 call an expert witness, but we did not have	
6 of my head, but it was at least three, maybe four.	6 adequate time to make the arrangements.	
7 I I can check on that to be sure, but I don't	7 THE HEARING EXAMINER: If we had a if	
8 know. But did the the the location of the	8 we adjourn once we if we started the hearing	
9 signs was submitted to your office and and	9 and we postponed to a subsequent date, would you	
10 approved, as as well as the mailing list.	10 then be calling expert witnesses?	
11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So just so	11 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am.	
12 I'm clear, your objection is not on the basis of	12 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I will	
13 being a confronting or adjoining property owner,	13 reserve ruling on on the issues raised around	
14 but it's on the basis of being within	14 notice. I did want to clearly hear if they were	
15 MS. POWELL: Within the half mile radius.	15 joining or or or abutting. But in the	
16 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And and	16 interest of efficiency, I might say, you know, what	
17 and the basis for and and so, your your	17 time do you feel you lost? And by the way, this	
18 position is that you're required to have actual	18 this is an application that's been pending a while	
19 notice?	19 and has been postponed more than once, so I would	
20 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am. And you would	20 imagine that the signs have been up for quite some	
21 notice that Ms. Presley, who is not part of the	21 time. We are looking	
22 group that I'm representing, did receive notice and	22 MS. POWELL: Yeah. I'm not sure about	
23 she is within four blocks. So she's also not		
	23 that. Your madam, because my clients were	
24 abutting, but it was a somewhat selective process.	24 completely unaware of the previous December 19th	
25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I would	25 hearing. They had absolutely no idea what was	
14		16
<ul> <li>like to hear from the Applicant on the process for</li> <li> I do know, at the outset, when when the</li> </ul>	1 happening.	
2 I do know, at the outset, when when the		
	2 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, but I'm	
3 application is filed, there's a process that	3 talking about the the physical signs that are	
<ul><li>3 application is filed, there's a process that</li><li>4 there's some coordination with OZAH about</li></ul>	<ul><li>talking about the the physical signs that are</li><li>posted around the perimeter of the property.</li></ul>	
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Conducted on J	anuary 23, 2025
17	19
1 40 days because, next week, I'm actually not here,	1 side of the that side of road. That's when we
2 and so I won't be able to to do anything with	2 found out.
3 respect to this. And in order to retain the expert	3 MR. HARRIS: Okay.
4 and bring him up to speed, if you will, with the	4 MR. PATEL: And then we
5 testimony that's been given and the reports,	5 MR. HARRIS: I understand.
6 because obviously the expert isn't here to hear the	6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So the the
7 testimony, I think that a 40-day period is a	7 third week of December. If you had received action
8 reasonable request.	8 notice, how many days how many days ahead of a
9 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Are there any	9 hearing are you entitled to notice when you do
10 objections?	10 receive action notice?
11 MR. HARRIS: I I'm curious to know,	11 MS. POWELL: I believe it's 30 days.
12 Madam Examiner, and and if I can ask Opposing	12 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So in terms you
13 Counsel here, at what point in time did Mr. Patel	13 know, Mr. Patel, you're saying you did receive
14 learn of this application?	14 you were aware as of the third week of December?
15 MS. POWELL: I do not know.	15 MS. POWELL: I don't know if that's the
	16 third week. He said around Christmastime.
17 MS. POWELL: Certainly.	17 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I see.
18 MR. HARRIS: Would would you ask him?	MS. POWELL: So it would be in the
MR. PATEL: No. We found out last month.	19 middle of the holidays.
20 MR. HARRIS: Last month?	20 MR. HARRIS: He he said the third
MR. PATEL: Yeah, around Christmastime.	21 week of December, is what he said.
22 THE HEARING EXAMINER: If if I	MS. POWELL: And that he did well,
23 could if could you kindly call your client?	23 excuse me and that he didn't know the exact
24 MS. POWELL: Sure.	24 date. When he was standing back there, he said
25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I would like to	25 well, actually, if I may ask Mr. Patel?
18	20
1 administer an oath.	1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, please.
2 MS. POWELL: We can move him to the	2 MS. POWELL: Okay. Was it the third
3 table.	3 week of December or was it around the holidays, the
4 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.	4 Christmas holidays?
5 MS. POWELL: Oops. I need to turn the	5 MR. HARRIS: Objection. You're leading
6 screen on.	6 the witness.
7 Whereupon,	7 MS. POWELL: That is not a leading
8 AJAY PATEL,	8 question, Madam.
9 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to	9 MR. HARRIS: Ask him if you can ask
10 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the	10 him if he just said that he learned it the third
11 truth, was examined and testified as follows:	11 week of December.
THE HEARING EXAMINER: For the record,	MS. POWELL: No, that that's a
13 could you please provide your name, kindly spell	13 leading question. I'm entitled to ask Mr. Patel,
14 your name, and then we we would like to hear	14 what did you say when you were sitting in the
15 from you in terms of when you learned about this	15 galley?
16 application.	16 MR. PATEL: Third week of December.
17 MR. PATEL: Yeah. Ajay Patel, A-J-A-Y.	17 MS. POWELL: Okay. And what did you
18 Last name is Patel, P-A-T-E-L. Yes, sir.	18 say before what did you say before that?
19 MR. HARRIS: Excuse me. I'm sorry.	19 MR. PATEL: It's around the holiday
17 Maria Hadio. Enesso me. Im sorry.	17 Mid I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
20 Thank you I was just interested to know I was	20 times
20 Thank you. I was just interested to know I was	20 times.
21 interested in knowing at what point in time you	21 MS. POWELL: Thank you.
21 interested in knowing at what point in time you 22 learned of the application.	21 MS. POWELL: Thank you. 22 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Today is January
<ul> <li>21 interested in knowing at what point in time you</li> <li>22 learned of the application.</li> <li>23 MR. PATEL: Exact date, I don't know,</li> </ul>	21 MS. POWELL: Thank you. 22 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Today is January 23 22nd.
21 interested in knowing at what point in time you 22 learned of the application.	<ul><li>MS. POWELL: Thank you.</li><li>THE HEARING EXAMINER: Today is January</li></ul>

	21			23
1	say around the can we place a a reason you	1	when I spoke with her, I don't know if I received	
2	know, around the holidays, should we say here	2	notice. I'm in a situation where a home	
3	here's what I propose. If we went to the end of	3	situation has nothing to do with this.	
4	January, you would have 30 days notice. Can we	4	But typically, when I receive notice, I	
5	move this to say the first week of February,	5	keep it; I know that. I was unaware until Mr.	
	February 7th?	6	Patel told me when I was at his store and his gas	
7	MS. POWELL: I left my calendar back	7	station. I don't typically, nor do many others in	
8	there.	8	my neighborhood, drive past this site. It's a	
9	MR. HARRIS: Can can we hold that a	9	barren site. There's one sign. I can confirm what	
10	a moment, Madam Examiner, on I want to	10	Mr. Harris had said. I believe there are three in	
	clarify something for the record here. OZAH has	11	total that I know of now. One sign is posted where	
	rules for notice. Rule 2.2 calls for posting, and		the previous sign was. It's the same color, same	
	it calls for a mailing in 2.4. When we filed the		size that had alerted people to the fact that there	
	application, we submitted the mailing list that		was a Planning Board hearing. There's nothing that	
	conforms precisely with your requirements. In		would indicate, hey, I better stop and look at	
	fact, we submitted a mailing list that was broader,		this, especially if you don't drive past that.	
	but the the Staff said, we did not need	17		
	to do that and that you were not going to send		which connects the entire Town Center, including	
	those notices.		the Historic District. So only if someone is	
20	So we used the the regulation and		driving through there or on the I guess that	
	complied with it precisely. We complied with it		would be the west going westbound on Stringtown	
	precisely with respect to the posting. We're		would be the west going westbound on Stringtown would they have a chance to see that. And	
	hearing now that the opposition had almost a		Stringtown Road, you're driving at a speed; you're	
	month's notice before today, actual notice. And of		not going to just stop because you see a sign.	
	•	25		
23	course, they're here today. I don't I I	23	I have checked with Mr. Barry Fantile,	24
1	think I heard Opposing Counsel say that Ms.	1	who's in the audience. I checked with him off	24
	Presley, who's testifying here, had received notice	2	record. Barry and Lynn Fantile are residents.	
	by mail. And and and so, what what I'm	$\begin{vmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{vmatrix}$	Mr. Fantile is also president of the CCA. Prior to	
	seeing here is an effort to delay this process when	١.	this hearing, he contacted as many people as he	
	they we have met 100 percent of the requirements	4	could, got a hold of seven, whose names appear on	
	for notice and there has been actual notice. They	5	the list, that state that they received notice, and	
		6		
	had an opportunity to engage an expert for the last	7	they have confirmed that they did not receive	
	three weeks minimum and did not do that. That's	8	notice. So, as I said, I was notified, not in the	
	not fair to the Applicant to delay the case for		mail. What I said to Ms. Powell is, I cannot say	
	them to do this.		that something didn't come. I'm in a weird	
11	THE HEARING EXAMINER: I do see a hand		situation. I have a mother. Someone could have	
	raised by Ms. Presley in the back. Would you like		thrown something away. So I would not allege that	
	to come forward and		they didn't give me notice; I didn't see it. I	
14	MS. PRESLEY: Yes, briefly. Thank you.		wasn't made aware until Mr. Patel told me what was	
15	THE HEARING EXAMINER: There's a little		going on. And that's that's just what I wanted	
	bit of musical chairs going on. Yes.		to contribute.	
17	MS. PRESLEY: For the record again	17		
18	THE HEARING EXAMINER: If you could		much. I I I do want to go back to something	
	kindly press the green button.		that Mr. Harris mentioned. The Applicant did	
20	MS. PRESLEY: For the record again, I am		provide a really extensive list of notice and	
	Amy Presley and I am a resident at 23506 Sugar View		and that appears as Exhibit I believe it's in	
	Drive. My home is 1,000 feet as the crow flies		could we pull up Exhibit 5? Could we go to Exhibit	
23	from the site. It is roughly 2,600 feet driving	23	5? So we have Exhibit 5. No, that's	
24	distance. I want to speak to what Ms. Powell said	24	MR. HARRIS: There was another Exhibit	
25	about we received notice. I actually had told her	25	5, I think.	
25	about we received notice. I actually had told her	25	5, I think.	

27 MS. POWELL: (Crosstalk). 1 mailings, I typically work with our civil engineers to make sure that the mailings happen., and THE HEARING EXAMINER: Our case is 25-02, depending on what type of hearing you're having or CU-25-02. MR. HARRIS: Oh. Yeah. what type of public meeting you're having, it -- it 5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: We have another kind of dictates the type of notice that you give, case going on concurrently, Ms. Burn, but that's --6 in my experience. And as I understand it, that that's on Teams. This one's 25-02. Okay, right list that the -- the -- the exhaustive list had 8 8 been used in mailings for the -- for example, for case. 9 MR. HARRIS: There. things like the site plan, when we have a site plan 10 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So you'll see 10 amendment or if we have a community meeting in the 11 Exhibit 5 -- I just want to call to everyone's 11 community, we invite the entire community. We've 12 attention, the 5C is the late edition, which was 12 had several community meetings over the last 13 13 only placed up on the website yesterday. What that 13 years where we've invited everybody in the 14 is, is the -- so if we go back to 5A, 5A is the 14 community to those meetings, and other stakeholders 15 list, the very extensive list that the Applicant 15 and things like that. 16 had provided. And I believe OZAH -- you know, in So I believe that as -- as I understand 16 17 discussions with OZAH Staff, I'm -- I'm not 17 it, the civil engineer presented that list to the 18 involved in that, but it was more extensive than 18 Hearing Examiner Staff, and she said, look, the law 19 needed to be, and I think there was a discussion 19 says adjoining and confronting property owners only 20 and an agreement to -- to -- to tailor that 20 -- and so -- and HOAs and parties of record within 21 to something much more manageable. 21 a half a mile. And so, those are the parties that It was including, for instance, 22 we're going to notice because we're going to do it 23 every HOA tenant and resident and, you know --23 by the law. And so, that is what was determined 24 that's -- the HOA notices go to the, you know, the 24 for this particular hearing, how the notices were 25 president of the HOA, but -- but they had listed 25 going to be distributed. 26 28 1 absolutely everybody, so that -- it did -- I think MS. POWELL: If I would make an 2 it was a matter of efficiency. And that was scaled objection because she's not speaking from personal 3 down to 5C, which people may or may not have seen. knowledge. This is her understanding of what 4 I requested that that be put up. Once the notice somebody else did. 5 5 issues arose yesterday, I raised the question with MS. KUBIT: But I work -- was working 6 Staff about what was the actual mailing, and that very closely with the civil -- not very, but 7 5C is the list of -- of the actual mailing. So it closely with the civil as they were doing this 8 could be -- it could be -- I -- I would like to process. 9 hear from the Applicant specifically about how --MS. POWELL: And I would also like to 10 how you came up with your list and how the mailings 10 point out that the HOA did not get notice. Mr. 11 happened, just what exactly happened. 11 Fantile, of the CCA, did not receive notice. If you could kindly raise your 12 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And --13 right hand for me. Your name, please? 13 MR. FANTILE: Excuse me. MS. KUBIT: My name is Kate Kubit. 14 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes? 15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Do we need a 15 MR. FANTILE: I -- I'm Barry Fantile 16 spelling for that? Okay. 16 from CCA. Can I clarify what she just said? 17 Whereupon, 17 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. MR. FANTILE: I don't know if CCA itself KATE KUBIT, 18 19 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to 19 got notice. I do see them on the list here, but 20 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the 20 not on the list is the Clarksburg Town Center HOA, 21 truth, was examined and testified as follows: 21 unless it is under a different name that I would 22 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So could you please 22 expect. 23 explain to us how -- how things happen with the 23 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And -- and the 24 mailing? 24 list you're referring to, is this 5C?

25

MR. FANTILE: 5C.

MS. KUBIT: So I typically -- when we do

25

Conducted on J	
29	31
1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Could you kindly	1 entitled to is 30 days notice; is that correct?
2 pull up 5C? It's tiny print. If you could expand	2 MS. POWELL: Understood. Yes.
3 it as best you can.	3 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So at the very
4 MR. FANTILE: If if I missed it, I	4 least, we should ensure that everybody has 30 days
5 apologize.	5 notice?
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And what is the	6 MS. POWELL: That is correct. Yeah,
7 HOA you're saying was not included?	7 that would be my
8 MR. FANTILE: I don't believe the	8 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And from what we
9 Clarksburg Town Center HOA was included. The	9 have heard so far, there's speculation about
10 condos were included, but not the main HOA,	10 whether it's, you know, third week of December or
11 according to this list, unless I missed it.	11 after the holidays. Let's just move the needle to
THE HEARING EXAMINER: So on the list I'm	12 December 30th, the end of the month. Is it fair to
13 seeing there is a Clarksburg Civic Association.	13 say we should have we we give people at least
14 MR. FANTILE: Yes. That specific	14 until the end of I can keep the record open, but
15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: There's a	15 if you say you would like to call expert witnesses,
16 Clarksburg Civic Association appears twice. We	16 I can extend it into the first or even second week
17 have Clarksburg Condominium I, Clarksburg	17 of February, just for purposes of convening a
18 Condominium IV, Clarksburg Ridge Homeowners	18 hearing. And and you also do have the option to
<ul><li>19 Association, Clarksburg Town Center Condominium,</li><li>20 Clarksburg Village. Are we it's very tiny</li></ul>	19 submit. And if you want your expert witnesses to 20 come and testify, we can schedule a second date,
, ,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
21 print. Are you able to kindly zoom it out as best	21 but I can also keep the record open to have your
22 you can?	22 expert submit any evidence they feel necessary.
MR. FANTILE: All that you've read is	MS. POWELL: That that would be fine,
24 not the main HOA.	24 assuming the other side does not have an objection.
25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. And there	25 I we can submit a written report.
30	32
1 are there are one, two, three, four, five,	1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: As opposed to?
2 six, seven, eight, nine, ten, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,	2 MS. POWELL: Yeah. Physically, if that
3 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. I'm seeing at least 20	3 if this is an issue with respect to Opposing
4 listings of a Clarksburg, one variation or other,	4 Counsel, yes.
5 and you're saying there's one the the the	5 MR. HARRIS: Well
6 main Clarksburg HOA is missing?	6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Does Opposing
7 MR. FANTILE: Right. It's missing,	7 Counsel have any objections to to us doing a
8 unless I'm misreading this list. The the	8 written the their experts doing written
9 president of the HOA does not recall getting any	9 reports? I
10 kind of mailing either, but he's not here.	10 MR. HARRIS: I'd like to take a step
11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I was going	11 backwards. I do have a problem with this whole
12 to say that is hearsay.	12 issue of notice. We complied with the rules 100
MR. FANTILE: Yep. I apologize.	13 percent. Okay. We we submitted it to all of
14 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Back to we have	14 the people that are required. You've got the list
15 a problem I'm trying to fix. And if you anyone	15 here. Now, I'm hearing from Mr. Fantile that his
16 who's objecting to notice, if they have received	16 wife didn't get the or that he didn't get it,
17 notice, they were entitled to 30 days notice. Is	17 but I see Lynn Fantile right on there.
18 that	18 MR. FANTILE: I didn't confirm that she
19 MS. POWELL: I'm sorry.	19 got it or did not get it.
20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Whoever I'm not	20 MR. HARRIS: So what we're hearing is, I
21 ruling on whether someone was entitled to notice or	21 don't know whether I got notice. That's pretty
22 not.	22 weak. Okay. What I can say is, these are the
23 MS. POWELL: Understood.	23 people to whom we sent the notice. Okay. We
24 THE HEARING EXAMINER: If someone was	24 fulfilled our obligation, number one. Number two,
25 entitled to actual notice, what they would've been	25 the the signs have been there. If the if
17. ) CHELLEU LO ACTUAL HOLICE, WHAL THEY WOULD VE DEED	123 the the sighs have been there. Tithe II

33 35 1 if they didn't receive a notice and -- and because 1 is the notice of public hearing. The notice of 2 they weren't on the list because they weren't public hearing is dated December 3rd. So people 3 entitled to get it -- on notice list, the signs would be entitled to at least 30 days notice. The 4 were there. They could have, should have seen them. notice went out December 3rd. Now, we did have an amendment in there. So let's count from December Three, the Applicant has had 6 multiple outreach meetings with the HOA there that 6 13, only because there was -- I believe there was a 7 have been well published. We've had 50 plus people motion to amend the application. So rather than --8 at these meetings. The -- the -- this is not a 8 even though the notice was dated December 3rd, I'll 9 secret effort. It's been going around for a long 9 move that to December 13th, because we were dealing 10 time. The -- it -- it just, you know -- you 10 with an amendment as well. 30 days from December 11 know, I -- I have a problem extending anything. 11 13 would've been January 13th. At this point, I 12 We're here today. We complied with the rules. We 12 believe, if we're going to say at least your 13 shouldn't be penalized. 13 clients, Ms. Powell, have said under oath that they And -- and one further thing, the 14 received this mid to late December --15 fact that Mr. Patel is bothered that he didn't get 15 MS. POWELL: That's correct. 16 notice, he -- he -- you know, he's -- he's not part THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's treat that 16 17 of the HOA. He's not an adjoining confronting 17 as end of December, just to be fair. End of 18 property owner. What he is, is a -- a competitor. 18 January seems fair. And so, I am happy to keep the 19 There is no requirement anywhere in the regulations 19 record open. I will still rule in my decision. I 20 that you notify competitors of what you want to do. 20 will rule on the notice issues, but I would rather 21 He -- he had ample time to get an expert, if he 21 not hold everything up until that ruling. You 22 wanted to. 22 don't -- I don't think anyone wants to wait, you MS. POWELL: If I may speak, please? If 23 23 know, 35, 30 -- upward of 30 days for a decision 24 the HOA -- if the primary HOA is not listed there, 24 for us to then be back at the table. 25 I think that's a material issue. 25 MS. POWELL: Understood. 34 36 MR. HARRIS: I don't know what a primary MR. HARRIS: Well, I -- I'd like to 1 HOA is. address that because again, the rules provide for 2 3 MS. POWELL: Well, I'd be happy to call the Applicant to receive the opposition's expert 4 materials --MR. HARRIS: There -- there are 50 -- 50 5 5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Correct. HOAs on here -- or 20. What is a primary HOA? 6 MR. HARRIS: -- before 20 days before MS. POWELL: Well -the hearing. THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm going to raise 8 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Correct. 9 -- I'm going to address the objections of the MR. HARRIS: Okay. That is to avoid 10 parties present. I -- I haven't heard from the 10 disadvantage where someone springs something on the 11 HOA. I -- I -- I, you know, I -- I believe a fair 11 Applicant at midnight. 12 way to proceed is now that you're saying you would 12 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Correct. 13 like to have expect testimony, I'm inclined to 13 MR. HARRIS: Okay. So what I'm hearing 14 accommodate that. And I -- I do -- I -- I 14 now is that we would be put at a disadvantage. 15 understand the -- it's an administrative 15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And I'm -- I'm 16 proceeding, and I'm trying to not stand on form. 16 trying to ensure that nobody's put at a 17 The rules are there to protect the parties, and we 17 disadvantage. 18 -- we are trying to -- we -- we do want MR. HARRIS: I understand, and I 18 19 participation. We do want to hear from everyone 19 appreciate that. 20 who has a stake in this. We do have rules that THE HEARING EXAMINER: So if we -- to the 20 21 clearly delineate who is entitled to legal notice, 21 extent that we accommodate the opposition by -- by 22 but I think in the interest of fairness and just, 22 -- by, you know, keeping the record open so they 23 you know, making sure that --23 can submit something in writing, I would uphold the Since the issue has been raised, I'm 24 Applicant equal opportunity. And you tell me what 25 looking here -- let's pull up Exhibit 35, which 25 -- what works for your clients in terms of a

Conducted on J	•
37	39
1 response.	1 they got notice.
MS. POWELL: This may be a moot issue	2 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.
3 because an expert can't be retained in a week. I'm	3 MR. HARRIS: So there there's a lot
4 just I'm just saying that. So you you have	4 of fiction going on here.
5 the benefit of that information, Madam.	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: But who is saying
6 MR. HARRIS: It it could have been	6 that? That that sounds like hearsay to me.
7 retained since mid-December.	7 MR. HARRIS: We can put them on the
8 MS. POWELL: No.	8 screen, Your Honor.
9 MR. HARRIS: No? Why not?	9 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Are they are
MS. POWELL: I wasn't retained then.	10 they able to
MR. HARRIS: Well, then not my fault if	MR. HARRIS: Are they monitoring this?
12 if	MS. POWELL: Yeah, they are. I would
MS. POWELL: Excuse me, Your Honor	13 just ask which HOA it was. And I would like to
MR. HARRIS: If Mr. Patel wanted to	14 point out that this is not misinformation, and Mr.
15 oppose this and obtain an expert, he's had since,	15 Fantile clearly testified that he did not know, but
16 by his admission, at least mid-December. That's a	16 he did not believe that it was on the list. And
17 month.	17 so, casting aspersions
MS. POWELL: And the Applicant has had	18 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Fantile?
19 how long to prepare their own?	MS. POWELL: He was the gentleman back
THE HEARING EXAMINER: So let's let's	20 here.
21 look at I I'm I I think, objectively,	21 MR. FANTILE: Yes.
22 it helps to look at what legal notice they would've	MS. POWELL: So to cast aspersions on
23 been entitled to. And I think I think that's a	23 people participating in this hearing and indicating
24 fair we could we could hear	24 or in, you know, suggesting that they're lying
25 MS. POWELL: I understand.	25 is completely inappropriate.
38	40
1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: what they're	1 MR. HARRIS: I I did not suggest
2 arguing about when people actually got it. You	2 they're lying. What they're saying is, I don't
3 know, if if the law is there to protect you.	3 know if I got notice or not, but we've got the
4 It says you get 30 days to accommodate all these	4 notice list and it says they got notice.
5 eventualities, holidays and so on. So I I I	5 MS. POWELL: Well, that was the
6 do think it's fair to say let's let's how's	6 question. And that was all he said and what the
7 February 7th? Today is today is January 22nd.	7 the use of the word fiction, pretty close to
8 Let me just pull out the calendar here.	8 accusing somebody of lying.
9 MS. POWELL: That would that would be	9 THE HEARING EXAMINER: That's that's
10 my	10 noted. I think, under these circumstances so
11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Sorry, 23rd. I'm	11 first of all, if we if we concluded the hearing
12 I'm losing a day. Sorry about that.	12 today and closed the hearing today, we could the
13 COURT REPORTER: I put it on the screen,	13 record usually is kept open for 10 business days
14 so (crosstalk).	14 just to allow the transcript to be produced. So we
15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. Oh, thank	15 usually we we usually have a 10 day
16 you very much. That's very helpful.	16 10-business-day buffer anyway regardless, in which
17 MR. HARRIS: I I I beg your	17 case, if we concluded today, we would certainly be
18 pardon, Madam Examiner. One one more	18 keeping the record open at least until February
19 interjection. I've just learned through telephone	19 3rd. I'm happy to extend that to February 7th to
20 connection yes or no?	20 allow the opposition to get in to allow your
21 MR. O'HARA: They they she says	21 clients to get in an expert.
22 that it would've gone to community service	MS. POWELL: Thank you, Madam Examiner.
23 community to their main office if they got	23 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And then, the
24 notice.	24 Applicant would want an opportunity to review that
25 MR. HARRIS: The the HOA is saying	25 and provide a response, if needed.

43 MR. HARRIS: May I? purchased this area for a dollar, because the prior THE HEARING EXAMINER: Your -- your developer had created significant and material objections are noted. problems, and there was a mediation that occurred MR. HARRIS: Yeah. Yes, I understand. among the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee 5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Your objections and several home builders. And this mediation resulted in a resolution, and this resolution is are noted. MR. HARRIS: I understand. Thank you. dated June 15, 2006. I have copies for everybody, I'm inclined to just go home today. I have no if they would like, but it is part of your official interest in presenting our case for them to have a documentation, and attached to this. 10 month to evaluate and not respond, and then also 10 And incorporated in this June 15, 2006 11 have a limited amount of time. If -- if -- if, you 11 resolution, there is a Staff Report, and it 12 know if they want to get an expert, you know, 12 talks about the plan of compliance, and the plan of 13 against my objections, I understand you're going to 13 compliance is very specific as to what is required 14 extend the time. We've met the rules. You should 14 going forward because there were significant and 15 not extend the time. What happens now when 15 material failures to observe the requirements of 16 somebody, another gas station owner two miles away, 16 setbacks, what roadways, and other things. But 17 says, wait a minute; I didn't get notice about 17 this plan of compliance included the --18 18 this; I don't like this either? Oh, okay; well, THE HEARING EXAMINER: I'm -- I'm -- I'm 19 let's extend it to May. 19 sorry to interrupt. You're saying it's a 20 preliminary issue. THE HEARING EXAMINER: Now, I -- I -- I 21 gave everybody opportunity for us to reserve today 21 MS. POWELL: It -- this is, and I'm 22 simply for motions. That was waived. So the --22 getting to it. This is just background. Because I 23 the -- the understanding today was that we're 23 don't know how much you're aware of what took place 24 proceeding with the application. And are you 24 previously, but this plan of compliance required a 25 saying you would like to fold for now and -- and 25 mixed use core that includes a revised town plaza 42 44 1 just reconvene say at the date in February to -- to and town green space, a grocery store, small shops, do -- to do everything, both, you know, your -a library, a mix of live/work units, townhouses and your case in chief and -- and everything else? multifamily units. The new town plaza and green MR. HARRIS: May I ask for a five-minute space include a site for a library, seating area, recess? I don't want this to be my decision. I street lighting, an open air market building for have two clients here who are desperately anxious outdoor civic events that will serve as a central to get a grocery store built for Clarksburg, and focus for the Town Center instead of extensive 8 this is critical to that, but I don't want to be -surface parking as proposed in the plan that had 9 be at a disadvantage in a hearing process where all 9 been submitted previously to the Department of 10 the cards are not on the table at the same time. 10 Parks and Planning. The new mixed use core 11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. 11 includes two parking garages lined by three-story 12 MS. POWELL: I -- excuse me. I do have 12 retail spaces and residences to maintain a 13 another preliminary matter to raise, but I just 13 pedestrian scale and orientation. These features 14 wanted to make Your Honor aware. 14 provide a significant improvement to the project. 15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Are you able to 15 Now, this has been nibbled away at over 16 raise that now so that when they have their recess 16 time, but the resolution makes clear that, except 17 as otherwise required by or relating to physical 17 --MS. POWELL: Sure. 18 18 project conditions unforeseen by the Board or other THE HEARING EXAMINER: -- you can all be 19 legal requirements applicable to any Zoning Board 19 20 mulling over the same information? 20 action, the Planning Board intends to require only MS. POWELL: Absolutely. So with 21 such modifications that are reasonably consistent 22 respect to this matter, the gas station was never 22 with the compliance program. Now, subject to --23 part of the plan. And the Clarksburg Town Center 23 only to such unforeseen project conditions, 24 and the Clarksburg development has been the subject 24 applicable law and regulation, the express terms of 25 of a tremendous debate. And in 2006, Elm Street 25 the resolution and the compliance program, the

45	4	17
1 Board reserves all lawful discretion to consider	1 of the resolution, which by the way was in 2006,	.,
2 and approve conditions or disapprove future	2 almost 20 years ago, says it it says that	
3 applications, according to the law and the merits	3 nothing in the plan of compliance impairs the	
4 present at the time; however, this resolution is a	4 discretion of the County to approve future	
5 binding document.	5 applications and changes to the plans. In fact, as	
6 So, respectfully, they skipped a step.	6 counsel admits, there have been multiple changes to	
7 They needed to go back and move to amend this hard-	7 the plans over that period of time and none of	
8 fought resolution over which people spent thousands	8 which were the result of amendments to the plan of	
9 of dollars in legal fees, hours and hours of	9 compliance because the plan of compliance was not a	
10 mediation before Judge Howe, and basically say, we	10 binding document it as would be the U.S.	
11 want to change the plan to include a gas station.	11 Constitution. It was it expressly indicated that	
12 And that's required under this resolution, and I	12 changes were likely to occur and that they could be	
13 have courtesy copies, as I said before.	13 approved.	
14 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.	14 The finally, this issue of whether	
15 MS. POWELL: If I may?	15 this grocery store is consistent and the entire	
16 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So, question.	16 shopping center that we're trying to get built is	
17 MS. POWELL: Yes, ma'am.	17 consistent with the plan of compliance was raised	
18 THE HEARING EXAMINER: This what you	18 by Ms. Presley last February, at which time the	
19 just presented sounds to me like a motion to	19 Planning Board undertook and approved a site plan	
20 dismiss the application?	20 amendment to approve this shopping center exactly	
21 MS. POWELL: It is. It is because they	21 as we're proposing to build it, and and and	
22 missed a first step. I don't know if you want to	22 without the library, without the parking garages,	
23 hold it in	23 without the other things that Counsel cited.	
24 THE HEARING EXAMINER: That's that's	24 So there is clear evidence that this plan	
25 not a preliminary issue. That's that's an	25 of compliance, whatever it may be, it's not the	
23 not a premimary issue. That's that's an		18
1 MS. POWELL: Okay. Well then, I	1 U.S. Constitution. It's not even a law. And	<b>1</b> 0
THE HEARING EXAMINER: That's probably	2 and and and the the Planning Board	
3 MS. POWELL: I I take that.	3 and and that decision back in	
4 THE HEARING EXAMINER: not a	4 February, no one challenged that, and it had it	
5 preliminary issue. That's a substantive motion.	5 and it has stayed. The and the Planning	
6 MS. POWELL: It is a substantive motion,	6 Board concluded during that process, that the	
but because it would be presumably ruled on before	7 amendment to the site plan was not not	
8 the hearing, Madam Examiner, that's why I was	8 inconsistent with that. I mean, in in the	
9 treating it as an initial motion.	9 Staff Report at that time, this issue was dealt	
10 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Not to speak for	10 with.	
11 the Applicant. What's your response?	11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Question. When	
12 MR. HARRIS: Yes. Let let me clarify	12 this in the current configuration, this this	
13 some things. She read from a resolution and	13 application appear came before Planning Board?	
14 various things in the plan of compliance. I did	14 MR. HARRIS: Yes. I'm I'm sorry.	
15 not hear the word gas pumps in there anywhere.	THE HEARING EXAMINER: This time around?	
16 Okay. It does not say no gas pumps. What it does		
17 say is a grocery store. That is what we're trying	16 MR. HARRIS: This time around. 17 THE HEARING EXAMINER: This this	
18 to do. These gas pumps are a critical element to	18 this current app, CU-25-02.	
19 bring in the the the grocery store to the		
20 Town Center, to fulfill a desire that's been there	20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Did that did	
21 since 1994	21 that go before the Planning Board?	
22 MS. POWELL: Objection.	MR. HARRIS: Yes. Let let me clarify.	
MD HADDIS when they when they		
23 MR. HARRIS: when they when they	23 There there were a couple of things that have	
23 MR. HARRIS: when they when they 24 approved the master plan so number one. Number 25 two, as as Counsel mentioned, Section V, Page 6	23 There there were a couple of things that have 24 been steps in order to get this shopping center 25 finally built. One was a series of Park and	

51 1 Planning Commission amendments to the project plan, 1 had added Exhibit 52, which was the Affidavit of 2 to the preliminary plan of subdivision, and to the Posting, and now I'm marking Exhibit 3 -- 53 --3 site plan for the property. That all happened. sorry -- the -- the Planning Board resolution dated 4 There were a number of them prior to this, but last March 25, 2024 -- dated March 25, 2024, with the 5 February, we presented to the -- to the Planning accompanying Project Plan Amendment Number 6 Board a plan for this shopping center exactly the 91994004E. 7 way we plan to -- to do it today, and they approved 7 (Exhibit 53 was marked.) 8 it, finding that the plan of compliance did not 8 MR. HARRIS: And then, Madam Examiner, 9 matter. Okay. And I -- I'll come back to that, 9 if I can continue. In Exhibit 54 at Page 62, there 10 but to try to answer your question further. 10 is an express discussion about this Plan of That -- but they said you need to come 11 Compliance. 11 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Hang on a second. 12 back for a conditional use approval for the gas 12 13 pumps that you've proposed. So we showed on that 13 You're referring to Exhibit 54? 14 plan that was approved at that time, a location MR. HARRIS: 54, I think. The -- the 15 for the gas pumps. It was identified as future 15 colored one with the blue on the cover for --16 development in the -- in the corner of the parking THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. 16 17 lot. They approved that plan with that area 17 MR. HARRIS: That's the one. Yes. 18 designated for future development, acknowledging or 18 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Project Plan? 19 19 recognizing that we were going to have to come MR. HARRIS: Yes, ma'am. 20 before the Hearing Examiner for conditional use 20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. This --21 approval. 21 this collection has been entered in the record as THE HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have an 2.2. 22 Exhibit 53. 23 exhibit in the record for that? 23 MR. HARRIS: Oh. Oh, 53. I'm sorry. MR. HARRIS: Yeah, I noticed that that 24 Oh, I thought the resolution was 53. 25 -- that is not in the record. I do have paper THE HEARING EXAMINER: The resolution is 50 52 1 copies today that I would like to introduce, 1 53. Okay. I had -- I had put them in because this is an important thing. May I provide collectively, but let's mark the project planner as those now? Exhibit --THE HEARING EXAMINER: Any objection? 4 MR. HARRIS: I think that would be MS. POWELL: I haven't had a chance to better -review them. And I think it's also beside the 6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. MR. HARRIS: -- because they are point, but a certainly major ruling. THE HEARING EXAMINER: I -- I -- I think different. Yes. 9 -- I think it's relevant to have them. And -- and THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So the 10 we still have the unresolved issue of when we are 10 resolution is 53. So the -- and Exhibit 54 will be 11 having the hearing, I -- I'm inclined to get those 11 the Project Plan Amendment Number 91994004E, with 12 into the record because --12 preliminary amendment and site plan. 13 MS. POWELL: Certainly. 13 (Exhibit 54 was marked.) 14 THE HEARING EXAMINER: -- that's 14 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. Okay. 15 information that's been presented that I would like 15 MR. HARRIS: Okay. And then, may I 16 continue then, ma'am? 16 to see. THE HEARING EXAMINER: Just if you give 17 MS. POWELL: And -- and I would like to 18 just -- even though these are part of your official 18 me one moment --19 record, I would just like to provide them. Thank 19 MR. HARRIS: Oh, yes. Take your time. THE HEARING EXAMINER: -- to find -- I 20 you. 20 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Sure. Let's just 21 don't want to lose --22 22 make sure I have a record of what we are getting MR. HARRIS: I'm -- I'm throwing a lot 23 into the record. Okay. Thank you very much. That 23 at you. 24 will be marked collectively as exhibit -- you 24 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I don't want to 25 should all at your tables have an exhibit sheet. I 25 lose track of my exhibits here and get myself in

	January 23, 2023	55
1 trouble. So, let's see. So my understanding is	1 truth.	55
when the Planning Board looked at this what	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.	
3 you're explaining is when the Planning Board looked	3 Whereupon,	
4 at this in March of 2024, they approved these	4 AMY PRESLEY,	
5 amendments, but said for the you were you	5 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to	
6 were explaining that they said for the gas station,	6 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the	
7 you have to come back for conditional use?	7 truth, was examined and testified as follows:	
8 MR. HARRIS: Yes, correct. And,	8 MS. PRESLEY: I first want to point out	
9 technically, the resolution is dated March, but the	9 that Mr. Harris attended the compliance program.	
10 hearing was in February of 2024. And in	10 THE HEARING EXAMINER: One second. Is	
11 preparation for that, Staff had told us that we	11 the sound going good?	
12 would have to come back, but that they would take	12 COURT REPORTER: The sound now we're	
13 forward the site plan for the the shopping	13 good.	
14 center with this area designated for future	14 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.	
15 development for the gas pumps, and that we'd have	15 COURT REPORTER: We're good.	
16 to come get the conditional use. And in that	16 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's see the	
17 process, Ms. Presley objected to on the very	17 people on Zoom.	
18 basis that Opposing Counsel is now raising, saying	18 COURT REPORTER: Well, they're still	
19 this plan of compliance did not allow that, and	19 here. Just I don't know what's going on with this	
20 that we were violating the plan of compliance.	20	
21 At Page 62 of the Staff Report, the	21 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's have that	
22 Staff said that Planning Board authority was	22 screen showing. I'd just like to check in with	
23 expressly reserved to consider, approve, approve	23 people on Zoom. It looks like we lost you for	
24 subject conditions, will disprove any future	24 COURT REPORTER: No, they they've	
25 application based upon the law and merits presented	25 been here the whole time. It's the communication	
54		56
1 at the time, as such, improving the site plan	1 between the computer signal sending the same thing	
2 applications and subsequent amendments	2 on this screen, the back screen.	
3 (indiscernible) resolved where such amendments are	3 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Could I	
4 in substantial conformance with the compliance	4 just have a confirmation from anyone on Zoom that	
5 program. That issue has been asked. Raised,	5 you didn't miss a thing? It sounds like you've	
6 addressed and disposed of.	6 been there the whole time, but can someone on Zoom	
7 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I know Ms. Presley	7 kindly unmute and confirm that you've had no	
8 has had her hand raised for a while, so happy to	8 interruption in in in the proceeding?	
9 hear from you. Please come.	9 Okay. Well, there's only	
10 MS. POWELL: Specifically on this issue,	10 there's one person on Zoom because the others are	
11 because I I think that's misrepresentive of what	11 OZAH Staff. Pam Weis. Is Pam Wise still on Zoom?	•
12 actually occurred on that date.	12 Okay. We are trusting that on Zoom you had no	
13 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So I would give	13 interruption. If there has been an interruption,	
14 you an opportunity to speak, but I also think, Ms.	14 please make a sound and let us know. Although the	
15 Presley, I still would like to hear your response	15 tricky thing is, if they have an interruption, we	
16 to to to what was raised there.	16 COURT REPORTER: I mean, honestly, I'm	
17 MS. PRESLEY: I I know	17 not entirely sure at which point this is just	
18 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Lots lot's	18 making the sound come out of here.	
19 going on here. Did I have did did you take	MR. HARRIS: I believe they're trying to	
20 the oath already?	20 talk, and for some reason it's not coming through.	
21 MS. PRESLEY: Yeah, I I'll take that	21 COURT REPORTER: Well, it's going	
22 now.	22 through it's coming through the sound for to	
23 HEARING EXAMINER: Okay.	23 here is where the signal is going through. I'm	
10.4 MC DDECLEY, I.d. handles account 4. 4.11	24 just not sure why it's not working for us here in	
MS. PRESLEY: I do hereby swear to tell 25 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the	25 the room. That is a in-the-room network.	

53	50
57	59
1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: This might be a	1 much as I care about this case, I'm not going to be
2 good time for us to take that recess so we can I	2 thinking about it, I hope. I I'm on vacation.
3 I'm concerned. I don't want to assume that they	3 So I I guess it would be the week of the 16th.
4 can hear us and that they in the meantime, let's	4 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. And then
5 try and connect with someone on Zoom for the	5 the Monday is Presidents' Day. I don't have my
6 further date.	6 computer. Are you able to pull up on our on our
7 COURT REPORTER: I'm just going to	7 hearing page? I just want to see just to make sure
8 (crosstalk) interruption.	8 we don't have any conflicting hearings.
9 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's let's	9 COURT REPORTER: It has to be
10 take a let's let's take a five-minute recess,	10 (crosstalk). The next one you guys have on here is
11 a little over five minutes. Let's let's	11 the 6th next week.
12 reconvene here at 10:50.	12 THE HEARING EXAMINER: January 6th.
13 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.	13 COURT REPORTER: Yeah, the 6th. The
14 (Off the record)	14 11th, the 13th, the 14th, 25th, 27th, and the 1st.
15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So we are	15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So the week
16 reconvening after a five-minute recess. Just	16 of the 17th I mean, ruling out the 17th because
17 checking in, the people on Zoom, my understanding	17 that's a a a federal holiday, 18th, 19th?
18 is that even though we lost sight of you in the	18 MR. HARRIS: I I think it would have
19 room, you were able to hear us the whole time and	19 to be 19th. Mr. O'Hara here and his wife, I think,
20 see us the whole time. May I hear a yay or not?	20 is unavailable the 18th.
21 COURT REPORTER: Yes. There is no loss.	21 MR. O'HARA: That is correct.
THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. We have	22 THE HEARING EXAMINER: We we cannot do
23 confirmation. Thank you. All right. So I I	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	23 a Wednesday because of Board of Appeals use as the
24 really I I really want to get us on back	24 hearing room.
25 on track here. We were dealing with preliminaries.	25 MR. HARRIS: Thursday, the
58	60
1 We've had the recess. I guess before we proceed	1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So we can do the
2 any further, are we inclined to are you still	2 how about we target Thursday, the 20th?
12 1.1	
3 are you seeking to delay if they're getting	3 MR. HARRIS: Yes, I think.
4 their extension to bring in an an expert, are	4 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So that's
<ul> <li>4 their extension to bring in an an expert, are</li> <li>5 you seeking to delay the start of the hearing or</li> </ul>	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So that's out of the way. I think we we the
4 their extension to bring in an an expert, are 5 you seeking to delay the start of the hearing or 6 not?	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. So that's out of the way. I think we we the current schedule will be the substantive hearing
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63 1 What's your turnaround on any response? I know you MS. PRESLEY: Okay. So these did not 2 said you'd be on vacation. We are reconvening occur under this current developer's watch. They 3 February 20th, but any reply to that -- any reply inherited the property. What I want to correct, or 4 to that expert testimony would be submitted when? two things really, Mr. Harris did read in part from That's -- it would be good to have that. I know the Planning Board's resolution, but the resolution is a legal document. They described it as such your indication --MR. HARRIS: We -- we -- we can do within the resolution. I'm not going to read that that by the 20th. for you because you have it on record. THE HEARING EXAMINER: Any chance we This is the Planning Board Resolution 10 could have that -- the hearing is going to be on 10 Compliance Program. It's not pertinent to any one 11 the 20th. 11 site plan. It sets forth the standing of the 12 MR. HARRIS: Right. 12 compliance program. It's legal implication and the 13 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Can we have any 13 Board further at this point -- and -- and, mind 14 you, the Board has changed some five times since 14 reply by say the 18th? MR. HARRIS: I believe so. Yes, ma'am. 15 then, including a big disruption in '23. They 16 I -- you know, again, I want to keep this moving. 16 instruct the Board in their finding 4.4, they state 17 This is all a bit uncomfortable, but I can work 17 that the Board hereby orders the respondents to 18 with that. 18 comply strictly with each of the elements, terms 19 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Just I -- I 19 and conditions, not of the site plans, but of the 20 -- what I'm aiming at is to -- to have an 20 compliance program and be expressed otherwise under 21 opportunity to look at this reply ahead of the 21 this resolution. 22 hearing. The Board further instructs the planning 23 MR. HARRIS: Fair enough. 23 Staff, and this is where the Staff has failed in 24 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Okay. Okay. 24 this regard, to undertake all reasonable measures 25 That's going to be our updated schedule. The --25 to detect and report to the Board, the respondent's 62 64 1 you were -- you were going to -- so we did have a compliance and non-compliance as applicable as the 2 preliminary issue raised. I do -- with this case may be. There are several other spaces that postponement, I think any of these preliminaries in my exhibit, I have underlined that are pertinent 4 should be briefed and raised, and -- and addressed. to this, but from 2006 present, regardless of 5 MS. PRESLEY: Agree. whether it's been nearly 20 years or how many years THE HEARING EXAMINER: So when we come it's been, there has never been an alteration to back for hearing, we have everything on the same -this resolution as noting that this compliance MS. PRESLEY: I just have like three program is sufficient to remediate legal 9 factual corrections. And -- and these are based in violations, fees and fines that would have 10 -- in many regards. I was a commissioner for eight 10 otherwise been incurred. 11 years on the Planning Board. I was a participant This is a contract with the public 12 at the initial compliance program hearing. I was 12 and it's upheld and should be upheld by the Board 13 the head of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory 13 in its authority. The Staff is a ministerial 14 Committee, which unearthed all the violations that 14 position. And my point is that irrespective of 15 resulted in this. Mr. Harris participated in that 15 what they approved, and I did contest it for this 16 along, with Judge Kerr Howe. 16 particular plan, the Staff never compared that. 17 That aside, I want to correct two things. 17 They simply said we have the authority and the 18 Board has the authority. That's not what we're 18 I think Ms. Powell inadvertently said that Elm 19 Street was owning the project. They did not own 19 here to argue. But the fact that a gas station was 20 the project at that time. Mr. Flanagan purchased 20 penciled in means nothing. 21 it from Newland Communities "for a dollar", 21 In fact, for the next hearing, I would 22 understanding all of these issues. I believe it 22 like to request that we have the presence of Robert 23 was sometime, you can correct me, I think it was 23 Kronenburg and Patrick Butler, both of whom I spoke 24 sometime in 2010. 24 with and -- and was told, and therefore, I don't

25 want it to be hearsay, that they were not at all

25

MR. HARRIS: Okay.

	anuary 23, 2023
65	67
1 approving the gas station. So it is it's	1 there there may be four abutting, three abutting.
2 incorrect to present that as if the Staff expected	2 In the case future, I would
3 it. They knew that the Applicant would be	3 recommend that maybe that get looked at because you
4 providing an application and was trying to get it.	4 have an entire town that's considered to be part
5 And that's all I wanted to make sure was on the	5 and parcel. Pardon the pun.
6 record.	6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I should just
7 THE HEARING EXAMINER: You said for the	7 thank you for the input. The the that
8 next hearing, you are requesting the presence of	8 MS. PRESLEY: Doesn't change the legal
9 of could you give me the names again?	9 (crosstalk).
10 MS. PRESLEY: Yes. Robert Kronenburg,	THE HEARING EXAMINER: It's beyond the
11 who also participated throughout with this	11 scope of
12 compliance program, and Patrick Butler, whom I	MS. PRESLEY: That's fine.
13 believe, and the Applicant can correct can	13 THE HEARING EXAMINER: what the Hearing
14 correct me if I'm wrong, I think he headed this	14 Examiner can do. We certainly can convey you
15 review that went before the Board prior to this.	15 know, when we hear things like that, we can convey
MR. HARRIS: He he's the chief of	16 that to the legislators. And that's a that's
17 that region. Yes.	17 something that has come up.
MS. PRESLEY: So that that those	18 MS. PRESLEY: I understand.
19 were the corrections on that point. The other I	19 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Certainly, council
20 I need clarification because I I'm confused now	20 members would be the ones to engage on on on
21 as to who should receive notice and not from this	21 changing the law. We are kind of bound by you
22 regard. The Town Center is one plot of land, and	22 know, that's what's prescribed in the Zoning Code
23 we all are part of the Clarksburg Town Center Home	23 right now.
24 Association.	24 MS. PRESLEY: Yes. Thank you.
25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I yes. I	25 THE HEARING EXAMINER: With these issues
66	68
1 just want to be clear. So the this is a	1 that have been raised, and I mentioned earlier if
2 Conditional Use Application. I know there's lots	2 effectively, this sounds like a motion to, you
3 of things going on, the plan there are so many	3 know
4 a myriad of other things going on.	4 MS. POWELL: Yes.
5 MC DDECLEY, Come	THE TOWELL TOO.
5 MS. PRESLEY: Sure.	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: In this particular	
	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: In this particular	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I I I I I'm asking that when we not only are you
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: In this particular 7 regard, this is a Conditional Use Application.	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I I 6 I'm asking that when we not only are you 7 should you provide a February 7th expert opinion or
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: In this particular 7 regard, this is a Conditional Use Application. 8 MS. PRESLEY: Yeah.	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I 6 I'm asking that when we not only are you 7 should you provide a February 7th expert opinion or 8 expert submission, but if you could kindly brief
6 THE HEARING EXAMINER: In this particular 7 regard, this is a Conditional Use Application. 8 MS. PRESLEY: Yeah. 9 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So what governs	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I I 6 I'm asking that when we not only are you 7 should you provide a February 7th expert opinion or 8 expert submission, but if you could kindly brief 9 these, you know, I I think I it would be nice
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1 suggestion. And and I'm fine with that. I	1 written submissions.
2 would like to make that earlier than February 7th,	2 MS. POWELL: Madam Examiner, you don't
3 that it's not something that they have to go out	3 need me because I there's there won't be any
4 and hire an expert. They've got all their facts on	4 testimony today, is that correct?
5 this Plan of Compliance at hand. I would say that	5 THE HEARING EXAMINER: No. The hearing
6 they should submit that by next Monday and we'll	6 today is not
7 reply by the end of next week.	7 MR. HARRIS: Right.
8 MS. POWELL: If I may be heard. We are	8 THE HEARING EXAMINER: will will
9 honoring Mr. Harris's vacation. I would like to	9 not take off.
10 honor mine, which is set for January well,	MS. POWELL: Thank you.
11 actually the 25th. And I'm out until next week,	MR. HARRIS: You're welcome.
12 the following week.	THE HEARING EXAMINER: Unless there's
13 THE HEARING EXAMINER: So you you are	13 anything further, I would like to any
14 asking that you're asking	14 anything further? Anyone in the audience need to
MS. POWELL: I I think that the	15 say anything? On Zoom, anyone had anything to add
16 February 7th date is a reasonable date for our	16 on Zoom? No. Okay. In that case, the the
17 submission given my prearranged and prepaid	17 hearing is adjourned to February 20th at 9:30 a.m.
18 vacation plans, and that Mr. Harris's opposition	Off the record at 11:09 a.m.)
19 can be provided on the day that he submits his	19
20 reply.	20
21 MR. HARRIS: How how about February	21
22 3rd? That still is after your vacation.	22
23 THE HEARING EXAMINER: I I I think	23
24 that	24
25 MS. POWELL: Wow.	25
70	72
1 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Sorry, just in the	1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC
2 interest of I think let's that's a that's	2 I, Cody Handlir, the officer before
3 a reasonable request. I think let's the 7th is	3 whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby
4 fine.	4 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing
5 MS. POWELL: Thank you.	5 proceedings were fully sworn; that the proceedings
6 MR. HARRIS: Okay. So they they	6 were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to
7 they brief on the Plan of Compliance?	7 typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that
8 THE HEARING EXAMINER: They brief on the	8 said digital audio recording of said proceedings
9 7th, which is the so we'll get a single	9 are a true and accurate record to the best of my
10 submission, and it's the expert testimony and any	10 knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am
11 brief on this preliminary issue comes in on the	11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by
12 7th. And your opportunity to respond is no later	12 any of the parties to this case and have no
13 than the 18th.	13 interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
14 MS. POWELL: Thank you.	14
15 THE HEARING EXAMINER: And then we	15 Cal Hamelin
16 convene for hearing on the 20th.	16
MS. POWELL: So having said that, would	17 CODY HANDLIR, NOTARY PUBLIC
18 you like to hear the rest of argument or do you	18 FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND
19 want us to just brief it?	19 February 3, 2025
THE HEARING EXAMINER: At this point, I	20
21 think let's brief it.	21
22 MS. POWELL: Sure.	22
23 THE HEARING EXAMINER: Let's brief it	23
24 because we will then it'll be more efficient to	24
25 then convene on the 20th, having received all the	25

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER		
2 I, Karen M. Galvez, do hereby certify		
3 that this transcript was prepared from the digital		
4 audio recording of the foregoing proceeding; that		
5 said proceedings were reduced to typewriting under		
6 my supervision; that said transcript is a true and		
7 accurate record of the proceedings to the best of		
8 my knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am		
9 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by		
10 any of the parties to the case and have no		
11 interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.		
12		
13 Jan M Salver		
14		
15 KAREN M. GALVEZ		
16 PLANET DEPOS, LLC		
17 February 3, 2025		
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