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6	TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD
7	ONE WASHINGTON STREET
8	TOWN HALL PAVILION
9	HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550
10	October 2, 2019
11	10:30 A.M.
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14	BEFORE: LAURA A. GILLEN,
15	SUPERVISOR
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1	APPEARANCES:
2	DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN
3	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY
4	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO
5	COUNCILMAN DUNNE, SR.
6	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA
7	TOWN CLERK CABANA
8	DEPUTY TOWN CLERK SEDACCA
9	TOWN ATTORNEY RA
10	TOWN BOARD COUNSEL REGINA
11	RECEIVER OF TAXES CLAVIN, JR. (ABSENT)
12	MICHELE HANSON, TOWN CLERK OFFICE
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- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, good morning,
- 2 everybody. Before we begin our meeting today, we want
- 3 to note two things: First, it is Councilman Bruce
- 4 Blakeman's birthday, so let's all give Councilman a
- 5 round of applause. Thank you.
- 6 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
- 7 heard. After, the following ensued.)
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Second, also, we begin
- 9 October and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Probably
- 10 everybody here has in someway been touched by breast
- 11 cancer. It's estimated that one in eight women born
- 12 today will be affected by breast cancer at some point in
- 13 their lives.
- 14 Senior Councilwoman Dorothy has been a
- 15 champion for the cause. She has hosted an event here
- 16 for years, and she's hosting another one this year.
- 17 Senior Councilwoman, I'd like you to just
- 18 take a few minutes, if you'd like to, to speak about
- 19 that.
- 20 COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Okay, thank you.
- 21 On the 19th of October, we invite you to
- 22 come. We're celebrating the 17th Annual Breast Cancer
- 23 Forum that we have here at the Town of Hempstead.
- 24 Because with many, many lives, there are people who will
- 25 come, will tell you because of what we've done, their

- 1 lives have been saved. And this time we'll also be
- 2 including men.
- 3 So we have many doctors who are specialists
- 4 in the various positions that they're in, and we'll have
- 5 nurses. We'll have a band. So if you need to have a
- 6 mammogram, all you need to do is make sure to bring a
- 7 prescription with you and you may have it here. So we
- 8 hope to have you here. It's on the 19th, and it starts
- 9 eleven a.m. You're all invited.
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Senior
- 11 Councilwoman, and thank you for all your advocacy in
- 12 this important issue.
- So welcome to this regularly-scheduled Town
- 14 Board meeting. For those of you who have never attended
- 15 a Town Board meeting before, we will first have Public
- 16 Hearings followed by an Administrative Calendar. After
- 17 the Administrative Calendar is concluded, we will remain
- in session and as our tradition for 350 years to hear
- 19 the public on any matters on which they'd like to
- 20 address the Town Board.
- 21 If anybody would like to be heard on any
- 22 matter, there are agendas available in the rear of the
- 23 pavilion. Please fill out a slip indicating the item
- that you would like to be heard on and hand it up to one
- of the Public Safety officers and they'll hand up to me

1	so I can call on you and you may be heard.
2	If you want to be heard on the Public
3	Hearing, please fill out a different slip for each
4	Public Hearing. If you want to be heard on the
5	Administrative Calendar, you can just fill out one slip
6	for the Administrative Calendar and you can indicate the
7	items that you'd like to be heard on.
8	Madame Clerk, would you please call our
9	roll?
10	CLERK CABANA: Yes.
11	Supervisor Gillen?
12	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Here.
13	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
14	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Here.
15	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
16	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye here. Sorry.
17	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
18	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here.
19	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
20	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Here.
21	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
22	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Here.
23	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will now ask

Councilman Blakeman to lead us in the Pledge of

24

25

Allegiance.

- 1 (Whereupon, Councilman Blakeman led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After, the following ensued.) 2 3 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I'm sorry, if I can 4 ask everyone to remain standing. I apologize. Just a moment of silence for NYPD Officer Brian Mulkeen who was murdered, unfortunately, in the line of duty in a 6 terrible accident in the Bronx. He was a member of the Anti-Crime Team. He is without a doubt a hero. And the motto for -- in the NYPD our motto is "Fidelis ad 9 Mortem, " which is "Faithful Unto Death," and he lived 10 that life until his dying breath. So, please, a moment 11 of silence of him. 12 13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: If I may supplement that as well, that same week we lost a deputy sherif here in 14 15 the United Stated, Deputy Sheriff Dhaliwal. He was a trailblazer. He was one of the first Sikh police 16 officers in the United States that actually wore his 17 18 turban on duty. He also was killed in the line of duty. So along with Officer Mulkeen, if you would remember 19 20 Deputy Sheriff Dhaliwal in your prayers today. Thank 21 you.
- (Whereupon, a moment of silence occurred.
- 23 After, the following ensued.)
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: At this time the Town
- 25 Clerk will be delivering a copy of the tentative budget

- 1 to each Town Board member.
- 2 Madame Clerk, would you please take on that
- 3 duty?
- 4 And let the record reflect that I thank
- 5 Averil Smith, my financial advisor and member of the
- 6 Comptroller's office and my Chief of Staff who also
- 7 worked so hard in preparing the 2020 tentative budget
- 8 which delivers a tax cut to our residents. Thank you.
- 9 Thank you, Madame Clerk. Please call our
- 10 first public hearing.
- 11 CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
- 12 "REGULATION AND RESTRICTIONS" to limit parking in
- 13 LAKEVIEW, OCEANSIDE, near ROCKVILLE CENTRE, SOUTH
- 14 HEMPSTEAD, WANTAGH, AND WOODMERE."
- 15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
- on this public hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to
- 17 be heard?
- 18 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
- 19 the following ensued.)
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
- 21 a motion?
- 22 COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that the public
- 23 hearing be closed and that a proposal be dismissed.
- 24 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
- 25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.

1	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
2	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
3	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
4	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
5	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
6	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
7	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
8	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
9	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
10	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
11	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
12	our next public hearing.
13	CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
14	"PARKING OR STANDING PROHIBITIONS" in LAKEVIEW,
15	ROOSEVELT, AND WANTAGH.
16	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
17	on this public hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to
18	be heard?
19	(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
20	the following ensued.)
21	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
22	a motion?
23	COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that the Public
24	Hearing be closed and that this proposal be accepted.

COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Seconded.

1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
2	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
3	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
4	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
5	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
6	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
7	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
8	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
9	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
10	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
11	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
12	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
13	our next Public Hearing.
14	CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
15	"ARTERIAL STOPS" in Elmont and West Hempstead.
16	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
17	on this public hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to
18	be heard?
19	(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
20	the following ensued.)
21	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
22	a motion?
23	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I'd like to move
24	that the motion be closed and the law be adopted.
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1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
2	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
3	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
4	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
5	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
6	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
7	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
8	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
9	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
10	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
11	COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
12	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
13	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
14	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
15	our next Public Hearing.
16	CLERK CABANA: Proposed Local Law Re:
17	"TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS" in
18	SEAFORD.
19	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have slips on
20	this Public Hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to be
21	heard?
22	(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
23	the following ensued.)
24	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
25	a motion?

1	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I propose that this
2	Public Hearing be closed and that the Local Law be
3	adopted.
4	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
5	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
6	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
7	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
8	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
9	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
10	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
11	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
12	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
13	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
14	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
15	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
16	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
17	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
18	our next Public Hearing.
19	CLERK CABANA: To review the recommendation
20	of the Town of Hempstead Landmark Preservation
21	Commission that the "FRANKLIN SQUARE MOVIE THEATER," 989
22	Hempstead Turnpike in FRANKLIN SQUARE, N.Y., be
23	designated as a Historical Landmark.
24	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have a number of
25	slips on this Public Hearing.

1	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Before we hear from
2	the public on that, I believe the terminology should be
3	"adopted recommendations of the Landmark Commission."
4	Counsel, do we need a minute for that? This
5	says "review." We are adopting it.
6	TOWN ATTORNEY RA: We are adopting it. You
7	can say it right now.
8	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I would move to amend
9	the resolution to replace the word "review" with
10	"adopt," "To adopt the recommendation of the Town of
11	Hempstead Landmark Preservation Commission that the
12	'Franklin Square Movie Theater,' 989 Hempstead Turnpike
13	in Franklin Square, New York be designated as a
14	historical landmark."
15	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I second.
16	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second the motion.
17	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, we're
18	voting on the amendment right now.
19	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
20	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
21	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
22	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
23	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
24	COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Aye.
25	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?

1	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
2	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
3	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
4	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
5	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
6	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Wayne Edwards?
7	MR. EDWARDS: Good morning, Supervisor
8	Gillen and members of the Board.
9	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you talk into the
10	mic, please?
11	WAYNE EDWARDS: For the record, my name is
12	Wayne Edwards, Sahn Ward Coschignano, 333 Earle Ovington
13	in Uniondale, New York. I'm the attorney for the
14	property owner located at 989 Hempstead Turnpike in
15	Franklin Square. The property owner is 989 Hempstead
16	Turnpike, LLC.
17	Before I start my presentation, I'd like to
18	request that Councilman Muscarella and Councilman
19	Blakeman recuse themselves. Prior to this hearing, they
20	sent out letters to the Franklin Square community which
21	basically stated that they had already predetermined
22	this case in this matter. In addition, Councilmen
23	Muscarella and Blakeman issued a press release which
24	basically said that they predetermined the case, and I

feel that my client is not going to get a fair

- 1 determination from those two councilmen at this point in
- 2 time.
- 3 So I'd like to submit a copy of the letter
- 4 for the record.
- 5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If I could be heard on
- 6 that, Counselor, we are elected officials and we are
- 7 entitled express an opinion as to legislation. As a
- 8 matter of fact, we propose legislation all the time
- 9 before it's adopted. We support it; we say we're in
- 10 favor of it. That's why we put it on the calendar.
- 11 Here, you have a unanimous petition
- 12 involving a Historical Landmark Commission to make this
- 13 movie theater in Franklin Square a historical landmark.
- 14 I'm proposing that. Councilman Muscarella will second
- 15 that today and we are in favor of it, unless we hear
- 16 something during the hearing that would change our
- 17 judgment and that would make us not do that because
- 18 that's the nature of a Public Hearing. And we have done
- 19 that in the past. We've so supported or not supported
- 20 something and we heard at a Public Hearing something
- 21 that changed our minds, which we have a prerogative to
- 22 do.
- 23 So this is a proposal to put this on the
- 24 calendar. We're not voting on it until we hear from the
- 25 public. We will keep an open mind out. But, yes, we

- 1 are proposing this legislation and it's perfectly
- 2 normal, it's done every day. And it's a nice try,
- 3 Counsel.
- 4 WAYNE EDWARDS: I'll go to my second item.
- 5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Is it as good as the
- 6 first?
- 7 WAYNE EDWARDS: It's better.
- 8 Under Landmark Law, Section -- Chapter 76,
- 9 this Town Board is required to have a hearing ninety
- 10 days from the date of the decision. We sent a letter
- 11 and copied to Joe Ra -- Joseph Ra, County Attorney,
- 12 copied the supervisor, counsel to the Town Board, and to
- 13 Deputy Town Attorney Pitnick and Regina.
- 14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Counselor, I would say
- 15 that I did, in fact, receive your letter, and, in fact,
- 16 when this matter first came up, we noticed that there
- 17 was this ninety-day window. And we spoke to the Town
- 18 Attorney -- actually, we spoke to Counsel for the
- 19 majority about it, and he expressed an opinion that that
- 20 was not germane as to whether or not we could hear this
- 21 matter after the ninety-day period.
- Mr. Ra, I'd just request your opinion on
- 23 this as well, that this is a procedural defect that must
- 24 be corrected or not.
- 25 TOWN ATTORNEY RA: The ninety-day limit that

- 1 you're referring to is directional and not
- 2 jurisdictional, so the hearing can proceed. I'll have
- 3 no further comment on it because I figured there may be
- 4 some litigation here.
- 5 WAYNE EDWARDS: I think you figured right,
- 6 and we think there's two other items in terms of that:
- 7 The Code also says that after the notice of -- the
- 8 notice of decision, it should be sent to the property
- 9 owner and interested parties forthwith. I didn't
- 10 receive -- and I was at the hearing representing my
- 11 client. I did not receive an official copy of this
- 12 until September.
- Now, the word "forthwith" means that
- 14 basically within a time period after that hearing. So
- 15 that's another procedural matter, which I guess at some
- 16 point in time might be litigated. I don't need to have
- 17 an opinion regarding that.
- 18 Obviously, we don't feel it's
- 19 jurisdictional. My office does feel it's jurisdictional
- and that this hearing is being held improperly.
- 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Counselor, are you
- 22 talking about the notice that should been sent by the
- 23 Landmarks Commission?
- 24 WAYNE EDWARDS: Yes. In terms of our
- 25 opinion, the Landmarks Commission has failed my client

- 1 but also failed this Town Board.
- 2 Let's take a look at the notice of decision.
- 3 I assume you each have a copy of it. It's dated
- 4 February 26th. If anybody needs a copy of the decision,
- 5 I have copies for everyone.
- 6 That Landmark Commission after the hearing
- 7 is supposed to give you a recommendation. It should
- 8 give you more than basically saying, in summary, the
- 9 Commission's decision was based on, but not limited to,
- 10 the historical value of the structure known as the
- 11 Franklin Square Movie Theater that was built in the
- 12 early 1900s. The exterior of the theater retains its
- 13 character and design.
- 14 That is basically -- first, it wasn't built
- in the early 1900s. It was built in the mid-1930s. So
- 16 that's incorrect. Second of all, it doesn't give you
- 17 any --
- 18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: The mid-1900s are the
- 19 mid-1930s.
- 20 WAYNE EDWARDS: He said "early 1900s,"
- 21 Councilman.
- 22 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: That's halfway through
- 23 the 1900s.
- 24 WAYNE EDWARDS: I think you know what I
- 25 mean.

- 1 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I don't think --
- 2 WAYNE EDWARDS: Having practiced law with
- 3 you when we were together, I don't think you would have
- 4 written that that way either.
- 5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I think that that's a
- 6 compliment.
- 7 WAYNE EDWARDS: And first of all, happy
- 8 birthday.
- 9 So we presented evidence at that hearing,
- 10 which I'll basically have to present to you today so you
- 11 could make a fair determination, but that this theater
- 12 should not be landmarked.
- In addition, if you look at the decision,
- 14 what are they landmarking? Are they landmarking the
- 15 front exterior, are they landmarking the building? Most
- of the testimony on that date was basically everybody
- 17 loved going to the Franklin Theater, they have a warm
- 18 memory of it, but that doesn't make it landmark.
- 19 I have a lot of warm memories about
- 20 structures and buildings within the Town of Hempstead.
- 21 I lived here all my life, in Nassau County as well, and
- 22 that doesn't make it -- that shouldn't be a reason for
- 23 designating it a landmark.
- 24 My client acquired the property on December
- 25 21st of 2018. He owns the adjoining property which is a

- 1 gym. There's an application to the Town of Hempstead to
- 2 grant that into storage and I think that's the reason,
- 3 that's the impetus for going after this piece of
- 4 property is to try to make him give up that application.
- 5 I went to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The
- 6 Board of Zoning Appeals denied that application. Over
- 7 six months afterwards, we filed an appeal, not of the
- 8 decision but an appeal that would issue a decision. A
- 9 judge in Supreme Court said you're entitled to your
- 10 special use permits, you're entitled to your variances
- 11 for the storage, and that's being appealed by the Town.
- 12 The Town defaulted on the decision. Now
- 13 they're trying to open it up so we can put in a defense.
- 14 As I said to you, the buildings were built around the
- 15 mid-1930s. It was actually a result of a decision by
- 16 the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- 17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I'm sorry, everybody has
- 18 to adhere to the three-minute time limit.
- 19 WAYNE EDWARDS: Supervisor, I'm not going to
- 20 get a chance to put a defense in. Let me submit my
- 21 exhibits and my presentation for the record so that when
- 22 a judge eventually makes a decision, then I guess we'll
- 23 be back here.
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Can you just note for
- 25 the record what you're going to be handing up to us?

- 1 WAYNE EDWARDS: I'm going to be submitting a
- 2 copy of the file from the Board of Zoning Appeals dated
- 3 1933 -- February 18th, 1933 which has the original plans
- 4 for the theater. I was going to note those original
- 5 plans were never built.
- 6 I have current pictures of the exterior and
- 7 interior of the -- of the theater. I have a CO search
- 8 and copies of the certificate section from the Town of
- 9 Hempstead Building Department which shows that since
- 10 1934/'35, the theater has been substantially altered.
- 11 It went from a 955-seat theater to a 6-plex and has been
- 12 under different owners. I have a copies of all of this
- 13 for you.
- SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. You can hand
- 15 it up to Ms. Hanson and give her all the copies and
- 16 she'll distribute them to us.
- 17 WAYNE EDWARDS: I also have from a source
- 18 called "Cinema Treasures," which basically documents all
- 19 the theaters from all over the country, that this
- 20 theater has a history of a theater which is a 955-seat
- 21 theater. Basically, they said there was a neighborhood
- 22 house showing a mix of second runs with occasional first
- 23 runs.
- It actually has a very impressive book
- 25 revenue and the original marquee. That original marquee

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was taken out in 1963 and replaced twice already. it
 1
     was actually a nice marquee. And that's basically it.
 2
 3
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, thank you.
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN:
                                       Thank you.
 4
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Edwards.
                 WAYNE EDWARDS: Also, "L'Shana Tova,"
 6
 7
     October.
 8
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN:
                                       Thank you.
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next we have Margaret
 9
10
    Kelly.
11
12
                 MARGARET KELLY: Good morning.
13
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good morning, Ms. Kelly.
14
                 MARGARET KELLY: My name is Margaret Kelly.
15
     I'm president of the community of Garden City South
16
     Incorporated. I reside in West Hempstead.
17
                 I just listened to the attorney that spoke
18
     in regards to the ownership of the building, and the
19
     first thing that popped into my mind was that he stated
     the interior has changed so much over the years.
20
     far as I understood speaking with the historical -- and
21
22
     doing presentations, the interior of the building has
23
     absolutely nothing to do with "historical."
24
                 So it doesn't matter what that building
25
    becomes as long as the exterior, the Art Deco, remains
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- 1 the same. This is very important to our community as it
- 2 stands out as what our forefathers believed in and what
- 3 they meant for this town to be.
- 4 Most of Franklin Square is historic, and we
- 5 will push in the future to bring either further
- 6 buildings to historical status or possibly even the
- 7 downtown area. It would become absolutely impossible if
- 8 this should not pass.
- 9 I have in front of me from the Town of
- 10 Hempstead, and I made photocopies -- screenshot and
- 11 photocopies. It says, "The conservation, protection,
- 12 and preservation of historical places and sites,
- 13 structures, and buildings are matters of public interest
- in harmony with the comprehensive town plan to promote
- 15 cultural education and to support the civic pride."
- 16 I'm here as a civic leader, and this is part
- 17 of our civic pride. This building in the Town of
- 18 Hempstead -- I'm not going to bore everybody with the
- 19 presentation that you've all had that we presented
- 20 multiple times in front of the committee, but as a
- 21 lifelong resident of Franklin Square, fifty-two years,
- 22 every memory -- every memory of my childhood growing up
- in Franklin Square reflects back to weekends at the
- 24 movie theater with friends, summers at the movie theater
- 25 with friends. That's what we did. We -- we had

- 1 families from when we were young -- families in there.
- 2 To change the structure of this building in
- 3 any way, shape, or form, whether it be a three-story
- 4 building, a parking lot, whatever the proposed plans
- 5 are, would just be devastational (sic) to our community.
- 6 In the event that we do become a revitalized Franklin
- 7 Square, a building of an industrial magnitude rather
- 8 than a commercial magnitude would impact this community
- 9 immensely.
- 10 And happy birthday, Councilman. And just
- one last note: It's my understanding that when we go to
- 12 our councilman for issues that are going on in our
- 13 community, they're either for us or against us, and they
- 14 make it very clear what they stand behind and what they
- 15 don't. They have a stake in the community as well as we
- 16 all do as residents, and we're very happy that our
- 17 councilmen have taken that stance. Thank you.
- 18 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you very much.
- 19 You know, one of the things that we've been trying to
- 20 do, and we haven't been successful yet, is to get some
- 21 landmark designation for Hempstead Turnpike. Some
- 22 people outside of Franklin Square and Elmont don't
- 23 realize that our first president, George Washington,
- 24 actually used Hempstead Turnpike for his tour of
- 25 Long Island. So I would like to see if maybe the Town

- 1 could do that if the State's not going to do that. It's
- 2 a state highway. I think there should be recognition
- 3 that George Washington was actually there.
- 4 MARGARET KELLY: Ironic you should say that,
- 5 because I have been putting together a composite of
- 6 possible historical signs to put along the turnpike in
- 7 the designated areas so that people who enter our town
- 8 actually can see what our history is other than going by
- 9 word of mouth or, you know, from third, fourth
- 10 generations.
- 11 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you.
- 12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Kelly.
- 13 Katherine Tarascio?
- 14 KATHERINE TARASCIO: Good morning, and thank
- 15 you, Supervisor and Council Members, for hearing me
- 16 today. My name is Katherine Tarascio, and I'm from
- 17 Franklin Square. Today, I want to talk a bit about the
- 18 architecture of the Franklin Theater and what makes it
- 19 so significant.
- 20 From its location on Hempstead Turnpike
- 21 nestled in the center of the hamlet's downtown business
- 22 district, this local movie house has served the
- 23 community for over eighty years. But a poor paint job
- 24 partially conceals what makes it so significant. It is
- 25 likely the last Art Deco movie theater left in the Town

- 1 of Hempstead.
- 2 Designation would protect the exterior of
- 3 the Deco theater from insensitive renovations and
- 4 preserve this example of a dwindling genre of buildings
- for hopefully many years to come. In 1925, the sign
- 6 went up on an empty lot on Hempstead Turnpike between
- 7 what is now Franklin Avenue and William Avenue and the
- 8 town that had been on the Long Island map but was
- 9 settled much earlier.
- By the time of the theater's construction in
- 11 1932 to '33, Franklin Square had been busy for a decade
- 12 organizing itself into a proper town. A trolly line
- 13 connected it to the city by 1920. A water district was
- 14 established in 1921. Sanitation and modern streetlights
- 15 appeared in the early '30s, and plots of farmland were
- 16 being sold all along to developers for new homes and new
- 17 schools to accommodate the population zones.
- In the middle of all that was the perfect
- 19 place for a sleek, modern, and up-to-date movie house,
- 20 and that's exactly what Abraham H. Schwartz planned to
- 21 construct. Schwartz had been building theaters since
- 22 the turn of the 20th century and had prided himself on
- 23 constructing theaters that were fireproof, had the
- 24 newest equipment, and were completely modern in design
- 25 and form.

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1
                 In the 1930s he was working with an
     architect named R. Thomas Short who worked for James E.
 2
                   Short was known for designing large ornate
 3
     Ware & Sons.
     apartment buildings in New York City such as Red House,
 4
     Alwyn Court Apartments, the Studio Building, which is
     across the street from American Museum of History, and
 6
     all of these including some of his other works are now
     designated New York City landmarks and are listed on the
 9
     national register. The Franklin Theater ended up being
     slightly less grand than he wished for and Short had
10
     planned for having been constructed during the
11
12
     Depression.
13
                 Despite the property being purchased and
     plans being made as early as 1925, the Franklin Theater
14
15
     did not open until October of 1933. Art Deco itself is
     part of the statement and modernity of projects in this
16
     style while pulling from traditional influences.
17
18
     at first look it is unassuming, the architecture of the
19
     Franklin demonstrates typical small-scale modern Art
     Deco designs. Coming among the -- common among the
20
     genere in 1930 and common on other Art Deco buildings in
21
     the Town of Hempstead.
22
23
                 The angles are streamlined with different
     brickwork which alternates in color and texture and it
24
25
     features --
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- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I'm sorry, we're going
- 2 to have to ask you to wrap up your comments because
- 3 we're keeping everybody a few minutes.
- 4 KATHERINE TARASCIO: I'll continue. The
- 5 lawyer, so I can continued. It's just one more
- 6 paragraph.
- 7 The most lamentable of these changes is the
- 8 removal of the parapet and the removal of its marquee in
- 9 the early '60s. The two-story Franklin is flanked on
- 10 either by postwar single-story storefronts and exists in
- 11 an area in which several other historical buildings have
- 12 been landmarked. These include the Franklin National
- 13 Bank two blocks to the east, the Plattduetsche Home four
- 14 blocks to the west, and the 1925 St. Catherine of Sienna
- 15 Roman Catholic Church.
- Most important, and this is the last thing
- 17 I'm going to say, the significance of the Franklin
- 18 Theater community within the architectural landscape on
- 19 which it sits is the fact that a preliminary survey of
- 20 historic theaters in the Town of Hempstead demonstrates
- 21 that not only is The Franklin one of the few to survive
- 22 a wrecking ball or attempts of renovation by the
- 23 property owners but that it is likely the last Art Deco
- 24 movie theater left standing in the Town of Hempstead.
- Of the thirty-three 1970s historic theaters

- 1 surveyed, eight were demolished, two were still
- 2 operating theaters, one was heavily renovated, and the
- 3 rest were closed, renovated beyond recognition,
- 4 repurposed, or modified for retail. The only Art
- 5 Deco --
- 6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Ms. Tarascio, I'm sorry,
- 7 I did make Mr. Edwards stop. So thank you for your
- 8 extremely thorough presentation and for this handout as
- 9 well.
- 10 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: If I may just -- that
- 11 was very thorough. Thank you very much for that
- 12 history.
- 13 KATHERINE TARASCIO: It's an important asset
- 14 if we lost the theater -- the Town of Hempstead would
- 15 lose an important asset.
- 16 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I grow up two miles
- 17 from that theater. I remember a lot of good times
- 18 there. And, you know, we lost the Argo Theater in
- 19 Elmont, we lost the Valley Stream Theater on Rockaway
- 20 Avenue in Valley Stream, so it would be a shame if we
- 21 lost another theater like that. Thank you for your
- 22 presentation.
- 23 KATHERINE TARASCIO: Thank you for listening
- 24 to me and for letting me go over.
- 25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.

- 1 Now we have Frank Culmone.
- FRANK CULMONE: Good morning.
- 3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good morning.
- 4 FRANK CULMONE: My name is Frank Culmone,
- 5 and I'm the secretary of the Franklin Square Civic
- 6 Association. I don't really need to address Councilman
- 7 Blakeman or Muscarella. I just went to my high school
- 8 fifty reunion, and at that reunion we had many
- 9 constituents that belonged to Anthony D'Esposito,
- 10 Dorothy Goosby, and Mr. Dunne. I have a list of names,
- 11 if you want them. There were over twenty people that
- 12 were at that reunion that support the Franklin Square
- 13 Theater being a landmark as well as other people that
- 14 weren't at the reunion that lived in California,
- 15 Colorado. All went to Sewanhaka. All of us graduated
- 16 '69. All active in the communities we live in.
- We hope that this Town Council, barring any
- 18 other things, votes for landmark status of Franklin
- 19 Square Theater.
- I don't need to take up anymore of your
- 21 time.
- 22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Culmone.
- 23 Sarah Kautz?
- 24 SARAH KAUTZ: Good morning, Supervisor and
- 25 Council Members. My name is Sarah Kautz. I'm the

- 1 preservation director at Preservation Long Island. We
- 2 are a regional nonprofit advocate for historic
- 3 preservation across Long Island, and we wish to submit
- 4 this letter in support of the Landmark Preservation
- 5 Commission's recommendation to designate the theater
- 6 located on Hempstead Turnpike in the heart of Franklin
- 7 Square's historic downtown business district. The
- 8 theater served the community more than eighty years.
- 9 Despite some insensitive alterations, the
- 10 theater's original Art Deco grandeur remains evident,
- 11 and as a tool as Franklin Square resident's sense of
- 12 place is as strong as ever. Opened in 1933 as part of
- 13 the Circuit City (sic) Theater chain. The property is
- 14 architecturally and historically significant as it is
- 15 the last surviving 1930s Art-Deco-style movie theaters
- 16 in the Town of Hempstead.
- 17 Town landmark status would encourage the
- 18 rehabilitation of this unique historic resource which
- 19 has enormous potential to enhance downtown
- 20 revitalization efforts to Franklin Square. We note that
- 21 the award-winning restoration of Suffolk Theater in
- 22 Riverhead, New York has played a key role in the
- 23 revitalization of this surrounding community.
- 24 It also -- it was also built as a Circuit
- 25 City movie house and opened just two months after The

- 1 Franklin in December 1933. Blanket Sister Theaters
- 2 (phonetic) wrote that The Franklin is worthy of local
- 3 landmark status and preservation as one of Long Island's
- 4 few historic theaters to survive that extensive
- 5 alteration.
- 6 We applaud the Commission's recommendation
- 7 to designate the theater as a landmark, and we encourage
- 8 you to vote in support of that designation. We also
- 9 encourage the property owners to consider nominating the
- 10 property for listing on the national and state registers
- of historic places which would open doors to potential
- 12 grant opportunities and other financial incentives in
- 13 support of rehabilitating this land.
- 14 Thank you very much. I am submitting a copy
- 15 of the letter.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you very much.
- 17 Eleanor Kuna?
- 18 ELEANOR KUNA: I'd just like to mention the
- 19 fact that many of my neighbors did not receive this
- 20 letter that they said they sent out. I only got the one
- in August, and I called in September to find out it was
- 22 rescheduled for October. But if I hadn't called, I
- 23 wouldn't be here, and I feel it's unfair that many of
- 24 the residents that I did call that I have friends of,
- 25 they did not receive it. So I don't know how to get the

- 1 word out, but everybody that spoke belongs to a
- 2 historical society or some other organization and not
- 3 just a resident.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you in support of
- 5 landmark status?
- 6 ELEANOR KUNA: I am for it.
- 7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I'm sorry, I don't think
- 8 you stated your name and address for the record.
- 9 ELEANOR KUNA: Eleanor Kuna, and my address
- 10 is 334 Roxbury Road South, Garden City South.
- 11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 12 ELEANOR KUNA: I'm sorry mine was short.
- 13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That's okay. You did
- 14 very well. Thank you.
- Janet Brosia Lee?
- JANET LEE: I'm sorry, I pass.
- 17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: William Youngfert.
- 18 WILLIAM YOUNGFERT: Good morning. William
- 19 Youngfert, 258 Roosevelt Avenue, Franklin Square,
- 20 New York.
- 21 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Good morning.
- THE WITNESS: I have no prepared statement
- 23 today. I just come as the president of the Franklin
- 24 Square Library Board, fourth vice president of Franklin
- 25 Square Chamber, and past president of the Civic

- 1 Association.
- We see the landmark as a first step in a
- 3 long overdue revitalization of Franklin Square. If
- 4 you've been to Westbury and Port Washington and
- 5 Patchogue, you see how the theater is the center of the
- 6 town revitalization and the businesses approach, so
- 7 that's what we want to do in Franklin Square. We have
- 8 the hub happening in Elmont and now we need to address
- 9 the towns in between and we feel this landmark status
- 10 would help make the first step in a long overdue
- 11 revitalization of the town. We obviously love this
- 12 theater, and we appreciate your support for this
- 13 resolution today. Thank you.
- 14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thanks, Bill.
- 15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Youngfert.
- 17 William Muller?
- 18 WILLIAM MULLER: Hi, I come here as a member
- 19 of the Landmark Preservation Committee. First of all, I
- 20 want to say Ms. Tarascio, she would be an expert in
- 21 court. She has a degree. She has a master's in
- 22 historical archaeology. She worked for the State of
- 23 Massachusetts on historical archaeology. She works for
- 24 the Museum of Natural History, and I hope that you read
- 25 her application and make that a part of the record here,

- 1 because she's impressive when she's talking to us as
- 2 well.
- Wayne Edwards is a lawyer who I respect
- 4 greatly. I did not know of an Article 78 proceeding. I
- 5 did not know of any Board of Zoning Appeals hearing. We
- 6 did not communicate with the Supervisor's Office or the
- 7 Town Board. The only thing that we do do is, and the
- 8 Supervisor and Council from the area may have addressed
- 9 this question, we've always asked our liaison in the
- 10 Building Department to ensure that all their counselors
- 11 are aware of the application so that they can address it
- 12 if they get questions about it so they're not
- 13 blind-sided.
- 14 My decision, and I think everybody else's
- decision based on my conversations with Board Members,
- 16 all which were held in public, is whether or not this
- 17 landmark was culturally, historically significant. It
- 18 was. The Franklin Theater which is located on Hempstead
- 19 Turnpike is in Downtown Franklin Square and was
- 20 constructed in 1930s, open for 1933. The building was
- 21 designed and constructed in the Art Deco style you heard
- 22 described by Ms. Kelly. It's streamlined with an
- 23 minimal ornamentalism and pure expression of the
- 24 architecture of the 1920s and the 1930s.
- I don't know if there's anywhere else on

- 1 Long Island let alone in the Town of Hempstead. I just
- 2 want to make clear in our hearing is the Board of
- 3 Landmark Commission cannot go to use. Our designation
- 4 is whether or not that marquee and the architecture at
- 5 that location is historically significant, not whether
- 6 it should be theater or not that's beyond what we can
- 7 do. Our jurisdiction is whether that marquee is
- 8 historically significant.
- 9 I think by the record that was created at
- 10 our Landmark Preservation Committee hearing, I think it
- 11 was held twice. Based on the application that was
- 12 submitted to Ms. Kelly and that application submitted as
- 13 well, I think it clearly is historically significant.
- I think I still have thirty-one seconds.
- 15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I just want to ask a
- 16 question for clarification, if you don't mind.
- 17 WILLIAM MULLER: Sure.
- 18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Edwards expressed
- 19 there was some ambiguity about what your recommendation
- 20 was, whether it was the sign, the building, the
- 21 structure. If you could just provide an a little
- 22 clarity.
- 23 WILLIAM MULLER: Sure. The way we interpret
- 24 this action -- again, we can make a recommendation. I
- 25 know I only have twenty-seven seconds.

- 1 So I just want to be clear, anyone can make
- 2 a recommendation to the Landmark Preservation Committee.
- 3 Comes to anybody can make an application to the Landmark
- 4 Preservation Committee. If we accept it, they go to the
- 5 Town Board. If we reject it, they have to appeal to the
- 6 Town Board.
- 7 This body up here is the last recommendation
- 8 for the determination as to whether something is a
- 9 landmark or not a landmark. However, the way I
- 10 interpret this charter and the way everybody else
- 11 interprets the -- not charter I'm still in the -- the
- 12 Code is whether or not that structure is -- is -- is
- 13 architecturally, historically, culturally significance
- 14 that it should be protected. And -- and, again, you'll
- 15 make that decision and the final determination of what
- 16 it is, but to this Board of Landmark Preservation
- 17 Committee, it was clearly, clearly culturally,
- 18 historically, and architecturally significant.
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Muller.
- 20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: In the interest of
- 21 transparency, Mr. Muller's mother was my assistant for a
- 22 few years and she retired last year.
- How's your mom doing?
- 24 WILLIAM MULLER: Actually, she's going
- 25 through another procedure today, so if everybody could

- 1 say a prayer.
- 2 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We hope that she will
- 3 be fine. Lovely woman who served the Town very, very
- 4 well.
- 5 WILLIAM MULLER: I agree. Thank you.
- 6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Is there anybody else
- 7 who'd like to be heard on this Public Hearing?
- 8 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
- 9 the following ensued.)
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
- 11 a motion?
- 12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, it is my
- 13 pleasure to move that the Public Hearing be closed and
- 14 that the recommendations of the Town of Hempstead
- 15 Historical Committee be adopted to create historical
- 16 status for the Franklin Square Movie Theater on
- 17 Hempstead Turnpike.
- 18 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I second that
- 19 motion.
- 20 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
- 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I will say with the
- 22 recommendation of our Town Counsel that the ninety-day
- 23 window is not a procedural defect to us hearing this
- 24 application and that I don't think there's anything
- 25 arbitrary or confusing about any of it in reviewing this

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application. So I will proceed to go ahead and do so.
 1
 2
                 I think the residents who have been heard
 3
     from today as well as the representatives from the
     Landmarks Commission have made a very compelling
 4
     presentation. I have reviewed these materials before
 6
     that were handed up because they were sent to me. And I
     think it's very important for us to preserve the
     community that makes people want to live in the Town of
 8
 9
     Hempstead and I wholeheartedly support this application.
                                Councilman Blakeman?
10
                 CLERK CABANA:
11
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN:
                                       Aye.
12
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
13
                 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO:
                                          Aye.
14
                                Councilman Dunne?
                 CLERK CABANA:
15
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    Aye.
16
                 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
17
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY:
18
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
19
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA:
                                         Aye.
20
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madame Clerk, please
     call our next Public Hearing.
21
                 CLERK CABANA: To review the recommendation
22
23
     of the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Commission --
24
                 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
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heard. After, the following ensued.)

- 1 CLERK CABANA: To review the recommendation
- 2 of the Town of Hempstead's Landmark Preservation
- 3 Commission that St. Matthias Church, 2856 Jerusalem
- 4 Avenue, Wantagh, New York be designated as a historical
- 5 landmark.
- 6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, I have a number of
- 7 slips on this public hearing.
- 8 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I'll make the
- 9 motion that we change from "review" to "adopt" on the
- 10 recommendation that the Town of Hempstead's Landmark
- 11 Preservation Commission that the St. Matthias Church,
- 12 2856 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, New York, be designated
- 13 as a historical landmark.
- 14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay. Madame Clerk, we
- 15 have an amendment to change the language in the
- 16 resolution from "review" to "adopt." Madam Clerk,
- 17 please call the roll.
- 18 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
- 20 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
- 21 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
- 22 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
- 23 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
- 24 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
- 25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

- 1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
- 2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
- 3 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
- 4 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
- 5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we have a number
- 6 slips on this Public Hearing. We'll bring back
- 7 Mr. Muller from the Landmark Preservation Committee
- 8 first.
- 9 WILLIAM MULLER: Thank you.
- 10 St. Matthias Church is well over a century
- 11 old. It dates back to 1904. It's a distinct.
- 12 St. Matthias remains on its original site and overall it
- 13 exhibits surprisingly good structural integrity. It's
- one of the very few such churches of its style remaining
- 15 within the Town of Hempstead.
- 16 St. Matthias Church housed an
- 17 African-American congregation for most of its existence.
- 18 The religious denominations which gathers there varied
- 19 over time, yet most of the congregants in the 20th
- 20 century had their family roots in this historic
- 21 African-American community called "the Brush" which was
- 22 principally located in Wantagh.
- This community, which no longer exists in
- 24 the area, is well documented and is of great historical
- 25 and cultural significance not only to Wantagh but to

- 1 entire town. Whatever has been said about
- 2 St. Matthias's age or denomination or affiliation, it
- 3 served the people of the Brush, and so it's one of the
- 4 small number of surviving African-American sites of this
- 5 kind. And not even on the Town of Hempstead, on
- 6 Long Island. There's nothing on Long Island that
- 7 matches what is at the Brush.
- 8 It is architecturally and culturally
- 9 significant. The Landmark Commissioners have
- 10 recommended that the Town Board designate St. Matthias a
- 11 Town landmark. Let me just say this, also: One of
- 12 things you review is architect of the site. Before that
- 13 church when there was a fire, there was a Brush in the
- 14 congregation from decades prior to the structure that's
- 15 there now, okay. There is nothing like it. This should
- 16 be on a federal registry, not just the Town of Hempstead
- 17 booklet.
- 18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can we have Josh, being
- 19 that he's the applicant and part of the Preservation
- 20 Commission, so we can ask a few questions?
- 21 WILLIAM MULLER: No. The reason I want to
- 22 say that is that this was -- if you remember the last
- 23 one, that you can actually -- anybody in the Town of
- 24 Hempstead has stated to bring an application. Josh
- 25 Soren is on the Landmark Preservation Committee, so we

- 1 would not let him participate in the hearing.
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE: That's fine. You can
- 3 answer the question.
- 4 WILLIAM MULLER: I don't want to -- I don't
- 5 want to intertwine Josh Soren's role as local historian
- 6 with Josh Soren's role on the Landmark Preservation
- 7 Committee.
- 8 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Fine, fine.
- 9 WILLIAM MULLER: Also, Wantagh has a
- 10 tremendous historical society, and they have come to
- 11 this. One other thing, also, in the last forty seconds,
- 12 I just want to point to the Landmark Preservation
- 13 Committee has rejected applications. We look at every
- 14 application in the merit of that application. It's not
- 15 just like, "okay, you know what, it's significant.
- 16 We'll just pass it along." We've actually rejected
- 17 applications because they were not historically
- 18 significant. Actually, one in Wantagh.
- So, again, this one I -- I don't know of an
- 20 African-American site on Long Island that has this
- 21 historical significance.
- 22 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Question number one, I
- 23 want to make sure I do my due diligence: The ninety-day
- 24 hearing before it was complied with, right, the
- 25 ninety-day?

- 1 WILLIAM MULLER: So one of the things about
- 2 it is that I don't know, but one of the --
- 3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It was in February, so
- 4 it's more than ninety days.
- 5 WILLIAM MULLER: More than ninety days. I
- 6 believe we did a hearing, it wasn't heard in time, so we
- 7 did it again and so it's back again. One of the
- 8 things --
- 9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Here's another question,
- 10 just answer it.
- 11 WILLIAM MULLER: Sorry.
- 12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Is it the building or the
- 13 exterior or the use of all of the above that you want to
- 14 make historical?
- 15 WILLIAM MULLER: Yes, so -- so one of the
- 16 things about it is, again, and I said this with -- it
- 17 was a church that for all this time we can designate it
- 18 historical as a landmark. We recommend to you and you
- 19 designate it. That could be something else. We can't
- 20 require it to be a -- a church in perpetuity. The Town
- 21 Board I don't think can do it. The architecture to me,
- 22 I think it's clearly culturally significant.
- 23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Okay, the next question:
- 24 Arlo Guthrie's Alice's Restaurant, but you know -- I
- 25 don't know if you're too young to remember Alice's

- 1 Restaurant, but every Thanksgiving they play it and it's
- 2 a great song. But the thing is the historical part of
- 3 it is I understand that before it was burnt down and
- 4 then replaced in 1901, it was a part of the Underground
- 5 Railroad which gives it an incredible historical
- 6 background. I read -- there's a couple of people
- 7 submitted who submitted information about that.
- 8 WILLIAM MULLER: Right.
- 9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: If, in fact, that's true,
- 10 this country has been getting rid of and voting
- 11 historical features everywhere and anywhere in our
- 12 country. This is something that should be held up.
- 13 Even though it was rebuilt after the fire in 1901, I
- 14 think it holds historical value.
- 15 The upkeep is going to be done by -- do you
- 16 know who?
- 17 WILLIAM MULLER: It's owned by the
- 18 Episcopalian Church. One of the reasons why -- I think
- 19 they are speaking after me -- the property is opposed to
- 20 us because they want to sell the property.
- 21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: And the reason why people
- 22 want to take it down is to sell the property and put it
- 23 on the tax rolls, right? It's not on the tax rolls if
- 24 we make it a historical site, correct?
- 25 WILLIAM MULLER: I don't know what the

- 1 immediate use would be.
- 2 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Just as hearsay.
- 3 WILLIAM MULLER: The problem is that the
- 4 property is very large, it's a tremendous piece of
- 5 property, and the church probably -- that structure sits
- 6 in a spot of the property that's kind of -- it doesn't
- 7 maximize the property. So I would assume that a
- 8 homeowner or a new owner is going to want to -- I
- 9 shouldn't say what they want to do, but that it's an
- 10 inconvenient spot for maximizing the value of that
- 11 property.
- 12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The other one we just did
- 13 was 1933. This is 1901. It really predates the other
- one we just passed, so that gives you a tremendous leg
- 15 up.
- I did have some other questions, but you
- 17 know what, the recommendation of your Committee after
- 18 having the hearing in February, February 26th to give an
- 19 exact date, the Historical Board of Landmark Status is
- 20 limited to the architectural and historical value of the
- 21 structure.
- It was -- it just has a better feeling than
- 23 the one we just passed. The African-American children
- 24 in our area and in the Town of Hempstead deserve to have
- 25 their history preserved, just like any other area that

- 1 we're doing historical preservation.
- 2 So I'm in favor of making this happen. It's
- 3 been a real tug of war in Wantagh. People want to make
- 4 a 7-Eleven there or put something else there. You know
- 5 what, this is a beautiful site. I drive by it and say,
- 6 "You know what, we should keep that." Why wouldn't you
- 7 do it? What are you doing, giving away all our
- 8 treasures? This is a treasure for Wantagh, and the
- 9 people of Wantagh deserve to have something.
- 10 We have a railroad station there in Wantagh.
- 11 We preserved that. So why not preserve the churches,
- 12 too? And this one does have historical value. So I
- just wanted you to know that in my eyes, hearing the tug
- of war with the people wanting to make money on the land
- and people wanting to make sure we preserve our history
- 16 culturally and historically and architecturally, I do
- 17 believe that I'm asking my colleagues to go with me and
- 18 adopt this.
- 19 WILLIAM MULLER: Can I say -- I know my
- 20 three minutes are up. I just want to say one thing: We
- 21 did not base that decision on the fact that they -- that
- 22 they would we tear down the property, stuff like that.
- 23 Our decision was based on whether or not it was
- 24 historically and culturally significant. Not want they
- 25 turn into the property; that would be improper. It was

- 1 whether that -- answering that particular question.
- I will say one other thing. I'll leave on
- 3 this note: We need another person on the Landmark
- 4 Preservation Committee. It is -- it is four Caucasian
- 5 middle-aged men. I'm forty-seven, but I consider myself
- 6 middle-aged. There's an opening on that board. We
- 7 should have diversity on that board, and I think that it
- 8 will be something that would behoove all of us to think
- 9 about.
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Muller.
- 11 Can I ask one question? And then you can ask a
- 12 question, if you have any.
- I just wanted to get a point of
- 14 clarification of what was said by the Councilman: Was
- 15 this a stop on the Underground Railroad or you're not
- 16 sure?
- 17 WILLIAM MULLER: Well, there was testimony
- 18 there on the historians. One is a hugely historical --
- 19 a huge historical society, and there was testimony that
- 20 it was prior to this a stop on the Underground Railroad
- 21 going through because it was the only really
- 22 African-American church of that size at that time.
- 23 However, there was a fire, it did burn down.
- 24 There was no Underground Railroad in 1904 when this
- 25 structure was there. So, again, I think when I would

- 1 say the Underground Railroad was there, I think that
- 2 goes to the cultural significance of the location and
- 3 also to the -- to what I think the Councilwoman was
- 4 saying is that there -- there is no church of this type
- 5 that -- in the Town of Hempstead. There just isn't.
- 6 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: May I ask a
- 7 question?
- WILLIAM MULLER: Sure.
- 9 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I know there
- 10 are graves of children and men and woman that were
- 11 buried in Wantagh as well, and I know that there was a
- 12 group that wanted to purchase that land, you know, to
- 13 build homes. But this Board decided it was not going to
- 14 happen so they can't use it. Is there anyplace near
- 15 this church?
- 16 WILLIAM MULLER: I think Josh Soren is here,
- 17 and, again, he'll speak on that. I think there was
- 18 testimony to that, but I did say it did -- the decision
- 19 that was made was on that location. But you are -- you
- 20 are -- you are correct.
- I just have to tell you, the people coming
- 22 behind us, I know they have three minutes, each one of
- 23 them would be deemed an expert in a court of law. They
- 24 have degrees, and they have expertise that goes way
- 25 beyond me.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Muller.
- 2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: And I know that
- 3 there are churches that are gorgeous, and they really
- 4 want it saved because so many of them are here today.
- 5 And that's throughout the Town of Hempstead that we have
- 6 churches there.
- 7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sarah Kautz?
- 8 SARAH KAUTZ: Good morning, everyone. Sarah
- 9 Kautz, Preservation Long Island. We'll submit our
- 10 letter (handing). And, again, we would support the
- 11 designation -- the recommendation to designate.
- During May of 2019, the New York State
- 13 Historical Preservation Office determined that
- 14 St. Matthias Church is eligible for listing on the
- 15 National Register of Historic Places, and I have
- 16 included a copy of that determination with the letter.
- 17 They say that it is architecturally significant and is a
- 18 fantastic example of a shingle-style ecclesiastical
- 19 structure of modern scale.
- It also determined that the property is
- 21 significant for social and ethnic history that
- 22 originally was constructed in 1904 to serve as a
- 23 historical community of color known as "the Brush." We
- 24 note that St. Matthias is one of the few remaining
- 25 buildings with direct ties to the Brush.

We're attentive to the burden of 1 2 redevelopment during the 1920s and the postwar housing 3 boom displaced many residents and destroyed many of the 4 community's distinctive older properties. The church is a rare survivor that preserves the historical character of the Brush. Surrounded by mature trees and generous 6 yards, the property embodies the distinctive heritage of the Brush community as well as popular architectural 8 9 styles and rural character of Long Island during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. 10 Unfortunately, significant structures 11 located within historical communities of color across 12 13 Long Island including this church are at disproportionately high risks of demolish or insensitive 14 15 redevelopment. The relative lack of local landmark designations for sites -- for these sites is a key risk 16 17 factor that other municipalities have sought to address. 18 For example, following a series of teardowns in the early 2000s, the Town of Brookhaven designated 19 20 the ethnically-developed Bethel-Christian Avenue-Laurel Hill neighborhood of Setauket as a local historic 21 district in 2005. It is also on the National Register 22 23 of Historic Places. Similar to the Brush in Hempstead, Setauket 24 25 was settled during the early 1800s by African-Americans

- 1 and Native Americans. The Brookhaven Town's landmark
- 2 designation has greatly reduced the loss of
- 3 irreplaceable destroyed property in this unique
- 4 neighborhood. Likewise, the Town's designation would
- 5 help protect St. Matthias Church from potential
- 6 demolition or insensitive redevelopment.
- We encourage you to vote for this
- 8 designation. We also encourage the property owners to
- 9 consider nominating the property for national and state
- 10 registers, which would open doors to potential ground
- 11 grant opportunities and other financial incentives in
- 12 support of preserving the site.
- 13 Thank you very much.
- 14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.
- 15 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Thank you.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Gary Hammond?
- GARY HAMMOND: Good morning, my name is Gary
- 18 Hammond. I live at 1421 Lakeside Drive in Wantagh. We
- 19 live in walking distance of St. Matthias, and I drive by
- 20 there every day.
- 21 Prior to my retirement I worked for
- 22 thirty-eight years with the Nassau County Department of
- 23 Recreation and Parks in the Division of Museum Services.
- 24 I retired as a museum registrar, responsible for the
- 25 entire museum's collection of half a million items.

- I had previously spoke at the last three
- 2 Historical Commission meetings concerning St. Matthias,
- 3 and I'm in favor of it. And to support that, I gave a
- 4 twenty-nine-page research report which I submitted to
- 5 the Commission, also, documenting the history of the
- 6 African-American population in the Brush and Wantagh and
- 7 also specifically St. Matthias.
- 8 It's important because, to even quote from
- 9 the actual records of the Diocese, it's one of the
- 10 last -- actually only the first three surviving
- 11 Episcopal churches for African-Americans in Queens and
- 12 Nassau that were not built by the Episcopal Church
- 13 itself. It took the place of the prior African-American
- 14 Methodist Episcopal Church that was destroyed by fire
- 15 sometime between the 1890s and 1907.
- 16 This building served the community -- the
- 17 African-American community for 114 years, although an
- 18 Episcopal Diocese congregation already had been meeting
- 19 by 1902. And it survives unaltered with the example of
- 20 shingle-style architecture.
- 21 The local community is heavily Quaker. So
- 22 the 1830s, even though we can't document any connection
- 23 to the Underground Railroad, we knew the Quakers had a
- 24 school specifically for African-American children. They
- 25 contributed to the population there. And it wasn't

- 1 three African-Americans in the Brush, which is very
- 2 important. You know, representation, all Nassau County
- 3 exists like this, and today, it's really an oasis.
- 4 This is the third -- actually three times
- 5 before this the Diocese attempted to sell the property
- 6 and demolish the building back in 1927 through 1963 and
- 7 again in 1967. So this wasn't the first war or bout
- 8 this church has had to fight -- fought to save it by the
- 9 community.
- 10 Fifty-two years ago, Newsday stated that
- 11 St. Matthias Episcopal Church is a historical church
- 12 fighting with an unhappy ending. It further states that
- 13 it was, "A snug little wood structure, white and brown
- 14 fabric, historic steeple, flanked with windows, and a
- 15 gleaming interior of pine handling five old beams."
- It's the same church today. Fifty-two years
- 17 later, it's the same building. I want to say in 1902,
- 18 they had to do nothing to support the colored people in
- 19 the County, and this is their act to preserve and,
- 20 again, for African-Americans involved in the community
- 21 and the Episcopal Church.
- 22 By landmarking the structure, the Town of
- 23 Hempstead will help in the rediscovery and preservation
- 24 in support and part of African-American and local
- 25 history which helps to document Long Island's role in

- 1 abolishing slavery and creating free black communities.
- 1've prepared a five-minute talk, so that's
- 3 why I didn't -- I abbreviated it. So thank you.
- 4 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Can you supply me with
- 5 that twenty-nine-page research that you did?
- 6 WILLIAM MULLER: (Handing.)
- 7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you so much.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Josh Soren?
- JOSHUA SOREN: Good morning, Supervisor and
- 10 Council Members. I am Joshua Soren. Let me put my
- 11 glasses on.
- Okay, I am Joshua Soren. I am the applicant
- 13 for the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Preservation
- 14 Commission to recommend to the Town of Hempstead Town
- 15 Board landmark status for St. Matthias Episcopal Church,
- 16 2856 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh.
- 17 I reside at 34 Return Lane, Levittown,
- 18 New York 11756. I've lived there sixty-one years. I am
- 19 also one of the Landmarks Commissioners for twenty-three
- 20 years.
- 21 As the Landmarks Commissioner, I -- in
- 22 parentheses "we" -- always keep our eyes open for
- 23 potential sites for landmarking. St. Matthias has been
- 24 a long time on my wish list as well as some of my
- 25 colleagues on the Commission. For a long time I have

- 1 been hoping that someone or an organization would submit
- 2 an application for this site. When it was placed on the
- 3 market and the real estate was placed on the -- and
- 4 erected on the property, I immediately submitted this
- 5 application on June 14th, 2018.
- To understand the importance of
- 7 St. Matthias, I had to go further back into the history
- 8 of the surrounding area. Located near today's
- 9 Wantagh/Bellmore boarder was a loosely-bounded area
- 10 along Old Mill Road and Oakfield Avenue known as "the
- 11 Brush, " named after the landscape of the area. The
- 12 inhabits of the Brush were mostly of African-American
- 13 decent, going back several generations with ancestors
- 14 freed slaves and given land mostly by the Jackson and
- 15 Valentine families, prominent landowners at the time.
- 16 The Brush settlement thrived, intermingling with the
- 17 communities and also developing a AME, African Methodist
- 18 Episcopal Church circa 1845 on Oakfield Avenue and a
- 19 school nearby.
- The Town of Hempstead has landmarked three
- 21 other sites that are related to this formal Brush area:
- 22 The Lawrence House located on Old Mill Road and Wilson
- 23 Avenue, home to three generations of a family of
- 24 African-American since; the Harold Avenue Cemetery circa
- 25 1808 where some of the earliest inhabitants of the Brush

- 1 were interred; and the old burial ground, 1851, also
- 2 known as St. Matthias Cemetery located on Oakfield
- 3 Avenue. This last site was where the first AME church
- 4 was built circa 1845. The predecessor --
- 5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you could just wrap
- 6 up your comments, we're really trying to stick to the
- 7 three-minute rule. I'd appreciate it.
- 8 JOSHUA SOREN: Well, I was going to get to
- 9 the actual history of the church.
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you'd like to hand
- 11 that up, you can give that to Ms. Hanson.
- 12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I have just a few
- 13 questions for you, this way -- now, Seaford has a
- 14 historical society, and they have a building right by
- 15 the fire department in Seaford Harbor. And is that as
- 16 old as this building?
- JOSHUA SOREN: This building is from --
- 18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Way before. So that's
- 19 one.
- The second comparison, the Wantagh train on
- 21 Wantagh Avenue, that's Preservation, also, and I think
- 22 you were on that committee, also. That car in Wantagh,
- 23 they preserved that and that's not older than this.
- JOSHUA SOREN: The railroad car is 1912.
- 25 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Okay. The next thing is

- 1 Hicksville. My friend, Ken Henry, who went to Hofstra
- 2 with me was the attorney for their historical society,
- 3 and they have a building by the railroad in Hicksville.
- 4 That's not as old as this building?
- JOSHUA SOREN: No.
- 6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The Jackson family is
- 7 very historical, and the grave site -- the graveyard,
- 8 when I was in the Veteran Service Agency back in the
- 9 late '70s, they asked me to check out that to see if
- 10 there was any veterans there and there was slaves were
- 11 buried in that graveyard. And they were laying down and
- 12 scouts came and they cleaned it up, tried to make it --
- 13 you can see it's a historical site.
- 14 This is all part of that historical site.
- 15 So you agree with that?
- JOSHUA SOREN: Yeah.
- 17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The only one question I
- 18 had is this: The Building Department usually tears down
- 19 new houses that are infested with, you know, rats and
- 20 kids that go drinking there because they're not going
- 21 to -- this doesn't happen in this building, correct?
- JOSHUA SOREN: No.
- 23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Okay. Then I have no
- 24 problem at all. Thank you, Josh.
- JOSHUA SOREN: May I just add some of the

- 1 letters of support from our State Assemblyman, David
- 2 McKenna.
- 3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sure. You can hand
- 4 those up, and you can tell us right now you're handing
- 5 us letters of support from the people that you're
- 6 handing them out from.
- 7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: We'll make copies.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: If you want to state for
- 9 the record that you have letters of support from whoever
- 10 it is, you can do now.
- JOSHUA SOREN: I believe these were all
- 12 presented to...
- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Excuse me, we
- 14 have a lot of members here from the community and that
- 15 church that would like to speak.
- JOSHUA SOREN: Okay.
- 17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next we have Christian
- 18 Browne.
- 19 CHRISTIAN BROWNE: Good morning, Supervisor
- 20 and Members. Christian Browne, Sahn Ward Coschignano,
- 21 PLLC, 333 Earle Ovington, Suite 601, Uniondale. I'm
- 22 appearing for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island which
- 23 owns the property. I know we only have a limited time.
- 24 First of all, the Diocese opposes the
- 25 landmark status. I also want to point out the last

- 1 application, this application, in my opinion, suffers
- 2 from the same procedural defect that a hearing was not
- 3 held within ninety days. I understand we have a
- 4 difference of opinion whether that is a jurisdictional
- 5 defect.
- I would just read to you one sentence: "If
- 7 the Commission approves an application, the Town Board
- 8 shall call a Public Hearing within ninety days of the
- 9 date of the approval pursuant to Section D of this
- 10 section." It says you "shall" do that, so I'm not -- I
- 11 don't understand the opinion that was given earlier, so
- 12 I note that for the record.
- I'll also note for the record that after my
- offices reviewed the file, it does not appear that the
- 15 required notification mailing was done to the 200-foot
- 16 radius. I don't know whether that's true, I don't know
- if there's an affidavit mailed somewhere else, but I'd
- 18 ask the Board to attend to that. If the mailing was not
- done, then I think it's undisputed and it's a defective
- 20 procedure.
- 21 Briefly to the merits, I gave Ms. Hanson an
- 22 exhibit. There's some confusion and conflation going on
- 23 here. The church that's been referred to as this
- 24 historic African-American church is not this church,
- 25 it's not this site. There was another site shown on the

- 1 map about a half a mile away where there was an
- 2 African-American Methodist -- an AME congregation, not
- 3 an Episcopal congregation. It later became a Baptist
- 4 congregation, apparently, dating from the 1840s. That
- 5 church burnt down in the 1890s at a different site. So
- 6 whether that other site had historic significance near
- 7 Oakfield Cemetery, whether it was affiliated with the
- 8 Underground Railroad, I don't know. But it's not that
- 9 site, it's not this church. That was a different
- 10 congregation.
- 11 This church was erected, as we've said, in
- 12 the early 1900s, and, yes, it probably did serve a
- 13 predominantly-African-American population. There are at
- 14 least eight Episcopal Churches on Long Island that
- 15 served predominantly-African-American communities. So
- 16 it's not unique in that sense in any regard.
- 17 It has struggled as a parish, as a church,
- 18 since at least the 1940s. The Episcopal Diocese first
- 19 tried to close it in 1942. It was never erected
- 20 canonically as an Episcopal parish, meaning it was a
- 21 mission church that could not support itself financially
- 22 and it was never able to support itself financially.
- It remained in that position from the '40s
- through the '60s, and someone else mentioned there was
- 25 another ballot to close it, okay. After 1976, the

- 1 Episcopal Church stopped sending priests, so it was
- 2 essentially left on its own. In the last forty years,
- 3 it has had ten congregations, the last two of whom have
- 4 failed and then left the church and forced them to have
- 5 to evict people. There is no congregation here, whether
- 6 there was years ago, black, white, it doesn't exist
- 7 anymore. And what you're going to do by landmarking
- 8 this, because unlike, say, the movie theater which was
- 9 inside, if you preserve this, this is a church and the
- 10 Episcopal Diocese will have to maintain this church with
- 11 no congregation in perpetuity. Because you really can't
- 12 repurpose a church. Some representatives of the Diocese
- 13 will speak in the moment.
- 14 My final point is, and I don't think this is
- 15 disputed, it has no architectural adornment or any sort
- 16 of unique style. It is a plain white building. It
- 17 doesn't even have stained-glass windows.
- 18 When I mentioned that to the Landmark
- 19 Commission, they turned around and said it's an example
- of plain architecture. Well, I don't think it can be so
- 21 subjective. It's an old church, and that's really all
- 22 there is to it. It's an old church that hasn't had an
- 23 active congregation with the Episcopal Diocese for over
- 24 forty years, and landmarking will be a substantial
- 25 burden on the Episcopal Diocese.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you. I just have
- 2 one quick question: What is happening at that structure
- 3 now, anything?
- 4 CHRISTIAN BROWNE: Nothing right now. And
- 5 as noted earlier, and I think also instructed the
- 6 Board's consideration, the Diocese was looking to sell
- 7 it. So after a hundred years after when the "for sale"
- 8 signs went up, that's when there were calls to landmark
- 9 it.
- 10 There was a squatter congregation in there
- 11 for a long time. It took a long time to get them out.
- 12 They are now out, and it's now a vacant site.
- 13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Browne.
- 14 CHRISTIAN BROWNE: Thank you very much.
- 15 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Alfred Thompson?
- 16 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Mr. Thompson,
- 17 are you here?
- AUDIENCE MEMBER: He stepped out for a
- 19 moment.
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Lawton Bryant?
- 21 LAWTON BRYANT: Good morning, my name is
- 22 Lawton Bryant, 39 Greene Avenue, Amityville, New York.
- 23 I come here to certainly rebut what the attorney just
- 24 said. He was so far off base.
- 25 First of all, he said this was a squatter

- 1 congregation. It was never a squatter congregation.
- 2 The congregation always stayed intact. It went down to
- 3 three members in 2008 because the Diocese failed to send
- 4 a pastor there for "X" number of years. The
- 5 congregation came to me -- the congregation came to me,
- 6 and I took over as pastor.
- We went in 2008 until the Courts made a
- 8 decision. We went from three members to a hundred
- 9 twenty members. Those are not squatters, okay? If the
- 10 Diocese really was serious about this being a church,
- 11 they would have locked into us and they would have
- 12 continued to work with us, but they didn't care about
- 13 that. I just wanted to set the record straight there.
- 14 Let's tell the truth if we're going to sit
- 15 before this Committee. This has always been a Native
- 16 American/African-American church, but it always was a
- 17 community church. There was also a lot of white members
- 18 in the church, also, okay?
- Now, for us to sit here -- any of us to sit
- 20 here, to say that a building that has been in existence
- 21 from 1904 up until present time to not be landmarked I
- 22 think is a travesty. The building should have always
- 23 been landmarked.
- I was there for ten years, okay. In ten
- 25 years no matter what went wrong in that building, we

- 1 always made sure that we took it apart, fixed it, and
- 2 put it back together exactly the way it was. We were
- 3 a great -- we spent great money.
- 4 I heard the lawyer talking about -- the
- 5 congregation didn't have money. He don't know that.
- 6 He's just saying something, whatever, okay. We always
- 7 had money; we always had bank accounts. We always was
- 8 vibrant.
- 9 What happened is if you take and don't send
- 10 a leader, the people will scatter. So the people
- 11 scattered. Once a leader came back in there, the people
- 12 came back in droves. It was vibrant. The church put on
- 13 community festivals, the church put on community events,
- 14 the church was active in the community. The church did
- 15 everything that a community -- that a church is supposed
- 16 to do in a community. It lacked nothing.
- 17 So I've just come to rebut what this
- 18 gentleman is saying, because it's obvious he never came
- 19 there and he really didn't know what he was talking
- 20 about, "squatters." Thank you.
- 21 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
- 22 heard. After, the following ensued.)
- 23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.
- Is Mr. Thomson back?
- 25 ALFRED THOMSON: Alfred Thomson, 400

- 1 Newbridge Road, Levittown.
- 2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Good morning.
- 3 ALFRED THOMSON: I don't really have a lot
- 4 to say. I'm very much in favor of the church. I have
- 5 also met some of the members previously, and I was there
- 6 at a book signing when -- I guess back at the final
- 7 closing of the property. But I'm thoroughly in support
- 8 of landmarking it.
- 9 I'm also a past president of the Wantagh
- 10 Preservation Society, and I'm sure the members there are
- 11 also very much in favor of it. And I just thank you,
- 12 everybody, for the support and we go through with this
- 13 and the final note that.
- 14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You're committees of
- 15 Levittown, correct?
- 16 ALFRED THOMSON: Correct.
- 17 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I remember you were a lot
- 18 younger then. Me too.
- 19 ALFRED THOMSON: Thank you all very much.
- 20 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Dennis was one of the
- 21 original congregants there.
- 22 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was
- 23 heard. After, the following ensued.)
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Paul Daley?
- 25 PAUL DALEY: Hi, everybody. My name is Paul

- 1 Daley, and I'm a resident of Bellmore -- almost lifelong
- 2 resident of Bellmore with very little exception. Not to
- 3 get involved with the politics of ownership of the
- 4 building and such, I'm here as an architectural
- 5 historian. I hold a B.A. degree in Historic
- 6 Preservation and American Culture Studies from Roger
- 7 Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island.
- 8 As I said, I'm a Bellmore resident. I live
- 9 at 745 Sunrise Avenue in Bellmore. I'm quite familiar
- 10 with the building, having spent a good deal of my life
- 11 in the -- in the area.
- I want to dispute what the attorney actually
- 13 said about not having any style. It actually does have
- 14 style, and, in fact, as an architectural historian who
- 15 has been at my profession for almost thirty-eight years
- 16 now, currently employed at the Landmarks Preservation
- 17 with the New York City Parks Department. It most
- 18 definitely has style.
- 19 It's called the "shingle style," and it has
- 20 some slight touches as well. To the untrained eye, it
- 21 doesn't look like it has any style, but it does, and the
- 22 proportions are really, really perfect. Of course it
- doesn't have stained glass window and some of the other
- 24 things. I said this at one of the previous Landmark
- 25 Commission meetings: We're not talking about

- 1 St. Patrick's Cathedral. We're talking about a building
- 2 built in the turn of the 20th century in a rural farming
- 3 community, but we know it's a church. When you go by,
- 4 you know it's a church. You don't have to have the
- 5 cross and the bell tower to know.
- 6 Can it be reused for something else?
- 7 Absolutely. One of the projects I was involved in, we
- 8 turned a morque into a recreation center and kept some
- 9 of the fittings from the morgue.
- I found online an illustration here, just
- 11 quickly, it's a little hard to see, of a church in
- 12 Australia which was turned into a community center and
- 13 they added onto it, they made a conversation pit out
- 14 here with a fireplace. So it's entirely possible to
- 15 repurpose the building to use and yet preserve the
- 16 facade of the building.
- 17 Again, the details are there. It's
- 18 original. It has a wonderful rose window in the front
- 19 which suggests gothic cathedrals of Europe. It has a
- 20 tri window arrangement at the rear of the building.
- 21 One second I have a photo of this feature
- 22 right here (indicating). But, again, the massing, the
- 23 moldings, everything is there waiting to be preserved.
- 24 So I'm fully in support of the building becoming a
- 25 landmark. Thank you.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.
- 2 David Bernacci?
- 3 DAVID BERNACCI: Good morning. My name is
- 4 David Bernacci, 62 Linden Boulevard, Hicksville,
- 5 New York, and I'm here in support of the -- becoming a
- 6 landmark. I know it's a whole other process, but my
- 7 interest is having Pets For Love, which I spoke to you
- 8 about, the rescue, actually be able to purchase the
- 9 property, turn it into a rescue and partial sanctuary
- 10 but keeping the church as a church, turning a small part
- of the inside into a thrift store and keeping a part of
- 12 the church as a religious structure and the present
- 13 pastor of there, you know, would be also part of it but
- 14 having days for people to come and having their pets
- 15 blessed.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You should talk to
- 17 Mr. Browne afterwards. Maybe he can get his client to
- 18 sell it to you.
- 19 (Whereupon, laughter from the audience was
- 20 heard. After, the following ensued.)
- 21 DAVID BERNACCI: It can be repurposed. You
- 22 know, as Pets For Love it would be a rescue for our
- 23 community. We have programs for helping the pets and
- 24 the elderly with financial support for their pets,
- 25 dealing with injured pets, and it would become a

- 1 beautiful thing, you know, remaining for the community
- 2 and the church would still be used partly as a church.
- 3 So I just wanted you to let you guys be aware there is a
- 4 way to repurpose it.
- 5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Bernacci.
- 6 Mr. Browne's over there. He's waving his hand.
- 7 Matthew Susco?
- 8 MATTHEW SUSCO: Hi, guys. A little stage
- 9 fright, my first time speaking in this venue.
- 10 I'm grateful for the Town Board, also
- 11 grateful for Josh and Mike Tarkopolis (phonetic) for the
- 12 previous help and the advice they gave me for the
- 13 Jerusalem Preservation.
- 14 My name is Matt Susco. I'm a lifelong
- 15 resident of Wantagh, New York: 2928 Mandalay Beach
- 16 Road, Wantagh, New York. I'm the trustee of the Wantagh
- 17 Preservation Society. I'm here officially representing
- 18 the Board of Trustees of the society.
- In July of 2018, the Board of Trustees voted
- 20 overwhelmingly to support the application to grant the
- 21 Town of Hempstead landmark status for the historic
- 22 St. Matthias Church. The society presented at the Town
- 23 of Hempstead Landmark Commission meetings that were held
- on this issue. The society's views are, therefore, part
- 25 of the record.

- 1 The Town of Hempstead had previously granted
- 2 landmark status to the Jerusalem Quaker Meeting House in
- 3 the St. John Jerusalem Chapel. It represented parts of
- 4 the religious history similar to the Wantagh area. The
- 5 society hopes the town will also grant landmark status
- 6 to St. Matthias Church, likewise, so the
- 7 African-American history of the area can also be
- 8 preserved -- (perusing).
- 9 Sorry, technology.
- 10 -- and recognized. Thank you. And just to
- 11 add to that, the St. Matthias Church located on
- 12 Jerusalem Avenue in a region formally known as "the
- 13 Brush" is a staple of the African-American heritage of
- 14 Wantagh as well as a staple of the Native American
- 15 history of the Town of the Hempstead. The population of
- 16 the Brush were predominately former slaves, descendents
- 17 of slaves, and Civil War veterans, heros.
- I personally like the Pets for Love idea.
- 19 I'm an animal lover myself. I think it's proper for me
- 20 to present the plans to the Wantagh Preservation Society
- 21 to digest it properly, and I hope that the community
- 22 would be in favor of an organization with your
- 23 intentions and plans as long as they want to preserve it
- 24 properly.
- 25 And that's pretty much it. I'm grateful for

- 1 the Town Board for help. So Ms. Goosby's question about
- 2 the old burial ground down the block, and it's part of
- 3 everything that's important and it's necessary to let
- 4 the people out there know about this.
- 5 Thank you so much.
- 6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Susco.
- 7 MATTHEW SUSCO: Thank you.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Natalie Naylor?
- 9 NATALIE NAYLOR: Thank you. I'm Natalie
- 10 Naylor. I live at 496 Clarendon Road in Uniondale,
- 11 New York. I'm a retired Hofstra University professor of
- 12 Long Island history, and I'm also president of the
- 13 Nassau County Historical Society. And I'm not going to
- 14 try to repeat things that have been said before, but I
- 15 would mention that the St. Matthias Church -- I am
- 16 speaking in support of the landmarking, and St. Matthias
- 17 Church was included in a very significant exhibition of
- 18 the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook had last spring.
- 19 The title was -- let's see -- One Road to
- 20 Freedom Surviving Slavery on Long Island. It's also
- 21 pictured in a book that was published by the Long Island
- 22 Studies Institute at Hofstra in an appendix of early
- 23 African-American churches.
- 24 I understand in the 1920s the Episcopal
- 25 Diocese was interested in the church, took it over

- 1 because they wanted to protect people there from Ku Klux
- 2 Klan activities. And that is aspect of history we'd
- 3 rather forgot, but I think that's important that it be
- 4 remembered as well as the history of African-Americans,
- 5 and I would like love to see in the Town of Hempstead
- 6 perhaps using that church to interpret some of that
- 7 history. That would be great and a way of repurposing
- 8 as well.
- 9 There have been other proposals and, of
- 10 course, financing is always an issue and the most
- 11 appropriate one. But thank you for your time and
- 12 listening.
- 13 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you for speaking.
- 14 I'm class of '79 from Hofstra, and thank God I didn't
- 15 have you. You probably would have told me how bad my
- 16 grades were.
- 17 If you have any historical stuff on this
- 18 church, would you get it to my office? We'd like to
- 19 have a good file, solid file so if this ever happens
- 20 again, someone will be able to do something, we have a
- 21 proper file.
- 22 NATALIE NAYLOR: Right. I think -- I think
- 23 Gary Clemente, what he has submitted, and Joshua Soren
- 24 includes it. I know there's information in the
- 25 Long Island Studies Institute in Hofstra the Brush and

1	so on.
2	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.
3	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Ms. Naylor.
4	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I have a question on a
5	different subject that we talked about previous.
6	NATALIE NAYLOR: Sure.
7	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: So I've tried to
8	research General George Washington's trip from Long
9	Island. There is very little on the Internet on that
10	particular excursion. So I would ask if you could maybe
11	look into it with some of your other scholars so we
12	could get a better understand of why he was here, what
13	he was doing here, what his impressions were of Long
14	Island, if they're recorded anywhere.
15	NATALIE NAYLOR: They are recorded in his
16	journal. He doesn't name the name of the road he went
17	on, but I reprinted the Long Island portion of his
18	journal in a book called Journeys on Old Long Island
19	that I edited for the Long Island Studies Institute.
20	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Great.
21	NATALIE NAYLOR: You can read that account.
22	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Where can I get that?

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Go buy her book,

(Whereupon, laughter from the audience was

23

24

25

Councilman Blakeman.

- 1 heard. After, the following ensued.)
- 2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Professor, we'll talk.
- 3 Haiko Cornelissen?
- 4 HAIKO CORNELISSEN: Hi, thank you for having
- 5 me. My name is Haiko Cornelissen. I'm the real estate
- 6 manager of the Diocese of Long Island. We own about
- 7 130-some churches on the island. The churches are
- 8 obviously the way we serve our communities.
- 9 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I'm sorry, you represent
- 10 the Episcopal Diocese; is that correct?
- 11 HAIKO CORNELISSEN: I'm the real estate
- 12 manager of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island who owns
- 13 the church.
- 14 The church is, of course, how we serve our
- 15 communities. Some do better than others. So I think it
- 16 has been doing not that great for the last couple of
- 17 decades since the '70s there's no Episcopal
- 18 congregation.
- 19 The pastor that spoke earlier was not part
- 20 of the Episcopal Diocese. We let them serve their
- 21 congregation in our building. You know, they didn't pay
- 22 rent. We let them continue. When we close or when we
- 23 especially sell churches, we do not take this lightly.
- 24 But we had to conclude after decades of struggling that
- 25 this church has not been able to fulfill the mission

- 1 that we have set out to do, and that's to serve the
- 2 community spiritually and through community services.
- 3 So that's why I had to let this go, especially because
- 4 we do not have unlimited resources.
- If we were to landmark this church, it's
- 6 going to be a burden on the church. It's money that we
- 7 would like to use for other communities where we have
- 8 the churches that are part of the preventative services
- 9 within the community where we were not able to do that
- 10 in this case.
- I also would like to note that as the lawyer
- 12 had commented, there seems to be a lot of emotion
- 13 related to the architecture of the church itself, and
- 14 also related to the different location that was noted.
- 15 The original location of the original church is about
- 16 half a mile down where the current church is.
- 17 So we would be more than happy to also think
- 18 about solutions outside the box where the church would
- 19 be sold for a dollar, be moved to a location at the
- 20 expense of the seller to reunite the original church
- 21 with the current structure that is there to be
- 22 landmarked. Because we -- the financial means that this
- 23 would give us, we need those in order to provide that to
- 24 the other communities throughout Long Island.
- 25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, sir.

1	Mr. Ra, is there something that
2	would if this church is given landmark status and say
3	everybody came together to relocate the church to the
4	burial grounds, is that something we could do?
5	MR. RA: If they agree, if everybody agrees.
6	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
7	Is there anybody else who'd like to be heard
8	on this Public Hearing?
9	(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
10	the following ensued.)
11	Hearing none, may I have a motion?
12	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I move that we close the
13	hearing and adopt the item.
14	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Second.
15	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I second the
16	motion.
17	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
18	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
19	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
20	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
21	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
22	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
23	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
24	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
25	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.

1 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby? 2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye. 3 think it's worth preserving some of the history of the people who actually were the backbone of this country. 4 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella? 6 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Before I say "aye," I'd like to acknowledge and take note that the people of 7 Garden City South and Franklin Square, people like 8 9 Margaret Kelly, Cathy is still here in attendance. Τ think it says a lot about preserving the property that 10 we need to preserve. I'm going to say "yes," and thank 11 12 you for your support and being here. 13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Madame Clerk, 14 please call our next Public Hearing. 15 (Whereupon, applause from the audience was heard. After, the following ensued.) 16 17 CLERK CABANA: Proposed handicapped parking 18 in Bellmore, East Atlantic Beach, East Meadow, Elmont, Garden City South, near Lynbrook, Uniondale, and Valley 19 20 Stream. 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips on this Public Hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to 22

(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,

23

24

25

be heard?

the following ensued.)

1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
2	a motion?
3	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, I move
4	that the hearing be closed and the item be adopted.
5	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second.
6	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
7	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
8	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
9	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
10	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
11	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
12	COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Aye.
13	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
14	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
15	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
16	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
17	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
18	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
19	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
20	the next Public Hearing.
21	CLERK CABANA: Proposed revised public
22	parking field maps in Oceanside.
23	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
24	on this Public Hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to

be heard?

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1
                 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
     the following ensued.)
 2
 3
                 Hearing none, may I have a motion?
                                          I move that the
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA:
 4
     Public Hearing be closed and the proposed parking field
 6
    map be adopted.
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second.
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN:
                                     Madam Clerk?
 9
                 CLERK CABANA:
                                Supervisor Gillen?
10
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN:
                                     Aye.
                                Councilman Blakeman?
11
                 CLERK CABANA:
12
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN:
                                       Aye.
13
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
14
                 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Aye.
15
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
16
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    Aye.
17
                 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
18
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY:
19
                                Councilman Muscarella?
                 CLERK CABANA:
20
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA:
                                         Aye.
21
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
22
     our next Public Hearing.
23
                                Authorizing the conveyance of
                 CLERK CABANA:
24
     a vacated commercial parcel of land located at 19 & 23
25
     Debevoise Avenue (Section: 55, Block: 415, Lots: 1 & 2)
```

- 1 to PARABIT REALTY, LLC for development and construction
- 2 of a commercial structure pursuant to the Roosevelt
- 3 Urban Renewal Plan Phase II in Roosevelt.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, on this Public
- 5 Hearing, I have a slip from John Moss.
- JOHN MOSS: Good morning.
- 7 Happy birthday, Council.
- 8 My name is John Moss. I am from John K.
- 9 Moss, P.C., attorney for Department of Planning &
- 10 Economic Development. Today the Department is presented
- 11 a contract with Parabit Realty to sell the premises
- 12 known as 19 & 23 Debevoise Avenue to assist operations
- of Parabit Systems, Inc. which conducts operation at the
- 14 adjacent parks located nearby Debevoise Avenue
- 15 Roosevelt. The facility at 35 Debevoise Avenue houses
- 16 manufacturing operations of Parabit Systems electronic
- 17 manufacturing of security and self-service solutions.
- 18 Parabit Systems, Inc. has headquarters
- 19 located at 2699 Grand Avenue in Bellmore, New York. The
- 20 subject premises were acquired in a meeting by the Town
- of Hempstead Department of Planning in accordance with
- 22 the Urban Renewal Plan Phase II, Roosevelt.
- The Department published a request on
- 24 February 16th seeking a proposal to purchase the
- 25 property and other commercial properties as well.

- 1 Parabit Realty, LLC responded by a proposal dated March
- 2 30th, 2018. Proposal submitted indicated that that
- 3 acquisition and redevelopment at the site, among other
- 4 things, will prevent Parabit Systems' relocation of
- 5 manufacturing of operations to another community,
- 6 preserved current jobs as the Parabit Systems, Inc., and
- 7 to potentially create thirteen new jobs in the expanded
- 8 facility. All above factors are included in the Urban
- 9 Renewal Plan which it require property for.
- I had the pleasure of attending the
- 11 community meeting hosted by Senior Councilwoman Goosby.
- 12 I believe the community was well in support of Parabit.
- 13 They're good neighbors. As the property was acquired in
- 14 accordance with the Urban Renewal Plan, we feel that
- 15 this use coincides with the community development as a
- 16 whole in Roosevelt. I know there were some
- 17 representatives of Parabit here, if you have any
- 18 questions about their operations or anything of that
- 19 nature.
- 20 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes, I'd like
- 21 to say that I'm very, very proud of Parabit. They have
- 22 me as a resident who lives in Roosevelt. I go to
- 23 airports and looking at to see what Parabit made them,
- 24 and you train a lot of young people and they work there
- in the summer. It's really been a very, very good asset

- 1 for Roosevelt, and I know that you need this land,
- 2 you're looking for it, so I'm certainly in favor of this
- 3 property being sold to Parabit.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 5 Thank you, Mr. Moss.
- JOHN MOSS: Thank you.
- 7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next we have Daniel
- 8 Baker.
- 9 DANIEL BAKER: Good afternoon, Supervisor,
- 10 Members of the Board. My name is Daniel Baker. I
- 11 represent Parabit, which you probably know. I live at
- 12 90 Merrick Avenue, East Meadow, New York 11554, and only
- if you have any questions about the project or the
- 14 operation.
- 15 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Thank you, sir.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 17 DANIEL BAKER: Thank you very much.
- 18 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Richard Kirk?
- 19 RICHARD KIRK: Hi, I'm Richard Kirk. I
- 20 represent Parabit Realty, and I can answer any questions
- 21 related to the project.
- 22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I don't think we have
- 23 any questions. Thank you so much.
- Is there anybody else who'd like to be heard
- 25 on this?

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1
                 (Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
     the following ensued.)
 2
 3
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
 4
     a motion?
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that the
 6
     Public Hearing be closed and the application be
     approved.
                 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Second.
 9
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Second.
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
10
                 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
11
12
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
13
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
14
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
15
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
16
                 COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
17
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
18
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    Aye.
19
                 CLERK CABANA:
                                Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
20
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye. I'm very,
    very proud of this. Thank you.
21
22
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
23
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA:
                                         Aye.
24
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Madam Clerk,
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please call our next Public Hearing.

1	CLERK CABANA: To consider authorizing the
2	Town of Hempstead Sanitary District No. 6 to sell at
3	auction surplus machinery and equipment.
4	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any slips
5	on this Public Hearing. Is there anyone who'd like to
6	be heard?
7	(Whereupon, no response was heard. After,
8	the following ensued.)
9	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Hearing none, may I have
10	a motion?
11	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: I move that the
12	Public Hearing be closed and the authorization granted.
13	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Second the
14	motion.
15	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
16	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
17	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
18	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
19	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
20	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
21	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
22	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
23	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
24	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
25	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.

- 1 CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
- 2 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
- 3 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, please call
- 4 our next Public Hearing.
- 5 CLERK CABANA: Application of 7-ELEVEN, INC.
- 6 to permit and demolish the (2) two existing one-story
- 7 buildings and construct a new one-story, 2,580 feet of
- 8 convenience store with fuel canopy, four (4) multiple
- 9 project dispenser, providing eight (8) fueling stations
- 10 and associated underground tanks additional site work
- 11 for parking and landscaping and a trash enclosure in
- 12 NORTH BELLMORE.
- 13 WILLIAM BONESSO: Good afternoon, Supervisor
- 14 Gillen and Members of the Board. William Bonesso,
- 15 Forchelli, Deegan, Terrana, 333 Earle Ovington
- 16 Boulevard, here on behalf of applicants, 7-Eleven, Inc.
- 17 Here to my right is Mr. Paul Going of Atlantic Traffic,
- 18 a site engineering firm.
- 19 Mr. Going is a transportation engineer who
- 20 has been recognize by this Board in the past as a
- 21 traffic and transportation expert, and, with your
- 22 permission, he will provide opinion testimony in
- 23 connection with the application before the Board. I
- 24 would ask that the Board provide the same status to
- 25 Mr. Goings today.

- 1 I've asked Ms. Hanson to hand out to you
- 2 each a copy of several documents which would help you to
- 3 get an overview of the site and the project itself.
- 4 7-Eleven is proposing this application which relates to
- 5 property situated on the northeast corner of Bellmore
- 6 Avenue and Jerusalem Avenue in Bellmore. It's 2663 and
- 7 2675 Jerusalem Avenue.
- 8 The property previously was used -- a corner
- 9 portion of the property was previously, for decades, a
- 10 gasoline service station with a service and repair
- 11 business as well. It had six fueling positions, three
- 12 service and repair bays. That operation shut down
- 13 sometime last year, I'm told.
- 14 The property to the east of that, which is
- 15 2675, was a site of a large commercial building which
- 16 was a millwork building. It was a custom cabinetry and
- 17 other such materials that were manufactured. It
- 18 occupied almost the entire lot and left very little room
- 19 for any parking. That building has since been
- 20 demolished.
- 21 What 7-Eleven is proposing to do is occupy
- 22 both lots to create out of --
- COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Mr. Bonesso, I'm
- 24 sorry to interrupt you. This building now has been
- 25 demolished, correct?

- 1 WILLIAM BONESSO: No.
- 2 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: I was under that
- 3 impression. I apologize. So on the corner is Ciminelli
- 4 Motors, and now there's a commercial building next door
- 5 that is to be demolished?
- 6 WILLIAM BONESSO: To be demolished. The
- 7 7-Eleven project would propose the demolition of all the
- 8 present buildings on the site, the removal of tanks that
- 9 have been in the ground for some time, and just under a
- 10 2,600-square foot 7-Eleven convenience store, which is
- 11 about 600 square feet less than the 7-Eleven convenience
- 12 store situated diagonally across from this property
- 13 which is being relocated to this property. They're
- 14 going to move the operation and the franchise to this
- 15 property.
- In doing so, they would construct a new
- canopy, put new state-of-the-art double-wall underground
- 18 storage tanks on the property. They will landscape the
- 19 property. They'll provide additional beautification of
- 20 the property. They're also going to be modifying the
- 21 curb cut for the access points to the property.
- 22 Right now there are five curb cuts serving
- 23 the two properties, three on Jerusalem, two on Bellmore
- 24 Road. This project would reduce the total curb cuts to
- one on Bellmore Road, one on Jerusalem Avenue, and move

- 1 them further away from the intersection, which is
- 2 certainly something the County would like to see, and
- 3 it's typically considered to be good planning. The
- 4 access on Jerusalem Avenue would be right turn in, right
- 5 turn out only except a restriction to that effect on
- 6 that.
- 7 Now, again, this really -- to describe it,
- 8 it's really a relocation of an existing operation.
- 9 7-Eleven is already in the area. It's on the parcel of
- 10 property diagonally across the street. Moving it to
- 11 this -- as you'll hear from Mr. Going -- to this corner
- 12 places it at a signalized intersection which makes for a
- 13 better and safer traffic flow, a safer traffic situation
- on the roads and entering and exiting the property.
- This site will also have room for deliveries
- 16 to occur on the premises at the present 7-Eleven. Many
- 17 deliveries of the larger type occur on the street and it
- 18 generates some parking and traffic.
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Bonesso, can I just
- 20 ask a question? These tanks, are they behind the
- 21 Ciminelli Motors building or underground?
- 22 WILLIAM BONESSO: Those tanks are still
- 23 there. They're to be removed.
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay. But there are
- 25 underground storage tanks already?

- 1 WILLIAM BONESSO: As I understand it, there
- 2 are old underground storage tanks presently situated
- 3 there.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Have you done any
- 5 testing to see if there's any remediation necessary at
- 6 this site?
- 7 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Didn't you state you will
- 8 be removing them?
- 9 WILLIAM BONESSO: They will be removed. The
- 10 property will be completely remediated. Certainly, if
- 11 this application is approved, 7-Eleven will remove those
- 12 tanks under the supervision of all necessary municipal
- 13 and local authorities. They will remove them
- 14 appropriately, and then new tanks will go in. I guess
- they will be state-of-the-art double-wall fiberglass
- 16 tanks with the monitors on them, so if there's any
- 17 breach in the any of the walls, they'd be notified.
- 18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Are you aware if it's
- 19 November?
- 20 WILLIAM BONESSO: I'm not aware. I think I
- 21 would have heard something from 7-Eleven if that was
- 22 determined.
- COUNCILMAN DUNNE: If, in fact, they do find
- 24 that there is leakage, 7-Eleven will be responsible for
- 25 the cleaning and all of that?

- 1 WILLIAM BONESSO: The redevelopment of the
- 2 site would require complete cleanup of any environmental
- 3 and hazardous conditions. And if 7-Eleven was going to
- 4 proceed and it was going to be approved, then yes, that
- 5 would be the responsibility of the redevelopment.
- 6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: The reason I ask is what
- 7 the Navy did with Bethpage, we don't want that happening
- 8 in Bellmore.
- 9 WILLIAM BONESSO: Right, no, obviously. As
- 10 indicated, this will represent a redevelopment of the
- 11 site. It has been in use for gasoline service for many
- 12 years. It's an underlying business "X" district, so the
- 13 7-Eleven use aspect of this is a right use. This is
- 14 simply to combine the two uses, that's why when you hear
- 15 the GSS provisions which requires that before this --
- 16 before the gasoline service station use.
- 17 The project will probably employee ten to
- 18 twelve permanent employees over the course of each work
- 19 cycle. There will three onsite at busier times. There
- 20 will always be a person available to pump gas for anyone
- 21 who needs assistance with doing that. There will be, as
- 22 we discussed with 7-Eleven, if they could put a flagpole
- 23 on the site, they could.
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: You've been coming here
- 25 long enough, Mr. Bonesso.

- 1 WILLIAM BONESSO: They will. They haven't
- 2 determined exactly where yet, but they can and they
- 3 will. Most likely they haven't determined exactly yet,
- 4 but it would most likely in the southeaster portion of
- 5 the property.
- Also, the fueling, the size of the lot will
- 7 provide for very good site circulation, as you will hear
- 8 from Mr. Going, and for sufficient parking for the
- 9 subject property.
- 10 Now, we did submit a landscape plan. I
- 11 received word from Mr. Moschella with some suggested
- 12 enhancements about, which I've talked to 7-Eleven about,
- 13 and we will implement those subject to the language
- 14 plan.
- I would like to have Mr. Going provide his
- 16 testimony.
- 17 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I have a
- 18 question, please. On the map I see homes, residences,
- 19 right?
- 20 WILLIAM BONESSO: Yeah.
- 21 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: What will you
- 22 do to shield the homes from this new structure that
- 23 you're putting?
- 24 WILLIAM BONESSO: Landscaping and fencing.
- 25 And I became aware of some residents who have some

- 1 concerns about this. I spoke to them briefly. I
- 2 advised them that because we're having the hearing today
- 3 doesn't mean we can't talk about this some more. I
- 4 intend to meet with them and try to address their
- 5 conditions.
- I can't promise them 7-Eleven is going away,
- 7 but I can talk to them about enhanced fencing, enhanced
- 8 landscaping, perhaps relocating certain things onsite.
- 9 As this Board knows, I'm always active with
- 10 the community on -- if I had known in advance -- when I
- 11 sent out the notice, I sent out a letter giving you a
- 12 little bit more detail than the notice provides. And in
- 13 my letter I indicated if anyone has concerns, call me
- 14 and we can set up a meeting, whatever the case may be.
- I didn't hear from anyone. Like I told
- 16 them, it doesn't mean we can't discuss this after the
- 17 hearing. Can't guarantee everything, but can certainly
- 18 try.
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: So does 7-Eleven own the
- 20 millwork property, that structure? Do they own the
- 21 adjacent property?
- 22 WILLIAM BONESSO: They're leasing both
- 23 properties, and they leased the property diagonally
- 24 across the street. That they have under lease until
- 25 2027. Unless the landlord will let them out of the

- 1 lease, which is unlikely, they would attempt to release
- 2 that property to another user. It wouldn't be a gas
- 3 station, and they would be responsible for the upkeep
- 4 and maintenance.
- 5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: That's the normal course
- 6 of 7-Eleven, to lease property. I know there is a gas
- 7 station in Levittown that they leased the property.
- 8 They didn't purchase it; they leased it. Is that normal
- 9 for 7-Eleven to lease properties?
- 10 WILLIAM BONESSO: I think it is. I
- 11 mentioned they had some properties, ones that 7-Eleven
- 12 operates themselves as opposed to a franchise, but I
- 13 think most of the properties are leases.
- 14 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Kind of keeps you on your
- 15 toes because you don't own it. Okay.
- 16 WILLIAM BONESSO: If I may, I'll then direct
- 17 the presentation.
- 18 PAUL GOING: Thank you. My name is Paul
- 19 Going. It's spelled G-O-I-N-G, just like the word
- 20 "going." I work for Atlantic Traffic & Design
- 21 engineering located in Hauppauge.
- 22 So in the -- I'm going to go over some of
- 23 the things Bill just mentioned, but the existing
- 24 condition, you have a gas station with three pumps six
- fueling positions, and three service bays. Then we have

- 1 the former millwork on the second lot from the corner.
- 2 Currently, there are three driveways on Jerusalem
- 3 Avenue, which is 105. Those three driveways, there's
- 4 two in the former gas station, one at the millwork.
- 5 Then on Bellmore Road there are two driveways that the
- 6 gas station has, so a total of five driveways being
- 7 reduced to three -- being reduced by two by the project
- 8 is significant and a benefit to the public.
- 9 Bill mentioned there's an existing 7-Eleven
- 10 diagonally west of the site on the southwest corner of
- 11 the intersection of George Road. That's about 3,200
- 12 square feet. Just a convenience store; there's no gas
- 13 service there. So 7-Eleven would vacate that store.
- 14 2,600 square foot of a store with eight gasoline fueling
- 15 positions on the combined properties at the northeast
- 16 corner with Bellmore Road. So it's about 600 square
- 17 feet smaller than the existing store.
- 18 It would relocate the three for convenience
- 19 use to the signalized corner, which is a better location
- 20 for the use where it can better serve people who are
- 21 looking to make a stop on the way from one place to
- 22 another.
- The project is also going to install
- 24 pedestrian traffic signal equipment on the site's corner
- 25 and at the southeast corner of the signalized

- 1 intersection.
- 2 That was something the DOT asked and
- 3 7-Eleven has agreed to do that. So to analyze the
- 4 traffic of the proposed 7-Eleven, we count the traffic
- 5 at the signalized intersection on Tuesday, June 21st,
- 6 2018 from seven a.m. to nine a.m. and four p.m. to seven
- 7 p.m., and that's because a convenience store use like
- 8 this, their busy times of day are when people are going
- 9 to work and making stops on the way from one place to
- 10 another. We found the morning peak hour to occur from
- 11 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and the evening peak hour to be
- 12 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- During the same time period we counted that
- 14 intersection, we also counted traffic and observed
- 15 parking at the existing 7-Eleven store. And we took the
- 16 data we collected at the 7-Eleven store, we compared it
- 17 to data as published by Institute of Transportation
- 18 Engineers, the ITE, in a publication called "Trip
- 19 Generation" in the latest 10th Edition, 2017. It has
- 20 trip generation rates for a variety of uses including
- 21 convenience stores and including convenience stores with
- 22 gas.
- 23 So when we compared the trip generation of
- 24 the existing 7-Eleven to the ITE trip generation, we
- 25 found it was actually lower. It was seventy-two to

- 1 seventy percent of the traffic that is predicted by the
- 2 ITE. So it's not a very busy location right now.
- 3 Parking demand was only about eighty-four percent of
- 4 what the ITE predicts, and that was a separate
- 5 publication called "Parking Generation."
- 6 So in order -- we calculated the number of
- 7 trips that we generated at the proposed location based
- 8 on ITE. So it may be a little conservative in this
- 9 particular location, but what we calculated for, the
- 10 size of the store and number of pumps, is about
- 11 fifty-three day morning customers and sixty-four weekday
- 12 evening customers in the peak hours. But not all of
- 13 them are convenience use.
- 14 About two-thirds of the customers were
- 15 people who were passing by already, so somebody stopping
- 16 to get gas or milk on the way home or something like
- 17 that. So only about 122 peak hour customers are
- 18 actually new.
- We then took the traffic volumes, we observed and
- 20 we increased them by one percent growth three. The DOT
- 21 growth of twenty-six percent for Hempstead, but we
- 22 bumped it up a little bit further. And we analyzed the
- 23 traffic and signal from the driveways in the future with
- 24 and without the project, and we found no changes in
- 25 level of service and traffic due to the proposed

- 1 project.
- 2 And just to clarify for that assumption, we
- 3 don't -- we didn't take away the trips that are
- 4 currently going to 7-Eleven. Those are still in the net
- 5 worth. So based on that traffic analysis, I can
- 6 conclude that the project would not have significant
- 7 negative impact on traffic.
- 8 We also looked at parking. The convenience store uses
- 9 one parking stall per 200 square feet, which is 500,000.
- 10 Thirteen parking stalls are, therefore, required
- 11 approximately twenty-six hundred feet for the proposed
- 12 convenience store. We proposed nine stalls as the site
- 13 variance would be required.
- So, again, the -- we had observed the parking
- 15 rate at the existing 7-Eleven. We found 3.16 per
- 16 thousand square feet, which is 35 to 45 percent lower
- 17 than the requirement, and then we applied that observed
- 18 rate to the new store and came up with the maximum
- 19 demand. But we also have the eight fueling positions.
- It's typical at convenience stores where there's
- 21 gasoline services available. Some customers come for
- 22 gas and come to use the store. Some customers just come
- 23 for gas or some just come for the store. But customers
- 24 who were buying fuel and also make an in-store purchase,
- 25 they don't need a parking stall. They leave their car

- 1 at the pump typically.
- 2 So with the nine stalls we have striped, the
- 3 eight fueling positions, we can actually accommodate
- 4 seventeen cars. And, in my opinion, we have more than
- 5 adequate parking for the use.
- 6 So to summarize, in my opinion, we have more than
- 7 enough parking. The project reduces the number of
- 8 driveways from five to two, which is a significant
- 9 improvement. The project eliminated the driveways that
- 10 are closest to the signalized intersection, which is a
- 11 significant improvement. The project will improve
- 12 pedestrian accessibility at the intersection with the
- 13 addition of pedestrian crossing equipment and a
- 14 crosswalk on the -- from the northeast to the to
- 15 southeast corner, and the project locates convenience
- 16 use on a corner where it can more conveniently serve
- 17 customers who can come in, come out without having as
- 18 much impact on the roadway system.
- 19 Again, we only would generate twenty to
- 20 twenty-two new peak-hour customers, and traffic
- 21 operations wouldn't be impacted. The site is laid out
- 22 with plenty of space for vehicle maneuvers and plenty of
- 23 space for the fueling trucks and delivery trucks to get
- in and out and without any problem. And that completes
- 25 my testimony, unless there's questions.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 2 WILLIAM BONESSO: Just to finish up, the
- 3 7-Eleven will use private sanitation, which means they
- 4 can control the days and hours of pickup and delivery.
- 5 In that way -- excuse me, pickup. In that way they can
- 6 make sure they're not coming on the site late at night
- 7 or early in the morning. They would agree to put
- 8 appropriate restrictions on that.
- And other than that, again, this is a site
- 10 that has been used for a gasoline service station in the
- 11 past. It's a use in the 7-Eleven that's permitted on
- 12 the site.
- So, consequently, we feel that the
- 14 redevelopment is appropriate for this business, and
- 15 based upon the testimony on the traffic expert, it would
- 16 not have any negative impacts on the surrounding
- 17 roadways or on traffic congestion. We ask that the
- 18 Board would consider it. And other than that, I would
- 19 like the ability to respond to public comment as it
- 20 comes in.
- 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Bonesso.
- I have a slip from Eric Meyer. Are you
- 23 here?
- 24 Are you here in support?
- 25 ERIC MEYER: Supervisor, I'm the engineer

- 1 for the applicant. I'm here if you have any questions.
- 2 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, thank you.
- 3 Michelle Kass?
- 4 MICHELLE KASS: My name is Michelle Kass,
- 5 K-A-S-S. I live at 103 Doris Avenue, North Bellmore,
- 6 New York 11710. I do not have anything prepared.
- My house butts up right up against the
- 8 7-Eleven and the gas station. The gentleman said that
- 9 he did send us letters prior to this meeting today, but
- 10 the diagram of where everything would be was not with
- 11 that letter. I saw that this morning when he showed it
- 12 to us.
- I had lived there for forty years, and I
- 14 have seen many companies come and go. However, we have
- 15 never had anything with food, and it's the 7-Eleven that
- 16 really concerns me because they sell food. The dumpster
- 17 butts right up against my backyard, and I'm extremely
- 18 concerned about, you know, rodents and bugs.
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Bonesso, is there a
- 20 way we can maybe move the dumpster so it's not right by
- 21 residential property?
- 22 WILLIAM BONESSO: That was one of the things
- 23 I was going to speak to 7-Eleven about. I was advised
- 24 about that concern this morning.
- 25 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay.

- 1 MICHELLE KASS: Also, yes, it has been a gas
- 2 station since the day I've moved in. It's not open
- 3 24/7, which this is going to be. Also, there were not
- 4 as many stations as they want to have.
- 5 So those are basically the things that
- 6 concern me. I have neighbors here that have other
- 7 concerns. I know going up against a company like
- 8 7-Eleven is an utter waste of time with their fancy
- 9 attorneys and their traffic studies, which mean
- 10 absolutely nothing because I live there and I see the
- 11 traffic. Sorry to say, this gentleman is totally
- 12 inaccurate.
- And I'm sure you're going to vote for them
- 14 because they have a lot more money than I do, but those
- 15 are my concerns, and thank you for your time.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We do very much care
- 17 about the concerns.
- 18 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: As far as the dumpster
- 19 goes, can you put, like, a cinderblock L-shape so they
- 20 pick the thing up and empty it but it won't be really
- 21 visible, and maybe outside that L-shape cinderblock
- 22 walls or you could put bushes up or something that
- 23 will -- the neighbors won't see it or smell it.
- 24 WILLIAM BONESSO: Councilman, the dumpster
- 25 would be enclosed no matter what. If we can relocate it

- 1 to another location, we will certainly landscape it as
- 2 you suggested and close it.
- 3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you.
- 4 WILLIAM BONESSO: Even if we can't locate
- 5 it, we will landscape it.
- 6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It's an ugly sight,
- 7 seeing dumpsters, and even though it's not only food
- 8 that you're selling, the neighbors have to be okay with
- 9 that.
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Next we have Michael
- 11 Park.
- 12 MICHAEL PARK: I pass.
- 13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: James Lowrey?
- JAMES LOWREY: Yes, how you doing? My name
- is James Lowrey. I own the two properties on Jerusalem
- 16 Avenue next to the building that wasn't knocked down
- 17 yet.
- 18 My first question is they keep saying that
- 19 they own the land, and to get to this hearing don't they
- 20 have to own all the land? Because I --
- 21 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: They don't own it.
- 22 They're leasing it.
- JAMES LOWREY: Yeah, but the property next
- 24 to my house has not been sold yet. It's going to be
- 25 sold depending on what happens at this hearing. So

- 1 don't they have to own everything before they get to
- 2 this part?
- 3 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: No. The one that
- 4 happened in my community, the guy was up in the air.
- 5 The guy opened a gas station until everything was done,
- 6 and his life was in shambles until he found out what he
- 7 was going to do with his property. So it hasn't -- this
- 8 is normal course of business.
- JAMES LOWREY: I understand.
- 10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It puts everybody in a
- 11 quandary, and this is all the course of business.
- 12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Lowrey, is this your
- 13 property (indicating)?
- MR. LOWREY: Yes, yes. And the one next
- 15 door, also. I've been in this community paying real
- 16 estate taxes for forty years -- almost forty. My
- 17 concern is them actually coming into my lot next to the
- 18 building, which they've done in the past, going to
- 19 7-Eleven and -- yeah, how will they stop that?
- Stopping all the time, they still do in
- 21 front of my driveways, blocking us from getting in and
- 22 out. I know the guy was telling us about traffic, but I
- 23 don't think he's got a clue about the traffic. A few
- 24 years ago, we had tallies on the property and the one
- 25 next door. I know because I cleaned it all up.

- 1 So it's a busy, busy street, and especially
- 2 during rush hours. Now, yeah, they said there was a gas
- 3 station on the corner, but those cars were going one way
- 4 and 7-Eleven traffic was going another way. Now
- 5 everything is going to be going the same way. It's my
- 6 only going to be worse.
- 7 I looked at the parking. They have eight
- 8 spots and one handicap. I don't think that's enough.
- 9 Also, there's two spots in front of the container, which
- 10 we've already talked about the container. But if
- 11 they're going to pick up the container when it's not the
- 12 middle of the night, there's most likely going to be
- 13 cars there, if you know what I mean.
- 14 That's pretty much it. The dumpster is
- 15 against my property, also. I am concerned with the
- 16 rodents. Hopefully, they'll take care of that.
- 17 Another one of my other concerns is other
- 18 commercial building. We build stuff. A lot of the new
- 19 stuff has refrigeration units for their -- refrigeration
- 20 freezing units on the roof. They're going to be on all
- 21 the time. How can they stop the noise?
- 22 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Bonesso, if you can
- 23 just answer a couple of these questions. Is there going
- to be some kind of boundary, at least like a fence, on
- 25 the area that abuts Mr. Lowrey's property.

- 1 WILLIAM BONESSO: Yes, we can certainly put
- 2 a wall, a fence, whatever the case, may be to separate
- 3 the properties. And right now the plan is to not only
- 4 put a fence but to also landscape along that eastern
- 5 property line.
- 6 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would that be something
- 7 you'd be all right with, Mr. Lowrey?
- JAMES LOWREY: That's fine. If they can
- 9 move that container -- because, believe me, that's a
- 10 concern.
- 11 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: You said move the
- 12 container to a better area?
- JAMES LOWREY: That would be good. But,
- 14 again, traffic is a big thing and noise from the
- 15 air-conditioning.
- 16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Noise and some kind of
- 17 buffer to -- because I know that they put -- again, back
- 18 to my own hometown, there was a car dealership and they
- 19 turned it into a swimming pool area. And they got the
- 20 water pumps and air-conditioning next to the senior
- 21 housing, and they complained about the noise from the
- 22 air-conditioning unit.
- So I think I'm going to have to address that
- 24 with the constituents in the area. Again, being a good
- 25 neighbor, you'll work with them to try to find something

- 1 that will make it comfortable and make you a good
- 2 neighbor if you, in fact, do this; is that correct?
- 3 WILLIAM BONESSO: Correct.
- 4 JAMES LOWREY: Thank you. Also --
- 5 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Give them your card so
- 6 they can talk about things.
- JAMES LOWREY: -- gas tanks were moved.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 9 James --
- 10 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Let him answer the
- 11 question about getting in touch with you.
- 12 WILLIAM BONESSO: I indicated to the
- 13 neighbors that we could meet after the hearing -- not
- 14 here after, that I would arrange for a meeting after the
- 15 hearing. So I will take their numbers.
- 16 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Excellent.
- 17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- Joseph Olle?
- 19 JOSEPH OLLE: Good morning. I live at 101
- 20 Doris. Joe Olle, O-L-L-E. I've been there my whole
- 21 life, forty-three years.
- I know a lot of concerns were brought up
- 23 already. The traffic study, I don't think the study is
- 24 very accurate. It's very bad now. It's just going to
- 25 get worse.

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1
                 The dumpster is a problem. I would like to
     see a perimeter instead -- some more barrier from the
 2
 3
     dumpster. Lighting -- no one brought up lighting.
 4
     don't know what kind of lighting it's going to be, if
     it's going to shine into our yards.
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    I think there's an
     ordinance in the Town of Hempstead where they can't
 7
     shine business lights into the community.
 8
 9
                 Is that's going be addressed, also, sir?
                 WILLIAM BONESSO: Yes.
                                         Typically, in the
10
     Declaration of Restrictive Covenants that would be
11
12
     required to be filed in connection with this
13
     application. That indicates that all lighting will be
     designed and installed to make sure that no light or
14
15
     glare extends into adjacent residential properties.
                 We'll certainly do that here with the new
16
17
     LED light bulbs. They're able to really design lighting
18
     of sites very, very well so that there's no spillage of
     light off the premises. So I have no doubt they can
19
20
     accommodate that request.
21
                                    Again, the one in my
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
22
     community, that was one of the concerns, and they did
23
     address it and I had no complaints about it. The window
24
     would be right where the light is shining it.
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JOSEPH OLLE: I just want to raise my

- 1 concern for the record so if and when there's a problem,
- 2 they're addressed.
- And the fueling, will that be tone at night,
- 4 morning? Is there a vapor, smell, is there new
- 5 technology for that, when the truck comes and delivers
- 6 the gas?
- 7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Bonesso, can you
- 8 just answer that question?
- 9 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: I know that the Sunoco
- 10 does it during the day.
- 11 Are you going to be delivering during the
- 12 day or the night for the big trucks? Can we address
- 13 that?
- 14 WILLIAM BONESSO: Sure. I'm going to have
- 15 Eric explain it.
- 16 ERIC MEYER: Good afternoon. I'm with
- 17 Bohler Engineering, 2929 Expressway Drive North,
- 18 Hauppauge, here on the behalf of the applicant. I've
- 19 appeared before this Board in the past.
- The fuel, you'll see the underground storage
- 21 tanks represented up there, so it's centrally located to
- 22 the site. The fence for the tanks is located up against
- 23 the building, so they're distal from the neighboring
- 24 property owners. It's possible to achieve the proper
- 25 venting the tanks needs, and the filling operations

- 1 occur right on top of the tank. So the little circles,
- 2 you'll see the fill pipe. The fill pipe is attached,
- 3 the truck drops the fuel, and it's usually a fifteen-,
- 4 twenty-minute process.
- 5 WILLIAM BONESSO: How often?
- 6 ERIC MEYER: Once or twice a week.
- 7 WILLIAM BONESSO: And will it be done during
- 8 the daylight hours?
- 9 ERIC MEYER: It depends on the fuel delivery
- 10 runs, so this will have to get worked into their
- 11 schedule. But 7-Eleven has decent control on that.
- JOSEPH OLLE: Where will that be, which side
- of the building?
- 14 ERIC MEYER: The northwest corner.
- JOSEPH OLLE: So that would be right on the
- 16 backyard?
- 17 ERIC MEYER: The vents are not active vents.
- 18 The vents are in case of an escape.
- 19 JOSEPH OLLE: So the vents are not when you
- 20 fill the tanks?
- 21 ERIC MEYER: No. There's a vapor recovery
- 22 process.
- JOSEPH OLLE: So to answer my question,
- 24 should be no smell if the tanks are full?
- 25 ERIC MEYER: Correct.

```
1
                 JOSEPH OLLE: Will the Town do a traffic
     study independent of that guy's study?
 2
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN:
                                     It is burden of the
 3
 4
     applicant to do the traffic study.
                 JOSEPH OLLE: Okay. That's all I have.
 6
     Thank you.
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    Thank you.
 9
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Michael Kass.
                 MICHAEL KASS: Good afternoon.
10
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN:
                                     Good afternoon.
11
                 MICHAEL KASS: I'm a little confused.
12
                                                        Τf
13
     7-Eleven -- they just want to get into the gasoline
     business, is that what it is now? Because they're
14
15
     across the street. They're very successful.
                                                   There is
     no big problem with their deliveries, because I live
16
17
     across the street and I can see that -- I can see
18
     7-Eleven.
                My backyard -- that's my wife who spoke
19
     before. My backyard butts up against the building
     they're going to tear down. It used to be
20
     air-conditioning, but then it became millwork.
21
22
                 So I'm just confused. They're very
23
     successful across the street, they have a big plot of
24
     land adjacent to them that they -- they wiped out a
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house that was there. They want to come across the

- 1 street and pump gas, and their building is even smaller
- 2 than it was across -- that it is now across the street.
- 3 They're going to reduce the side size of their building,
- 4 the 7-Eleven building. So I don't know what that's all
- 5 about.
- I guess I'm not, you know, I'm in favor of
- 7 progress, I guess. But they have eight more years in
- 8 their lease across the street, so I don't know why they
- 9 just don't stay there, take the adjacent property, and
- 10 make it a gas station, if they want.
- It's against all property that's commercial.
- 12 Nobody's living there. It's just some stores and a big
- 13 piece of empty property and then there's 7-Eleven. Why
- 14 don't they just do that over there and stop, because all
- 15 three of us that are here today live right up against
- 16 where they're going to do all of this.
- So, again, they're all concerned, my
- 18 neighbors, and myself: The lighting, garbage, rodents.
- 19 How about all the people who will be hanging out now
- 20 two, three in the morning? Neighbor kids getting older,
- 21 they're going to be hanging out with bicycles. Maybe
- 22 worse. I gotta think about that. My neighbor has a
- 23 tiny three-month-old baby that's living with her now.
- 24 That's her concern.
- I just don't understand. Do they want to

- 1 get into the gasoline pumping gas business, because the
- 2 rest of it sounds like they're not accomplishing
- 3 anything else other than that. The rest of it sounds
- 4 like they're just want to get into that business.
- 5 Put gas pumps on the other side of the
- 6 street where they got property right now and it could
- 7 become a gas station. Buy out those little stores over
- 8 there, if they want, lease them out, whatever, but I
- 9 think they should -- I'm up against these buildings all
- 10 my life. Forty years I'm living there. It's been quiet
- 11 and I -- my backyard, it put butts up against the
- 12 building so it's really private because there's not
- 13 windows back there.
- So, anyway, I just want -- I'm not quite
- 15 sure what their ulterior motives are other than
- 16 gasoline, because anything else doesn't seem logical,
- 17 what they're doing. So, again, I'll -- we'll talk to
- 18 the attorneys and see -- address all the issues, rodents
- 19 and trash.
- 20 One more thing I -- I know -- one more very
- 21 important thing: I don't know about this man who sat
- 22 here with his traffic stuff, but for the last five, six,
- 23 seven years from Newbridge Road to Wantagh Avenue, you
- 24 can't go. It's backed up for two miles because
- 25 everybody coming off the Southern State, which is jammed

- 1 up from 2:00 in the afternoon, they meet and come along
- 2 Jerusalem Avenue on the same side as the 7-Eleven now.
- 3 So when they put a 7-Eleven on my side with
- 4 trucks coming in and out and more traffic, it's just
- 5 going to make traffic this way terrible as opposed to
- 6 the terrible traffic this way.
- 7 This man who sat here comes to my house,
- 8 I'll give him a bottle of water and I'll take him out at
- 9 4:00 in the afternoon and see how far it gets. I don't
- 10 even go that way anymore. If I want, I go north or I
- 11 can go west. I can't go east. You just sit a half an
- 12 hour until you creep along Wantagh Avenue.
- So I think that this is going to create more
- of a hassle. I live around the corner. It's a private
- 15 little block. I'll survive, I guess, but it sounds
- 16 crazy, but I just wanted to make that statement.
- 17 Traffic is terrible. If you live in my area, anywhere
- 18 on Jerusalem Avenue, you will see. Now it's only going
- 19 to create traffic the other way, which is always flowing
- 20 pretty good.
- 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I think you should take
- 22 Mr. Bonesso up his offer and have him meet near your
- 23 home so he can observe the traffic. We hear your
- 24 frustrations. You have to also understand that we as a
- 25 Town Board cannot compel an applicant to go open their

- 1 business somewhere else. We don't have that
- 2 jurisdiction. But we understand and we hear your
- 3 frustration, and I do hope you can have a dialogue and
- 4 maybe have some of your concerns addressed and you can
- 5 have privacy and you don't have to have these concerns
- 6 about the dumpster and the rodents, all those things.
- 7 I know that 7-Eleven have said that they
- 8 have regular exterminations.
- 9 Mr. Bonesso, is that something that you can
- 10 see to?
- 11 WILLIAM BONESSO: Yes.
- 12 MICHAEL KASS: Just one more thing:
- 13 Veterans Service Agency, Volunteer Unit, 2006, thank you
- 14 for creating that.
- 15 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Thank you for your
- 16 service. God bless you.
- 17 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
- 18 slips on this Public Hearing. Is there anyone else
- 19 who'd like to be heard?
- 20 WILLIAM BONESSO: Thank you, Madam
- 21 Supervisor. Just in closing, I've been told many things
- 22 in my years as a zoning attorney, but this is the first
- 23 time I was called "fancy." I don't know if it was a
- 24 compliment.
- 25 At any rate, I can't reiterate enough to the

- 1 Board that it has to keep in mind that this is
- 2 commercially-owned property, business-owned property.
- 3 If it's not a 7-Eleven convenience store, something is
- 4 going to go onto this property and be redeveloped there.
- 5 A 7-Eleven could go there as of right, as I discussed,
- 6 without the gasoline service station. This is just
- 7 seeking to include gasoline service, which is something
- 8 that has been there for decades. So we think it's a
- 9 good site and a good use for that combination of uses.
- 10 Also, having done this for a long time, I
- 11 come to realize everyone thinks that they know the
- 12 traffic of their community better than the traffic
- 13 consultant. I'm not taking anything away from what the
- 14 neighbor's said, but there's only one traffic expert in
- 15 the room, and that's Mr. Going. Mr. Going performed an
- 16 analysis in accordance with the standards and
- 17 requirements that are good practice in the industry, and
- 18 those findings have been put forth and are public
- 19 records.
- 20 The key elements are three things: One,
- 21 that the site -- the site redevelopment will improve the
- 22 access to the property, the ingress and egress, by
- 23 reducing the number of curb cuts, placing them further
- 24 away from the intersection, and relocating the site to
- 25 the signalized intersection as opposed to the 7-Eleven

- 1 in a non-signalized intersection. Two, the amount of
- 2 new trips generated by this use are only approximately
- 3 twenty to twenty-two trips in the peak hour period,
- 4 morning and afternoon. And three, the parking provided
- 5 when you combine the nine spaces available plus the
- 6 parking that occurs at the fueling positions is adequate
- 7 to accommodate to the site.
- 8 This site, again, is going to be redeveloped
- 9 in some way, shape, or form. Presently, I have to
- 10 believe that that millwork building makes some
- 11 significant noise. I've -- I've had cabinet makers and
- 12 fabricators as clients and I've been to their sites and
- 13 I know how much noise they make. I know how much noise
- 14 and activity could take place with service bays and
- 15 repair shops.
- 16 This is a different use from the one that we
- 17 think fits the community. And, again, we will meet with
- 18 the neighbors. We will attempt to impose certain
- 19 restrictions and conditions, make some modifications,
- 20 perhaps enhancements to landscaping, to fencing, the
- 21 relocating, potentially, of the dumpster. And I think
- 22 we could make the site work for everybody.
- 23 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: What I'd like to do is --
- the building, the convenience store, is right where that
- 25 building is that's being demolished, correct?

1	WILLIAM BONESSO: Yes.
2	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So there's a building
3	there already, so this is just replacing that building?
4	WILLIAM BONESSO: Correct.
5	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: So the gas station was
6	there, and you're doing a gas station.
7	Traffic, I go down Jerusalem Avenue, and
8	believe me, you try to get to a Wantagh High School
9	baseball, football, or lacrosse game, you're going to
10	get there late. You're not going to do anything to
11	improve the traffic, but you have to convince people
12	you're not doing anything to increase the traffic there.
13	So I'm going to suggest we close the
14	hearing. There's no more testimony coming, and I
15	reserve the decision to speak with the community and
16	that we have some confines and we come up with something
17	that we could all live with.
18	COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Second.
19	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Madam Clerk?
20	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
21	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
22	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Blakeman?
23	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
24	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
25	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.

1	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
2	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
3	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
4	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Yes.
5	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
6	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Yes.
7	WILLIAM BONESSO: Thank you.
8	(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)
9	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, Madam Clerk, the
10	Decision Calendar.
11	CLERK CABANA: There is one item on the
12	decision calendar. It is the application JAV GASOLINE
13	ENTERPRISES INC. to convert an existing automobile
14	repair building to a convenience & construct a canopy
15	over existing pump islands as well as maintaining
16	existing ID sign and operate self-service near ISLAND
17	PARK, northwest corner of Austin Boulevard and Kingston
18	Boulevard.
19	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: May I have a decision?
20	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: I move the decision
21	be granted.
22	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?
23	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
24	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
25	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
I	

1	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
2	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
3	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
4	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
5	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
6	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
7	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
8	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
9	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: He stepped away.
10	CLERK CABANA: Oh, sorry.
11	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: All right, Madam Clerk,
12	please call our Administrative Calendar.
13	CLERK CABANA: On the Administrative
14	Calendar there are Items 13 through 54. I also have two
15	resolutions that are of an urgent or emergency nature.
16	The first is a resolution authorizing the
17	Town of Hempstead to waive the adoption fees on dogs
18	during the month of October for October Shelter Dog
19	Adoption Month. This will be Item No. 55.
20	The second is a resolution approving an
21	agreement between the Lido-Point Lookout Water District,
22	Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, New York, and the
23	Lido and Point Lookout Fire District for the purpose of
24	providing space at the Lido-Point Lookout Water District
25	well site for the installation and maintenance of radio
l	

- 1 antennas, transmission, and repeater equipment and for
- 2 the installation of pertinent equipment in connection
- 3 with such use. This will be Item No. 56.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Would any of the Board
- 5 Members like to sever any of the items on the
- 6 Administrative Calendar?
- 7 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Supervisor, I move
- 8 to -- after conferring with the Comptroller and Members
- 9 of the Board, I look to adjourn Item 46 to the November
- 10 12th meeting. And I guess that's the first motion.
- 11 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Dunne?
- 12 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Second the motion.
- 13 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Dunne.
- Mr. Lombardi, would you please come up here?
- 15 Item No. 46, Council D'Esposito has moved to
- 16 adjourn, that is an item that is kind of reconciling
- 17 different accounts so we could complete our audited
- 18 financials; is that correct?
- 19 MR. LOMBARDI: This is correct, yes.
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And this is the
- 21 financials for the 2018 budget pasted by the Santino
- 22 administration but overseen during my administration,
- 23 correct?
- MR. LOMBARDI: This was passed by the
- 25 previous, yes.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay. Sorry, go ahead.
- 2 MR. LOMBARDI: I'm just going to say now as
- 3 we reconcile this is part of the conflict reconciliation
- 4 from the 2018.
- 5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right. A large part of
- 6 these transfers relate to \$5 million of separation
- 7 payments; isn't that correct?
- 8 MR. LOMBARDI: They were adjustments to
- 9 salaries. They may include separation pay, which was
- 10 part of an incentive offered during that time as well as
- 11 changes in salaries for people that may come and go.
- 12 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Right. Separation
- 13 payment is a recurrent payment, is it not?
- MR. LOMBARDI: Well, that depends on the
- 15 year.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: That's if people leave
- 17 the employment of the Town of Hempstead, the separation
- 18 payment?
- MR. LOMBARDI: Correct.
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: As a matter of course,
- 21 correct?
- MR. LOMBARDI: Yes.
- 23 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Last year Mr. Conroy sat
- 24 where you're sitting, and he told us that the less
- 25 savings from 2018 was we were way ahead of the game and

- 1 we didn't have to worry about separation payments. I
- 2 disputed that. So that was not correct, was it?
- MR. LOMBARDI: That depends on when you're
- 4 looking at.
- 5 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Could I have a point
- 6 of order? There's a motion to adjourn.
- 7 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: We did this last week.
- 8 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Supervisor, if I may
- 9 repeat my statement: It is not subject to debate. And
- 10 I know that we've had wide latitude before. But I'd
- 11 like to ask a question: Any administrative reason why
- 12 this could not be put off?
- MR. LOMBARDI: No.
- 14 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Thank you. So what's
- 15 the issue, then?
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I can continue to run
- 17 the meeting. I am the supervisor of the Town.
- 18 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: To --
- 19 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: To continue with my
- 20 statement, there are a millions of dollars worth of
- 21 adjustments to cover pay in Item No. 46.
- MR. LOMBARDI: There are moneys to cover
- 23 separation pay, yes.
- 24 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Lombardi.
- 25 And delaying this will delay our ability to

- 1 complete our audited financials; would it not?
- 2 MR. LOMBARDI: This is part of finishing out
- 3 audited financial statements. There are other reasons.
- 4 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- 5 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: By delaying or
- 6 adjourning this so that the Town Board can read it and
- 7 understand the breakdown of these separation payment and
- 8 what are other payments that need to be made, is there
- 9 any issue with delaying this?
- MR. LOMBARDI: At this point, no.
- COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: At this point this
- 12 is no?
- So my motion stands.
- 14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: And I understand this
- 15 effort to adjourn because this is such a large item for
- 16 the Receiver of Taxes office that they don't want to
- 17 talk about, that's why we're adjourning this.
- 18 Call the roll on the adjournment.
- 19 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Supervisor, we
- 20 are in a meeting with the public.
- 21 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk, would you
- 22 please call the roll?
- SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I tell you, I'm
- 24 done.
- 25 CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Pass.				
2	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?				
3	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: I'm determined. I				
4	vote "aye."				
5	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?				
6	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.				
7	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?				
8	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.				
9	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?				
10	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.				
11	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?				
12	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Yes.				
13	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Do we have a motion on				
14	the Administrative Calendar?				
15	COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: I also move to				
16	adjourn Item 49 to a special meeting on the Town Board				
17	on Tuesday, October 8th, 11:30 a.m. here at Town Hall so				
18	the Board has time to review the tentative budget.				
19	I further move that the meeting on October				
20	8th, 2019 be moved to 3:00 p.m. to accommodate members				
21	of the public who are observing Yom Kippur on October				
22	9th. I further move the Town Clerk to give all the				
23	notice of the discussion.				
24	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Second.				
25	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?				
I					

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CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
 1
 2
                 SUPERVISOR GILLEN:
                                     I vote "no."
 3
     meeting was scheduled a year ago. In fact, I put
 4
     forward the calendar and the Town Counsel changed the
     calendar.
                It is a legal statutory requirement that the
     Supervisor submit the budget on September 30th and prior
 6
     to October 5th that the tentative budget is supposed to
 7
     be presented to the Board right into the preliminary
 8
     budget before the public. I don't think in the history
 9
     of the town we've ever had such shenanigans until I got
10
11
     here, until it was my budget.
12
                 This is an unnecessary delay. The Town
13
     Board Members will have adequate time to meet to review
     the tentative budget, and they can amend, if they feel
14
15
     appropriate, at the budget hearing, which is October
     16th.
16
17
                 And if the Town Board Members are so
18
     concerned about knowing what was in the budget, they
19
     could have taken up my invitation to be a part of the
     budget process July of this year. Last year and this
20
     year consistently, no one has accepted. I vote "no."
21
22
                                Councilman Blakeman?
                 CLERK CABANA:
23
                                       Yes.
                                             I take note that
                 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN:
24
     Councilman D'Esposito's motion is respecting the October
25
     16th date, so there is no delay. So I vote "aye."
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1
                 CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
 2
                 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO:
                                          Aye.
 3
                 CLERK CABANA:
                                Councilman Dunne?
 4
                 COUNCILMAN DUNNE:
                                    Aye.
                 CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
 6
                 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: We just got the
 7
              It was on my desk when I came in this morning.
     Normally, we have it in September. I have to take time
 8
 9
     to go through this budget so I can see what's here and
     what's not here. I did not even know what you in it.
10
     All I had to do is make sure that what I needed for my
11
12
     council district was there, and so I need time to do it.
13
     So I vote "yes."
14
                                Councilman Muscarella?
                 CLERK CABANA:
15
                 COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Yes.
16
                 COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: I just want to
17
     point out. I know Supervisor made a comment that the
18
     adjustments were being adjourned due to an amount in the
19
     Receiver of Taxes Department. The adjournment had
20
     nothing to do with that.
21
                 I know we like bringing politics into this.
22
     It's not the first time you've campaigned on Town
23
    property, but the fact that we're adjourning this has
24
     nothing to do with the amount in the Receiver of Tax
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25

line.

- 1 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Administrative Calendar?
- 2 SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Administrative
- 3 Calendar?
- 4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Second.
- 5 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Okay, we have a slip
- 6 from Felix Procacci.
- 7 FELIX PROCACCI: I'd like to point out that
- 8 the hearing on the Woodmere Golf Club that was
- 9 adjourned, you gave everybody a chance to speak and they
- 10 were supposed to speak on the adjournment only. And I
- 11 don't think one of them spoke on the adjournment. They
- 12 spoke on that issue, which was incorrect. I know we put
- 13 a big effort in this.
- 14 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Are you talking about
- 15 the Administrative Calendar?
- 16 FELIX PROCACCI: Yes, I am. It absolutely
- 17 goes to the Administrative Calendar.
- 18 I know we put a big effort on putting
- 19 flagpoles everywhere, but the importance of the
- 20 flagpoles and the flags is liberty and justice for all
- 21 by our government. And we don't believe in that here
- 22 because when certain people want to spoke on
- 23 adjournment, you let them speak, this Board lets them
- 24 speak.
- Now, the items that you adjourned today are

- 1 things I wanted to speak about today, and I think I
- 2 deserve the courtesy that you gave the people in
- 3 Woodmere Club because of liberty and justice for all.
- 4 The flag means nothing unless you put the conviction
- 5 behind the flag.
- 6 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: We'll let you speak on
- 7 whatever you want to.
- 8 FELIX PROCACCI: When did they elect you the
- 9 guiding officer, Mr. Blakeman?
- 10 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Say what you have to
- 11 say.
- 12 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You're my constituent.
- 13 FELIX PROCACCI: The transfer of funds, can
- 14 you go to the transcript for Item 46, which is being
- 15 adjourned? I think it's 26 million roughly.
- 16 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Mr. Lombardi can explain
- 17 or Mr. Smith.
- 18 FELIX PROCACCI: I'd like to do it in a
- 19 Public Hearing. That's why I come here.
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: It's not on the
- 21 Administrative Calendar anymore.
- 22 FELIX PROCACCI: Like I said, it wasn't on
- 23 the calendar when you adjourned the Woodmere Club thing.
- 24 It was adjourned.
- 25 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Felix, you overruled

- 1 me. Now you have to take the ruling from the chair.
- 2 FELIX PROCACCI: Once again, no one elected
- 3 you anything.
- 4 COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: You didn't vote for
- 5 me, Felix?
- 6 COUNCILMAN DUNNE: It's his birthday. Be
- 7 nice to him.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Let's leave it so we can
- 9 complete our audited financials and then we can amend
- 10 overages in certain areas and certain line items. They
- 11 have to transfer funds to make up and adjust for the
- 12 overages.
- 13 FELIX PROCACCI: I know what the reasons
- 14 were. I wanted to go into the reasons why they were so
- 15 large, because that was above normal. Also, another
- 16 thing on the -- we have the -- the budget on the
- 17 calendar, which also has been adjourned, and I objected
- 18 to leaving the calendar the way it was because of what
- 19 happened in the previous year. But everyone voted for
- 20 this, so then now you want to change it again, which
- 21 isn't fair to the public.
- I put things in my schedule a year in
- 23 advance, so I'll put things, you know, so I have to
- 24 check my schedule. I might have scheduled something
- 25 else the days you do decided to do different things, and

- 1 I don't think it's fair. Like you said in the past,
- 2 I've been here nine years and it was always "aye"
- 3 altogether, not one issue ever got brought up until Eric
- 4 Sweeney and Bruce Blakeman in 2017 started to fight with
- 5 Santino or vice versa. And I think that was first time
- 6 ever there was a fight. And I guess I have nothing else
- 7 to talk about on these things.
- 8 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you, Mr. Procacci.
- 9 Maryellen Craiq?
- 10 MARYELLEN CRAIG: Maryellen Craig, 436
- 11 Locust Avenue, Uniondale.
- 12 On number 36, what kind of repair to the
- 13 Uniondale water tank, please?
- SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Sorry, did you say that
- 15 was 46?
- MARYELLEN CRAIG: 35.
- 17 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Good afternoon,
- 18 Members of the Board. Commissioner Reinhardt,
- 19 Department of Water.
- This is to repaint the Uniondale water tank
- 21 and do repairs to the vent system, air in and out of the
- 22 tank so water doesn't come out.
- 23 MARYELLEN CRAIG: Say that again about the
- 24 vent.
- 25 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: The tanking system

- 1 is an outdated system, and air has to make up the space
- 2 for water within. The venting system on it is currently
- 3 an outdated system. We want to update it.
- 4 MARYELLEN CRAIG: Thank you.
- 5 Hearing says also for 37, "the acquisition,
- 6 construction, or reconstruction of or additions to the
- 7 water supply and distribution systems for Uniondale
- 8 Water District.
- 9 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Yes, 37 relates to
- 10 the program rule. It would be for treatment of dioxane
- 11 at the Oak Street station.
- 12 MARYELLEN CRAIG: What did you call it?
- 13 COMMISSIONER REINHARDT: Unregulated
- 14 contaminants.
- MARYELLEN CRAIG: Thank you.
- 16 And the -- on No. 45, anything that can be
- done as far as working with the Department of
- 18 Conservation and Waterways for the restoration of the
- 19 marshlands is to be recommended. Thank you.
- 20 SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Thank you.
- Ms. Madden?
- MS. MADDEN: Item 46, as Felix mentioned,
- 23 there is a excessive amount of money as opposed to other
- 24 years being transferred. You said there's someone
- 25 available to speak to on this?

1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Yes, you can speak to
2	Mr. Lombardi or Mr. Smith about that.
3	MS. MADDEN: Thank you.
4	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I do not have any other
5	slips.
6	Madam Clerk, please call the roll on the
7	Administrative Calendar.
8	CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?
9	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
10	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
11	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
12	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
13	COUNCILMAN D'ESPOSITO: Aye.
14	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Dunne?
15	COUNCILMAN DUNNE: Aye.
16	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
17	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
18	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
19	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
20	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: I have a motion to

SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Madam Clerk?

CLERK CABANA: Supervisor Gillen?

SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: I move that

21 adjourn.

23 that be adjourned.

22

24

1	SUPERVISOR GILLEN: Aye.
2	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Blakeman?
3	COUNCILMAN BLAKEMAN: Aye.
4	CLERK CABANA: Councilman D'Esposito?
5	COUNCILMAN D' ESPOSITO: Aye.
6	CLERK CABANA: Senior Councilwoman Goosby?
7	SENIOR COUNCILWOMAN GOOSBY: Aye.
8	CLERK CABANA: Councilman Muscarella?
9	COUNCILMAN MUSCARELLA: Aye.
10	(Whereupon, the official meeting of the
11	Hempstead Town Board was concluded at 1:46 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE BY COURT REPORTER
2	I, Nicole Wexler, do hereby certify that the
3	foregoing testimony in the matter of the Hempstead Town
4	Board Meeting held on October 2, 2019, consisting of
5	pages 3 through 133 inclusive is an accurate
6	transcription of my cryptic notes.
7	
8	
9	
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I SET MY HAND THIS DAY.
11	
12	
13	Nicole Weyler
14	
15	NICOLE WEXLER
16	NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF NEW YORK
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1	Errata Sheet
2	
3	NAME OF CASE: HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD 10/2/19 TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD ONE WASHINGTON STREET TOWN HALL P
4	DATE OF DEPOSITION: 10/02/2019
5	NAME OF WITNESS: MEETING
6	Reason Codes:
7	1. To clarify the record.
8	2. To conform to the facts.
9	3. To correct transcription errors.
10	Page Line Reason
11	From to
12	Page Line Reason
13	From to
14	Page Line Reason
15	From to
16	Page Line Reason
17	From to
18	Page Line Reason
19	From to
20	Page Line Reason
21	From to
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