

Transcript of Hearing

Date: March 15, 2021
Case: E&M Investment, LLC

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1	EXHIBITS	1	couple of features to keep in mind. Number one, if you		
2	(Cont'd)	2	would like to ask a question or if there is a community		
3	Exhibit Description ID / ADMIT	3	member that would like to ask a question of a witness, or		
4	Exhibit 36 Applicant's pre-hearing submission 25/84	4	counsel, or myself, please use the raise your hand feature.		
5	Exhibit 37(a) Staff report for admin subdivision 81/84	5	It should be on the top, middle, slightly off to the right		
6	Exhibit 37(b) Resolution for Admin subdivision 81/84	6	of your screen.		
7	Exhibit 39 Planning Staff Report CU 21-04 81/84	7	As well, in the middle where the participant tab is		
8	Exhibit 40 Aerial photo of subject property 67/84	8	located, if you click on that participant tab it will bring		
9	Exhibit 41 Photos of subject property 67/84	9	allthe participants for today's hearing in a column on your		
	Exhibit 42 Photos of sidewalk at and around 68/84	1	right. And one of those buttons will also allow you to		
			·		
	Exhibit 43 SDAT property search X/84		raiseyour hand. That lets me know that there is a question		
	Exhibit 44 SHA Accessibility Policy		or that something needs to be addressed during the hearing.		
13		13	* * * *		
14			call our office at 240-777-6663 or go to our website at		
15			www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/OZHA/virtual-meeting.html. This		
16			hearing is being recorded. I will turn the recording		
17			feature on right now. There should be a notification on		
18		18	your screen towards the top of your window indicating that		
19		19	this hearing is being recorded. As I mentioned earlier, we		
20		20	also have the benefit of a court reporter. So we have two		
21		21	methods of recording this proceeding here today.		
22		22	Some very basic ground rules for these public hearings		
23		23	and specifically for virtual hearings. Number one, please		
24		24	muteyourselves when you're not speaking. Often times there		
25			is background noise; pets, children, doors, music. I've		
	6		8		
1	PROCEEDINGS	1	heardthem all. Sometimes they can disturb the hearing, but		
2	HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: 21. This is a public	2	in the virtual world that we are living in right now, don't		
3	hearing on the Montgomery County Office of Zoning	3	worryif a child goes in the background or if something gets		
4	and Administrative in OZHA case number CU 21-03 requesting a	4	your attention. We are just dealing with that right now.		
5	conditional use for a home health practitioner located at	5	Second, when you are speaking, please remember to		
6	9221 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, all located	6	unmute yourselves if you're being asked a question by		
7	within Montgomery County, Maryland.	7	counsel or by myself. The chat feature that we do have on		
8	My name is Derek Baumgardner and I'm the hearing	\ \sqrt{\omega}	Microsoft Teams has been disabled. So you're not able to		
9	examiner for this case, which means that I will listen to	9	text a chat in the Teams platform to myself or to OZHA		
10	today, take in evidence, and write a decision. You may request an appeal to the board of appeals within 10 days of		staff. So again, that raise your hand feature will allow us		
11 12	the date of that decision.		to recognize you and answer any questions that you might		
13	I'm looking through our list of attendees. I see we				
14	have the witnesses that were identified by counsel. Mr.		have.		
15	Hughes, good morning, sir. And we have the court reporter.	13			
16	MR. HUGHES: Good morning.		morning, but when folks are testifying, please limit		
17	HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: We thank you very much		crosstalk. So if one individual is being questioned, please		
18	for joining us here today. And OZHA staff, I'm not seen		allow counsel to ask their questions and then a response be		
19	anyoneelse who is logged in at this point, but we certainly		given. Also, if you are the one answering questions, please		
20	welcomepublic participation if any folks from the community		wait until Mr. Hughes has finished his question to answer		
21	would like to participate.	19	yours. This is for the benefit of both myself and the court		

25 be calling today.

As you by no doubt can see, we are currently conducting OZHA hearings using a virtual platform. This one

25 before. If not, welcome to this platform. They are a

24 iscalled Microsoft Teams. Hopefully you all have used this

20 reporter so that we can get all of that testimony in and

22 Right now I would like to identify the parties for the

23 record starting with counsel. And Mr. Hughes, if you can, 24 identify the Applicant and then the witnesses that you will

21 there are not voices over voices over voices.

11 MR. HUGHES: Yes, good morning. Thank you, Mr. Hearing in as we go through them if you like. Or we can wait until Examiner. Sean Hughes here for Miller, Miller, & the end and then move them into the record formally as a Camby The Applicant, our client, is Mr. Mohamed Matope, and bulk item. But they are listed with individual exhibit we had three expert witnesses, John Sekerak from Stantec, numbers Shariar Etemadi from STS, and Sergio Rodriguez also from MR. HUGHES: Thank you. I will try to remember to ask Stantec. Thank you, sir. you at the end. Sometimes when we get toward the end I am HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you all for being excited to wrap up. But I'm making a note of it. Thank with us here today. We also have Ms. Nonna Johnson who is you. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Not a problem. I will our OZHA staff. She is logged in and available by phone if 10 anyone is having any trouble with the virtual hearing 10 also make a note to bring that up just so that's clear in 11 process. 11 the record, that all those exhibits will be moved into the Is there -- I don't see anyone logged in that I don't 12 record. 13 recognize, but just for the record, is there anyone who is 13 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Having gone through all 14 participatinghere today who is either not already listed in 15 the record or would like to testify? If so, please raise 15 theexhibits, I can also recommend that they will be part of 16 your hand or somehow indicate that you are here to testify the record and I have reviewed them. So we don't have to 17 either in support or in opposition of this application. necessarily go through each and every exhibit. You're 18 Seeing none, great. We will move on to the general process welcome to be brief in examining your witnesses. We don't 19 of these hearings. needduplicative of testimony or evidence in the record. But As most of you have done this before, there is really 20 you're welcome to go to the witnesses however you see fit. 20 21 no difference between the virtual hearing platform and a 21 Without any other issues to address, we will open it up to 22 live hearing. The Applicant will go first. They will be 22 Mr. Hughes to start our case here today. 23 able to provide an opening statement through counsel. 23 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Hearing Examiner. Again, 24 Counsel will then put on their case in chief. They will go 24 Sean Miller here from Miller, Miller, & Camby. One other 25 through their witnesses. Anyone participating who would somewhat procedural item. The affidavit of posting is in 10 12 liketo ask any questions of those witnesses will be able to the record, but we can recertify that either through myself after their testimony has concluded. If I have any or through our witness, but the sign is nice and sturdy and questions of the witnesses, I will do that again, after the has been at the whole time and we checked on it regularly. testimony has concluded. Thank you. There is no opposition that I am aware of. At the So with your permission, I will just do a brief opening. And Mr. Hearing Examiner, you may have a -- and we conclusion of counsel's case, will again ask if there is any member from the public that would like to ask any questions will try to be succinct as we can. Montgomery County -or otherwise participate in today's hearing. Since there is as you are seeing it, it's pretty thorough code requirements. But we will be fishing there. As you may -no opposition, counsel and the Applicant will be given the 10 opportunity to provide a closing statement if they so wish 10 as you alluded to, you may see -- where very happy overall 11 and that will essentially wrap up today. Let me see if I'm withthe staff report and the planning Board recommendation. 12 forgetting anything. Wedo believe that they agreed that we meet all the criteria

conclusionof counsel's case, will again ask if there is any
member from the public that would like to ask any questions
or otherwise participate in today's hearing. Since there is
no opposition, counsel and the Applicant will be given the
opportunity to provide a closing statement if they so wish
and that will essentially wrap up today. Let me see if I'm
forgetting anything.

Mr. Hughes, were there any other procedural issues or
matters that you wanted to bring up before we start your
case in chief?

MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Baumgardner. Just one
question. With the exhibit list and items, would they be
considered in the record? Or would you want me during the
hearing or at the end asked that they be moved in
officially?

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: They are technically
part of the record and then we would move to admit them

23 usually at the end of today's hearing. With no opposition,

exhibits as they currently are. We can certainly move them

24 I've been through the record. I have reviewed all the

9 requirements. But we will be fishing there. As you may -10 as you alluded to, you may see -- where very happy overall
11 withthe staff report and the planning Board recommendation.
12 Wedo believe that they agreed that we meet all the criteria
13 for the conditional use requested.
14 So we are going to have our witnesses kind of confirm
15 those positions. But we are also going to put, as you may
16 have seen from some of our exhibits, we're going to put a
17 fair amount of effort after we say thank you and hopefully
18 we prove our case, the overall case, we do have some
19 significant concerns about one condition, condition number
20 eight. So we will also that with your permission, I would
21 kind of like to move our witnesses through the conditional
22 use criteria and then kind of have a mini review at the end
23 just a focus on conditional approval recommended number
24 eight. That's what I would like to do with your permission.
25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure, that would be

16

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fine. MR. MATOPE: Yes. 2 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. So a quick overview of the HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And sir, do you swear or 3 application. Yes, if that -- and first of all, we would affirm under the penalties of perjury that the testimony 4 think the staff report, they did a good job as they always you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth and the 5 do. Very thorough, very nice report. So is that 9221 whole truth? 6 Colesville Road in Silver Spring, which is really -- it's 6 MR. MATOPE: I do. justalmost in between downtown Silver Spring area where the 7 Thank you, very much. Mr. Hughes, the floors yours. 8 business district is on Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Matope. 9 where they meet and you start heading towards the Beltway, MR. MATOPE: Good morning. 10 495. It's almost in the middle of those two areas. So as 10 MR. HUGHES: Can you for the record -- well actually I 11 you'reheading towards the Beltway, that you kind of get out 11 think they have your name. So I won't do that. Can you 12 of the downtown district. It traditional homes that were 12 tell us a little bit about your educational background? 13 built in the '30s, '40s, and '50s. And it's a little bit MR. MATOPE: So my educational background is that I am 14 before we get down the hill towards Oswego Creek. 14 a registered nurse. I came to this country in 1997. I was And then a traditional neighborhood. The history of 15 an international student. So I went to -- I went ahead and 16 the property as it was a home doctor's office. Many of us 16 dida degree in nursing and also I have a master of business 17 likemyself grew up going to a doctor's office in a home and 17 administration in management areas. 18 a dental office in the home. From about 1959 on, it was a MR. HUGHES: Wonderful. Thank you. Can you tell us a 19 -- a doctor had a practice there and then it continued all 19 little bit about after you got your educational background 20 theway officially until 2012 when it was revoked. It seems 20 here, a little bit about your professional background? 21 that, and there is some information in the record about 21 MR. MATOPE: So my professional background, I started 22 this, that the doctor passed away in 2007, but revocation 22 outas a registered nurse in hospital settings. So I worked 23 did not occur until 2012. inseveral hospitals in the area including Fairfax Hospital. There was also -- it's in the record as well. I I worked at Children's National Medical Center in 25 apologize. But sometime around the mid-'90s or late '80s I Washington, D.C. So most of my time as a nurse I worked in 14 1 believe, the doctor's son became a doctor and he also wanted apediatric with pediatric patients. And so far I have been 2 to practice there. So at that point at they had to ask for a nurse for over 20 years. 3 special exception to have a nonresidential doctor working And up until eight years ago after we started out this 4 there, but it was the two of them essentially. So it's had business, we started this business 10 years ago; years ago I a similar use for close to 50 some of the last 60 startedgetting busy and I stopped working in the hospitals. But most of my experiences is in hospital settings. So I something years. What we are asking for something very similar. Mr. workedin different areas including ICU, emergency room, and Matopeand his wife are -- you make up E and M for Elizabeth I did traveling medicine too. MR. HUGHES: Thank you. So your current business, and Mohamed, the Applicant, and he is a registered nurse 10 thatyou will hear about any of the home -- they have a home 10 primarily you guys provide medical services to people while 11 health practitioner business and they would like to -- they 11 they are in their homes? You go to their home; is that 12 recentlypurchased the house and are making some renovations 12 correct? 13 to it. They are planning on moving into it. And if we are MR. MATOPE: Yes, so two people, yes, home. But most 14 fortunate enough to get an approval, they will also operate 14 of our employees, they work out in the field. So this is a 15 their business. 15 home care business. Most of our job is done in the As it's been requested here they will have up to six 16 patients' houses. 17 employees outside of them. Although really two will be 17 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. 18 there all day that our jobs. The other four really are out 18 MR. MATOPE: So they --19 19 in the field for the bulk of the day if not the large MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Sorry about that. And your 20 majority of the day. So that's kind of a little bit the 20 nursing license is active; that's correct? 21 history of the property and what we are requesting. With 21 MR. MATOPE: Yes, it's correct. 22 that, I would like to call my first witness, the Applicant, 22 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And you and your wife own the

24

25

23 property at 9221 Colesville Road; correct?

MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's correct.

MR. HUGHES: And who is E&G investments, LLC?

23 Mr. Mohamed Matope.

25 please raise your right hand, please?

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Matope, would you

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MR. MATOPE: My wife and I are the participants, the 2 principle of E&G Investment, LLC.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And is it true today you're

- asking permission for you and your wife to operate E & M as 4
- noted in the application, the home practitioner's office at
- your property?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Let's see; and so it's correct that
- 9 the plan is for you, your wife, and your children to live
- 10 there and operate the facility if you are granted approval;
- 11 is that correct?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's correct. 12
- 13 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And is it also true, Mr. Matope,
- 14 that the business operations will only occur in the
- 15 residence? You will not have any business operations out in
- 16 the yard or the rest of the property? Is that true?
- 17 MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's true.
- 18 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And the business will be
- 19 subordinate to the use of the house and the property as your
- 20 home for you and your wife and kids, correct?
- 21 MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's correct.
- MR. HUGHES: And this particular property is a house,
- 23 it's a single-family residence dwelling; is that correct?
- 24 MR. MATOPE: Yes, it's correct.
- 25 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And you are aware that is not
- 1 permissible to have exterior storage of goods or equipment
- for the business? You can't store it outside; is that
- correct?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: And also that you understand and agree
- 6 that the type of equipment or facilities are limited to
- office and medical equipment in this case, correct?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And you all plan to -- you
- 10 know you must dispose of medical waste according to the
- 11 standard of state and federal regulations, correct?
- 12 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. And one of the things also in the
- 14 code for what you are asking for says that truck deliveries
- 15 must be limited to kind of the standard residential ones;
- 16 UPS, FedEx, Amazon, et cetera. That's what you will have
- 17 and you won't have a large otherwise truck deliveries; is 18 that true?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's true.
- 20 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And should the County need any
- 21 additional -- as you move through any other approvals, if
- 22 they need any proof of ownership of the property, you will
- 23 be willing to provide so, correct?
- 24 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 25 MR. HUGHES: One of the thing the code also asks, is

- 1 you make sure that your -- although we know you're not
- having alot of patients coming there. That's not the plan.
- But the ones that come your supposed to inform them of your
- proper address and where to park. Is that something you
- guys plan to do?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. And for your standard patients,
- 8 they must have appointments? They can't just walk in? You
- can't have walk-ins? You understand that?
- 10 MR. MATOPE: Yes, I do.
- MR. HUGHES: And you also understand it does allow you 11
- 12 -- the code if you're granted approval, doesn't allow you
- 13 for emergency appointments that might not have a set time
- 14 period or outside of normal hours. Do you understand that
- 15 opportunity?
- MR. MATOPE: Yes. 16
- 17 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Now in this case, you did go ahead
- 18 and -- you filed the County filing fee for this conditional
- 19 use for just under \$10,000; is that correct?
- 20 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 21 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And you've also retained
- 22 consultants or experts to help you with this process
- 23 includingme and my law firm, the engineering firm, Stantec;
- 24 is that correct? To help you with this?
- 25 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 20 1 MR. HUGHES: And also Mr. Etemadi from CTS, the traffic
- engineer? 2
- 3 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 4 MR. HUGHES: Okay. You are also working on some
- renovations inside for the office side and your residential
- side and paying the contractors, and permit fees and such,
- 7 correct?
- 8 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 9 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Very good. And those a lot of the
- 10 fees and costs you expected; is that true to say?
- 11 MR. MATOPE: Yes.
- 12 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Now let me ask you just briefly
- 13 about condition number 8. Are you aware of this condition
- 14 that has been proposed by the Planning Board and staff?
- 15 MR. MATOPE: Yes, I do.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. What is your understanding of what
- 17 that would entail for you? What would that involve to you
- 18 potentially?
- MR. MATOPE: Yeah, that would involve ripping up the
- 20 sidewalksand replacing with a new sidewalk and that's going
- 21 to involve moving of the utility poles that is sitting there
- 22 right in the middle there, the sidewalks.
- 23 MR. HUGHES: Did you understand that -- yeah, it's
- 24 quite possible some of the utility poles may have to be
- 25 removed as part of that process. Is that your

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Conducted on March 15, 2021 21 23 understanding? specific area that you are currently focusing on? MR. MATOPE: Yes. MR. MATOPE: Where focused in the home care business. MR. HUGHES: And have you been told by your consultants So home care business, it has so many areas of home care. or other people that this might be a pretty involved and But we -- for now, majority of our patients are pediatrics. lengthy time period and costly one? HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. And my last MR. MATOPE: Yes, I was told. They say the cost of question is for condition number 8 and the current state of moving the utility pole is between \$60,000 to \$200,000. And repair of the existing sidewalk and existing driveway. Can the cost of replacing the sidewalks is \$20,000 to \$30,000. you just give me an idea? Is it newer concrete or asphalt? MR. HUGHES: Okay. Let me switch over -- so if you are Is it degrading concrete or asphalt? What is the current 10 -- if we are fortunate enough to get approval here, what 10 state of that sidewalk and then any kind of driveway apron 11 will this mean to you and your family to have this 11 or the driveway itself? 12 conditional use and allow you to have the home business MR. MATOPE: Yes, the current state of the sidewalk is 13 operate for your medical practice? 13 good. There is no problem. But I think what they are MR. MATOPE: Can you repeat the question again? I'm 14 askingus to do is to expand it. Right now I think the size 14 15 sorry. 15 of the sidewalk is 4 feet. And condition number 8, I think MR. HUGHES: Yeah. What will this mean? Will it be 16 is asking us to expand it to make it 8 feet. I mean, 5 17 exciting? Or what will this mean to you and your family if 18 you get approval to operate the business and live in that HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Those were all 18 19 residence? 19 the questions I had of this witness. Thank you very much, MR. MATOPE: Yeah, this conditional approval will place 20 sir. 21 a lot of burden on our businesses because the cost that we 21 Mr. Hughes, I will leave it up to you for your next 22 are -- there is no part of our planning or budget. We are 22 witness. 23 afraid with this now and with what's going on now with the 23 MR. HUGHES: Yes, thank you Mr. Baumgardner. And I 24 pandemic, our revenue has been -- our business has been 24 would say to you last questioned him, we will also have a 25 impacted with the Covid and everything else. And with this little more testimony come from Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. 22 24 1 extracost the project is really going to bring a big burden Sekerak. And you can obviously ask them a little bit more 2 toour business and we will -- it's going to shake us up. I about that. Yes, my next witness would be Mr. Shariar 3 mean, that's for sure. Etemadi, please. MR. HUGHES: I understand. Thank you. Thank you. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And before we get to 5 Okay. Mr. Hearing Examiner, I would like to, next witness, that witness, I am seeing that we have a call in. Let me please. Thank you, Mr. Matope. just unmute the call in and find out if this individual MR. MATOPE: Thank you. wanted to ask Mr. Matope any questions. If I can do that. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure. I did have a We do have a call in from a -- well, last four digits 4995. couple of quick follow-up questions for Mr. Matope. The Are you there? So they are present. They are not unmuting 10 first, do you and your family currently live in the 11 property, 9221 Colesville Road? 10 their phone. All right. MR. MATOPE: No, we do not currently live there. The 12 11 13 property is still under renovations, but we are planning to 12 Then we will move on. So that was Mr. Etemadi; is that 14 move. 13 correct? HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. And the LLC, E & 15 MR. HUGHES: Yes. And Mr. Baumgardner, I'm sure you 16 MInvestment LLC, are you and your wife equal members of the 15 willcheck in again later on with -- if there is a caller or 17 LLC? 16 two. And we certainly welcome their opportunity if they 18 MR. MATOPE: Yes, that's correct. 17 justwant to listen. But if they change their mind and want 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Are there any other members 18 tohave questions of us or anything, we simply would welcome 20 of the LLC other than yourself and your wife?

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Are there -- is there a 20 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Great, thank you. 22 23 specific area of the home medical services that you -- that 21 Mr. Etemadi, can you raise your right hand, please? 24 your company will be providing or does provide to folks? 22 And sir, do you swear or affirm under the penalties of

25 Is it pediatrics or general health? Neurology? Is there a

21

MR. MATOPE: No.

perjury that the testimony you are about to give is the

24 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

25 MR. ETEMADI: I do.

19 that.

28

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1	HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Mr. Hughes, the floor is
2	Vours

- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Etemadi, can you identify
- your business address?
- MR. ETEMADI: It's 6449 Red Keel, Columbia, Maryland 21044. 6
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what's the name of the
- business? And is it your business? Is that correct?
- MR. ETEMADI: Yes, STS Consulting.
- 10 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Etemadi, have you ever
- 11 been qualified as an expert in transportation planning and
- 12 traffic engineering?
- 13 MR. ETEMADI: Yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Mr. Baumgardner, his resume is --14
- 15 you kind of alluded to it earlier. As part of Exhibit 36,
- 16 our prehearing statement. I would like, with your
- 17 permission, offer him as an expert in those fields of
- 18 transportation planning and traffic engineering.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: He is so accepted as an
- 20 expert in traffic engineering and transportation planning.
- 21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- Mr. Etemadi, you are asked to review the traffic plan
- 23 for this use and provide a traffic report regarding it; is
- 24 that true?
- MR. ETEMADI: Yes. 25

- conclusionof our report is that this proposed establishment
- is not going to have any impact on the transportation
- system. 3
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And thank you Mr. Hearing
- Examiner. I believe you have Exhibit 25(c) up, which is Mr.
- Etemadi's report dated 1/13/21.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's correct.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And Mr. Etemadi, the county
- planning staff concurred with your conclusions and your
- position that there was no traffic study needed, correct?
- 11 MR. ETEMADI: Correct, yes.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. So in your professional opinion, is
- 13 the surrounding transportation network going to be impacted
- 14 in any material way by the proposed use here?
- 15 MR. ETEMADI: No.
- 16 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, sir. Mr. Hearing Examiner, I
- would like to, next witness who is John Sekerak from
- Stantec. John -- I'm going to have Mr. Sekerak go through a
- lot of the conditional use criteria. And then he is one
- 20 person that towards the end I would like to recall when I
- 21 focus on condition approval number 8, sir.
- 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Not a problem at all.
- 23 Mr. Sekerak, would you please raise your right hand?
- 24 And sir, do you swear or affirm under penalties of
- 25 perjurythe testimony you're about to give is the truth, the

- MR. HUGHES: And can you just very briefly, because it
- is minor even for a nonexpert like me. The traffic is
- pretty low. But can you just briefly describe what your
- 4 traffic report -- how you came to it what it says? Its
- 5 conclusions?
- MR. ETEMADI: Yes. We have actually looked at the
- 7 number of employees and the patients who are going to be at
- the site during the peak hours. We actually looked at the
- 9 worst-case scenarios and at the most, we're going to have 8
- 10 trips during the peak hours or peak periods in the morning,
- 11 and the same number, 8 trips during the p.m. peak period or
- 12 peak hours. We are not exactly sure if they're going to be
- 13 concentrated in one peak hour, but during the peak period.
- So that is a very low traffic generating site and is
- 15 notrequired to do a local area transportation review, which
- 16 means that we have to do a traffic study to test the
- 17 adequacy of public facilities relating to transportation.
- 18 The intersections nearby, there are two of them. We
- 19 examined them and basically they are operating within
- 20 congestion standards. We have a very good access to
- 21 transit, which is basically like 20, 25 minutes' walk to
- 22 Silver Spring Metro stations.
- We have so many bus services going by the site. The
- 24 site is located at 200 feet away from a bus stop where we
- 25 have bus services every 20 minutes during the day. So the

- whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
- MR. SEKERAK: I do.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, and welcome.
- Mr. Hughes, the floor is yours.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Sekerak, can you state for
- the record your work address?
- MR. SEKERAK: I work at the multidisciplinary
- consultancy firm of Stantec at 22440 Century Boulevard in
- Germantown, Maryland.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what is your profession?
- 11 MR. SEKERAK: I'm a land-use planner certified by the
- 12 American Institute of Certified Planners. And I'm a
- 13 landscape architect licensed in the State of Maryland among
- 14 others.
- MR. HUGHES: And how long have you been in those fields
- 16 as a professional?
- MR. SEKERAK: 37 years.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Mr. Hearing Examiner, his resume is
- 19 also part of Pre-hearing Statement Exhibit Number 36. I
- 20 would like to offer him as an expert in land planning and
- 21 landscape architecture.
- 22 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: He is so designated as
- 23 an expert in land-use planning and landscape architecture.
- 24 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Sekerak, I'm going to
- 25 reference Exhibit 30, the staff report in figure 1, to help

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1 you identify some things. But if you also want to identify

- 2 another exhibit, perhaps your site plan which is I believe
- 3 Exhibit 25(a), feel free to let us know. But can you just
- 4 tell us a little bit about the general land-use patterns in
- area?
- MR. SEKERAK: Sure. Generally single-family detached
- 7 residences with land-use patterns typically of R60 zone
- 8 land-use and it includes some institutional uses.
- Specifically, a major feature is Colesville Road, US Route
- 10 29 going diagonally past the property. In the opposite
- 11 diagonal area is Sligo Creek, Stream Valley Park and Sligo
- 12 Creek Parkway are two significant features.
- Regarding those institutional uses I referenced, there
- 14 is a place of worship right across Colesville Road from the
- 15 subject property and another place of worship a little
- 16 further to the southwest. And at the intersection of Dale
- 17 Driveand Colesville Road, also the intersection is the Toll
- 18 House restaurant. But other than that, this is dominantly
- 19 single-family detached residential area.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what is the zoning of the
- 21 property, sir?
- 2.2. MR. SEKERAK: R60.
- 23 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And can you tell us just briefly
- 24 about the abutting and confronting properties that you
- 25 haven't touched on yet?

- 1 a skew? 2
 - MR. SEKERAK: That is -- plan north is straight up.
 - HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Got it. So let's use 3
 - that as our base. So if you see the proposed site in blue,
 - that nearby special exception in pink would be I guess
 - directly due north. So I guess we can use that as our
 - basis.
 - 8 MR. HUGHES: Very good. Thank you, sir. Go ahead Mr.
 - Sekerak. Or did you finish answering the question? My
 - 10 apologies.
 - MR. SEKERAK: No. Then again, I guess if the church is
 - 12 directly due north, then the adjoining dental practice,
 - 13 which on this exhibit is shown as S-2122, is to our
 - 14 northeast. That has again, a dental practice. It has
 - 15 parking in front of the building. And I understand it has
 - 16 -- it includes a residence.
 - To our southwest, the abutting property is a single-
 - 18 familyresidence and it appears to have an ancillary medical
 - 19 use also. To the rear of the property are single-
 - 20 family detached homes fronting on Kingsbury Drive, the
 - 21 residential street to the interior of the neighborhood.
 - MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
 - 23 MR. SEKERAK: On this exhibit, note that the blue
 - 24 identifying the property is a little bit too far to the
 - southwest due to a mapping error in GIS. It actually

MR. SEKERAK: Sure. Across Colesville Road I had

- mentioned the existing place of worship. And next door to
- thatis single-family detached residence. Directly abutting
- our property to the northeast is a dental practice.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: And Mr. Sekerak, I'm
- sorry to interrupt you. Can you kind of level set for us
- the directions? Because it's kind of a weird set up. Can
- you tell us what you believe the directions are so we can
- all be on the same page? I think we've had a little bit of
- 10 discussions with this with staff and others because of the
- 11 way things sit here.
- MR. SEKERAK: Right. Knowingly it enough it's right on
- 13 the diagonal. So which way is north on the property is
- 14 somewhatinterpretive. So I'd the happy to describe that to
- 15 the Northeast, Southwest. Or if the Hearing Examiner would
- 16 like to just consider the abutting property to our north of
- 17 the north, I can work with that. Or if the Colesville Road
- 18 intersection is considered to the north of the property, I
- 19 would be happy to do that also.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Is the figure that
- 21 should be displayed now, which is figure 2, the staff
- 22 defined neighborhood -- can you all see that?
- 23 MR. HUGHES: Yes.
- 24 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Is this
- 25 current figure -- is that based on the compass? Or is that

- directly abutting the dental practice to our northeast.
- 2 MR. HUGHES: Okay.

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- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: It looks like they are
- invading their neighbor a little bit.
- MR. HUGHES: And thank you, Mr. Sekerak. Can you tell
- us a little bit about the zoning neighborhood? And
- reference I guess again would be some staff report which I
- believe that or Exhibit 30 and figure 2, which I think --
- where we just looking at figure 2 or 3? I apologize. Yes.
- 10 Is there anything more you want to tell us about the zoning
- 11 neighborhood?
- MR. SEKERAK: Well, it does -- the exhibit that you're
- 13 seeing here now defined by the staff, does differ from what
- 14 the Applicant had submitted with our initial application.
- 15 There is no substantive difference in terms of it's all
- 16 dominantly single-family detached neighborhood. They are
- 17 not too different in overall size, and shape. But I will
- 18 describe the differences because it does impact whether or
- 19 notsome additional existing special exceptions, conditional
- 20 uses are or are not within the neighborhood. So I guess I
- 21 would ask that you bring up Exhibit 12, which is the
- 22 Applicants' surrounding neighborhood delineation.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sometimes it takes a 23
- 24 while to load.
- 25 MR. SEKERAK: So it doesn't seem like we're going to be

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- able to toggle between the two exhibits.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Here we go. Here we go.
- Sometimes it works great. Other times it's a little bit
- slow to the uptake. All right. This should be on your
- screen now.
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. And if you would like to get the
- orientation the same, if you could rotate it
- counterclockwise 90 degrees.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I don't think I have the
- 10 ability to do that, but I am properly oriented.
- 11 MR. SEKERAK: Okay.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: You can continue your
- 13 testimony.
- MR. SEKERAK: Yeah. With the understanding that North
- 15 is to the right of the page. Yeah.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okav.
- 17 MR. SEKERAK: I will describe the differences.
- 18 MR. HUGHES: And just briefly, Mr. Sekerak, but yes, please
- 19 point out the key differences.
- MR. SEKERAK: All right. The Applicants' neighborhood
- 21 did include Sligo Park -- a stream Valley Park as part of
- 22 the neighborhood. It is a real contributing element to the
- 23 character of the neighborhood and it's only a very small
- 24 distance away, only one property removed from the subject
- 25 property. I used the Parkway itself and its very large
- 1 intersection as a delineating factor. To the southeast I
- 2 included those properties that are on the intersection of
- Dale Drive and Colesville Road, all four quadrants of that
- intersection.
- 5 MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- MR. SEKERAK: The restaurant use, the parking port is
- onthe other quadrant of the use. So I didn't want to sever
- 8 one use area from some within the neighborhood, some
- 9 outside. And I did include the church also at that
- 10 intersection since that's within line of sight of the
- 11 property. To the east of our property the -- or I'm sorry,
- 12 the staff did go further the back into that neighborhood.
- 13 And I do not mean to quibble there. There is no real
- 14 defining area. It's just a judgment of how deep into that
- 15 neighborhood the thing could extend.
- However, on the other side of Colesville Road, staff
- 17 hadgone considerably deeper into that neighborhood and I do
- 18 differwith that. Colesville Road is a six lane, classified
- 19 as a major highway. And that's the type of feature that
- 20 provides a delineation for a residential neighborhood. So I
- 21 only included those properties on the other side that do
- 22 front on Colesville Road and within line of sight of the
- 23 property. Those other residences much further back into the
- 24 neighborhood have no relationship to the site in terms of
- 25 sightor sound. And the circulation around is so circuitous

- that any relationship is lost by the time you travel from one to the other.
- And again, I -- it doesn't change the findings in terms
- of the character of the neighborhood. Just as we discussed,
- are there any other special exceptions or conditional uses
- within the neighborhood is why I'm even wasting your time
- with this discussion.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. And we will probably -- we are
- going to touch upon that and just a little bit I think, that
- 10 second part, or the part you just raised. Let me ask you a
- 11 bit more about the property. Are there any relevant
- 12 environmental features for this application or for review
- 13 related to this application?
- MR. SEKERAK: No. It's -- there are no environmental
- 15 features such as streams, wetlands, floodplain, et cetera.
- 16 There is one large tree in the rear yard. There are other
- 17 trees and shrubs typical of a residence on there. It is
- 18 mostly lawn. It slopes gently from the southwest of the
- 19 Northeast about 14 feet over the length of the property,
- 20 which is only about 6 percent average slope. It has the
- 21 existing home, ancillary shed, a carport, and the existing
- 22 parking place. When it comes to environmental features it
- 23 is very typical of the residences in this area.
- 24 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And I'm going to ask, probably
- 25 just to see if you can just to speed up on one area here.
- 34
- Talking about the R60 zoning development standard for the
- zoning code, that is that I will refer to Exhibit 30, the
- staff report, and page 14 and also on your -- let me back
- that up. It lays out all the standards. And is it fair to
- say we meet or exceed all standards under section 59 4.49B?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes, the staff has a nice tabulation of
- that and they are also included on the base of the site plan
- for conditional use, which was Exhibit 25(a).
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- 10 MR. SEKERAK: And both are very consistent with each
- 11 other and they demonstrate that the existing property is in
- 12 conformance with all the development standards of the R60
- 13 zone.
- 14 MR. HUGHES: Okay. And then I'm going to ask you about
- 15 parking requirements for 59 6.2.4, which are also shown up
- 16 onthe same Exhibit 30 of staff report, page 14, and also in
- 17 your Exhibit 25(a), your site plan. Can you tell us about
- 18 the parking requirements?
- MR. SEKERAK: The staff, as you indicated on the
- 20 tabulation on page 14 and the tabulation on the face of the
- 21 siteplan for conditional use, again 25(a), both come to the
- 22 same conclusion regarding number of spaces required and the
- 23 number of spaces provided. There is a slight difference in
- 24 how they -- we arrived at that.
- So for consistency, I would recommend that -- use the

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1 tabulation on the face of the site plan, which indicates

- 2 that one space is required for the home healthcare
- 3 practitioner. And then we limit the number of clients on
- 4 site at any time to one. That was as we had proposed
- 5 initially with the -- in the statement of operations, et
- 6 cetera and on the face of the site plan. And that's all
- that's necessary for Mr. Matope's practice.
- MR. HUGHES: So you are pointing this out -- your
- recommendation for the hearing examiner to consider is this
- 10 -- the numbers are the same for you and staff, but there is
- 11 a slight difference that you are recommended be handled the
- 12 way you just stated; is that correct?
- 13 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct, 10 required, 10
- 14 proposed. Let's see. But if the staff recommended
- 15 condition and the Planning Board's recommending condition
- 16 of two parking spaces -- let's see. A parking space for
- 17 each patient on site at any one time be two, then -- then
- 18 according to our calculations, we would not be meeting the
- 19 minimum number of requirements. So we recommend that the
- 20 condition of approval be amended to be one patient on site
- 21 at any one time.
- MR. HUGHES: And Mr. Matope is proposing a maximum of
- 23 two a day. Because again, almost all his stuff really is
- 24 going to be a people's homes and even with that, didn't we
- 25 propose that it would be one at a time. There will not be

- MR. HUGHES: Keep going. I'm sorry.
- MR. SEKERAK: The second waiver necessary is for the
- width of the drive aisle behind those spaces is, as you can
- see, a dimension on the plan is 18 feet from the back of
- those spaces to the edge of the existing parking. And a
- typical requirement for two-way traffic for perpendicular
- spaces would be 20 feet. So we are requesting 18 being
- sufficient.
- With both waivers concerning the very low traffic
- 10 volumes, very low traffic speeds on such a small parking
- 11 facility, we feel that the -- utilizing the existing parking
- 12 is efficient and safe and satisfies the intent of the --
- 13 that section of the code, 59.6.2.1 ensuring safe, efficient
- 14 access within a parking facility. Staff recommended
- 15 approval of the conditions and the Planning Board except of 16 them also.
- 17 MR. HUGHES: For both those waivers, correct?
- 18 MR. SEKERAK: For both waivers, correct.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Let me ask you a quick
- 20 question just related to a good question the hearing
- 21 examiner had earlier to Mr. Matope. Can you tell us --
- 22 wellfirst of all, you've been out on the site several times
- 23 to visit it; is that correct?
- 24 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
- 25 MR. HUGHES: And can you weigh in on the status of the

two patients at the same time, correct?

- MR. SEKERAK: Correct, a maximum of 10 over the course
- of a week. But on site at any one time would be limited to
- 5 MR. HUGHES: Very good. And staff -- overall, staff --
- well, were there any waivers involved here with the parking?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, two waivers are necessary. The
- sitehas, as we mentioned, an existing parking facility that 9 had served the historical land use for the property for
- 10 decades. Records indicate that that had accommodated 11
- 11 spaces. We are showing a configuration that readily
- 12 accommodates 10 parking spaces. But for those 10 spaces,
- 13 you can see the -- 3 of the spaces are in tandem, exactly
- 14 what you are suckling on Exhibit 25(a).
- The single-family residence allows for tandem spaces.
- 16 Sotwo of those tandem spaces are allowed for the residence.
- 17 Weare requesting a waiver to allow two other tandem spaces.
- 18 You heard Mr. Matope's testimony, the nature of most of the
- 19 employees are out in the field during the course of the day.
- 20 Sowe don't feel that these tandem spaces would be any -- it
- 21 would be efficiently used; the few times when they would
- 22 need to be used. The employees would be there and be able
- 23 to move a vehicle if it became necessary.
- 24 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- 25 MR. SEKERAK: The --

- 1 sidewalk or the driveway apron?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, it doesn't appear to be new
- concrete in terms of the, like, coloredness of it. But it
- certainly -- no need for improvements or replacement or
- repair of -- the sidewalk and the driveway are in perfectly
- good condition.

- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Is there any bicycle parking
- required for this project?
- MR. SEKERAK: No.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Sekerak, based on
- 11 your professional opinion, does this application conform
- 12 with the master plan here?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes, the master plan is the 2000 North
- 14 and West Silver Spring Master Plan adopted in August 2000.
- 15 The text of the master plan does not specifically address
- 16 this particular property. It does recommend the R60 zoning
- 17 for the property and the entire neighborhood; however, it's
- 18 defined. And it recommends preservation of the existing
- 19 character of the existing residential neighborhoods. There
- 20 is some discussion of a specific section on special
- 21 exceptions, but again, nothing specific about this property.
- 22 And it really focuses on other locations within the master 23 plan area.
- 24 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And can you explain whether
- 25 this conditional use will cause an excessive concentration

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- of such uses in the neighborhood? And you could touch upon
- what we alluded to earlier about any relevant special
- exceptions, conditional uses, or otherwise in the area.
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. The staff had initially identified
- a daycare center across Colesville Road.
- MR. HUGHES: And Mr. Sekerak, let me see. We should
- probablygo Exhibit -- staff report, Exhibit 30, and I think
- it's item 3. I apologize. We had it up earlier.
- Table 2 or 3 in the staff report. Yeah, sorry,
- 10 Mr. Hearing Examiner, I apologize.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Is that right? 11
- 12 MR. SEKERAK: Figure 2, page 4.
- 13 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: I'm trying to find it
- 14 too. So I remember it.
- 15 MR. HUGHES: Yeah, there it is. Yes, thank you. Thank you,
- 16 sir.
- 17 MR. SEKERAK: Okay. So the large pink area identified
- 18 across Colesville Road from the subject property is a place
- 19 ofworship. It had a special exception for a daycare at one
- 20 point and that have been revoked in -- I forget what year,
- 21 but it's been long revoked as unnecessary as a daycare
- 22 centerin a place of worship. Also identified the adjoining
- 23 dental practice as a special exception. And that was the
- 24 S-2122you see identified on the property. That application
- 25 was denied. So there's never been a special exception
- 1 there. It is operating as a pre-existing nonconforming use.
- MR. HUGHES: And Mr. Hearing Examiner, that is I 2 believe Exhibit 13, is a copy of their nonconforming use
- 4 public record for Montgomery County, showing they have
- nonconforming use for that use there.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Got it. Noted. 6
- MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- MR. SEKERAK: The other two special exceptions
- 9 indicated on there are for accessory dwelling units. At the
- 10 time they were approved accessory apartments. That's what
- 11 they were referred to. Again, the one to the east is not
- 12 within the neighborhood that the Applicant had provided with
- 13 the initial application. Again, I don't mean to quibble
- 14 about how far back that direction the neighborhood goes
- 15 because that would be -- may or may not be within the
- 16 neighborhood, just depending upon how Mr. Baumgardner
- 17 defines the neighborhood.
- 18 MR. HUGHES: Right.
- MR. SEKERAK: The one on the other side of Colesville
- 20 Road is -- I don't believe that's within the practical
- 21 neighborhood for use of this benign impact. But those will
- 22 be the only two existing special exceptions or conditional
- 23 uses within -- possibly within either of those two
- 24 neighborhoods. So the subject application certainly doesn't
- 25 -- and since it's in conformance with the master plan,

- 1 certainly doesn't create an oversaturation of special
- exceptions or conditional uses within either of the
 - neighborhoods.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And is this use, the
- conditional use we're asking for, is this permitted in the
- R60 where this property is?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes, permitted with the approval of a
- conditional use.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And your professional opinion
- 10 Mr. Sekerak, if this application, this use, harmonious with
- 11 the character of the surrounding neighborhood?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. Medical use has been ancillary to
- 13 thishome and a contributing element to the character of the
- 14 neighborhood since 1959 until very recently.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And will the proposed use 15
- 16 alter the character of the neighborhood in your opinion?
- 17 MR. SEKERAK: No. Again, a medical use ancillary to
- 18 thehome has been a contributing element to the character of
- 19 the neighborhood for decades.
- MR. HUGHES: And from a land-use perspective, will it
- 21 causeany loss of use with peaceful enjoyment or development
- 22 of potential surrounding properties?
- MR. SEKERAK: No. The property is being returned to
- 24 include the ancillary use in the residence it's been for
- 25 decades. And there are no proposed changes to the property

other than some additional plantings.

- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Thank you. And I think you --
- maybe you've already said this. But it's consistent with
- the intent and purpose of the area master plan; is that
- 5 correct?

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- MR. SEKERAK: Yes, it maintains the R60 zoning,
- preserves the existing character of the neighborhood by
- returning it to its historical use.
- 9 MR. HUGHES: And it's compatible with the terms of use
- 10 and design with the surrounding properties?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes, no proposed changes to the existing 11
- 12 residential appearance.
- MR. HUGHES: Can you tell us a little bit about
- 14 lighting on the property?
- MR. SEKERAK: The existing lighting is residential in
- 16 nature. It doesn't cause any unreasonable glare onto the
- 17 adjoining properties. And no additional lighting is
- 18 proposed with this application.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And how about signage? Is
- 20 there any signage proposed?
- 21 MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, there is no existing signage now.
- 22 The Applicant anticipates a single double-sided sign along
- 23 Colesville Road.
- 24 MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- 25 MR. SEKERAK: That would be reviewed and approved by

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the Montgomery County Sign Review Board.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you. Does this use

satisfy any applicable previous approvals on the subject

4 site?

5 MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, there were no other approvals that

remain for the site. Again, there was a previous special

exception, but nothing at this point to be in conformance

8 with.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Okay. I'm going to ask you

10 little bit about the section related to healthcare

11 practitioners. Is there any screening required for this

12 application?

13 MR. SEKERAK: There is not.

14 MR.HUGHES: Okay. Can you tell us about the maximum amount

15 of floor area permitted and what's being proposed here?

MR. SEKERAK: All right. That's Exhibit 20(a) and

17 20(b). Since is difficult to go between them, I guess I

18 would recommend 20(b).

MR. HUGHES: 20(b), which is the first floor plan from

20 the architect, yes. Mr. Hearing Examiner, if you have 20,

21 it would be 20(b), the first floor plan. And if not, we

22 certainly can just talk to it if it's not coming up handy.

23 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Good point.

24 MR. HUGHES: Yeah. John, can you tell us a little bit

25 about that -- well, there it is. Thank you, very much.

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1

Can you tell us what the proposed square footage of the

office is? 2

MR. SEKERAK: All right; 20(a) has the calculations on

4 there, but this is a better graphic demonstration of that.

5 So I'm perfectly fine staying with this one. And I can

6 describe the numbers. The planned office area you see with

7 the crosshatching on the first floor there is 1,195 square

8 feet, which is less than the code maximum of 1,500 square

9 feet, and it's less than the code maximum of 33 percent of

10 theoverall square footage of the house. The house is 5,507

11 square feet. This is just that portion of the house is

12 being used for the office use on the first floor.

13 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And that's also -- and so we are

14 looking at Exhibit 20(b).

15 MR. SEKERAK: (b).

MR. HUGHES: And that's also in staff report Exhibit

17 30, not that we need to go there Mr. Hearing Examiner.

18 Exhibit 30, page 6, figure 4.

Is that correct Mr. Sekerak? Is that your

20 understanding?

MR. SEKERAK: Yes, it is. And while we have this up

22 just to save time later on, because I'm anticipating a

23 question of yours later.

24 MR. HUGHES: Ah, there we go.

25 MR. SEKERAK: There is a waiting area, a reception area 1 at the front door of the office use.

MR. HUGHES: And that --

MR. SEKERAK: So the left-hand corner of that footprint

is the reception area.

MR. HUGHES: Okay. And that's a requirement for this

code, correct? That there be a waiting room or reception

7 area?

5

8 MR. SEKERAK: Correct.

MR. HUGHES: Okay. Very good. And is -- let me back

10 up one second. Okay.

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Are there any

12 examination rooms on the first floor? So when a patient

13 visits will they go into one of the staff offices?

MR. SEKERAK: I would need to leave that to Mr. -- I'm

15 uncomfortable ---

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Understood. 16

17 MR. SEKERAK: Finding on that on that absent Mr.

18 Matope's input.

19 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Got it.

20 MR. MATOPE: So all the meeting will be taking place at

21 the conference room there, that is behind the waiting area.

22. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay, thank you.

23 MR. MATOPE: Yes.

24 MR. HUGHES: Yeah, for the record, that was Mr. Matope,

25 Mr. Hearing Examiner.

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you.

2 MR. HUGHES: Okay. John, Mr. Sekerak, are there any

accessory buildings being used as part of this application?

MR. SEKERAK: No, there are not. There is an existing

structure, the storage shed, but it's simply for the

residential -- typical garden shed for the residential use.

MR. HUGHES: Okay, thank you. And going -- talking

brieflyabout the parking, can you tell us where the parking

is located?

10 MR. SEKERAK: Mr. Baumgardner, if you could go back to

11 the site plan, 25(a)?

12 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Yeah, 25(a), thank you.

MR. SEKERAK: So as you can see, there is no additional

14 parking being proposed. The existing parking is along the

15 south side and to the rear of the existing residence. Some

16 of it is just three of the spaces are utilized in the

17 existing carport. They are outlined in a

18 dashed line. There is one ADA accessible space with a ramp

19 up to the office. Again, it's all existing. We would

20 simply be striping it with this configuration.

21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And under the code, the

22 hearing examiner can set the hours of operation, number of

23 patients, et cetera. Can you tell us what's being proposed

24 here or being asked for?

MR. SEKERAK: That indicated in the statement of

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1 justification, which I understand is Exhibit 7. The

- 2 practitioner use would be between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- 3 Monday through Friday, but with the rare exception of
- 4 emergencypatient visits outside of those established hours.
- And as the Applicant discussed earlier, the Applicant
- anticipates seeing 10 spaces outside per week, but no more
- than one patient at any one time.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And are there any on-site sale
- of goods planned or proposed here?
- MR. SEKERAK: No. No.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. And the code also said the hearing 11
- 12 examiner may grant a conditional use for major home
- 13 healthcare practitioner as we are asking for here, on the
- 14 samesite as a low-impact one or no impact if they find they
- 15 can work together. But are there any -- what's being
- 16 proposed here, is there anything other than this major
- 17 impact for the home healthcare being proposed here?
- MR. SEKERAK: Those findings are not applicable. No
- 19 other conditional use is proposed for the site.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. I think you already answered this,
- 21 but the hearing examiner, the authority does not give him
- 22 the opportunity to grant a conditional use like we are
- 23 asking for here if there is already one approved on a
- 24 property. Are there any active approvals, conditional use,
- 25 or special exception on this property?
- 50
- MR. SEKERAK: There is not.
- 2 MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- 3 MR. SEKERAK: Nothing active.
- MR. HUGHES: Are there adequate public services or
- facilities at the location?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. Well, in terms of public
- facilities, the proposed use will have no impact to the
- schools in the area. Mr. Etemadi already previously
- 9 addressed the transportation, but the traffic, vehicular,
- 10 and pedestrian impacts will be deminimus. Fire rescue,
- 11 police services are very nearby and it's in water and sewer
- 12 category 1 and it's currently served by existing public
- 13 water and sewer services.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what's your professional
- 15 opinion on any non-inherent and inherent conditions from
- 16 this use and impact they could have?
- MR. SEKERAK: Staff has identified inherent physical
- 18 and operational characteristics. And they include one,
- 19 vehicular trips to and from site. Two, parking for
- 20 residential and proposed use. And three, physical changes
- 21 to the site out of character with the surrounding
- 22 neighborhood, which is odd since we are not providing or
- 23 proposing any physical changes to the site.
- But otherwise, I wouldn't disagree with those as
- 25 inherent characteristics of this type of use. It would

- simply be, usually done. So regarding the first inherent
- proposal is estimated to generate well below the 50 peak
- hour trips necessary for LATR review. And the site is on
- Colesville Road, which is again, a six lane major highway.
- Access to it is readily available without sending any trips
- throughadjoining residential neighborhoods, impacting that.
- With the approval of the requested waivers, there is
- adequate parking available on-site. The existing facility
- can readily accommodate 10 spaces. The previous special
- 10 exception had accommodated 11, for instance. But we are
- 11 able to accomplish that without any modifications to the
- 12 existing -- to the site or the existing parking facility.
- 13 MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- MR. SEKERAK: And again, that third is -- there are no
- 15 proposed changes to the exterior of the structures or the
- 16 site other than some additional plantings. They have an
- 17 existing plumbing unit. The carport and shed are all
- 18 proposed to remain as they are today.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- 20 MR. SEKERAK: Oh, regarding non-inherent, staff did not
- 21 determine any and I agree.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay, very good. And I think you just
- 23 mentioned this, but -- and so there is no new structures
- 24 being proposed here; is that correct?
- MR. SEKERAK: That's correct. No site improvements
- other than some additional plantings consistent with a
- residential use. 2
- MR. HUGHES: Very good. So essentially, what's being
- proposed to the exterior of this property, if anything?
- 5 MR. SEKERAK: Nothing.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Thank you. So is it your
- professional overall opinion that the proposed use will be
- compatible with the nearby residential properties and you
- concur with staff's view on this as well?
- MR. SEKERAK: I agree on both those points. It has
- 11 been an established part of this community for decades. So
- 12 it would be very consistent with that.
- 13 MR. HUGHES: Thank you Mr. Sekerak.
- Mr. Hearing Examiner, with your permission what I would
- 15 like to propose now is -- that kind of wraps up so to speak
- 16 our case in chief. But as I mentioned before, I do want to
- 17 put some time into talking about condition of approval
- 18 proposed number 8. And with your permission, I would like
- 19 todo just a very brief opening just to kind of lay the line
- 20 of what we're going to talk about, give Mr. Sekerak a short
- 21 breath to have a sip of coffee or something. Then I would
- 22 call Mr. Rodriguez quickly and have Mr. Sekerak up to
- 23 finish.
- 24 Would that be all right, Mr. Hearing Examiner?
- 25 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That will be fine. I

did have one quick follow-up question either for counsel or

2 Mr. Sekerak. The proposed signage, I know that it would

3 haveto go before the Sign Review Board, but is there a sign

4 contemplated right now? Or would that be something that

would occur in the somewhat near future?

MR. SEKERAK: I would be happy to address that. With

7 conversations with Mr. Matope, we are -- we have identified

the location of one sign and we anticipate it to be double-

9 faced, but one sign setback a minimum of 5 feet from the

10 property line as required and a maximum of 5 feet high as

11 required. It would not be illuminated in any way. The code

12 limits to assign on a residential property like this to 2

13 feet. That would be woefully ineffective along a roadway,

14 the characteristics of Colesville Road. So we are

15 anticipating probably a 5 square feet sign. That would

16 require a waiver by the Sign Review Board.

7 HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. I only ask

18 because we typically include that in our discussion of the

19 proposed operation of the use with the understanding that it

20 would go before the Sign Review Board anyway. I wanted to

21 make sure that I included that information at a basic level

22 in our report. That was my only follow-up question.

23 So Mr. Hughes, you can -- I have no problem with going

24 with your plan to address the condition number 8. And you

25 can call your next witness if you like.

1 that first of all, it's a guideline.

2 Second of all, it doesn't even apply here. We will

3 show that. It doesn't kick in. It doesn't become the type

4 of highway use where it really is applicable. Yes, thank

5 you for putting up number 8. I should have started with

6 that. It says the Applicant must widen existing 4 foot

7 sidewalk along Colesville Road to 5 feet, preserving the

8 existing 1 foot grass buffer along the site's Colesville

9 Road frontage. Another possible theory from staff is it's

10 applicable for the County Master Plan. There may have been

11 some discussion also about whether it could be applicable

12 under subdivision -- section 50, subdivision -- but this is

13 not applicable because we are not going to a subdivision.

14 And then under the State Highway guideline, a lot of the

15 focus

16 is on ADA requirements. And the ADA law is a minimum

17 sidewalkof 36 inches. Right now this is that 48 inches and

18 they are asking for 60. So it certainly meets the law.

19 Again, so we believe that condition of approval is a

20 draft. It's a recommendation that is discretionary. And we

21 are also going to talk about some precedent that shows even

22 if it was applicable here, which we don't believe it is,

23 there is discretion to not utilize it or not make that

24 condition be required.

Again, the starting point here, we are kind of stepping

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MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you Mr. Hearing

Examiner. Let me just if I could, a brief kind of set the

3 table and then I would call Mr. Rodriguez.

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay.

MR. HUGHES: So what I could say on this is that we are

6 hopefulto show via testimony of our next two witnesses that

7 this condition of approval is -- first of all, we don't

8 believe it's applicable. But even if it is applicable, we

9 are also going to bring in some precedent that shows it can

10 be waived, it can be modified and such. So here are where

11 the theories where it could potentially come in that has

12 kind of come through staff and/or Planning Board.

First one is reference to SHA documents, State Highway

14 Administration documents. And first of all, it is a

15 guideline. That's what's on the menu itself. The exhibit

16 is Exhibit 44. And we don't need to pull it up right now.

17 We will be talking about it some but Exhibit 44 is called

18 accessibility policy and guidelines for pedestrian

19 facilities along the State Highway. It says policy and 20 guidelines.

But we will show that it is not applicable in the

22 situation. By its own definition and does not fit into

23 whereit would kind of kick in and be applicable even by its

24 owndefinition of when a situational use or modification, if

25 it would be classified as a modification. So our theories

back and kind of understand Mr. Matope and some other folks

2 who are not in land development and even myself quite

3 honestly scratch my head. We cannot be doing any less to

4 the exterior of the property here, almost cannot do any

5 less. He is modifying the inside of the house. He is not

6 expanding the house. He's not adding new structures. He's

7 notadding new parking. He is not modifying the entrance or 8 driveway. He is not putting additional pavement in the

9 backyard. He is not touching the sidewalk. He is not

10 touching the road. He's not touching the right-

11 of-way.

Now, I will concede we are putting a few trees at the

13 back of the property, landscaping, and he is hoping to put

14 upa small sign. But really could almost not do any less to

15 the exterior of the property. And in spite of that, he is

16 being asked to have a very, very significant lift here on

17 top of the normal expected processes and costs and

18 expenditures for an application for Montgomery County. To

19 ask him to add 12 inches -- and unfortunately, you can't 20 just add 12 inches.

21 Although, that would be pretty involved too because

22 there is a ton of -- you'll hear testimony, a ton of review

23 that needs to go through coordination not really even with

24 the County. It's with the State Highway and the utility

25 companies. You can't just add 12 inches of cement, which

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sidewalk from 4 to 5 feet; is that correct? would be a lot cheaper, but still involved. 2 And the sidewalk was testified to, the sidewalk and MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes, I heard it. drivewayapron, that they are in fine, functional shape. And MR. HUGHES: Okay. And based upon your professional -you will hear testimony that it's 4 feet everywhere in this 4 well, let me back a little bit. Do you deal with area, the sidewalks are. So it's just that we're kind of engineering and construction projects that involve highways and roads and dealing with utility companies and State 6 scratching our heads as to what the benefit is. And certainly the benefit is minuscule compared to the very Highway? significant amount of time, effort, and cost that this will 8 MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes, I do. bring to Mr. Matope. So with that, I would like to call my MR. HUGHES: Okay. And is that something you've dealt with 10 first witness on this topic, Mr. Sergio Rodriguez. 10 over the span of your career? HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Let me do MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes. 11 11 12 that. MR. HUGHES: Okay. Based on your professional 13 experiencein this business, could you tell us what would be 13 With that, Mr. Rodriguez, can you please raise your 14 right hand, please? 14 involved in such a project from a civil engineering And sir, do you swear or affirm under the penalties of 15 standpoint? MR. RODRIQUEZ: Correct. As you stated before, 16 perjury that the testimony you're about to give is the 16 17 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? 17 expanding the sidewalk -- I wouldn't call it expanding. I 18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I do. 18 will just call it reconstruct the sidewalk since as you HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you, very much. 19 19 mentioned before just adding a foot of concrete to the 20 Mr. Hughes, the floor is yours. 20 existing sidewalk is not feasible. Structurally it would 21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Rodriguez, could you state 21 not work. And in this case, SHA, which is the agency who 22 your business address please? 22 owns this, will not allow that. 23 MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes, I work at Stantec at 20440 23 So in order to go through this process, we had to go 24 Century Boulevard, Suite 247 at Germantown, Maryland 20874. 24 through a couple of steps. We had to go through survey MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what is your profession, 25 process. We had to establish our boundary. So we had to 58 get that topographic survey and boundary survey. We had to Mr. Rodriguez? do additional research for underground utilities every time MR. RODRIQUEZ: I am a civil engineer. I have a we are going to dig. So we have to get that information. Master's degree in engineering many years ago. MR. HUGHES: Okay, thank you. And how long have you 4 Then we have to get through SHA, through their approval of 5 been practicing as a civil engineer? the sidewalk we want to put in. MR. RODRIQUEZ: I've been practicing as a civil And once the sidewalk and plan preparation is engineer for 18 years, close. 7 established, we have to go through -- this will include the MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And Mr. Hearing Examiner entrance. The apron entrance will need to be redo also once again, his resume is an Exhibit 36, our prehearing we remove the sidewalk we have to come up with new 10 submission. And I would like to offer him as an expert in 10 standards. Then assuming we would have to go to some 11 the field of civil engineering. 11 waivers request with SHA. We have to go through the 1 foot HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Has he been admitted in 13 any OZHA case or any court case in the past? 13 grass strip which is required. MR. HUGHES: Good question. I will let him answer. I 15 don't believe in Montgomery County. I believe in Howard 16 County somewhat recently he was admitted as an expert. Is 17 that fair, Mr. Rodriguez? 18 MR. RODRIQUEZ: That is correct, Howard County. HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Okay. Having review the 20 resumewith that information, he is so admitted as an expert

12 grass strip waiver which is particular -- it's a 3 foot Then a second waiver, we have to request a 48 inch 15 sidewalk at the place where the pole is located, the 16 existing pole is located. Another part of the process, we 17 have to go through DPS. DPS is Department of Permitting 18 Servicesin Montgomery County. They are the actual ones who 19 actually provide the permits. We have to run permits 20 through (indiscernible) control. We have run permits 21 through traffic control plans. We have to do some --22 public improvement easement at the property since the 23 sidewalk is slightly encroaching into the property. So we 24 have to go through a public improvement easement for this 25 property. There's got to be a restoration bond that needs

21 in civil engineering.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you.

Mr. Rodriguez, you heard Mr. Sekerak's description of

24 -- related to condition of approval number 8, and the point

25 of -- potentially expanding the existing functional legal

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to be provided. So there is a lot of steps and agencies

that are required to be involved in this process.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And in your professional

opinion, are you able to talk about a rough estimate on the

time and cost that could be involved in this?

MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes. So this is looking at a normal

case scenario through the agencies and the permitting and

all the processes it would take, I would say, no less than

six months. That's our starting point. Costs, as Mr.

10 Matope mentioned, reconstruction of the entire sidewalk

11 could come around \$30,000.

The relocation of the utility pole, that's the biggest

13 unknown here because that creates a big ripple effect. Once

14 you relocate one pole, you have to see how that is attached

15 to the other poles and you have to redo the wiring of the

16 other poles. That's a lot of -- it can create a big ripple

17 effect in this case. So he mentioned it can be very costly

18 torelocate one utility pole. He mentioned something around

19 \$150,000 to \$200,000. Yeah, it can be in that range.

MR. HUGHES: And that's if the poles have to be

21 removed. It is not a definite they would have to be

22 removed. But in your experience, it's definitely a

23 possibility. Is that fair to say?

MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes, definitely it's a possibility. 24

25 MR. HUGHES: Okay. So is it fair to say in your

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1 professional opinion, this would be a multi-month to a year

process of significant cost to Mr. Matope?

MR. RODRIQUEZ: Yes.

MR. HUGHES: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez. With

that I would like to recall Mr. Sekerak, Mr. Hearing

HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: He is so recalled. And

Mr. Sekerak, just as a reminder, you are still under oath.

MR. SEKERAK: I understand.

10 MR. HUGHES: Thank you Mr. Sekerak. I think Mr.

11 Rodriguez did a pretty nice job of laying out all the

12 potential or what would be involved potentially here with

13 approval of condition number 8 acting upon it. But are

14 there any additional details you want to add to that? Or

15 did that cover in your mind?

MR. SEKERAK: Well, I could talk all day about this.

17 But he is right. We would need to survey the property. In

18 order to not move poles, we would need waivers from the

19 same SHA document that staff had referenced. So if we are

20 unsuccessful with that -- and that would be for permission

21 to leave it at 48 inches just within the area of the poles

22 and leaving the 1 foot grass strip as opposed to 3 foot. If

23 we are unsuccessful with either one of those neighborhoods,

24 the costs go up considerably and it involves dealing with

utility companies. The length of the time of the review

1 would go up significantly.

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned the traffic control plan. So

while they are reconstructing the driveway apron and

possiblyrelocating telephone poles, they would have to shut

down the curb lane of US Route 29 during the construction.

And during the entire time of the construction phase they

would have to be redirecting pedestrians to the other side

of US 29 for the entire length between Dale Drive and Sligo

Creek Parkway.

10 Back to -- you know, it sounds so benign; just widen

11 the 4 foot sidewalk to 5 feet. So again, the ADA

12 requirement is 3 feet. They are asking us to -- you know,

13 we've got 4 feet. They are asking us to widen it to 5

14 feet. So the disconnect there is stark relative to the

15 time, cost, and position not only to the Applicant, but to

16 the traveling public during the construction.

17 And the involvement of the different agencies being

18 that -- the State Highway Administration primarily, DPS for

19 sediment control, and the utility companies; getting

20 everybody to agree on this thing when it's really not

21 necessary is really quite an imposition. Mr. Rodriguez did

22 mention that the existing survey for the property, just the

23 house location survey for the purposes of the recent

24 purchase of the thing, does indicate that the existing

25 sidewalk already does encroach on the private property

already. 1 2

So in order to expand that, we would need to do a

public improvement easement so that the future -- so the

walking public could walk across the private property and

the State Highway Administration could maintain the sidewalk

in the future. That public improvement easement would be

also encroaching on the public utility easement and that's

alwaysfun for getting all the right required signatures for

utility companies in order to further encumber their

10 easement that they enjoy.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And can you remind us; what

12 improvements is Mr. Matope, is he making to the exterior of

13 the property?

MR. SEKERAK: Again, some plantings in the rear of the

15 yard. There is absolutely no impact to the public right-

16 of-way. If he needed to build a new driveway or anything

17 out in the public right-of-way, that's when SHA's

18 jurisdiction would kick in. But at this point, there is --

19 theyhave no jurisdiction for a conditional use application.

20 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Sekerak, are you aware of

21 any master plan requirements that mandate this existing,

22 functional, legal 4 foot sidewalk be required to be

23 increased to 5 feet for this application?

MR. SEKERAK: No, there is not. I thoroughly analyzed

25 the master plan. I did for the purposes of looking for

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1 anything that would address something like this. Just like

- 2 anymaster plan, there is -- it's replete with references to
- 3 where a good pedestrian circulation is important for master
- 4 plan area. And again, that's not unusual for any master
- 5 plan. But nothing about there being insufficient width of
- the existing sidewalks.
- Curiously, there is one reference that indicates that
- 8 there may be instances where it would be appropriate to
- 9 reduce the width of pedestrian that for sidewalks, on page
- 10 73 of the master plan. But nothing that would be compelling
- 11 regarding widening existing sidewalks, perfectly good,
- 12 functional existing sidewalks.
- 13 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And we're going to dig into
- 14 the SHA guidebook and a little bit. But are you aware of
- 15 anylaw under SHA's authority that requires a sidewalk to go
- 16 from 4 to 5 feet?
- 17 MR. SEKERAK: No, I'm not.
- 18 MR. HUGHES: Any federal ADA laws that would require
- 19 it?
- 20 MR. SEKERAK: No, the minimum width for ADA route is 3
- 21 feet and we've got 4 feet.
- MR. HUGHES: And it's -- is it true that the sidewalks
- 23 are 4 feet all in and around this area of Colesville Road
- 24 where there is sidewalk?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. Yes. The hearing examiner brought

- 1 just described. Both sides of the street, 4 foot wide
- sidewalks, 1 foot green strip is the majority of the length.
- Itobviously changes where there are driveway aprons such as
- the subject property or the church entrance right across the
- street or in front of the dental practice abutting our
- property. So it does change in those types of
- characteristics as the context -- but for the length of time
- where there are no driveway entrances or the stream
- crossing, there is a 4 foot wide sidewalk with a 1 foot 10 green strip.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And would you like to -- Mr.
- 12 Hearing Examiner, could you please pull up Exhibit 42? I
- 13 think it's five or six photos of sidewalks.
- And Mr. Sekerak, if you could, just tell us what they
- 15 are roughly, or what they're showing.
- MR. SEKERAK: Okay. This is near the Sligo Creek
- 17 Parkway intersection where the guard rail is there because
- 18 it is crossing Sligo Creek itself. And then we just
- 19 progress, the photographs are progression going up
- 20 Colesville Road towards downtown Silver Spring. So this is
- 21 the property, the next property, which is right -- the
- 22 dental practice right next door to our site. And again,
- 23 their parking area is the front of the building. It's got
- 24 two driveway entrances. So that's why you see it expanded
- 25 along those lines.

- 1 up some photos, recent photos I'd taken of the area just
- 2 along the course of Colesville Road all the way from Sligo
- 3 Creek Parkway to Dale Drive indicating that it changes from
- 4 --in different locations where it's right behind the curb.
- 5 It generally can be characterized as a 4 foot wide sidewalk
- 6 with 1 foot of green strip. And that applies on both sides
- 7 of Colesville Road in that length of road between Sligo 8 Creek Parkway and Dale Drive. The residential streets
- 9 deeper into the neighborhoods on either side of Colesville
- 10 Road have no sidewalks.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Let's get into some of those
- 12 visuals you reference. If I could ask, Mr. Hearing
- 13 Examiner, we're going to look at Exhibits 40 through 42, 40
- 14 being an aerial photo. I will ask Mr. Sekerak if you could
- 15 utilize these items to tell us a little bit more about the
- 16 existing sidewalk in and around this area of Mr. Matope's 17 property.
- So here is 40 Mr. Sekerak. And it's a little dark, I
- 19 sent them. My apologies. But if you want to talk to this.
- 20 And then 41 is the photos of the property and area. And
- 21 then 42 is photos of the sidewalk of the property and the
- 22 area. So Mr. Sekerak, as you so wish, please tell us a
- 23 little bit about the existing sidewalk in and around the 24 area.
- MR. SEKERAK: Along Colesville Road, pretty much as I | 25 identified by SHA, DOT, Park and Planning during their 25

- The next photograph will be our property. So 4 foot
- widesidewalk, 1 foot of green strip. And then the next one
- would be going further up the hill towards Dale Drive. The
- adjoining property, yes, underneath that undergrown --
- it could use some edging, but that is a 4 foot wide sidewalk
- on the other side of the driveway entrance to the adjoining
- property.
- MR. HUGHES: Yes.
- 9 MR. SEKERAK: And the next one is that photograph is up
- 10 at the Dale Drive intersection.
- 11 MR. HUGHES: Very good. Thank you. Are you aware of
- 12 --
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Just for the record.
- 14 these are collective Exhibit 42 showing a series of
- 15 photographs that were just described by Mr. Sekerak and Mr.
- 16 Hughes, of the existing sidewalk along the property and the 17 corridor.
- 18 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Baumgardner.
- 19 MR. SEKERAK: And that is consistent with the character
- 20 of the sidewalks on the other side of Colesville Road also.
- 21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Mr. Sekerak, are you aware of
- 22 any grand or large-scale plans by the County or the state
- 23 government to expand the sidewalk in this area to 5 feet?
- MR. SEKERAK: Not that I'm aware of or that were

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1 review of the application.

MR. HUGHES: And in your opinion, is there any pressing |2

need to do so there?

MR. SEKERAK: No, 4 foot is a perfectly adequate width

for pedestrian circulation in this area; 4 foot is more

6 preferable than the ADA required minimum of 3 feet. 5 feet

mightbe nicer, but there is no need or requirement in order

for that to happen.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And what is -- are you aware 10 of SHA's, State Highway Administration's position on Mr.

11 Matope just adding 12 inches to the existing concrete? Is

12 that an option?

13 MR. SEKERAK: That's not practical or feasible from a

14 construction or end-product standpoint. It's not widening

15 the existing sidewalk. It's replacing the existing sidewalk

16 with a 5 foot wide sidewalk.

MR. HUGHES: Is it your understanding that is State

18 Highway Administration's official position on this

19 particular request as well?

MR. SEKERAK: Yes, it is. They confirmed that during

21 the Planning Board hearing. The representative of the State

22 Highway Administration was asked that very question and he

23 agreed that is not a widening, it's a replacement.

24 MR. HUGHES: Okay.

25 MR. SEKERAK: Not that that has a substantive 1 lift, like you described, especially when you compare it to

the very slight incremental improvement that it would

provide to the public or certainly to this particular

property owner.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Let me ask you a little bit about

the State Highway Administration's booklet titled --

it's Exhibit 44 titled Accessibility Policy and Guidelines

8 for Pedestrian Facilities Along State Highways. First of

all, you agree it says guideline in the title; is that 10 correct?

MR. SEKERAK: Yes, it is guidelines. And let's be 11

12 clear that none of this is necessary for accessibility

13 accommodations. It would improve -- sure, 5 foot wide

14 sidewalk would provide better accessibility than a 4 foot,

15 similar to a 4 foot provides better accessibility to the

16 minimum 3 foot. But this is not an accessibility

17 requirement. This is just an SHA guideline for new

18 projects, effectively.

MR. HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Hearing

20 Examiner for pulling up Exhibit 44. I would ask if we could

21 please go to page 6.

And Mr. Sekerak, I believe you have a copy with you as

23 well. Can you -- can I refer you to page 6, the middle of

24 the page were explains the implementation and when ADA

25 accommodations kick in? Can you read us those three

70

1 difference in the cost or length of time. The cost and the

2 imposition of this exaction is not the amount of concrete

3 itself. The substantive costs are the length of time of the

4 approvals and such.

5 MR. HUGHES: And if the County and State are not needing or

6 planningto make some grant improvements here, are you aware

of any reason why it should occur here?

MR. SEKERAK: No. The other areas along here would not

9 anticipateany other sidewalks being improved anytime soon.

10 I mean, this is R60, predominantly residential area that is

11 extremelystable land-use, R60 residential. You wouldn't be

12 anticipatingany redevelopment of this area where additional

13 right-of-way improvements would be --

14 could be performed. This would probably, for all intents

15 and purposes in the foreseeable future, be the only 5 foot

16 segment of sidewalk in the neighborhood.

MR. HUGHES: It would kind of be an island by itself,

18 is that fair to say?

MR. SEKERAK: Yes. Yes.

MR. HUGHES: Okay. So is it your professional opinion

21 that condition of approval 8 is a very heavy lift for Mr.

22 Matopeand it's not required under federal, state, or county

23 law?

24 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct. I don't see any

25 requirements for it. But also, it is -- is a very heavy

sentences under implementation section? Third to last

paragraph on that page.

3 MR. SEKERAK: Yeah.

4 MR. HUGHES: Take your time.

MR. SEKERAK: This is the applicability section of

the -- of this document. 'So SHA understands the need to

include ADA accommodations in our projects. We also

understand what to provide regarding ADA elements such as curb cuts, sidewalk ramps, and typical surfaces. The

10 challenge is to know when to provide the accommodations and

11 the scope of the accommodations." So again, this --

MR. HUGHES: So it's fair to say it states it's a

13 challenge to know when to provide the ADA accommodations?

MR. SEKERAK: Yes, that often is the case. And then it

15 goes into detail about the types of projects that would

16 require it. It's not difficult in this case because there

17 is no project. There are no improvements. There are no

18 impacts to the public right-of-way. So it's clear this is

19 inapplicable in this case.

20 MR. HUGHES: So along those lines, could you just

21 quickly read the first two sentences under the "when"

22 paragraph there on the same page?

23 MR. SEKERAK: "The ADA standards for accessible design

24 uses the term alteration as a mechanism that would initiate

25 theneed to provide ADA compliance. Alteration is described

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- as a change that affects or could affect accessibility to
- theusability of a facility. This includes roadways, parks,
- 3 and ride lots, rest area buildings, or a part of a
- facility."
- MR. HUGHES: So it seems that the term alteration is a
- key to whether an ADA accommodation for a project kicks in?
- MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, that's the purpose of their
- description in this section of the document.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay.
- 10 MR. SEKERAK: It --
- MR. HUGHES: Are we altering anything here? 11
- 12 MR. SEKERAK: We are not.
- 13 MR. HUGHES: Are we touching the right-of-way?
- 14 MR. SEKERAK: We are not.
- 15 MR. HUGHES: Are we touching the road?
- MR. SEKERAK: We are not. 16
- 17 MR. HUGHES: Are we touching the sidewalk?
- 18 MR. SEKERAK: We are not.
- 19 MR. HUGHES: How about the driveway?
- 20 MR. SEKERAK: We are not.
- 21 MR. HUGHES: The parking area?
- 22. MR. SEKERAK: We are not.
- 23 MR. HUGHES: Okay. In your opinion, could we be doing
- 24 any less outside on this property?
- MR. SEKERAK: We could not to the public right-of-way.
- Absolutely nothing.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you. I'm going to ask you just I 2
- think -- well, maybe one or two more things quickly.
- And I will try to speed up, Mr. Hearing Examiner. Are
- you able to read please, the second to last sentence in the
- last paragraph still on that same page 6
- that starts with, "basic repair or maintenance"?
- MR. SEKERAK: 'Basic repair or maintenance activities
- 9 such as repairing a pothole, restriping a roadway in kind,
- 10 repairing guard rail, or even a spot sidewalk repair
- 11 typically would not trigger ADA compliance."
- MR. HUGHES: All right. So those wouldn't even
- 13 require ADA compliance, correct? And we are doing a lot
- 14 less than those. Is that fair to say?
- MR. SEKERAK: Right. It's describing examples of
- 16 minimal projects that still at that level would not require
- 17 these types of improvements.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay, thank you. 18
- Mr. Hearing Examiner, could I please ask that you move
- 20 up two pages in this item to page 8? It's still Exhibit
- 21 44, SHA guideline book it. I'm summarizing what it's
- 22 called.
- Mr. Sekerak, towards the bottom of page 8 under the
- 24 section entitled, "Level 1," could you read the first two
- 25 sentences there that starts with, "Level 1 is considered"?

- MR. SEKERAK: "Level 1 is considered to be repair in
- kind or in place. These projects include routine
- maintenance or repair work that generally do not impact,
- disturbed, or modify pedestrian usability. Resurfacing
- projects are not considered routine maintenance and do not
- fall under Level 1."
- MR. HUGHES: Is it your understanding, is Level 1 --
- would it require what we are being asked to do here?
- MR. SEKERAK: It provides more examples of types of
- 10 projects that would not require the types of improvements
- 11 that we are asked to be doing here.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- 13 MR. SEKERAK: So for instance, if for whatever reason
- 14 we needed to replace some sidewalk, it puts into some
- 15 context of when we would then need to replace the entire
- 16 portion of sidewalk under the standards of these guidelines.
- 17 MR. HUGHES: Exactly. Could you read the first bullet 18 there on that page? Still on page 8.
- MR. SEKERAK: "The repair of drainage pipes or inlets
- 20 that result in a small portion of a sidewalk being removed
- 21 and replaced. This type of work will require only that the
- 22 sidewalk be repaired in kind and no additional
- 23 installation/upgrade of sidewalk or curb ramps would be
- 24 required. This would not be considered Level 1 if a
- 25 significantly length greater than 100 feet of sidewalk is
- 74
 - 1 removed." And we're proposing --MR. HUGHES: So --
 - MR. SEKERAK: -- to remove zero.
 - 4 MR. HUGHES: Yeah, right. So it essentially says you can
 - remove up to 100 feet and still not to put in additional
 - upgrades. And we are doing 0 feet; is that correct?
 - MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
 - MR. HUGHES: Okay, thank you. I think this is the last
 - 9 one. I apologize. Could you read the second bullet to us?
 - 10 The one just underneath the one you just read?
 - MR. SEKERAK: "Utility repairs or relocations that
 - 12 result in a small portion less than 100 feet of sidewalk
 - 13 beingremoved and replaced would require only repair in kind
 - 14 and would not trigger any new installation or upgrades to
 - 15 existing sidewalk or curb ramps."
 - MR. HUGHES: Okay. So there again, if you're doing in
 - 17 kind for up to 100 feet, you would not have to do any -- it
 - 18 would not trigger any new installation or upgrade to
 - 19 existing sidewalk, correct?
 - 20 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
 - 21 MR. HUGHES: And we are -- again, we are doing not even
 - 22 1 foot. We are doing 0 feet here, correct?
 - 23 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
 - 24 MR. HUGHES: Okay. So is it your professional opinion,
 - 25 since we're doing no exterior alterations, that

this doesn't even fall within the SHA guideline book?

- MR. SEKERAK: That's correct. Our discussion of the 2
- 3 bookbegan with what I consider the applicability section of
- 4 the document. And it really should not apply to this
- 5 proposal, this application. And then it describes where
- eventhose projects that the document would be applicable to
- would still not require improvements such as replacing a 4
- foot, perfectly good 4 foot wide sidewalk with a 5 foot wide
- sidewalk.
- 10 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. I guess I can understand how
- 11 SHA and/or planning staff might -- and/or the Board might
- 12 want to ask for wider sidewalks. But are you aware of any
- 13 legal reasoning behind such a request?
- MR. SEKERAK: I am not. There are no -- I'm not aware
- 15 of any and none have been brought to my attention.
- MR. HUGHES: All right. Okay. Thank you. I would
- 17 like to shift to come to the last subject area that I'm
- 18 going to ask you to talk about, Mr. Sekerak.
- So I think -- let me step back for a second. Our
- 20 position is that that we talked about, it doesn't even
- 21 apply. But let's say for a second that the hearing examiner
- 22 believed that it did apply. Are you aware of any county
- 23 precedent that supports the position to not require
- 24 expanding sidewalks any recent county precedents on this
- 25 topic?

16

- MR. SEKERAK: Yes. Let me see. What are the exhibits?
- MR. HUGHES: Exhibit 34. Mr. -- I don't know if we need to
- goto it, but it is Exhibit 34 which is CU case 2016-07. Is
- that what you're talking about, Mr. Sekerak?
- 5 MR. SEKERAK: Yes, it is. Yes, it is.
- 6 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Can you tell us a little bit about
- that one and why it might be interesting to talk about here?
- MR. SEKERAK: Sure. The exhibits include both the
- 9 hearing examiner's report and the staff report. This is
- 10 just one example of the --
- MR. HUGHES: And I apologize. Let me interrupt. I'm
- 12 sorry. I should have set it up better. So Exhibit 34(b)
- 13 is the staff report and I think that's something that
- 14 perhaps you might lead to shortly; is that correct?
- 15 MR. SEKERAK: Sounds good. Yes, please.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Continue. My apologies.
- 17 MR. SEKERAK: No worries. This is an example of a
- 18 conditional use application. In this case it's for child
- 19 daycare facility. It's a change of use from strictly just
- 20 being an existing residents to a day care facility. The
- 21 upshot is that this is a project that does include site
- 22 improvements in order to accommodate the proposed use. Most
- 23 substantively and includes improvements within the public
- 24 right-of-way. So they are impacting the public
- 25 right-of-way. This is for a child daycare center. And the

- 1 existing site has no sidewalk of any width. It just has no
- sidewalk. And the discussion in the staff report is very
- specific on --
- MR. HUGHES: Page 14; is that correct?
- 5 MR. SEKERAK: Bottom of page 14.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Hearing Examiner.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Sure.
- 8 MR. SEKERAK: Where they recognize that there is no
- existing sidewalk in there. The advising agency said, hey,
- 10 wouldn't it be great if we had a sidewalk. Park and
- 11 Planning staff made a the --
- MR. HUGHES: Mr. Sekerak, which part on page 14? Are
- 13 we looking at the last paragraph or two; is that correct?
- MR. SEKERAK: The last paragraph, correct. 14
- 15 MR. HUGHES: Yeah, thank you.
- MR. SEKERAK: And staff concluded that staff does not 16
- 17 support the recommendation of installing a 5 foot sidewalk
- 18 because the Applicant's expense outweighs the public
- 19 benefit. And again, this is where there are impacts to the
- 20 right-of-way, whether it's no sidewalk, and they choose not
- 21 to impose that exaction on that Applicant.
- There are other similar types of examples of this, but
- 23 this was the one that caught my eye because there is a
- 24 specific discussion in the staff report recognizing it and
- 25 stating that the costs are not proportional to the benefit.
- Andin that case, the benefit would have been significant as
- opposed to the minor incremental benefit that is being asked
- of this Applicant.

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- 4 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. And is it correct that in that
- casethe Planning Board accepted staff's opinion and did not
- require the sidewalk construction?
- MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
- MR. HUGHES: And is it also your understanding that
- 9 the OZHA decision also agreed by not requiring that 10 position?
- 11 MR. SEKERAK: That's correct.
- MR. HUGHES: Okay. Are there any other relevant recent
- 13 cases that you want to briefly touch upon on this same topic
- 14 area?
- 15 MR. SEKERAK: There are others. I don't know if the
- 16 hearing examiner would like me to go into details.

18 reference the exhibit numbers and/or the cases?

- MR. HUGHES: Okay, fair enough. You want to just
- 19 MR. SEKERAK: Let me see.
- 20 MR. HUGHES: Maybe I could help out.
- 21 MR. SEKERAK: Yeah, Exhibit 35(a), 35(b), 37(a), 37(b),
- 22 and Exhibit 39 are all examples of -- well, in some cases
- 23 where there was -- there was not an exaction for sidewalk
- 24 improvements, whether there was existing sidewalk that was
- 25 only4 feet wide or no existing sidewalk. It was just there

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1 was no discussion in the staff reports or discussion where
--

- they chose not to do the improvements.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: So we --
- MR. HUGHES: Go ahead, sir.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: For the record, Mr.
- Hughes, Exhibit 35(a), Isaac Lopez for daycare, this hearing
- examiner was the author of that report. So I am familiar
- with the facts of that case. And it was a very recent case
- 10 as well.
- 11 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.
- Mr. Sekerak, so in your professional opinion, can you
- 13 explain if there is a nexus here between conditional
- 14 approval number 8 and the proportionality of such work?
- MR. SEKERAK: I do not believe there is a nexus there.
- 16 It is a significant cost in time and money for a pedestrian
- 17 facilitythat the Applicant -- the application does not rely
- 18 on for pedestrian network. The existing pedestrian network
- 19 is-- it's sufficient, adequate, and is not impacted by this
- 20 application. So there is no nexus there.
- 21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you. So is it fair to say in your
- 22 professional opinion, conditional approval number 8 is not
- 23 mandatory or required under the law for this use or
- 24 application?
- MR. SEKERAK: I agree with that conclusion.

- 1 loggedin, but in case my eyes are deceiving me, I will open
- it up to any other members of the community that are logged
- in or who have called in here today to either offer their
- owntestimony or to ask any questions of our three witnesses
- here today.
 - Going once, going twice, seeing no hands raised or any
- other indication that the public would like to testify or
- ask any questions of these witnesses for this application,
- the testimony evidence is now closed.
- Mr. Hughes, you're welcome to get your brief closing at
- 11 this time.
- MR. HUGHES: And so I don't forget, Mr. Hearing
- 13 Examiner, before I do that but I asked that all the exhibits
- 14 be moved in, please?
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Absolutely. All
- 16 exhibits in this case are hereby admitted into evidence.
- 17 They are listed on OZHA's webpage. They are Exhibits 1
- 18 through 44 including a couple of sub exhibits, 34(a), (b),
- 19 et cetera. So Exhibits 1 through 44 are hereby admitted
- 20 into evidence.
- 21 (Applicant's Exhibits 1 through 44 were admitted
- 22. into evidence.)
- 23 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, very much. Yeah, so a very
- 24 brief closing. Thank you for the time. I appreciate the
- 25 assistance with the exhibits. So overall here is again, Mr.

1 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.

- MR. SEKERAK: It's not required, it's not practical,
- and it's not necessary if there is no nexus and therefore
- certainly not proportional.
- MR. HUGHES: Thank you, very much. Mr. Hearing
- Examiner, that would be the conclusion of our -- unless
- there is -- I will certainly welcome questions from you
- unless there are any other participants to join the call
- thatmight require me to recall anything. But I believe I'm
- 10 donewith questioning of my witnesses. And the only thing I
- 11 would have left is a very brief 60 second closing when you
- 12 tell me that the time is right.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you. I only had
- 14 one follow-up question. What is the total linear feet of
- 15 the sidewalk in question here?
- MR. SEKERAK: 225 feet including as it crosses the 16
- 17 driveway apron.
- HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: That's the only follow-
- 19 up question I had. Thank you, Mr. Sekerak.
- I am going to just bring up briefly, we do have that
- 21 one caller who is still on mute. The last four digits of
- 22 that phone number are 4995. If that caller would like to
- 23 askany questions about any of the witnesses here today, you
- 24 arecertainly welcome to. You're welcome to unmute yourself
- or otherwise make yourself known. I don't see anyone else

- Matope is very appreciative and excited of the planning
 - staff report and the Planning Board support of his
 - application. We were, as I said at the Planning Board
 - hearing, the staff was fantastic. Their communication was
 - amazing. They were very responsive to us. They did a very
 - thorough report. We were very pleased with everything in it
 - except for one item, which obviously everyone is aware of
 - whichwe spent a lot of time on our hearing today, which was
 - conditional approval number 8.
 - 10 So we would ask that Mr. Hearing Examiner, you please
 - 11 grant the approval as is, except for we would ask that you
 - 12 strongly consider the removal of condition of approval
 - 13 number 8 for all the significant reasons we went through
 - 14 today, which first what we believe it doesn't apply. And
 - 15 evenif it did apply, we believe there is an opportunity and
 - 16 precedent that it could be removed.
 - So we would certainly welcome any follow-up questions,
 - 18 butwe appreciate the time and we would ask that the hearing
 - 19 examiner hopefully approve this application and hopefully
 - 20 would remove condition of approval number 8. With that, I
 - 21 will close out.
 - HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: Thank you all very much
 - 23 for your time and your testimony. This concludes this
 - 24 hearing on conditional use application 2103 to use the
 - 25 premises 9221 Colesville Road in Silver Spring, Maryland as

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	85	
1	a home health practitioner major impact.	
2	OZHA will issue our report and decision within 30 days	
3	from the date of this hearing. Once that decision is	
4	issued, any party will have 10 days to appeal that decision	
5	to the Board of Appeals. Any conclusory remarks or follow-	
6	up items that we need to address today?	
7	MR. HUGHES: No, not from me I don't believe, Mr.	
8	Hearing Examiner. Thank you.	
9	HEARING EXAMINER BAUMGARDNER: All right. Thank you	
	all very much for your time and attention. And have a good	
	rest of your day.	
12	MR. HUGHES: Thank you.	
13	(The recording was concluded.)	
l	(The recording was concluded.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER	
2	I, Molly Bugher, do hereby certify that the foregoing	
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5	best of my ability from the audio recording as provided;	
6	and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed	
7	by and of the parties to this case and have no interest,	
8	financial or otherwise, in its outcome.	
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9 10		
11	101 0 0	
12	Maly Dugher	
	Molly Bugher, CDLT-161	
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