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# Transcript of Hearing 

Date: August 25, 2022
Case: Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center

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| 1 PROCEEDINGS | 1 If you disagree with my decision, you have |  |
| 2 MS. BYRNE: Welcome everyone. My name is | 210 days after the decision is issued to appeal it. |  |
| 3 Katie Byrne. I will be the hearing examiner for this | 3 So just want to check in, make sure we have everyone |  |
| 4 case. This is a public hearing regarding the | 4 here. So Mr. Gruenspecht, I see you. You are the |  |
| 5 objection of the minor amendment approval filed by | 5 appellant in this matter. |  |
| 6 Mr . Howard Gruenspecht. Did I pronounce your name | 6 Do you have others here with you or in |  |
| 7 right, sir? | 7 support that are going to be testifying? |  |
| 8 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. Good enough. | 8 MR. GRUENSPECHT: No. |  |
| 9 MS. BYRNE: Close enough? Well, please feel | 9 MS. BYRNE: Okay. All right. And Ms. |  |
| 10 free -- any names I butcher, please, please correct | 10 Rogers, I see you are here. |  |
| 11 me . | 11 MS. ROGERS: Good morning. Yes, I am here. |  |
| 12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Not butchered. Please | 12 MS. BYRNE: Yep. You're on -- you're on |  |
| 13 proceed. | 13 mute. |  |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: All right. In the matter of CU | 14 MS. ROGERS: I should be on the phone as |  |
| 15 20-08 Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center, | 15 well. Okay. |  |
| 16 located at 8901/8907 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, | 16 MS. BYRNE: Okay. All right, so you're the |  |
| 17 Maryland. | 17202 number then? |  |
| 18 I actually need to, now that I've jumped in | 18 MS. ROGERS: I am. |  |
| 19 there, make sure that the court reporter is on. If | 19 MS. BYRNE: Okay, So Ms. -- |  |
| 20 you could confirm and we're ready to go? | 20 MS. ROGERS: In case I have internet |  |
| 21 MR. LORETE: Good morning, Ms. Byrne. This | 21 issues, I joined both ways. |  |
| 22 is Joe Lorete, the court reporter. I'm here and I'm | 22 MS. BYRNE: That's excellent. All right. So |  |
| 23 ready. | 23 then I don't have to ask who the caller is then, |  |
| 24 MS. BYRNE: Awesome. Thank you, Joe. | 24 it's you. Okay, 202 number. Perfect. All right. Who |  |
| 25 MR. LORETE: You're welcome. | 25 do you have with you today? |  |
| 6 |  | 8 |
| 1 MS. BYRNE: And then I'm going to check in | 1 MS. HARRIS: So actually, I'm Pat Harris |  |
| 2 really quickly with Lynn. Lynn, if you could start | 2 with Lerch, Early and Brewer and I'm going to -- Liz |  |
| 3 recording? And then once she starts that, everyone | 3 and I are co-counsel, but I'm going to be taking the |  |
| 4 should see a record button, I believe. | 4 lead on this. |  |
| 5 Don't think I have the ability to start | 5 MS. BYRNE: Perfect, okay. |  |
| 6 that. We'll wait for that to happen in a second. | 6 MS. HARRIS: Good morning. |  |
| 7 Yes, I do not have that function ability. So while | 7 MS. BYRNE: Good morning. Ms. Harris taking |  |
| 8 we wait for Lynn, I can go through some -- just some | 8 the lead. |  |
| 9 Teams housekeeping. | 9 MS. HARRIS: And it looks like our whole |  |
| 10 I think just so that we all kind of know | 10 team is here. |  |
| 11 functionality. Issues are going to happen because | 11 MS. BYRNE: All right. And who is on your |  |
|  | 13 MS HARRIS. We have Rita Regino who is |  |
| 13 we can with what we have. Right? I always start that 14 out at the very beginning. | 13 MS. HARRIS: We have Rita Regino who is 14 representing the Martha B. Gudelsky Child |  |
| 15 Even if you're really savvy at virtual | 15 Development Center. We have Myrna Peralta, who is |  |
| 16 meetings, sometimes things just don't work out, | 16 the CEO of CentroNia. We have our architect, |  |
| 17 right? So we're all going to -- we're going to get | 17 Jennifer Lyon. |  |
| 18 through it together. | 18 We have Joe Horton, who's assisting the |  |
| 19 So what we're going to happen today is that | 19 applicant. And we have Chris Carner from Polysonics. |  |
| 20 I 'm going to listen to you. I'm going to take | 20 MS. BYRNE: All right. All right, perfect. |  |
| 21 evidence and make a decision on whether the | 21 So then it looks like I guess we have everybody now |  |
| 22 amendment substantially changes the nature, | 22 who is participating. Everyone is here, so no need |  |
| 23 character or intensity of the conditional use and | 23 necessarily to go through everyone that we have. |  |
| 24 its effect on the immediate neighborhood pursuant to <br> 25 Section 59.73 .1 K 2 | 24 All right. Just some side notes on Teams. <br> 25 Teams works well with Edge or Chrome so hopefully |  |
| 25 Section 59.7.3.1K2. | 25 Teams works well with Edge or Chrome, so hopefully |  |

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| 13 |  |
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| 1 dual role, they can ask you questions as the | 1 statements. So both parties will have an opportunity |
| 2 appellant, not as the attorney. Does that make | 2 to make closing statements if they wish. |
| 3 sense? | 3 And a reminder that cross examination is |
| 4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: It does make sense, but I | 4 your opportunity only to ask questions of those |
| 5 do want to say one thing. | 5 witnesses. It's not necessarily your turn to |
| 6 MS. BYRNE: Sure. | 6 testify. Sometimes it -- we can get sucked into |
| 7 MR. GRUENSPECHT: There are many documents | 7 that, because you hear a response and so then you |
| 8 that were prepared by Ms. Harris and Ms. Rogers and | 8 start to talk, right? So remember, it's just |
| 9 there are some concerns about the content of those | 9 questions. |
| 10 documents. Okay? And those documents were relied | 10 All right, the approval criteria for this |
| 11 upon in this case. | 11 particular hearing is based on the circumstances s |
| 12 So are you saying that I cannot question | 12 forth in the zoning ordinance section, again, |
| 13 them about those documents? | 13 59.7.3.1K2. So again, please address in testimony |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: You cannot question Ms. Harris | 14 that particular criteria. |
| 15 or Ms. Rogers, that is correct. You can question -- | 15 As the hearing examiner, I may exclude |
| 16 MR. GRUENSPECHT: So those documents -- | 16 irrelevant, repetitive or unreliable testimony and |
| 17 excuse me. | 17 any evidence. So before we get started, are there |
| 18 MS. BYRNE: If the -- the witnesses speak | 18 any preliminary issues? |
| 19 to those documents, you can question the witness | 19 I think, Mr. Gruenspecht, we probably just |
| 20 that speaks to that document. Does that make sense? | 20 talked about your preliminary [inaudible] |
| 21 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. But they did not | 21 questioning the attorneys, right? Any other |
| 22 prepare those documents. | 22 preliminary issues before we start? All right. |
| 23 MS. BYRNE: But they can speak to what's in | 23 MS. HARRIS: Ms. Byrne, the one thing I |
| 24 the document. That's why they're called as | 24 would say is we have exhibits that were submitted, |
|  |  |
| 14 | 16 |
| 1 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. But not just the | 1 able to click through just to calibrate them to our |
| 2 documents that they bring today, but the documents - | 2 witness' testimony, if that's acceptable? |
| 3 - the statement of amended justification, for | 3 MS. BYRNE: Sure. If you have the -- |
| 4 instance, and the prehearing statement. Those are | 4 because I do -- I think it is a -- you have the |
| 5 not statements by the witnesses, those are | 5 PowerPoint, right? And we have it uploaded as a PD |
| 6 statements by the counsel. | 6 MS. HARRIS: Correct. |
| 7 MS. BYRNE: Understood, and you cannot ask | 7 MS. BYRNE: So you would want to click |
| 8 them questions about that. You cannot ask them | 8 through the PowerPoint with your witness? That's |
| 9 questions. You cannot ask the attorneys questions. | 9 acceptable. That's fine. |
| 10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Right. That's fair. I | 10 MS. HARRIS: Okay, thank you. |
| 11 mean, like it is what it is. I don't think it is | 11 MS. BYRNE: Because I don't have the |
| 12 fair, but it is what it is, so thank you for | 12 ability to do that. |
| 13 clarifying that. | 13 MS. HARRIS: Okay. |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: Sure. Okay. So but we're -- now | 14 MS. BYRNE: I only have the static PDF, so |
| 15 we're going through the order. We've got the | 15 that's fine. I think that would be easy for |
| 16 appellant. We have the respondents. And then after | 16 everyone. All right. So we'll go ahead and as |
| 17 witnesses come through, cross examination, then we | 17 everyone has seen that this is being recorded, just |
| 18 have the rebuttal. | 18 to confirm we're all aware of that. |
| 19 So Mr. Gruenspecht, you'll have the last | 19 And so Mr. Gruenspecht, it's your turn to - |
| 20 word and be able to provide any rebuttal testimony. | 20 - I'll offer you the chance for an opening statement |
| 21 I just want to talk about exhibits. All of the <br> 22 exhibits were uploaded onto the website. Are there | 21 and then Ms. Harris. <br> 22 OPENING STATEMENTS |
| 22 exhibits were uploaded onto the website. Are there 23 any preliminary objections to any of the exhibits? | 23 MR. GRUENSPECHT: All right. Well, thank |
| 23 any preliminary objections to any of the exhibits? <br> 24 Mr. Gruenspecht, Ms. Harris? No? Okay. All | 23 MR. GRUENSPECHT: All right. Well, thank |
| 25 right. Sounds good. And at the end, we have closing | 24 you, Ms. Byrne, and thank you for setting up the <br> 25 hearing. I'm Howard Gruenspecht, here together with |


| 17 | 19 |
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| 1 my wife Susan. | 1 treated as a major amendment. |
| 2 Own and live at 66 Ellsworth Heights | 2 My testimony to establish these points will |
| 3 Street, immediately across Ellsworth Drive from the | 3 address the following four topics. First, provisions |
| 4 proposed conditional use of the site of the old | 4 of the zoning and nose control -- noise control |
| 5 Silver Spring Library as a large daycare center. | 5 ordinances and their implications for my objection. |
| 6 That's the subject of this hearing. I appreciate the | 6 Second, the intensity impacts of the |
| 7 opportunity to appear here today. | 7 elimination of the proposed building addition, which |
| $8 \quad$ As explained in my letter of July 5, I | 8 I will show have been most misstated and supplied by |
| 9 object to the June 23 order administratively | 9 the applicant. |
| 10 approving the applicant's amendment to the | 10 Third, the record of the case, and what I |
| 11 conditional use as minor, because the change it | 11 mean by this, the complete record of the case, which |
| 12 makes by eliminating the building addition from the | 12 provides strong evidence that the applicant's |
| 13 project originally approved in 2020 would | 13 amendment would in fact, have a substantial adverse |
| 14 significantly increase noise impacts from the | 14 impact on the immediate neighborhood due to |
| 15 project, thereby adversely and substantially | 15 increased noise. |
| 16 impacting my use and peaceful enjoyment of my home. | 16 The record also shows that the applicant's |
| 17 This is especially concerning because the | 17 amendment would directly invalidate at least two of |
| 18 proposed daycare facility opens at 7:00 a.m. | 18 the required findings for conditional use reached in |
| 19 The applicant's amendment eliminates, | 19 the 2020 decision for the original project. |
| 20 again, this proposed billing addition, an element of | 20 Again, that decision explicitly evaluated |
| 21 the project that was integral to the analysis and | 21 noise impacts from the proposed outdoor playground |
| 22 conclusions that required findings for conditional | 22 and repeatedly stressed the key role of the building |
| 23 use were met in the original approval of the | 23 addition in attenuating those impacts. |
| 24 project. Thus, if the amendment were to be approved | 24 However, the applicant's request for a |
| 25 as minor, compliance with the required findings for | 25 minor amendment, Exhibit 87, and the applicant's |
| 18 | 20 |
| 1 the conditional use would no longer be demonstrated. | 1 amended statement of justification, Exhibit 95, do |
| 2 Beyond my significant or specific concerns | 2 not address noise impacts at all. |
| 3 about the significant adverse noise impacts arising | 3 I don't believe the word noise appears in |
| 4 from the approved minor amendment, I believe that | 4 those documents even though they're proposing to |
| 5 the letter and the spirit of the zoning ordinance do | 5 make a change that eliminates something that was |
| 6 not allow for the use of a minor amendment process | 6 repeatedly stressed as attenuating noise in the |
| 7 to circumvent the requirement to demonstrate all | 7 original approval. |
| 8 required findings for a conditional use. | 8 The applicant apparently recognizes that |
| $9 \quad$ Allowing the use of a minor amendment | 9 the record available prior to the June 23 order does |
| 10 process to make major changes in a project that | 10 not, in fact, demonstrate again or address noise |
| 11 adversely impact the surrounding neighborhood has | 11 impacts and apparently the applicant intends to |
| 12 broad and disturbing implications since the minor | 12 introduce a new expert witness to provide new |
| 13 amendment process allows for no input from parties | 13 analysis related to noise impacts, which will |
| 14 other than the applicant and becomes known to other | 14 obviously be hard for me to address before it's |
| 15 affected parties only after the hearing examiner has | 15 presented. |
| 16 issued an order. | 16 So again, this is the nature of this |
| 17 I realize that that's the process that's | 17 process. Therefore, I will have to rely on cross |
| 18 set out, but it is problematic. My objection can be | 18 examination of that witness to identify significant |
| 19 summarized in two sentences. | 19 problems and issues in that analysis. |
| 20 The applicant's amendment, in particular | 20 Fourth, I will show at the opinion section |
| 21 the elimination of the proposed billing addition in | 21 of the June 23 order includes statements and |
| 22 the originally approved project does not meet the | 22 conclusions that should be reconsidered in light of |
| 23 criteria for a minor amendment, therefore under the | 23 the full record and provisions of the zoning |
| 24 zoning ordinance provisions governing this hearing, | 24 ordinance. |
| 25 which Ms. Byrne has already referred to, it must be | 25 So I am aware of the larger context |

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| 1 surrounding this project. In particular, the |  | 1 today's hearing focuses only on the question of |  |
| 2 amendment application notes that the county has |  | 2 whether or not the applicant's amendment, as filed, |  |
| 3 already entered into an agreement with the applicant |  | 3 is mino |  |
| 4 regarding minimum levels of enrollment at the |  | 4 However, should my objection to its |  |
| 5 facility and that there are claims of increased |  | 5 approval as a minor amendment be sustained, I look |  |
| 6 construction costs and a shortfall in project |  | 6 forward to working with all parties regarding my |  |
| 7 funding as a motivation for its proposed amendment. |  | 7 substantive concerns and how they might be resolved. |  |
| 8 However, as Ms. Byrne indicated in her |  | 8 That concludes my opening remarks. Thank |  |
| 9 introduction, neither the county's interest in this |  | 9 you very much. |  |
| 10 facility's future operation nor the funding |  | 10 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. Ms. Harris? |  |
| 11 shortfall, which is cited by the applicant, are |  | 11 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. Good morning, Pat |  |
| 12 germane to this hearing, which focuses only on the |  | 12 Harris with Lerch, Early and Brewer and with me is |  |
| 13 topics listed in section 597.3.1.K.2.B of the zoning |  | 13 my co-counsel and partner, Liz Rogers. |  |
| 14 ordinance and the need to assure that required |  | 14 We're here, as I noted, on behalf of the |  |
| 15 findings for conditional use are not violated by the |  | 15 Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center, |  |
| 16 applicant's amendment. |  | 16 providing quality childcare to low income, working |  |
| 17 So a little bit more. While my objection to |  | 17 families. |  |
| 18 the June 23 order has led to this hearing, the |  | 18 As everyone knows, the zoning hearing |  |
| 19 applicant still bears the burden of showing that the |  | 19 examiner, back in November 2020, approved the |  |
| 20 preponderance of the evidence on the record supports |  | 20 conditional use for CentroNia, the -- would be who |  |
| 21 its assertion that its proposed amendment is |  | 21 was the operator of the child development center at |  |
| 22 properly classified as minor. |  | 22 the old Silver Spring Library site at 8901/8907 |  |
| 23 And again, the relevant record to be |  | 23 Colesville Road. |  |
| 24 considered is the record of the case from its |  | 24 Unfortunately, and I say this by way of |  |
| 25 inception, not just recent or current claims made by |  | 25 background as to why we are here now, due to cost |  |
|  | 22 |  | 24 |
| 1 the applicant in an attempt to justify their |  | 1 constraints, including the cost of high construction |  |
| 2 application. |  | 2 costs, which everyone has read about for the last |  |
| $3 \quad$ My testimony and the cross examination will |  | 3 year or two, and the construction budget for the |  |
| 4 show that the applicant's proposed amendment does |  | 4 nonprofit daycare center, the scope of the project |  |
| 5 not meet that standard. In fact, the preponderance |  | 5 needed to be scaled back. |  |
| 6 of the evidence in the complete case record actually |  | 6 In doing so, we have proposed the |  |
| 7 supports sustaining my objection. |  | 7 elimination of the 13,000 square foot rear addition |  |
| $8 \quad$ I also want to be clear that I'm not trying |  | 8 with associated site modifications. Importantly, the |  |
| 9 to prevent the development of a daycare center at |  | 9 operation, however, would remain the same. |  |
| 10 the site of the Silver Spring Library. Notably, I |  | 10 The sole issue in this hearing is whether |  |
| 11 did not object to the November 2020 approval of the |  | 11 the proposed modifications were appropriately |  |
| 12 original project. |  | 12 classified as a minor amendment as the hearing and |  |
| 13 I happen to believe that a variant of the |  | 13 the examiner so classified them. |  |
| 14 project that is substantially cheaper than the |  | 14 The code provides that a minor amendment is |  |
| 15 original proposal, but still provides features that |  | 15 one that, "Does not change the nature, character or |  |
| 16 significantly attenuate playground noise could avoid |  | 16 intensity of the conditional use to an extent that |  |
| 17 the adverse neighborhood impacts that led me to |  | 17 substantial adverse effects on the surrounding |  |
| 18 object to the June 23 order approving the |  | 18 neighborhood could reasonably be expected when |  |
| 19 applicant's amendment. |  | 19 considered in combination with the underlying |  |
| 20 So after being notified of my objection to |  | 20 conditional use." |  |
| 21 the June 23 order, Ms. Rogers, one of the |  | 21 And I have to say, I think that we have |  |
| 22 applicant's counsel, co-counsel, I guess, called me |  | 22 here somewhat of a novel contention that can an |  |
| 23 and offered to meet with me to discuss my |  | 23 amendment, that eliminates a large, two-story |  |
| 24 substantive concerns. |  | 24 addition such that the existing structure largely |  |
| 25 I declined, given my understanding that |  | 25 remains unchanged, be considered an intensification |  |

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that would trigger the need for a major amendment.
You will hear through our witnesses that the proposed modification is indeed a minor amendment as park and planning staff recommended. And the hearing examiner previously and properly determined.
This site is the former Silver Spring
Library. It had been in operation for 60 years. It is still owned by the county.
When the county selected the applicant, they made a determination that the provision of low -- of quality childcare for low income, working families, was a priority of the county. And in fact, they selected this use over many other uses that are also held in high regard in our priorities of the county, such as senior housing and affordable housing.
Based on that selection, we pursued the conditional use. And actually, at the time, while we were working through the conditional use, we worked with representatives of Chelsea Court. That's the community in which Mr. Gruenspecht lives.
Who had reached out to us to request a change in our application to make one of the driveways along Ellsworth a one-way driveway. And we
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did this willingly and gladly in order to be responsive to the needs of the neighborhood.

As Mr. Gruenspecht noted, when we received his opposition to the classification of the application as a minor, we did reach out to him in hopes that we could try to resolve the issues.

He made it perfectly clear that there was nothing to discuss, and we would -- it just would be vetted out at a hearing.

MR. GRUENSPECHT: [inaudible]
MS. BYRNE: She gets to finish, Mr.
Gruenspecht.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: Absolutely, but then I
will make a comment if you will allow.
MS. BYRNE: [inaudible]
MR. GRUENSPECHT: That's fine.
MS. HARRIS: Mr. Gruenspecht asserts that 18 the noise levels from the playground that will
19 result by eliminating the addition triggered the
20 need for a major amendment.
21 I think it's important to emphasize that 22 consistent with the planning staff's recommendation,
23 the zoning hearing examiner determined that noise,
24 along with several other components, is an inherent
25 characteristic of a childcare center.

That is, it is necessarily associated with
the proposed use. I think everyone would acknowledge
that. The ZHE also determined that there were no
non-inherent characteristics associated with the proposed use.

Given the distance of the playground from the residences, the background noise associated with the adjacent park, Colesville Road and the proposed operation, the applicant did not, at the time of the original conditional use, engage a noise consultant to conduct a study.

There was no need. We determined there was no need and it was found that there was no need.

And while there was testimony during the original hearing noting that the presence of the 16 building addition would buffer some of the noise 7 from the children playing in the outdoor playground, 8 this was just one of the factors considered.

Other factors were considered as well; including the distance from the nearby residential homes, the location of a playground next door, which included several play areas and a dog park.

And I think this is a really important
4 fact, that importantly there was never any testimony
24 fact, that importantly there was never any testimony
25 suggesting that without the addition, there would be 1 an adverse level of noise.
2 We are where we are now and -- and we are 3 now, and you will hear through our witnesses, that 4 now we are presenting quantitative evidence through 5 our noise consultant that in fact what we asserted 6 and -- and testified to in the original hearing is, 7 in fact, correct.
8 That there will be no adverse noise to the 9 adjacent neighbors.
10 You will hear through our witnesses who 11 will demonstrate that the elimination of the
12 addition does not cause any substantial adverse
13 effects, and that is the standard, and certainly
14 none that could be reasonably be expected when 15 considered in combination with the underlying
16 conditions of the use since there are no other
17 changes associated with the modification in terms of 18 the operation of the childcare center.
19 We will be calling three witnesses. As I
20 indicated, Ms. Myrna Peralta, who is the CEO of 21 CentroNia. She will testify as to the proposed use
22 and operation. The hearing examiner heard from Ms. 21 CentroNia. She will testify as to the proposed use
22 and operation. The hearing examiner heard from Ms.
3 Peralta during the original conditional use hearing.
24 You'll hear from our architect, Ms. Jen
25 Lyon. She's with Mosely Architects and she will
1

## 25

| 29 | 31 |
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| 1 testify as to the physical characteristics | 1 the -- reach out to neighborhood, to community, to |
| 2 associated with the conditional use and the proposed | 2 neighbors, just to talk about what it is and |
| 3 modification. | 3 sometimes it ends up being five more trees or |
| 4 I would note that Ms. Lyon did not | 4 sometimes it ends up being six more shrubs. |
| 5 participate in the prior hearing. After the | 5 You know what I mean? And -- and then that |
| 6 conditional use approval, the applicant engaged | 6 could satisfy. |
| 7 new architect to take the project forward. | 7 MR. GRUENSPECHT: As I said in my opening |
| 8 And then you'll hear from Mr. Chris Carner | 8 remarks, I am perfectly happy to engage in that |
| 9 from Polysonics, who did in fact conduct the noise | 9 consultation, but I don't think it can be -- my |
| 10 analysis and, as I've already said, he is going to | 10 understanding of what this hearing was about, which |
| 11 testify that -- that the proposed modifications will | 11 was only to consider the minor amendment as proposed |
| 12 not result in any changes to exterior noise levels | 12 and approved. Therefore, I did not want to have the |
| 13 that will have, "A substantially adverse effect on | 13 discussion at that time |
| 14 the surrounding neighborhood when considered in | 14 And as I indicated, I am not opposed to the |
| 15 combination with the underlying use." | 15 daycare center in Silver Spring. Okay? |
| 16 And then finally, I just want to note that | 16 MS. BYRNE: Right. I think -- sure, |
| 17 despite Mr. Gruenspecht's statement in his opening | 17 understood. Understood where you're coming from. |
| 18 remarks, the burden is in fact on him to -- to show | 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 19 and demonstrate that these changes are characterized | 19 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. So thank you. So I |
| $20-$ or should be classified as a major, not a minor. | 20 guess the hearing examiner had asked that I don't be |
| 21 The hearing examiner previously determined | 21 repetitive and I certainly want to do my best to |
| 22 that the modifications were minor. Mr. Gruenspecht | 22 comply. I will note, however, that I -- my factual |
| 23 objected to that. The burden is on him to show that | 23 case builds on my opening statement and should be |
| 24 in fact it's a major. | 24 considered in conjunction with that statement. |
| 25 So with that, we conclude our opening | 25 And again, briefly my objection is that the |
| 30 | 32 |
| 1 remarks. Thank you. | 1 applicant amendments elimination of the proposed |
| 2 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. And Mr. Gruenspecht, | 2 building included in the originally approved project |
| 3 you can proceed with your -- with your factual case. | 3 does not meet the criteria for a minor amendment, |
| 4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. So I -- I did have | 4 therefore under the zoning ordinance provisions |
| 5 one -- one point, though, before I do that. | 5 [inaudible] hearing, it must be treated as a major |
| 6 That I guess you can consider this a | 6 amendment where we could, in fact, discuss how to |
| 7 factual case if you insist on doing so, but in terms | 7 fix it. |
| 8 of the outreach to me, again, my understanding that | $8 \quad$ My opening statement identified four topic |
| 9 what this hearing was about was only the minor | 9 areas to establish these points. I will now address |
| 10 amendment as proposed and that there was no | 10 each of them in turn and then briefly summarize. So |
| 11 opportunity in discussions with Ms. Harris to change | 11 let's begin. |
| 12 the content of the minor amendment. | 12 So my first topic, like I guess so many |
| 13 That is why I did not think it was | 13 other discussions already, is the zoning ordinance |
| 14 worthwhile to discuss my substantive concerns with | 14 itself. It directly addresses what is to be |
| 15 her. So -- | 15 considered at this hearing when an objection is |
| 16 MS. BYRNE: Understood. | 16 raised to an order administratingly [sic] approving |
| 17 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Am I correct in my | 17 a minor amendment and again, quoting from this |
| 18 assertion that the only thing this hearing about is | 18 section, the deciding body must suspend the |
| 19 the amendment as proposed and there was no | 19 administrative amendment and conduct a public |
| 20 opportunity to change or address my concerns prior | 20 hearing to consider whether the amendment |
| 21 to this hearing? | 21 substantially changes the nature, character or |
| 22 MS. BYRNE: Well, what I will say, just for | 22 intensity of the conditional use or its effect on |
| 23 future reference, Mr. Gruenspecht, is there are | 23 the immediate neighborhood. |
| 24 times that applicants for conditional uses and | 24 So intensity alone is mentioned by Ms. |
| 25 changes in their conditional uses, do reach out to | 25 Harris earlier, is not the deciding factor here. If |


| 33 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 the board of appeals determines that such impacts | 1 Second, the noise ordinance also develops |
| 2 are likely, then the amendment application must be | 2 the concept of noise disturbance, which is defined |
| 3 treated as a major amendment application and, quote, | 3 in section 31B2 subsection M of the noise ordinance |
| 4 the rest of my testimony will demonstrate that the | 4 as any noise that is one; unpleasant, annoying, |
| 5 amendment does in fact substantially change several | 5 offensive, loud or obnoxious and the annoying, I |
| 6 of the listed factors and that the adverse impacts | 6 think keep in mind. |
| 7 on the immediate neighborhood are very likely. | 7 Two; unusual for the time of day and |
| 8 In this regard, it's important also to | 8 location where it is produced or heard. And three; |
| 9 clarify what constitutes an adverse impact with | 9 detrimental to the health, comfort or safety of any |
| 10 respect to noise. | 10 individual or to the reasonable enjoyment of |
| 11 So section 59.7.3.1.E.1.G of the zoning | 11 property. |
| 12 ordinance requires the finding that the conditional | 12 So the definition of noise disturbance in |
| 13 use will not cause undue harm to the neighborhood in | 13 the noise ordinance tracks closely with the focus |
| 14 any of several listed categories which includes; the | 14 and use of peaceful enjoyment of the neighboring |
| 15 use and peaceful enjoyment of abutting, confronting | 15 properties in the required findings under section |
| 16 properties, and of the general neighborhood with a | 16 59.7.3.1.E.1.G of the zoning ordinance and is |
| 17 further, specific mention of noise impacts. | 17 clearly distinct from the definition of a noise |
| 18 So can you please post Exhibit 112? | 18 violation. |
| 19 MS. BYRNE: Yes. | 19 Specifically, even if the applicant was |
| 20 MR. GRUENSPECHT: This is the applicant's | 20 able to convincingly demonstrate that there was no |
| 21 exhibit. I don't see it. Is it up? | 21 noise violation, it would not rule out a noise |
| 22 MS. BYRNE: Still working on getting it. | 22 disturbance. |
| 23 Just one sec. | 23 This is plainly apparent from section 31B5 |
| 24 MR. GRUENSPECHT: No problem. Give me time 25 to take a drink. | 24 subsection C, which provides examples of common 25 noise producing acts that violate the section if |
| 34 |  |
| 1 MS. BYRNE: 112? Is that -- | 1 they exceed the noise level standards set in |
| 2 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yep. | 2 subsection A, which is this table we're looking at, |
| 3 MS. BYRNE: 112. Is this the exhibit? | 3 subsection A, or create a noise disturbance. |
| 4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I don't see it. | 4 Now, if you could scroll down the little |
| 5 MS. BYRNE: How about -- all right. Hold | 5 slide here, it would be helpful. Okay, that's good. |
| 6 on. How about -- all right. Let's try this again. | 6 No, I'm sorry. Just the bottom of this slide. The |
| 7 How about now? | 7 first slide is what I wanted. Just go up a little |
| 8 MS. HARRIS: Yes. | 8 bit more. No. Yeah. Perfect. Okay. |
| 9 MS. BYRNE: Okay. | 9 So you can see here that a -- that the |
| 10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: If at first you don't | 10 presentation here provides subsection $A$ and $B$ of the |
| 11 succeed. | 11 noise level and noise disturbance violations, but |
| 12 MS. BYRNE: Just keep clicking. | 12 conveniently leaves out section C, which provides -- |
| 13 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I can't quite see the | 13 makes the point that a noise violation and a noise |
| 14 bottom of it, but it doesn't really matter for this | 14 [inaudible] are different things. |
| 15 purpose. So this is Exhibit 112, submitted by the | 15 This is kind of typical of -- of what the |
| 16 applicants. It opens with a table describing | 16 presentation is. Thus, contrary to the impression |
| 17 threshold for noise violations under the Montgomery | 17 provided by the opening slide of Exhibit 112, the |
| 18 County noise ordinance. | 18 presence or absence of a noise violation is not |
| 19 Two points here. First, if the zoning | 19 dispositive to the assessment of undue harm from |
| 20 ordinance had intended to make noise violations the | 20 noise impacts in a conditional use filing. |
| 21 focus of the consideration for adverse noise | 21 I have other important concerns with the |
| 22 impacts, it could have done so by directly | 22 content of Exhibit 112, but those are better |
| 23 mentioning such violations. It does not do so, as I | 23 addressed as part of my cross examination of the |
| 24 think we all know. I won't go back and read that | 24 applicant's expert witness, so I will raise them |
| 25 ordinance. | 25 then. |



| 41 | 43 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 cramped indoor facilities, resulting in a higher | 1 for all approved conditional uses. Therefore, an |
| 2 intensity of use for the outdoor play area. | 2 amendment that removes project feature used to |
| 3 The noise impacts affecting the immediate | 3 establish one or more of the required findings |
| 4 neighborhood, including my home, are directly linked | 4 cannot be considered as minor. |
| 5 to the intensity of the use of the playground and | $5 \quad$ So again, 59.7.3.1.E.1.G requires that a |
| 6 indeed, in the original record of decision, the | 6 finding for a conditional use, and I quote, will not |
| 7 entire focus was on playground -- on noise was | 7 cause undue harm to the neighborhood as a result of |
| 8 playground noise. | 8 non-inherent adverse effect alone or in combination |
| 9 In his October 12, 2020, testimony, at page | 9 with inherent or non-inherent adverse effect in any |
| 10112 of the hearing transcript, Mr. Olivera Sala, the | 10 of the following categories. |
| 11 applicant's architectural expert, described the | 11 So one is the use, peaceful enjoyment and |
| 12 elements of the building addition that would be | 12 economic value or [inaudible] potential of abutting |
| 13 deleted by the applicant's amendment. | 13 and confronting properties. Two is traffic noise. |
| 14 He stated, and I quote, "The new addition | 14 Owner discussed elimination or lack of parking. And |
| 15 will harbor additional classes, office space and a | 15 three is the health, safety or welfare of |
| 16 community space that will be used for neighbors a | 16 neighboring residents, visitors or employees, end |
| 17 well as the -- as the -- as an indoor play area." | 17 quote. |
| 18 So the elimination of the project's indoor | 18 So there is an analysis of this required |
| 19 play area further adds to the likelihood of a | 19 finding for the original project and that's |
| 20 substantial increase in the use intensity of the | 20 presented on pages 35 through 37 of the 2020 record |
| 21 outdoor playground and I understand that the 450 | 21 of decision. That's Exhibit 86. Can you bring it up, |
| 22 square foot community room is also going to be moved | 22 please? |
| 23 into the existing space, which will further, you | 23 MS. BYRNE: Sure, 86. |
| 24 know, cramp the situation. | 24 MR. GRUENSPECHT: And I think you want to |
| 25 So there's an increase in intensity of the | 25 go to page 35 ? |
| 42 | 44 |
| 1 use of the playground. And in fact, with respect to | 1 MS. BYRNE: Okay. |
| 2 noise, the playground is the center of the issue. | 2 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay, it -- let's save |
| 3 The second problem with the views of the | 3 the time for everybody. I think we all know what's |
| 4 applicant and staff regarding intensity that is | 4 in there, but all right. |
| 5 scaled back, physical intensity, or the absence of | 5 MS. BYRNE: Thirty -- all right. I'll try |
| 6 the increased intensity, that even if those were | 6 to get there, 35. |
| 7 properly found is not a sufficient basis to classify | 7 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. Thank you for |
| 8 the proposed amendment as minor. | 8 bearing with me. |
| 9 And these are the factors that are quoted | 9 MS. BYRNE: Sure. |
| 10 in the opinion. Rather such a determination must | 10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: You're getting close. |
| 11 consider the full definition of a minor amendment, | 11 MS. BYRNE: Are we here? |
| 12 which focuses directly on whether the amendment | 12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: This is basically -- |
| 13 changes the conditional use to such an extent of | 13 right, dealing with this paragraph. And so again, |
| 14 substantial adverse impacts could reasonably -- on | 14 pages 35 through 37, I guess I'll come back to it a |
| 15 the neighborhood could reasonably be expected. | 15 little later, but the focus of this section of 35 to |
| 16 And I think I can show that. So now let me | 1637 , is entirely on noise impacts in the immediate |
| 17 move to the third part of my testimony. Third part | 17 neighborhood, particularly focusing on noise coming |
| 18 of my testimony focuses on how the amendment | 18 from the outdoor play area. |
| 19 approved in the June 23 rd order will directly | 19 This focus makes sense, given the |
| 20 invalidate the analyses, included in the 2020 | 20 importance of noise to assessing the adverse impact |
| 21 decision, showing that the project meets the | 21 on the immediate neighborhood and the playground is |
| 22 necessary findings required under 59.7.3.1.E.1.G and | 22 a dominant source of any such noise. |
| 23 the limited use standards for a daycare facility | 23 So review of the 2020 decision and the |
| 24 under section 59.3.4.4.F3. | 24 hearing transcript shows that all of the analysis |
| 25 So required findings must be demonstrated | 25 and conclusions, regarding noise, and its impact on |

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the neighborhood presented in the original approval
rely heavily on the role of the building addition
that is eliminated by the amendment as a critical
element in attenuating noise from the playground.
Can the examiner please display Exhibit
108 ?
MS. BYRNE: Sure.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: It's just one page, so --
MS. BYRNE: Okay.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. So this is a --
1 this exhibit is a marked-up version of the graphic
2 on page 13 of the document we were just looking at,
3 the November 2020 hearing examiner's record and
4 decision.
5
And it shows that my home, which is marked
7 by the X, is in the immediate neighborhood of the
8 proposed conditional use.
So again, the red X between the -- the two
9 legend boxes on the right -- on the bottom two
20 legend boxes on the right-hand side is the location
21 of my home. And the entire roughly rectangular area
22 shaded in red in this exhibit, so including areas
23 marked A and B, is the location of the two-story
2 building addition that is eliminated from the
25 project under the amendment approved as minor by the

June 23rd order.
The two-story addition is approximately 30 feet high and also approximately 30 feet wide, I think.

So since we understand the exhibit shows that without area A of the building addition, there is no sound barrier between the playground and the townhomes along Ellsworth. Okay?

So returning back to Exhibit 86, you don't 10 have to turn to a particular page right now. Staff state -- you can leave the page where we are at.

So staff statement regarding noise impacts cited on page 36 of the original approval, is, and I quote, "Potential noise issues associated with use 15 are addressed by the strategic playment [sic] of the 16 play area, which is adjacent to the dog park and 17 also located behind the building where it is 18 shielded from the adjacent residents to the south and the east."
20 The applicant's expert witness on civil
21 engineering who, I think, was listed in the
22 prehearing statement for this hearing as appearing
23 today, but unfortunately, I guess is not able to
24 appear.
25 So that was Mr. Fox. He also testified on

## 45

1 the key role of the building addition in limiting noise. Quoting from pages 36 and 37 of the 2020
project approval, at the public hearing, Mr. Fox opined that the distance and intervening building will attenuate noise from the playground.

He testified that the play area is shielded from Ellsworth Drive by the new addition. According to Mr. Fox, the playground will be approximately 200 feet from the townhomes across Ellsworth Drive.

Because the playground is tucked away, behind the building and the dog park, and due to the distance to the nearest homes, noise impacts from the playground will be so minimal that no limit on 14 the number of children that may be outside at one 15 time is necessary, end quote.

As shown by Exhibit 108, however, the 17 playground is no longer tucked away once the 8 building addition is eliminated from the project.

So in fact, Mr. Fox's full testimony goes 0 even further in emphasizing the importance of the 1 building addition for blocking noise. This is contrary to Ms. Harris' opening statement.

On pages 101 to 102 of the October 2020
24 hearing transcript, which is Exhibit 111, you don't
have to show it or you can. The hearing examiner
asks, and I quote, "And are you saying that with the slope down toward the west side of this addition, the slope down from Colesville to the west side of the addition plus the addition itself, that has a noise attenuating factor?"

Mr. Fox responds, and I quote, "The addition would be the largest attenuating factor in that." That's the applicant's own expert, in the original approval, finds that the addition is not just one among many factors attenuating noise, but the largest or most important one.

Can the examiner please display Exhibit $106 ?$

MS. BYRNE: Sure.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: All right. So this is a -- thank you.

MS. BYRNE: Mm-hmm.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: This exhibit is a photo 9 of the project site from the main floor of my home, 0 and it shows that my home is actually at or slightly above the level of the playground.

Therefore, my home actually has no sound reducing benefit from the slope between the
24 playground and Ellsworth Drive that was cited in the 25 discussion between the hearing examiner and Mr. Fox.

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| 57 | 59 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 examiner quotes the applicant's view that the | 1 any of the required findings under section |
| 2 amendment is minor because it amends the additional | 2 59.7.3.1.E and section 59.3.4.4.F or approval of |
| 3 -- conditional use to reduce physical intensity | 3 waive |
| 4 while maintaining long term existing conditions on | 4 Now, I think my earlier parts of my |
| 5 the property. | 5 testimony show clearly that the applicant's expert |
| 6 So my earlier testimony has already shown | 6 witnesses and staff testimony in the original case, |
| 7 that the intensity calculations provided by the | 7 relied heavily in the analysis and conclusions |
| 8 applicant fail to reflect a likely increase in the | 8 concerning at least two of the required findings in |
| 9 measure of intensity that is most directly relevant | 9 the 2020 approval of the original project on the key |
| 10 to my objection regarding neighborhood noise | 10 role of the 30 -foot-high building addition in |
| 11 impacts, which were discussed in my earlier | 11 attenuating noise from the playground that would |
| 12 testimony and the way noise impacts were handled in | 12 otherwise affect the community. |
| 13 the original approval also focused on the | 13 You know, furthermore, the analysis and |
| 14 playground. | 14 conclusions reached in the 2020 decision rely on |
| 15 Moreover, contrary to the applicant's | 15 estimates of playground noise and intensity to the |
| 16 amendment statement of justification quoted above, | 16 original project plan, which requires much more -- |
| 17 the amendment does not maintain longstanding | 17 which provides much more interior space per child |
| 18 existing conditions on the property. | 18 than the amendment and includes an inside play area. |
| 19 And again, this -- the new outdoor | 19 And, frankly, I see nothing other than a |
| 20 playground, you know, and also, removal of the 30- | 20 bold assertion by the applicant in the statement of |
| 21 foot-high barrier that would have mitigated | 21 additional justification that the situation, you |
| 22 playground noise in the conditional use as approved | 22 know, is -- is maintained under the proposed |
| 23 in 2020. | 23 amendment and in that statement, the applicant |
| 24 So the first sentence in the second | 24 studiously ignores the previous statements of its |
| 25 paragraph of the opinion station states the hearing | 25 own expert witnesses to the contrary. |
| 58 | 60 |
| 1 examiner's agreement with the applicant and planning | 1 So we now arrive at the final paragraph of |
| 2 staff that the amendment is minor. | 2 the opinion section of the June 23 rd order. |
| 3 I object to that, because the amendment | 3 The first sentence reads, and I quote, |
| 4 does change the nature, character, or intensity of | 4 because the changes proposed by the applicant to |
| 5 the -- and again, as I mentioned earlier in my | 5 reduce the building size, provide additional |
| 6 discussion of intensity, you know. Intensity seems | 6 landscaping, maintain the [inaudible] elements of |
| 7 to be the only factor that was mentioned in the -- | 7 the original approval, the hearing estimate |
| 8 you know, in the discussion. | 8 determines that it's a minor amendment that does not |
| 9 In fact, I think it was calculated wrong. | 9 change the nature, character or intensity of the |
| 10 But again, the -- the test is the nature, character, | 10 conditional use to an extent, that substantial |
| 11 or intensity of the conditional use to an extent | 11 adverse effects on the surrounding neighborhood |
| 12 that's substantial and that adverse effects on the | 12 could reasonably be expected when considered in |
| 13 surrounding neighborhood could presumably expected | 13 combination with the underlying conditional use. End |
| 14 when considered in consultation with the underlying | 14 quote. |
| 15 conditional use. | 15 So that's the -- the statement of the |
| 16 I believe I've shown this in the earlier | 16 provision of law. My objection here is that even if |
| 17 parts of my testimony. The discussion in the rest of | 17 the amendment reduces the building size, which it |
| 18 the second paragraph, [inaudible] the third and | 18 does; provides additional landscaping, which it |
| 19 fourth paragraphs have no bearing on my objection to | 19 does; and remains -- maintains many programmatic |
| 20 the amendment, which relates to increased noise from | 20 elements of the original approval, which it does. |
| 21 the outdoor play area. | 21 None of those factors are mentioned in the zoning |
| 22 So let's go down to the fifth paragraph. | 22 ordinance definition of a minor amendment and those |
| 23 Upon review, state -- the first sentence states, and | 23 findings alone are currently not sufficient to |
| 24 I quote, upon review of the original approval, the <br> 25 hearing examiner finds the amendment does not affect | 24 determine that a proposed amendment is a minor one. 25 Rather the applicable test for a minor |
| 25 hearing examiner finds the amendment does not affect | 25 Rather, the applicable test for a minor |

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| 61 | 63 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 amendment focuses directly on examination, whether | 1 A. I certainly looked at the -- at the |
| 2 the amendment changes the conditional use to an | 2 presentation that you're going to go through with |
| 3 extent that substantial adverse impacts on the | 3 your expert. |
| 4 surrounding neighborhood could reasonably be | 4 Q. But did you independently either, |
| 5 expected when considered in combination with the | 5 conduct a study or commission anyone to conduct a |
| 6 underlying conditional use. | 6 study on noise? |
| 7 The record and my testimony show that | 7 A. No, I did not. |
| 8 reducing the building size by eliminating the | 8 Q. Okay. Thank you. And when -- when did |
| 9 building addition has the effect of changing the | 9 you purchase your home? |
| 10 conditional use to an extent that substantial | 10 A. 2016. |
| 11 adverse effects on the surrounding neighborhood | 11 Q. And at that time, Ellsworth Park was in |
| 12 could reasonably be expected. | 12 existence. Is that correct? |
| 13 Therefore, in this case, reducing the | 13 A. Yeah. |
| 14 building size, by eliminating the building addition | 14 Q. And do you know whether the dog park |
| 15 that screens noise, and has been identified by the | 15 that is within Ellsworth Park was completed at the |
| 16 applicant's expert witness as the main factor that | 16 time you bought your home? |
| 17 attenuates noise is actually a reason to reject the | 17 A. I'm aware of -- I believe it was. I'm |
| 18 proposed amendment as being a minor amendment. | 18 not sure, but -- |
| 19 With that, I've presented my factual | 19 Q. Okay. And are you aware that the hours |
| 20 arguments in four relevant topic areas for the case. | 20 of operation at the park are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., |
| 21 I'll briefly summarize my entire case when | 21 dawn to dusk? |
| 22 I make my concluding comments and will also address | 22 A. I've never looked it up, but I have no |
| 23 in the concluded comments any information developed | 23 -- you know. |
| 24 during my cross examination of witnesses that will | 24 Q. You don't know? |
| 25 testify on behalf of the applicant later in this | 25 A. I'm not saying that -- I'm not saying |
| 62 | 64 |
| 1 hearing. | 1 they're not. |
| 2 Thank you for your attention. | 2 Q. And, to your knowledge, are there ever |
| 3 MS. BYRNE: All right. Thank you, Mr. | 3 users of the park there before 7:00 a.m. or after |
| 4 Gruenspecht. Ms. Harris, any cross? | 4 7:00 p.m.? |
| 5 CROSS EXAMINATION | 5 A. I mean, of what park? So the -- so the |
| 6 BY MS. HARRIS: | 6 -- let me tell you. If you're trying to, you know, |
| 7 Q. Yes, please. Thank you. | 7 suggest something here, which I think you are. I do |
| 8 Good morning, Mr. Gruenspecht. I'm assuming | 8 hear noise from the dog park when the windows are |
| 9 you have a college degree. Is that correct? | 9 open in my house. |
| 10 A. Yeah. I have a PhD. | 10 I do hear -- I do not hear it early in the |
| 11 Q. In what is your PhD ? | 11 morning at 7:00 a.m. You know, the dog park is not, |
| 12 A. It doesn't -- it's not relevant to this | 12 I think on -- on weekdays, certainly the dog park is |
| 13 case. | 13 not widely used at -- at those times of day, if |
| 14 Q. So it's not in acoustics? | 14 that's what you're getting at, or at least I don't |
| 15 A. What? | 15 hear noise from it. |
| 16 Q. Have you -- are you -- do you have a | 16 Q. Mm-hmm. |
| 17 degree in any kind of acoustic related field? | 17 A. I mean, I'm not -- I don't have a -- a |
| 18 A. No. | 18 camera that observes the dog park. But yes, the dog |
| 19 Q. And you're not an expert in noise, I'm | 19 park is there. Yes, the dog park is a sense of |
| 20 assuming? | 20 noise. Yes, the dog park does not interfere with me |
| 21 A. No. I know something about noise. On my | 21 sleeping with the windows open in my house from 7:00 |
| 22 resume, it does not identify me as an expert in | 22 to 9:00 a.m. in the morning. |
| 23 noise. | 23 I have a feeling that people go to the dog |
| 24 Q. And in connection with this proceeding, <br> 25 did you conduct any type of noise analysis or study? | 24 park when they have lots of time to play with their 25 dogs, not when they're taking their dogs out before |


| 65 | 67 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 work. I think they just go on the walk in their | 1 and anyone's, would be when you're sleeping and |
| 2 neighborhood. | 2 between seven and eight in the morning or so? Is |
| 3 But again, [inaudible] pursue this. It | 3 that what you're saying? |
| 4 seems like a red herring, but please, proceed. | 4 A. I'm saying yeah, I am retired. I do |
| 5 Q. Now, if you had to estimate when you do | 5 enjoy sleeping uninterrupted. I have trouble |
| 6 hear noises from the dog park, if not in the | 6 sleeping. I do -- I do sleep with the -- we do sleep |
| 7 morning, do you have a sense of when you do hear | 7 with the windows open most of the year. |
| 8 them? | 8 I will not say we sleep with the windows |
| A. Well, I mean, I hear them when I'm, you | 9 open every day, because if it's 90 degrees at night |
| 10 know, up and it's in the -- usually in the, you | 10 we're not sleeping with the windows open. |
| 11 know, in the afternoon. | 11 Q. Right. |
| 12 Q. After people are home from work? | 12 A. When it's freezing in the winter, we're |
| 13 Because as you said, that's when they have more | 13 not sleeping with the windows open. But generally |
| 14 time? | 14 we sleep with the windows open. |
| 15 A. Or on the weekends. Really, | 15 Q. So is it correct to say that one of |
| 16 predominantly on the weekend. I mean, you know, I -- | 16 your concerns is hearing noise early in the morning |
| 17 yeah. There's a dog park there. I'm not -- I'm not | 17 because it would disrupt your sleep? Is that what |
| 18 saying I live in the middle of an enchanted forest, | 18 I'm hearing? |
| 19 okay? | 19 A. Well, that's correct. |
| $20 \quad$ Q. And then do you hear noise from -- | 20 Q. Okay. And in your -- and again, do you |
| 21 there's playgrounds -- besides the dog park, at the | 21 believe that the -- the proposed addition would also |
| 22 park, there are also children's playground and play | 22 block any noises that you may hear from the existing |
| 23 area equipment. Is that correct? | 23 playground or the existing dog park? |
| 24 A. Yes. In fact, I mean, I take my own | 24 A. Again, I don't hear -- as I said, I |
| 25 granddaughter to the playground, okay? I mean, you | 25 don't hear any noises from the existing playground. |
| 66 | 68 |
| 1 know, but sure, but I don't hear noise at seven in | 1 Q. From the dog park? |
| 2 the morning from the playground. | 2 A. From the dog park, I thought there -- |
| 3 Playground is not in use at seven in the | 3 you know, I would think that there could be some |
| 4 morning. | 4 some benefit there, even though, again, those noises |
| $5 \quad$ Q. So when -- do you -- but do you, at | 5 don't occur at the time that is of most interest to |
| 6 some point, during the day hear any noises from the | 6 me, but yeah. |
| 7 playground? | 7 You know, when I was looking at the |
| 8 A. No, I actually don't. I actually do not | 8 original project, I thought, oh, you know, this will |
| 9 hear noises from the playground because of the | 9 serve a good purpose for the neighborhood, the |
| 10 location. | 10 community, and we'll -- you know, sure. I thought |
| 11 I mean, we put up some of the charts of -- | 11 there might be some additional benefit there. |
| 12 my home was located -- I'm not that good on | 12 But again, that benefit is not the -- the |
| 13 directions, but I assume that there are other people | 13 issue, you know, here. The issue here is what the |
| 14 in my community who might hear noises from the | 14 conditional use does. |
| 15 playground. But the playground is less of an issue | 15 Q. And in Exhibit 106, moving on, it looks |
| 16 for me, I think, given where my home is. | 16 like you took that picture -- actually I think there |
| 17 Q. And when you hear -- to the extent you | 17 was snow on the ground. Is that correct? That |
| 18 hear the dog noises or the playground noises, are | 18 picture was taken in the winter? |
| 19 they disruptive? | 19 A. I'm not sure when I took it, but if |
| 20 A. No. Not at the time of day that I hear | 20 there was snow on the ground, it was probably not |
| 21 them, but -- | 21 taken in June or July. |
| 22 Q. Because that time of day is not seven | 22 Q. Is there a reason for that given -- |
| 23 in the morning? | 23 A. Nothing has moved since that picture, |
| 24 A. Because I'm awake. Yeah. | 24 so -- |
| 25 Q. And what -- so your area of concern, | 25 Q. Is there a reason that it was taken in |


| 69 | 71 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 the winter when the leaves are off the trees? Just - | 1 on the same level. That is why I displayed the |
| 2 - it just struck me that we're in the middle of | 2 exhibit. |
| 3 leafy season and here we see a winter picture. | 3 Q. Do you know the elevation of your |
| 4 A. I don't know. I had taken it. I mean, I | 4 property? |
| 5 obviously wasn't even aware of the -- of the order | $5 \quad$ A. So in my case -- excuse me? |
| 6 until June. I mean, I was looking on my phone. I | 6 Q. Do you know the elevation of your |
| 7 just took it with my phone. I don't think there's | 7 property? |
| 8 any particular reason. | 8 A. I don't know the elevation of my |
| 9 Obviously, it wasn't -- didn't have to do | 9 property. |
| 10 with the objection to the order. It is the clearest | 10 Q. And do you know the elevation of the |
| 11 picture I have, because of the -- the fact that | 11 playground? |
| 12 there are no trees, you know. But no, I don't really | 12 A. It's fair that they're identical. Okay, |
| 13 think so. | 13 my property has -- has three levels. The main level |
| 14 It certainly had nothing to do with this | 14 is the second level. The bedroom level is above it. |
| 15 case if it was taken before the order was even | 15 What I'm telling you is that my property is at or |
| 16 issued and I wasn't even aware there was a proposal | 16 above the -- the level elevation of the playground. |
| 17 for a minor amendment, because of the way the | 17 If you have any objection to that, state |
| 18 process is set up, which $I$ think is unfortunate. | 18 it, okay? But no, I did not hire a sound engineer. |
| 19 But again, I understand you're not | 19 No, I did not take a -- what is the elevation of the |
| 20 responsible for that and the hearing examiners are | 20 playground above sea -- above sea level? Do you have |
| 21 not responsible for that. | 21 that information? |
| 22 Q. Okay. And then moving on, you had noted | 22 Q. It is in the record, yes. |
| 23 the existing transcript, or the transcript from the | 23 A. Okay. Do you have the information on |
| 24 earlier hearing, and I'm going to turn your | 24 the elevation of my property? |
| 25 attention to page 102. I believe you may have | 25 Q. No, I don't. |
| 70 | 72 |
| 1 inadvertently said it was Mr. Fox testifying. It was | 1 A. Are you challenging my statement? |
| 2 Mr . Olivera Salla. | 2 Q. Excuse me, this is my cross of you. |
| $3 \quad$ But in any event, the hearing examine | 3 MS. BYRNE: Mr. -- Mr. Gruenspecht, you |
| 4 states, and I'll quote, "And are you saying that | 4 have to let her -- you can only answer the questions |
| 5 with the slope down toward -- toward the west side | 5 that she's asking. |
| 6 of the addition, the slope down from Colesville Road | 6 THE WITNESS: All right. |
| 7 to the west side of the addition plus the addition | 7 MS. BYRNE: Okay? You're not allowed to ask |
| 8 itself has noise attenuating factors?" | 8 her questions. |
| $9 \quad$ A. Right. | 9 THE WITNESS: No, I understand that. You |
| 10 Q. So the hearing examiner, in her | 10 know, concerned about good faith here. |
| 11 question, was indicating that there was more than | 11 MS. BYRNE: [inaudible] |
| 12 one factor that was mitigating the noise. Is that | 12 BY MS. HARRIS: |
| 13 correct? | 13 Q. Mr. Gruenspecht, would you agree that |
| 14 A. She did, but I also pointed out that in | 14 your property is approximately 300 feet, 330 feet |
| 15 my case, the slope is not a factor at all, because | 15 from the border of the playground? Does that sound |
| 16 there is no downward slope between my property and | 16 accurate to you? |
| 17 the playground. That's -- | 17 A. I understand that's your measurement. |
| 18 Q. Do you know what the elevation of your | 18 I 'm not challenging that. I haven't measured it. |
| 19 property is? | 19 Q. Okay. And would you agree that distance |
| 20 A. My -- my property is not located | 20 is certainly a factor in terms of noise mitigation? |
| 21 immediately next to Ellsworth. So there's a slope | 21 A. Absolutely. |
| 22 down from the playground toward Ellsworth Drive and | 22 Q. And generally speaking, one could have |
| 23 then there's a slope up from Ellsworth Drive toward | 23 -- and I'm not talking about this case now, just |
| 24 my property. | 24 more generally, that it's possible to have two |
| 25 That leaves my property and the playground | 25 mitigating factors and when one factor is |


|  | 73 | 75 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 eliminated, it doesn't necessarily negate the impact |  | 1 couldn't say that that's a possibility? |
| 2 that the other or the effect that the other |  | 2 A. All I can say is I can refer to the |
| 3 mitigating factor has. Is that sort of as a general |  | 3 information in the hearing examiner's record and the |
| 4 rule, correct? |  | 4 factors there, which I quoted, and I believe |
| 5 A. So again, in my case there's no slope |  | 5 accurately. |
| 6 factor. |  | 6 Q. And -- and you are aware that since the |
| 7 Q. I'm not talking about slope but let me |  | 7 hearing -- since the time of the hearing, we now |
| 8 repeat. |  | 8 have a quantitative study that has -- by a noise |
| 9 A. Well, I mean, the hearing examiner -- |  | 9 expert that has studied the actual impact. You're |
| 10 Q. Did you not just testify that distance |  | 10 aware of that? |
| 11 was a factor? |  | 11 A. I'm aware you have a study. You know, |
| 12 A. I don't know about -- I really can't |  | 12 the way you've set this process up. I obviously -- |
| 13 answer that question. |  | 13 you know, you haven't presented any of that |
| 14 Q. Because as a general -- |  | 14 information yet, so I'll wait until you present it |
| 15 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht -- |  | 15 and then we'll discuss it. |
| 16 MS. HARRIS: Go ahead. |  | 16 Q. Did you have an opportunity to review |
| 17 THE WITNESS: Because you're -- you're |  | 17 our -- our -- our exhibits that we submitted to the |
| 18 posing it as a general question and in fact the |  | 18 record? Including the -- the exhibits regarding the |
| 19 record of the case refers to two specific factors, |  | 19 noise study? |
| 20 so -- |  | 20 A. Idid look it over, but I can't really |
| 21 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht, if I can jump |  | 21 interpret it without hearing it presented. |
| 22 in on that. |  | 22 Q. If it -- may I have one moment just to |
| 23 When you were referring to the testimony |  | 23 consult with my co-counsel to see -- |
| 24 and the transcript, are you aware that page 101 of |  | 24 MS. BYRNE: Sure. |
| 25 that transcript, there was a line of questioning |  | 25 BY MS. HARRIS: |
|  | 74 | 76 |
| 1 between Mr. Olivera Salla and the hearing examiner |  | 1 Q. Mr. Gruenspecht, I believe the -- one |
| 2 regarding other factors, including distance, |  | 2 of the things that you testified to was you have an |
| 3 proximity to the playground and the dog park? |  | 3 understanding that the location of the playground |
| 4 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think -- I think -- I |  | 4 has changed. Is that correct? |
| 5 mean, if we want to discuss this, I think it would |  | 5 A. That's my understanding. |
| 6 be a good idea to bring up the relevant thing and we |  | 6 Q. And -- and on what do you base that |
| 7 can go through it. I mean, I need to see it if I'm |  | 7 understanding? |
| 8 going to comment on it. |  | 8 A. On the original location of the |
| 9 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht, I'll just say |  | 9 playground and the location of the playground as |
| 10 you only answer, obviously the question if you know |  | 10 shown in the conditional use. |
| 11 the answer to it. Right? |  | 11 Q. Would you be surprised to hear that the |
| 12 THE WITNESS: I don't -- I don't know the - |  | 12 location of the playground has not changed at all? |
| 13 - I don't know the answer. If you bring it up we can |  | 13 A. I'd be very surprised, and I would be |
| 14 get -- we can resolve this if you want to. |  | 14 happy to examine the documents with you on the |
| 15 BY MS. HARRIS: |  | 15 screen and demonstrate that it has. |
| 16 Q. No. The point I'm getting at is first - |  | 16 MS. HARRIS: No further questions for Mr. |
| 17 - |  | 17 Gruenspecht, but I would note that our -- we will be |
| 18 A. If you just want to [inaudible] I can't |  | 18 addressing that in connection with our witness' |
| 19 answer. |  | 19 testimony. |
| 20 Q. You can't answer the fact that if |  | 20 THE WITNESS: Yep. |
| 21 there's four mitigating factors and one is |  | 21 MS. BYRNE: Okay. Thank you. And then Mr. |
| 22 eliminated, it doesn't necessarily mean that the -- |  | 22 Gruenspecht, you'll have an opportunity to cross |
| 23 the source of, in this case, noise, would |  | 23 examine the witness. All right. So I believe that |
| 24 necessarily have an impact? |  | 24 concludes Mr. Gruenspecht's case in chief and cross |
| 25 You can't -- just as a general rule, you |  | 25 examination, so Ms. Harris, we'll turn it over to |

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you.
MS. HARRIS:Thank you. So our first
witness is Ms. Myrna Peralta.
    MS. BYRNE: You know what I just realized?
    MS. HARRIS: Yeah, you didn't swear --
    MS. BYRNE: I didn't swear anyone in. So
Mr. Gruenspecht, I'm going to swear you in, I
apologize, after the fact.
    And I'm -- I'm -- I'm a firm believer that
10 you told me nothing but the truth, the whole truth,
1 1 \text { but if you don't mind, Mr. Gruenspecht, if you could}
1 2 \text { raise your right hand and also Ms. Harris' first}
13 witness and I will swear you all in together at the
14 same time.
15 MR. GRUENSPECHT: So Ms. Harris is not
16 obligated to tell the truth?
17 MS. HARRIS: Excuse me?
18 MS. BYRNE: So she's not a witness, sir.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay.
20 MS. BYRNE:But I just -- just so you know,
1 attorneys here are officers of Ms. Byrne, and they
    have an obligation, an ethical and a legal
    obligation to present information in an honest and
fair manner.
    So I understand that you're frustrated in
25
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this entire process. Totally get it. Right? Totally
get it. But please try not to take it out on the
3 attorneys. Okay?
4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I certainly don't want to
do that.
SWEARING IN OF WITNESS HOWARD GRUENSPECHT
SWEARING IN OF WITNESS MYRNA PERALTA
MS. BYRNE: All right. So let's -- let's go
with the swearing, how -- how about that? All right.
So do you all solemnly swear that the
testimony that you're providing today is the whole
truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?
MR. GRUENSPECHT: I do.
MS. PERALTA: I do.
MS. BYRNE: Okay. All right. Thank you very
much. And if you are not testifying, I would ask
that you guys please mute your mics. All right. Ms.
Harris, go ahead.
MS. HARRIS: All right. And I would just
note, for the record, we have no objection to the
retroactive swearing in of Mr. Gruenspecht.
MS. BYRNE: Awesome. Thank you.
DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MS. HARRIS:
Q. Okay. So Ms. Peralta, can you, for the
77
record, please state your full name and position?
2 A. My name is Myrna Peralta, and $I$ am the
president and CEO of CentroNia.
Q. And can you please remind the hearing
examiner, and actually Ms. Byrne is the new hearing
examiner, so can you just please briefly provide a
little bit of background about CentroNia?
A. CentroNia is a community-based non-
profit childcare provider. We're nationally
10 recognized for our educational programming and
11 providing affordable, high quality early childcare.
12 We've been doing this, as I said, for 35
13 years and we currently have five locations in the
14 D.C. metropolitan area.
15 We work with not just our children, but
16 their families as part of our holistic approach and
17 we think that that's an important relationship with
18 our parents in order to develop a strong academic
19 success rate with our children.
20 We are unique to the extent that our high-
21 quality early learning is provided in an affordable
22 -- at an affordable price and we work primarily with
23 low income working families. A minimum of 75 percent
24 of our families are eligible for reduced and free
25 lunches.
78
1 And specific to this project, we are
2 partners with the Gudelsky Family Foundation and --

| 77 | 79 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 you. | 1 record, please state your full name and position? |
| 2 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. So our first | 2 A. My name is Myrna Peralta, and I am the |
| 3 witness is Ms. Myrna Peralta. | 3 president and CEO of Centro |
| 4 MS. BYRNE: You know what I just realized? | $4 \quad$ Q. And can you please remind the hearing |
| 5 MS. HARRIS: Yeah, you didn't swear -- | 5 examiner, and actually Ms. Byrne is the new hearing |
| 6 MS. BYRNE: I didn't swear anyone in. So | 6 examiner, so can you just please briefly provide a |
| 7 Mr. Gruenspecht, I'm going to swear you in, I | 7 little bit of background about CentroNia? |
| 8 apologize, after the fact. | 8 A. CentroNia is a community-based non- |
| 9 And I'm -- I'm -- I'm a firm believer that | 9 profit childcare provider. We're nationally |
| 10 you told me nothing but the truth, the whole truth, | 10 recognized for our educational programming and |
| 11 but if you don't mind, Mr. Gruenspecht, if you could | 11 providing affordable, high quality early childcare. |
| 12 raise your right hand and also Ms. Harris' first | 12 We've been doing this, as I said, for 35 |
| 13 witness and I will swear you all in together at the | 13 years and we currently have five locations in the |
| 14 same time. | 14 D.C. metropolitan area. |
| 15 MR. GRUENSPECHT: So Ms. Harris is not | 15 We work with not just our children, but |
| 16 obligated to tell the truth? | 16 their families as part of our holistic approach and |
| 17 MS. HARRIS: Excuse me? | 17 we think that that's an important relationship with |
| 18 MS. BYRNE: So she's not a witness, sir. | 18 our parents in order to develop a strong academic |
| 19 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. | 19 success rate with our children. |
| 20 MS. BYRNE: But I just -- just so you know, | 20 We are unique to the extent that our high- |
| 21 attorneys here are officers of Ms. Byrne, and they | 21 quality early learning is provided in an affordable |
| 22 have an obligation, an ethical and a legal | 22 -- at an affordable price and we work primarily with |
| 23 obligation to present information in an honest and 24 fair manner. | 23 low income working families. A minimum of 75 percent 24 of our families are eligible for reduced and free |
| 25 So I understand that you're frustrated in | 25 lunches. |
| 78 | 80 |
| 1 this entire process. Totally get it. Right? Totally | 1 And specific to this project, we are |
| 2 get it. But please try not to take it out on the | 2 partners with the Gudelsky Family Foundation and -- |
| 3 attorneys. Okay? | 3 but for their leadership and their willingness to |
| 4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I certainly don't want to | 4 support us financially, both on the development of |
| 5 do that. | 5 the project, of the space, but also supporting us |
| 6 SWEARING IN OF WITNESS HOWARD GRUENSPECHT | 6 operationally in the coming years, is -- is going to |
| 7 SWEARING IN OF WITNESS MYRNA PERALTA | 7 sustain the Martha B. Gudelsky Childcare Development |
| 8 MS. BYRNE: All right. So let's -- let's go | 8 Center for years to come. |
| 9 with the swearing, how -- how about that? All right. | $9 \quad$ Q. Thank you. And what are the ages and |
| 10 So do you all solemnly swear that the | 10 overall number of the children to be served by |
| 11 testimony that you're providing today is the whole | 11 CentroNia? |
| 12 truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God? | 12 A. The minimum number of children we will |
| 13 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I do. | 13 serve will be 120. We will have the capacity to |
| 14 MS. PERALTA: I do | 14 serve approximately 180 . And that all has to do with |
| 15 MS. BYRNE: Okay. All right. Thank you very | 15 the configuration. If you have more classrooms that |
| 16 much. And if you are not testifying, I would ask | 16 serve pre-k, you have -- you can have more children. |
| 17 that you guys please mute your mics. All right. Ms. | 17 If you have more classrooms that have |
| 18 Harris, go ahead. | 18 infants and toddlers, you end up having fewer |
| 19 MS. HARRIS: All right. And I would just | 19 students, only because of the ratios that licensing |
| 20 note, for the record, we have no objection to the | 20 requires. |
| 21 retroactive swearing in of Mr. Gruenspecht. | 21 We will be serving children ages three to |
| 22 MS. BYRNE: Awesome. Thank you. | 22 five years of age, primarily -- three months. I'm |
| 23 DIRECT EXAMINATION | 23 sorry, three months to five years of age, with the |
| 24 BY MS. HARRIS: | 24 ability to take children as early as six weeks if |
| 25 Q. Okay. So Ms. Peralta, can you, for the | 25 the demand -- if there's a demand in the community |


| 81 | 83 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 for that age group. | 1 area at any one time. |
| 2 And then we traditionally provide after- | 2 Q. And how many children are in one |
| 3 care for children three up - for children ages five | 3 classroom? |
| 4 to 13. And once again, that's if the community wants | $4$ <br> A. Maximum we can have under licensing is |
| 5 that kind of service from us. And that's usually | 520 and that's for our three- to five-year-old's. |
| 6 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and that is primarily homework. | 6 Q. And do you ever have two classes |
| $7 \quad$ After-school opportunity for children to do | 7 three- to five-year-old's and therefore two classes |
| 8 homework and to do arts and enrichment activities. | 8 same age group who could use the playground at one |
| 9 We do not engage that age group in playtime. This is | 9 time? |
| 10 an after-school enrichment and homework programming. | 10 A. We could. We could. No, we could. It's |
| 11 So they're inside the whole time. | 11 not usual, because once again, our classroom |
| 12 Q. And is it correct that the proposed | 12 schedules are -- are set. We provide parents with |
| 13 modification that eliminates the building has not | 13 the schedules so that every classroom has a |
| 14 changed the -- those enrollment numbers of the ages | 14 dedicated period of time that they're outside in the |
| 15 that you will serve? Is that a correct statement? | 15 play area. |
| 16 A. No, it - no, it has not. One of the | 16 And so all the scheduling is designed to -- |
| 17 things to remember is that - so our - the | $\mathbf{1 7}$ to give that $\mathbf{2 0}$ to - - and it's $\mathbf{2 0}$ to $\mathbf{3 0}$ minutes that |
| 18 modifications we've had to make at the design level | 18 each classroom has outside. And they -- they're |
| 19 has not impacted our classrooms themselves. | 19 staggered as a way to ensure that everybody who |
| 20 It's impacted everything else around it. So | 20 needs to get outside in the given day, does. |
| 21 where - an example might be, so where we had the | 21 Q. Okay. And you noted that the morning |
| 22 community room at being approximately 900 square | 22 hours, that the center opens at 7:00. |
| 23 feet, that's been reduced to, you know, 450. | 23 A. Yeah. |
| 24 So we sort of cut and looked at office | 24 Q. What time, approximately, does the |
| 25 spaces and our training facilities. All the things | 25 playground start to be used by the children? |
| 82 | 84 |
| 1 that are not in the classroom themselves, in order | 1 A. Usually 10:00, on occasion 9:30, but |
| 2 to make sure that we had the sufficient indoor space | 2 never before 9:30. And that's because parents are |
| 3 when necessary for our children. | 3 dropping off the children up until 9:00 and up until |
| 4 Q. Thank you. And what are the proposed | 4 that time, we also do breakfast and organizing the |
| 5 hours of operation? | 5 children for the day. |
| 6 A. 7:00 to 6:00. | 6 So none of our scheduled outdoor activities |
| $7 \quad$ Q. And then are there -- | 7 begin before 9:30, but most happen at 10:00-- start |
| 8 A. [inaudible] I'm sorry, that's 7:00 to | 8 at 10:00. |
| $9 \quad$ 6:00 daily and then some evening hours for parent | $9 \quad$ Q. And at what time do they likely end? |
| 10 meetings or community activities and then Saturdays | 10 A. Probably 5:30-ish at the latest. By -- |
| 11 9:00 to 4:00. | 11 by then we want the children who are still there -- |
| 12 Q. And then now let's sort of pivot to the | 12 because remember, parents pick up their children in |
| 13 heart of the issue here, which has to do with the | 13 a staggered basis starting at 3:30, 4:00, parents |
| 14 playground. Are there limitations on the number of | 14 are already coming to take their children -- pick up |
| 15 children that will be outdoors at any one time? | 15 their children. |
| 16 A. Our license does not give us -- doesn't | 16 So by 5:00, 5:30, we have a very small |
| 17 put any limitations on us. But in the childcare | 17 number of children remaining. So there might be some |
| 18 world, the mingling of classrooms is really frowned | 18 children in the playground around 5:30, but parents |
| 19 upon in many ways, because you want the play area -- | 19 pick them up in their classrooms. |
| 20 the play time is a time when the children in the | 20 Q. And does the elimination of the |
| 21 classroom do further bonding together and do group | 21 addition in any way alter the operation of the |
| 22 activities and introducing other classrooms really | 22 playground from what was originally proposed? |
| 23 disrupts that. | 23 A. No. It does not. |
| 24 And so we really -- try really hard not to | 24 Q. And how many children -- I'm sorry. How |
| 25 have more than one classroom in the outdoor play | 25 many teachers are outside with the children? |

1 A. By -- by licensing regs, for every 20
2 children outside we need to have at least two -- two
3 teachers. We have three and all three teachers are 4 outside with the -- with the children.
5 Q. Okay. And can you give a sense of sort 6 of the overall use of the playground? In other
7 words, what's the frequency that the playground will 8 be used during any given day?
A. So if you figure we've got maybe six 10 classrooms right now and I'd have to look at the 11 specific number that each of them would have 30 12 minutes. And I say six, because that does not 13 include our infants and toddlers are not using the 14 - the playground is designed for specific activities 15 that are geared to your three- to five-year-old's.
16 And so the -- and we're also looking at 17 different activities happening in smaller groups. So 18 the 20 children, you might have five children doing 19 one thing, five children doing another and -- and 20 that's how it works.
21 Q. So on any given day, so the hours -- I 22 mean, do you have a sense of how many hours a day?
23 A. Probably three -- probably three hours.
24 I would say three hours. Three to three and a half 25 hours a day the playground would be in use.

1 Q. And do you have other locations? Other
2 CentroNia locations that are approximate to residential uses?
4 A. Oh, yes. Actually, they all are, except
5 -- of the five, four of them are in residential 6 areas.
$7 \quad$ Q. And have you ever received any kind of 8 complaints about the noise generated from the 9 playground?
10 A. Not about the noise, no.
11 Q. And is there anything else that you would like to add?
13 A. The only thing I'd like to add is that, 14 you know, as a -- a childcare center, and I heard, 15 you know, Howard's comments that he's not 16 complaining to the presence of a childcare center.
17 I mean, I heard that clearly, but that we 18 work really hard to integrate ourselves into the 19 neighborhoods and the communities we serve and so -20 and -- and we become a real part of the life of 21 those communities.
22 And so if there's an issue or a problem, we 23 work with the communities to, you know, to resolve
24 them and we will do the same in -- in this setting.
25 And so we just look forward to working with the
residents on how do we deal with whatever the issue is that comes up.
Q. [inaudible]
A. I want to stress that they will not be
hearing children playing in the playground before
9:30, 10:00 in the morning. It just -- it will not
happen.
MS. HARRIS: Thank you. I have no further questions for Ms. Peralta.

MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht, do you have
any questions of Ms. Peralta? You're on mute, sir.
MS. HARRIS: You're still on mute.
MS. BYRNE: There we go.
CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. GRUENSPECHT:
Q. So first of all, again, it seems like

7 the mission is great and all that stuff, so you
know, look forward to finding a way forward. But
could you please bring up Exhibit 111?
MS. BYRNE: Sure.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: And I guess turn to page
whatever, I mentioned it in my -- I think it's page
112 where I mention Mr. Olivera Salla. I just want
to go through that with --
MS. BYRNE: All right. Can you guys see
that? Page 112, is that --
MR. GRUENSPECHT: I hope it is.
MS. BYRNE: Make it a little bigger here.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: It may not --
MS. BYRNE: Is that better?
MR. GRUENSPECHT: Page 112, the hearing --
Mr. Olivera Salla -- let's see, the -- well, maybe
go down further. I just -- I'm having trouble
finding -- okay, wait. I just saw it.
MS. BYRNE: Go back up? Okay.
MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. I'm sorry. I
12 apologize for this.
13 MS. BYRNE: That's okay.
4 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT:
15 Q. I'm really trying to -- okay, here we
16 go. Okay. So again, thank you for your testimony and
17 thank you again for the good work of the -- of
18 CentroNia.
19 So in this section -- maybe a little bit
20 further. Again, I don't want to lose this, but I
21 want to go a little bit higher so you can see the
2 start of the original. Oh, good. Perfect. Okay.
So you know, Mr. Olivera Salla is talking
24 about the goals [inaudible] land architecture and a
25 lot of it, you know, kind of puffery. But then, you

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| 93 | 95 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 center -- | 1 Between 7:00 and 9:00, which is when most |
| 2 Q. I do not. | 2 children are coming in and are asked to all be there |
| 3 A. We -- we live -- we live on -- we exist | 3 by 9:00, that is the breakfast period. And yeah, you |
| 4 on a very specific schedule, okay? Our children will | 4 have to understand how these classrooms operate. |
| 5 go through the same schedule whether it's a 10,000 | 5 Children sort of stagger in and while they |
| 6 square foot facility or a 50,000 square foot | 6 are staggering in, you have -- you may have a few |
| 7 facility. | 7 children working on some, you know, coloring or |
| 8 The day-to-day operating activities and the | 8 whatever the activity might be, until all the |
| 9 -- and what we do with the children doesn't change. | 9 children arrive and are on |
| 10 Q. All right. You testified that there | 10 But they do not go outside until after |
| 11 would be no use of the playground before 9:30 a.m.? | 11 breakfast, and breakfast goes until 9:00 at the -- |
| 12 A. Yes, sir. | 12 at the -- probably the earliest it shuts down. |
| 13 Q. Would you be willing to add an | 13 Q. But again, you would not agree to any |
| 14 enforceable condition of the project that the | 14 kind of enforceable condition regarding the outdoor |
| 15 playground could not be used before 9:30 a.m.? | 15 use of the playground before 9:30 a.m., even if it |
| 16 A. No. And I'll tell you why, okay? Under | 16 provided for all of the concerns that you mentioned |
| 17 licensing regulations, if there's a fire in that | 17 with respect to disasters? Which are perfectly |
| 18 building, we need to evacuate. Okay? | 18 understandable. But you would not agree to such a |
| 19 If there is any kind of incident in your | 19 condition anyway? |
| 20 neighborhood and we have to deal with a community | 20 A. I just don't think that kind of |
| 21 response, I can't agree to any limitations that | 21 condition is enforceable. There are just too many |
| 22 could potentially put our children in harm's way. | 22 variables. If we walk into the building and there's |
| 23 And so that, to me, is just not an | 23 a strange smell, we might have the children in the |
| 24 acceptable. What I can say, is that to the extent 25 that any operating activities in the playground, | 24 classroom sort of wait outside until we figure out 25 what it is and then they come back in. |
| 94 | 96 |
| 1 prior to 9:30, would be kept to a minimum. I mean, | 1 That wouldn't be playtime. That would be a |
| 2 something to the effect that -- but I won't | 2 bringing them outside as a holding place, okay? And |
| 3 guarantee that our children won't be out there | 3 so if what you're asking is, is there any way to |
| 4 because there are too many circumstances where they | 4 guarantee that it will not be used as a playground |
| 5 could be. | 5 before 9:30, that's a different issue from we'll |
| 6 Q. All right. I'm sorry, but that does not | 6 never have children out there before 9:30. |
| 7 really consistent with your earlier testimony that | 7 Q. So again -- again, I already offered, |
| 8 the playground would not be used before 9:30 a.m. | 8 you know, again, the question I asked you was with |
| $9 \quad$ A. On a regular basis, it wouldn't be. | 9 conditions for these exceptional situations. But |
| 10 Q. I think I'd be happy to write that | 10 just leaving it up to your judgment, you know, I'm |
| 11 condition in a way that, you know, would exclude | 11 sorry, that -- while I respect you and all that -- |
| 12 fire and natural disaster and all the other things | 12 A. [inaudible] |
| 13 that you're citing. So will student -- | 13 Q. It's just not enough for me, so. |
| 14 A. I -- I would not agree to that. | 14 A. Okay. Well, and you don't operate a |
| 15 Q. Okay. I understand that you would not | 15 childcare center. I do. |
| 16 agree to that, but again. All right. So let's go | 16 Q. I understand that. |
| 17 forward. Is it the case that when students arrive at | 17 A. And I have done it for many years |
| 18 the center, they're never, ever going to be playing | 18 successfully and so I would -- I would question the |
| 19 outside? | 19 need for a condition that has so many potential |
| $20 \quad$ A. Never ever. | 20 exceptions to it that I'm not willing to do any |
| 21 Q. In the morning? In the playground? | 21 condition that could potentially put our operations |
| 22 A. No. In the mornings, they arrive. They | 22 and our children's health in danger. Period. |
| 23 go into their classrooms. They get situated. They're | 23 Q. Again, I -- |
| 24 served breakfast between -- let's assume they got | 24 MS. HARRIS: Ms. Byrne, if I could |
| 25 there at 7:00. | 25 interject. |

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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 MS. BYRNE: I think -- I think -- yeah, I |  | 1 Lyon. |
| 2 think we need to move on, because -- |  | 2 MS. BYRNE: Okay. And Ms. Lyon, you are |
| 3 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. |  | 3 muted, and previously did you raise your hand and |
| 4 MS. HARRIS: And also, if I could |  | 4 promise to tell the whole truth and nothing but the |
| 5 emphasize, the point of this hearing is to determine |  | 5 truth? |
| 6 whether it's a major or a minor. |  | 6 MS. LYON: I -- I did not previously, so I |
| 7 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Exactly. |  | 7 can do that [inaudible]. |
| 8 MS. HARRIS: And if it is -- it has nothing |  | 8 SWEARING IN OF WITNESS JENNIFER LYON |
| 9 to do with conditional approval. |  | 9 MS. BYRNE: All right, well then let's -- |
| 10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. [inaudible] |  | 10 let's do it now. So Ms. Lyon, do you promise to tell |
| 11 MS. HARRIS: So I don't think any -- |  | 11 the whole truth and nothing but the truth in your |
| 12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: -- find a way forward as |  | 12 testimony this morning? |
| 13 you tried to reach out to me before this event to |  | 13 MS. LYON: I do. Thank you. |
| 14 do. |  | 14 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. |
| 15 MS. BYRNE: So, Mr. Gruenspecht, that -- |  | 15 DIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 16 that would be -- could have been something that |  | 16 BY MS. HARRIS: |
| 17 could have been handled before. It can actually also |  | 17 Q. Hello, Ms. Lyon. For the record, can |
| 18 be a discussion that you can have after this hearing |  | 18 you please state your name and -- and profession? |
| 19 and before the decision is issued. |  | 19 A. My name is Jennifer Lyon, and I am an |
| 20 But right now, the -- it's a -- it's a very |  | 20 architect. |
| 21 narrow focus, right? The minor amendment. |  | 21 Q. And what is your professional and |
| 22 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Right. |  | 22 educational background? |
| 23 MS. BYRNE: So if you could please -- |  | 23 A. I have been an architect for 20 years. |
| 24 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Right. |  | 24 I currently am working at Mosely Architects in our |
| 25 MS. BYRNE: -- direct your questions to |  | 25 Baltimore office. My educational background is a |
|  | 98 | 100 |
| 1 your -- the burden of proof as to whether or not it |  | 1 Bachelor of Science in building science and a |
| 2 was properly issued. |  | 2 Bachelor of Architecture, both from Rensselaer |
| 3 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. And I think my |  | 3 Polytechnic Institute. |
| 4 testimony did that but thank you. |  | $4 \quad$ Q. And what is your current position at |
| 5 MS. BYRNE: Okay. And do you have more |  | 5 Mosely Architects? |
| 6 questions for Ms. Peralta? |  | 6 A. Currently I'm a senior project manager |
| 7 MR. GRUENSPECHT: None. |  | 7 and Vice President at Mosely Architects. I oversee |
| 8 MS. BYRNE: Okay, thank you. Ms. -- Ms. |  | 8 the overall design and construction phases for |
| 9 Harris, any redirect? |  | 9 several projects as well as work with both internal |
| 10 REDIRECT EXAMINATION |  | 10 and external consultant teams as each project may |
| 11 BY MS. HARRIS: |  | 11 require. |
| 12 Q. Just very briefly. Ms. Peralta, is it |  | 12 Q. And have you ever previously testified |
| 13 correct that licensing requires a certain number of |  | 13 before the Montgomery County Office of Zoning in |
| 14 square feet per child? |  | 14 administrative hearings? |
| 15 A. Yes. |  | 15 A. I have not. |
| 16 Q. Per classroom? And -- and did the |  | 16 Q. Are you a licensed architect in the |
| 17 previous conditional use meet that requirement? |  | 17 state of Maryland? |
| 18 A. Yes. |  | 18 A. Yes. |
| 19 Q. And will the proposed modification meet |  | 19 Q. And are you familiar with the |
| 20 that requirement? |  | 20 Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance? |
| 21 A. Yes. |  | 21 A. Yes. |
| 22 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. No other questions. |  | 22 MS. HARRIS: We would move that Ms. Lyon be |
| 23 MS. BYRNE: All right. Your next witness |  | 23 admitted as an expert in the field of architecture. |
| 24 then. Thank you, Ms. Peralta. |  | 24 Her resume was submitted as Exhibit 115. |
| 25 MS. HARRIS: Is our architect, Ms. Jen |  | 25 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht, any objection? |


| 101 | 103 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 I'm seeing -- | 1 playground? Excuse me. |
| 2 MR. GRUENSPECHT: No. No objection. No | 2 A. That is correct. |
| 3 objection. | 3 Q. Okay. And then -- |
| 4 MS. BYRNE: All right. Okay. Excellent, | 4 A. These are just additional photos. Slide |
| 5 thank you. | 5 six. Thank you. The proposed onsite playground |
| 6 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. And -- | 6 facility will be located on the north side of the |
| 7 MS. BYRNE: So moved. So moved and so | 7 building between the existing building and the |
| 8 admitted. Yep. | 8 existing offsite dog park. |
| 9 BYMS. HARRIS: | 9 The area in solid green is what I am |
| 10 Q. Are you familiar with the minor | 10 referring to. The playground area will extend from |
| 11 modification, which is the subject of this hearing? | 11 west to east. That is left to right, along the |
| 12 A. Yes. | 12 length of the north side of the building. |
| 13 Q. And have you had a -- made a personal | 13 Although the playground area is shown |
| 14 inspection of the property? | 14 extending up to the sidewalk along the interior |
| 15 A. Yes. I've personally visited the | 15 parking lot, there is about a five-foot slope in |
| 16 property and the building several times over the | 16 this front area of the playground. That is the green |
| 17 course of our design process. | 17 hatched area to the right of the solid green area on |
| 18 Q. And I am going to pull up Exhibit 113 | 18 the exhibit we are looking at right now. |
| 19 and if you could, could you please give an overview | 19 Q. And -- and this exhibit also shows a |
| 20 of the key features of the property and as needed, | 20 distance to Mr. Gruenspecht's property, is that |
| 21 tell me and I will move through the -- I'll click | 21 correct? |
| 22 through the PowerPoint. | 22 A. Correct. |
| 23 A. Okay. The property is a through lot | 23 Q. And what is that distance? |
| 24 located between Ellsworth Drive and Colesville Road | 24 A. 331 feet. |
| 25 just outside the Silver Springs Central Business | 25 Q. And can you please describe the |
| 102 | 104 |
| 1 District. | 1 modifications that are proposed? |
| 2 If you could go to slide three. There is a | 2 A. Sure. As shown on Exhibit 93 -- |
| 3 large intervening surface parking lot along | 3 Q. Actually, just one moment. Maybe we -- |
| 4 Ellsworth Drive, which will remain, with slight | 4 can you -- on my screen right now, can you please |
| 5 modifications to accommodate accessible access and | 5 describe what -- what we're seeing? |
| 6 parking and will continue to provide a separation | 6 A. Sure. This is the proposed playground |
| 7 along with the existing and proposed landscaping to | 7 location on the north side of the existing building. |
| 8 the confronting single family residential | 8 A few different views from the sidewalk areas |
| 9 neighborhood. | 9 adjacent to the existing parking. |
| 10 The existing building is over 60 years old | 10 The photo on the right shows that five-foot |
| 11 and is a two-story brick veneer structure with | 11 slope that I was just referring to. |
| 12 concrete masonry unit bearing walls. Part of the | 12 Q. So on the -- on the key plan, the green |
| 13 lower story of the building is buried below ground | 13 and white stripes, that essentially is denoting this |
| 14 due to the rising grades around the overall | 14 area? Is that right? |
| 15 property. | 15 A. That's correct. |
| 16 The existing roof structure is a wood | 16 Q. And then -- |
| 17 framed sloped roof with asphalt shingles. Exterior | 17 A. This is just a few additional photos |
| 18 window and -- windows and doors are aluminum framed | 18 from the same location, just stepped back a little |
| 19 units and an existing covered roof canopy at the | 19 bit within the parking lot area. |
| 20 upper floor entrance to the building is provided, | $20 \quad$ Q. And then this photo? |
| 21 which extends along -- across the existing vehicular | 21 A. This is from the opposite end of the |
| 22 driveway. | 22 site on Colesville Road. The side of the site |
| 23 Q. And on the -- and on -- is it correct | 23 looking towards the east where the playground -- |
| 24 that where my cursor is, is the approximate location | 24 proposed playground area will be [inaudible]. |
| 25 of the proposed playground? Of the approved | 25 Q. Thank you. And then I want to turn to |


| 105 | 107 |
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| Exhibit 93 and Ms. Byrne, I can -- do you want to bring that up or do you want me to bring that up? <br> MS. BYRNE: I was muted and talking, so <br> when I do this, it's my sign for I know I've been <br> muted. If you would like to go ahead and continue to <br> -- to share, that's great. <br> MS. HARRIS: It's my test to whether I can <br> do two things at once. <br> MS. BYRNE: It's amazing how this virtual <br> 10 environment tells us if we -- if we could do that or not. <br> BY MS. HARRIS: <br> Q. Yes. Okay, so now before you is Exhibit <br> 93. Can you please describe the modifications, Ms. <br> Lyon? <br> A. Sure. The primary change is the <br> elimination of the proposed building addition due to <br> construction costs and the need to conform with the <br> construction budget for this nonprofit childcare <br> center. <br> Much of the exterior of the existing <br> building will remain in its architectural and <br> material composition as it has existed for the past <br> 2460 years. Minor improvements include replacement of <br> 25 the existing roofing with new asphalt shingles. | A. No, it has not. <br> Q. So the shape configuration and location is exactly the same? <br> A. I believe there's a slight change in <br> the shape where the addition was -- was taken away, but that's just a result of where the end of the playground will actually end. <br> Q. And so does the playground move any closer to the east under that configuration? <br> A. No, it does not. <br> Q. Thank you. And how will the children <br> who are inside, when they do go outside for their scheduled playtime, how will they access the 14 playground area? <br> 15 A. The children will access the playground 16 through the inside of the building through exterior door openings. The interior circulation corridors will lead to exterior doors, which will then lead to the playground. <br> Q. So that children would go directly from the building to the playground area? Is that correct? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. And are you familiar with the standard <br> 25 -- actually, let me just -- for the benefit of |
| Existing windows and doors will be replaced as needed where damaged -- where they currently are damaged or to accommodate entry location. The interior of the existing building will be reconfigured and constructed to meet the programmatic needs of the approved center. <br> Q. Is there any -- I'm sorry. Is there any need -- if you can tell me what sheet I should go to, if -- if that would be helpful for anything you 10 just said or -- <br> 11 A. I think that sheet right there, plan <br> 12 sheet two, shows the existing conditions and <br> 13 proposed demolition plan. The next sheet shows -14 this is plan sheet three. This shows the previous 15 plan with the addition -- proposed addition to the 16 east of the existing building. <br> This sheet is sheet number 3 A . This is the <br> 18 current plan for the project, which shows the <br> 19 existing building remaining intact with the proposed <br> 20 playground to the north of the facility. <br> 21 Q. And I believe Mr. Gruenspecht had <br> 22 testified that he thought that the location of the <br> 23 playground was changing. Has it in fact changed from <br> 24 the proposed -- from the previously approved to the <br> 25 proposed? | everyone, let me take that off the screen. <br> Are you familiar with the standard that is <br> applicable to the minor amendment of a conditional <br> use approval? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Which provides -- and that -- which <br> provides that a minor amendment is one that, "Does <br> not change the nature, character or intensity of the <br> conditional use to an extent that it's substantial <br> 10 adverse effects on the surrounding neighborhood <br> could reasonably be expected when considered in <br> combination with the underlying conditional use." <br> You're familiar with that provision? <br> A. Yes. I am. <br> Q. And in your professional opinion, will <br> the proposed modification change the nature, <br> character or intensity of the conditional use? <br> A. No. <br> Q. And can you explain why? <br> A. I can elaborate, yes. The nature of the <br> use will remain unchanged. It will continue the <br> longstanding institutional use of -- at the property. <br> 24 The character of the property will remain <br> 25 largely unchanged from the existing conditions, |

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| location of the playground facilities accurate? And you testified to that in your testimony that there was no change. <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. Excuse me? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. Correct what you testified or correct that there's no change? <br> MS. BYRNE: I get -- I -- I believe she 10 testified that her prior testimony was correct, that there's no change in the play area. I think where it's confusing is that the striped, green area is clearly marked clay -- play area. <br> But what I just heard you say, Ms. Lyon, 5 and please correct me if I'm wrong, is that the 16 striped area is not suitable for play. It will only 7 be open space. And if that's the case, then is this 18 red box incorrectly labeled? <br> THE WITNESS: It is. It should say open space and not play area. <br> 21 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. So -- so my 22 understanding then -- all right. So let's go to the 23 approved conditional use, which I guess is exhibit 24 - I'm trying to remember. <br> 25 MS. BYRNE: See here, is it 99? I think | 113, that includes the - the shaded, hatched figure in 113, is the -- is this the boundary of the play area in the applicant's amendment as approved? <br> MALE 1: Yes. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Excuse me? <br> MS. BYRNE: I guess this question is for you, Ms. Lyon. <br> THE WITNESS: I guess I -- I'm -- I'm <br> confused at how to answer this question, honestly. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Look -- <br> MS. BYRNE: Okay. Maybe I can help. I <br> 12 believe what Mr. Gruenspecht is asking is that the minor modification was submitted, this is the plan 4 that was attached to the minor modification. And as 15 part of the minor modification, was this plan part 16 and parcel of it? Is that what you're trying to ask 17 her, Mr. Gruenspecht? <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. I'm trying to ask 19 has the area of the playground changed from what it 0 was in the original approved conditional use to extend the playground further to the east? I mean, I know what the answer is. There's a desire just to not say it, which is very frustrating. <br> MS. BYRNE: What -- what I -- what I <br> 25 believe I'm hearing based on -- I mean, I don't -- |  |
| it's 99. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Ninety-nine -- 99. <br> MS. BYRNE: There we go. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: We're partying like it's <br> 1999. Okay. Fair enough. Go down to the -- to the -- <br> to the pictures. Keep on going -- keep on going. <br> MS. BYRNE: Am I going to --? I'm going to all the. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. Keep on going. <br> MS. BYRNE: I'm going to start [inaudible] <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: You might be -- <br> MS. BYRNE: -- and work the way down. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: You might've been there. <br> Keep on going. That's the original conditional use. <br> MS. BYRNE: See, here. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: A little bit further. <br> MS. BYRNE: This one? <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: No. Next one. Ah, here we <br> go. Okay. So here's the picture again, another. So <br> 21 is the play area -- I don't mean to be obnoxious, <br> 22 but it seems like there's an effort to try to avoid <br> 23 saying what's obvious. <br> 24 So this -- do you believe that the whole <br> 25 space, which is very similar to the space in figure | THE WITNESS: No. I had -- <br> MS. BYRNE: I don't want to beat the dead <br> horse. But it appears that the slope, based on her <br> testimony before and the photographs that were <br> presented, is -- really isn't suitable as a play <br> area, but it was marked as a play area, and it <br> should have been marked more as green space, open space. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. <br> MS. BYRNE: So -- <br> THE WITNESS: That's accurate. <br> MS. BYRNE: Okay. <br> THE WITNES: The play -- the play area has <br> 14 not extended any further to the east. The open area, <br> 15 the grassy open area which is existing is now open <br> 6 to physical connection to the -- towards the parking 7 lot. <br> MS. BYRNE: I hope -- <br> THE WITNESS: Because the addition is no <br> longer there. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: I would say that -- all <br> right. I guess I'm not testifying, but the -- the -- <br> 23 the graphic seems to show the play area has extended <br> 24 to the east. You said that was -- <br> 25 MS. BYRNE: And Mr. -- and Mr. -- Mr. | 124 |

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| 1 shown, it's -- it's -- the 331 feet measurement is - |  | 1 mind. |
| 2 - |  | 2 MS. BYRNE: Sounds good. |
| 3 Q. Let me. Here, I'll help you. Let me ask |  | 3 MS. HARRIS: So, Ms. Peralta, are you |
| 4 it a different way. This is 330 feet, is it measured |  | 4 there? |
| 5 to that portion of the playground that you just |  | 5 MS. PERALTA: Yeah. I'm here. |
| 6 testified to would not have active play area within |  | 6 MS. HARRIS: I think you need to turn on |
| 7 it? |  | 7 your camera. Okay. |
| 8 A. Yes. It is. |  | 8 MS. PERALTA: Yeah. |
| 9 Q. Okay. Thank you. |  | 9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 10 A. Thank you. |  | 10 BY MS. HARRIS: |
| 11 Q. I have -- |  | 11 Q. So Ms. Lyon testified that the green |
| 12 MS. BYRNE: Actually, I have one question |  | 12 area is the active operational playground space. |
| 13 for Ms. Lyon, and then obviously, Ms. Harris, if you |  | 13 A. Right. |
| 14 have redirect after I -- after I ask her. You talked |  | 14 Q. Is that correct? |
| 15 about the standard for the minor amendment and |  | 15 A. Yes. |
| 16 specifically talked about the nature of the |  | 16 Q. And how will that space physically be |
| 17 conditional use. |  | 17 delineated from that steep slope? |
| 18 So daycare not changing. Right? It's the |  | 18 A. We will need to -- and -- and we -- we |
| 19 nature of the con--- it's your assertion that the |  | 19 do this at a couple of other sites. We'll put up |
| 20 daycare nature hasn't changed, the character of the |  | 20 either flowerbeds or equipment that blocks access to |
| 21 -- of the building, I guess, itself, and the use |  | 21 the slope area. The slope area is a real, real |
| 22 hasn't changed. |  | 22 concern for a safety issue. And we will use either |
| 23 But then we get into -- I think there's |  | 23 just barriers, some of them could be -- we could do |
| 24 been a lot of time spent on the word intensity. Can |  | 24 some bushes, you can do planters. You can do all |
| 25 you explain to me, in your opinion, why this is -- |  | $\mathbf{2 5}$ sorts of things in order to prevent the children |
|  | 130 | 132 |
| 1 why the removal of the structure doesn't create an |  | 1 from entering the slope area. |
| 2 intensity? |  | 2 Q. So just to be clear, the green area is |
| 3 THE WITNESS: The removal of the addition |  | 3 where the active outdoor play will occur? |
| 4 does not create an intensity because the physical |  | $4 \quad$ A. Right. If you remember the -- the |
| 5 massing of the existing building will be -- is -- is |  | 5 sloped area would have been eliminated by the -- by |
| 6 what is there now, there is no increase in the |  | 6 the building. And -- and so with the returning back |
| 7 physical massing intensity of the pro--- the |  | 7 to the -- the available space, or the current space, |
| 8 building as a whole. |  | 8 we've already anticipated needing to put up some -- |
| 9 MS. BYRNE: All right. Thank you. |  | 9 like I said, some equipment, and barriers, and |
| 10 MS. HARRIS: And I would note on -- with |  | 10 things that will prevent the children from going |
| 11 that, I mean, again, Mr. Karner will get into other |  | 11 into the sloped area. |
| 12 levels of potential intensity and how the |  | 12 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. No further |
| 13 elimination relates to that. |  | 13 questions. |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: That -- that's what I thought I |  | 14 MS. BYRNE: Since we've brought Ms. Peralta |
| 15 heard her say, I just wanted to clarify for my note |  | 15 back, Mr. Gruenspecht, you have an opportunity to |
| 16 that it -- that it related to the -- the physical |  | 16 cross-examine her again. And I -- and if you |
| 17 structure. All right. Thank you. All right. Ms. |  | 17 wouldn't mind both lowering your hands, because |
| 18 Harris, do you want to bring Ms. Peralta back? Or do |  | 18 that's all I'm going to see now for the -- the rest |
| 19 you want to -- to go to -- to your -- your noise |  | 19 of the time. |
| 20 person? |  | 20 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. I'm happy to lower |
| 21 MS. HARRIS: Actually, I think it makes |  | 21 my hand. Thank you. |
| 22 more sense to bring Ms. Peralta back just while this |  | 22 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. |
| 23 is -- |  | 23 Peralta. You're welcome. And -- and again, Mr. |
| 24 MS. BYRNE: Okay. |  | 24 Gruenspecht, your questions on cross are limited to |
| 25 MS. HARRIS: -- just fresh in everyone's |  | 25 what Ms. Peralta just testified to regarding their |

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| 1 use of the play space. | 1 area that was play area in the original proposal, so |
| 2 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Mm-hmm. | 2 that you could still have your planters at -- at |
| 3 MS. HARRIS: Wait, I'm not clear. Is Mr. | 3 what you define as the active play area, but not |
| 4 Gruenspecht going to ask Ms. Peralta questions? Or | 4 expand the fenced in playground. Thank you. Part of |
| 5 did he not have --? | 5 that -- so -- yeah. |
| 6 MS. BYRNE: That -- actually, that's a very | 6 MS. BYRNE: Right. So that -- that was |
| 7 good question. That's why I thought you had raised | 7 actually more of a statement, Mr. Gruenspecht, and |
| 8 your hand, Mr. Gruenspecht. Was that -- | 8 we'll -- we'll take that statement. So if that's it |
| 9 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Sure. | 9 for Ms. Peralta, I think we can move on to your next |
| 10 MS. BYRNE: Am I incorrect? | 10 witness, Ms. Harris. |
| 11 MR. GRUENSPECHT: So sorry. | 11 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. And this is our |
| 12 MS. BYRNE: Is it more of a statement or a | 12 final wis- -- witness. And it's Mr. Chris Karner. |
| 13 question? | 13 SWEARING IN OF WITNESS CHRISTOPHER KARNER |
| 14 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I'm having trou- -- I'm | 14 MS. BYRNE: Thank you. Mr. -- Mr. Karner, |
| 15 having trouble managing the technology. So I | 15 let's raise your hand. Let's -- let's just go ahead |
| 16 apologize. But yeah. I was going to ask her a | 16 and swear you in even if you swore in with everybody |
| 17 question about what she just said. | 17 else earlier. Do you promise to tell the whole truth |
| 18 MS. BYRNE: Okay. | 18 and no---? |
| 19 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Is that okay? Is this the | 19 MR. KARNER: I do. |
| 20 right time. | 20 MS. BYRNE: Thank you very much. |
| 21 MS. BYRNE: This is the right time. | 21 DIRECT EXAMINATION |
| 22 RECROSS EXAMINATION | 22 BY MS. HARRIS: |
| 23 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: | 23 Q. Welcome Mr. Karner. Can you please |
| 24 Q. Okay. So, you know, it does strike me | 24 state your full name and primary occupation for the |
| 25 that we talk about flower beds and other things we | 25 record? |
| 134 | 136 |
| 1 could do. But if this is not supposed to be part of | 1 A. Christopher Karner, I'm an acoustic |
| 2 the play -- you know, if this is not what you call | 2 consultant. |
| 3 active play area -- | 3 Q. And can you please describe your |
| $4 \quad$ A. Mm-hmm. | 4 professional and educational background, and any |
| 5 Q. -- you know, which is a very nebulous | 5 pro--- accreditations or designations that you may |
| 6 kind of term. So my question is, why not just put a | 6 have? |
| 7 fence around the play area that you intend to be | $7 \quad$ A. I have a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia |
| 8 used as play area? And then one could be more | 8 College, Chicago in acoustics and have been working |
| 9 confident that -- you know, what you're saying, and | 9 for 19 years as a acoustic consultant. |
| 10 again, I -- I like what you're saying. But it's kind | 10 Q. And who's your current employer? |
| 11 of -- it's just like saying, there won't be people | 11 A. Polysonics. |
| 12 in before 9:30, but I won't commit to it. You know, | 12 Q. And what is your current position at |
| 13 it's -- | 13 Polysonics? |
| 14 A. I'll tell you why. Aesthetically, I | 14 A. I'm a senior consultant. |
| 15 just think that flower beds, and natural, you know - | 15 Q. And so what do you do as a senior |
| 16 - a fence is -- is -- is -- is my second or third | 16 consulta |
| 17 choice. And so, you know, you try to put the most | 17 A. I have a wide range of roles, but it |
| 18 aesthetic things. We could put planters in there | 18 all related to noise and acoustics. So for |
| 19 where the children could, you know, grow herbs. I | 19 environmental noise, I do a lot of traffic, railway, |
| 20 mean, we like to be creative. That's all. And so a | 20 aircraft, [inaudible], anything that makes noise |
| 22 But we'd like to -- I think we can be more creative | 22 to try to help quiet the noise or the -- the bus- -- |
| 23 than that. | 23 the owners of that noise to work with that. |
| 24 Q. Okay. Well, I do appreciate that | 24 I also do interior noise for -- which is |
| 25 answer. Let me just suggest maybe a fence around the | 25 for schools, residences, offices. And other -- other |


|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 noise sources, data centers, wastewater management, just anything that's making noise, you know, we work 3 -- we will work on that. |  |
| Q. And when you say you do noise, does <br> that mean you measure noise as well as whatever else you may do with [inaudible]? |  |
|  |  |
| A. Yeah. Sure. So we -- we do noise |  |
| modeling, we do noise measurement, we do, you know, meetings and other consulting, lots of reports and 10 things like that. |  |
| 11 Q. And have you ever testified before the <br> 12 Montgomery County Office of Zoning in administrative 13 hearings -- |  |
|  |  |
| 14 A. Yeah. |  |
| 15 Q. -- as an expert? Have you ever |  |
| 16 testified anywhere else as an expert? |  |
| 17 A. Yes. At Loudoun County Board of Zoning |  |
| 18 Appeals, and Fairfax Board Zoning Appeals, and then 19 for Hartford County in Maryland. |  |
|  |  |
| 20 MS. HARRIS: And your re- -- we have |  |
| 21 submitted Mr. Karner's resume as Exhibit 115, and we 22 would offer him as an expert. |  |
|  |  |
| 23 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht? |  |
|  | MR. GRUENSPECHT: No objectio |
|  | Okay. So -- so admitted - |1 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

2 MS. BYRNE: -- as an expert.
BY MS. HARRIS:
Q. So Mr. Karner, are you familiar with
the original approved conditional use and the
modifications of the proposed subject amendment?
A. Yes. I reviewed the plans for the
conditional use and the requested amendment. You
9 know, I've heard Jen's testimony regarding the
10 modifications and the discussion we had now. And I
11 understand that the main modification is the noise
12 with respect to elimination of the proposed building
13 addition.
14 Q. And have you visited this site in
15 person?
16 A. Yes. I visited the site I think a
17 couple of weeks ago to do noise measurements and
18 just to walk around.
19 Q. And did you observe the surrounding
20 area when you were onsite?

21 A. Yes.
22 Q. And could you -- and I'm going to bring
23 up Exhibit $100--113$, which I had up previously.
24 Can you describe --? Sorry, hold on one second. Can 25 you describe the surrounding area for us, please?

38

And then I'll go to the zoomed in map, aerial photo, I should say.
A. I -- I think you got to wait. So I
understand it's in the central business dist- --
district of Silver Spring. It's -- Colesville Road,
I think, is south of this, which has six lanes. And
then Ellsworth Drive, which is, I think, on the right of that drawing there.

There's the dog park, which we've already discussed and then Ellsworth Urban Park, which has tennis courts and playgrounds. There's the townhouse community and the closest townhouse, I think someone 13 -- we've measured at 244 feet from the building, and 14267 feet from the playground. And then to the south 15 of all this is a high-rise multifamily building.
16 And I wou- -- I would say to that I -- I
17 visit -- when I went to the site in terms of noi- --
18 I think of it in terms of noise. So you could hear
19 the background noise was traffic, I could hear kids
20 at the playground, there was some insect noise from
21 the trees, I think the cicadas are out. And then
2 some HVAC units.
Q. And then when you were out there, did

24 you actually take noise measurements, existing noise 25 levels?

1 A. Yes. We did on August 15th, 2022.
Q. Okay. And now I'm going to move over to

Exhibit 112. And are you familiar with the
Montgomery County Noise Ordinance?
A. Yes.
Q. And what does -- what does it say in terms of allowable noise?
A. Sure. So you're right. The -- earlier, you know, this shows kind of a summary, we didn't
10 show the whole noise ordinance. But the -- they
11 allow for noise receiving areas for daytime noise.
12 So this is 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., 67 for non-
13 residential and 65 for residential noise areas.
14 And then there's penalties if it's a tonal 15 noise. And then if it crosses non-residential and
16 residential, they use the stricter one. And then
17 there's also the noise disturbance, which was 18 discussed earlier.
19 Q. And can you explain the basic
20 principles of noise for those of us that are laymen 21 in this field?
22 A. Yeah. So I -- I -- we included this
23 slide to kind of understand for later when we
24 discuss all -- all the noise stuff so it's -- you
25 know, it's not a mystery. For sound as a point

| 141 | 143 |
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| 1 source such as a person talking, or -- it -- it | 1 Q. Yes. Okay. Uh-huh. Go ahead. |
| 2 every -- so every -- it reduces 6 dB per doubling of | 2 A. So we will get to the numbers. So this |
| 3 distance. So at one foot, you walk a foot away, it's | 3 is where we -- we went to Takoma Park. So when we |
| 4 going to go down by 6 dB , and then you'd have to go | 4 started, they asked how loud is the -- is the actual |
| 5 four feet for another six, and so | 5 kids playing in a playground? And that's not just a |
| 6 So that's the formula there that 20 times | 6 number we can pull from anywhere and have it be a |
| 7 log of distance one over distance two, and that's | 7 reliable numb |
| 8 how we come up with how much reduction is going to | 8 So we went to an existing CentroNia in |
| 9 be if you give me two distances. So if I measure it | 9 Takoma Park, set up right next to the playground, |
| 10 one dist | 10 five feet away from the fence. And, you know -- and |
| 11 that's the reduction that I'm going to | 11 then we would be able to use that calculation f |
| 12 The next one is sound level perception. So | 12 the 331 distance, which we'll discuss later |
| 13 this is how people perceive sound changes. So a one | 13 And then we went to the Silver Spring |
| 14 to two dB change is | 14 location, and |
| 15 You may notice it, barely. Three dB is considered | 15 measurements at the townhouses. They were all pretty |
| 16 just noticeable difference. Five dB is clearly | 16 similar. So -- as you'll see in the next couple |
| 17 noticeable, and then 10 dB , even though it's -- it's | 17 slides. |
| 1810 , you perceive it as twice as loud | 18 Q |
| 19 Later on, we'll talk about indo | 19 pretty similar, the sounds around the property were |
| 20 And HUD says that most houses of stan | 20 all pretty simil |
| 21 construction, meaning off the shelf windows, viny | 21 A. Yeah. For M1, M2, M3 |
| 22 siding, you know, off the shelf doors is 20 dB for | 22 Q. Okay. |
| 23 standard construction. And that is with windows | 23 A. -- on the right. Yes. |
| 24 doors closed, I would | 24 Q. Got it. Okay. This slide -- |
| 25 To the right is an excerpt from a textbook | 25 A. So this is the existing daycare in |
| 142 | 144 |
| 1 that I'm not going to go through the whole thing, | 1 Takoma Park. You can kind of tell from the chart on |
| 2 but it shows, you know, where speech is, how w | 2 the left that we measured for an hour, there were 19 |
| 3 perceive it, if it's faint, very faint, loud, and so | 3 students out. And -- and I sat and wrote down peak |
| 4 on. And just some examples of what they are. | 4 events. That's what that table is on the top right. |
| 5 So for Montgomery County, it's 65 during | 5 If a ki--- it's generally, the kids are talking or |
| 6 the day, you can see that that's in the -- towards | 6 yelling. And so that's the events is all them |
| 7 the high end of speech. So I might be speaking a | 7 yelling. |
| 8 65. I-- I don't think people speak at 50 . I'm | 8 The loudest event was 83 dB . Again, that's |
| 9 pretty quiet, and I'm probably around 60. So it's | 9 five feet from the fence, and they were pretty |
| 10 somewhere around highway traffic, it's -- it would | 10 close. The loudest peaks on the chart on the left |
| 11 be considered loud the 65 , the Montgomery County | 11 were not due to the children. So it doesn't |
| 12 limit. You know, take that as you will. | 12 necessarily reflect the kids were making all these |
| 13 And then -- and then you start getting | 13 noise, the -- a garbage truck came, there was people |
| 14 damagingly loud noise, like 80, and 100, and so on. | 14 driving by and honking horns, and aircraft events, |
| 15 But I would add that it says threshold of hearing | 15 and other things like that. So just -- just -- |
| 16 loss, long term exposure, 80. That's if -- hearing | 16 sorry. Go ahead. |
| $17 \mathbf{8 0} \mathbf{~ d B}$ for four years, eight hours a day. It's not -- | 17 Q. No. So I think you were going to |
| 18 Q. Thank you | 18 clarify what I was going to ask, proceed. |
| 19 A. -- one single 80 event. | 19 A. Okay. So -- but the loudest measured |
| 20 Q. And in your professional opinion, | 20 noise was that 10:16, 14 a.m. 83 dB , you know, |
| 21 much noise would be generated by the outdoor | 21 measured at five feet from the edge of the |
| 22 playground for the proposed center? | 22 playground. |
| 23 A. I think can we can -- can we build to | 23 Q. Okay. And then -- so knowing that |
| 24 that? So -- just because the next slide talks about | 24 that's actual quantitative evidence that you took at |
| 25 the measurement locations. | 25 Takoma Park, then what did you do as it applies to |


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| 1 this site? | 1 The noise levels that we measured at the |
| 2 A. Sure. So using that, it might be easier | 2 existing location, the quietest thing we measured |
| 3 to move to the -- to the next slide. Yeah. So -- | 3 was 46 dB . Now, granted, that's middle of the day, |
| 4 Q. This one? | 4 it probably gets quieter at nighttime, but they're |
| 5 A. -- now that we -- | 5 not out in the playground at the nighttime. |
| 6 Q. Uh-huh. | 6 So I -- I really think that the noise |
| 7 A. Yeah. Now that we know that, you know, | 7 levels, they might spike and peak throughout the |
| 8 based on an hour of kids playing at the -- CentroNia | 8 day, but 46 is pretty quiet. It's likely |
| 9 kids playing at the playground that 83 dB is at five | 9 representative of -- or it's -- at least it's |
| 10 feet -- and again, we're picking the loudest thing | 10 representative what the quietest thing we measured |
| 11 that we measured, we're not picking average, we're | 11 at the site. So the loudest kid we measured is equal |
| 12 picking the loudest thing we did. We can compare | 12 to the background noise level at the site. |
| 13 that to the background noise at the existing -- or | 13 And then there's indoor levels, which is |
| 14 at the Silver Spring location. | 14 just taking those outdoor levels and subtracting 20. |
| 15 And so these are -- on the screen are some | 15 And this was, you know, to make sure that -- make |
| 16 of the results. So M1, the average noise level was | 16 sure there weren't any concerns of, will these kids |
| 17 50, M2 was 49, 3 was 53. And then there's the | 17 be heard inside? And 26 dB for that max event and |
| 18 minimum noise levels. So noise isn't just you know, | 18 18, the earlier chart had residential noise levels, |
| 19 a flat line, it has peaks and valleys as you saw in | 19 and both 26 and 18 were below normal background |
| 20 the previous slide. So we also included the maximum | 20 house noise. |
| 21 and minimum noise level. | 21 Q. So that's the -- those are the levels |
| 22 So the quietest we measured at all three | 22 at Ms. -- from the playground to Mr. Gruenspecht's |
| 23 locations was 46. And in general, the overall noise | 23 house if he's standing out in his front porch, or if |
| 24 level was low 50s, I would say. Does that --? | 24 he's inside the house. Correct? The two differences. |
| 25 Q. And does the overall sort of -- does | 25 A. Correct. |
| 146 | 148 |
| 1 that represent generally an average? Or what's --? | 1 Q. Okay. And then what about -- well, a |
| 2 A. Yeah. So that was -- I-- I did, I | 2 couple of questions. First of all, and those levels |
| 3 think, a minute at each location and so that's the | 3 are below the allowable noise ordinance. |
| 4 average noise level during that minute. | 4 A. Right -- right. They are well below the |
| 5 Q. Okay. So then, wha- -- so what do -- | 565 allowed by Montgomery County. |
| 6 then what do you do? And --- | 6 Q. And then what about the closest |
| $7 \quad$ A. Sure. So it goes back to that earlier | 7 townhouse? Did you take a look at that? And what -- |
| 8 slide that if we know that 83 dB is the loudest | 8 what would the levels be there? |
| 9 event there from the -- from the children, and 75, I | A. Yes. I do. What was I going to say? We |
| 10 just took the average of all those events. That's | 10 -- yeah. We did look at that. Let me look at those |
| 11 what that 75 is. | 11 numbers real quick. Because I don't think we did |
| 12 And if you take that 20 times log five feet | 12 that on the slide. |
| 13 over 331 feet, you get a 36 dB reduction. So then | 13 Q. Let me also ask you another question. |
| 14 you would reduce 36 from 83, and reduce 36 from 75. | 14 When -- are these numbers based on 20 children |
| 15 And this is just how sound moves through the air. | 15 outside or 40 children based outside? |
| 16 So then you would have, if the loudest kid | 16 A. So the numbers on the left, I think, |
| 17 is 83 at 331 feet, it's 46 dB at the townhouse at | 17 are based on 20, because where there's 19 kids |
| 18 331. Referring back to the chart earlier, it's below | 18 there. And I -- I do want to say that I don't |
| 19 speech level, speech levels started at around 50. | 19 necessarily think 40 kids will be louder. I do thin |
| 20 It's considered a moderate noise level. | 20 that a loud event might occur more often. |
| 21 And then the average noise event, so this | 21 It does -- just because -- it doesn't -- if |
| 22 is everything I measured during that hour, it's a 38 | 22 you have 20 kids and 20 kids, it doesn't -- you |
| 23 dB event. And it's equal to soft stereo and music. | 23 know, they may not yell at the same time. But let's |
| 24 Comparing those, I think that might be in the next 25 slide, but I'm just going to mention it anyway | 24 assume that they do, that the same event happened, 25 two kids are yelling. If you double a noise level, |


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| 1 or double a noise source, it increases by 3 dB . So | 1 testified, 230 approximately. |
| 2 that 83 would become 86. And It think that that's the | 2 A. Okay. I -- 230. Okay. So, sorry. I -- |
| 3 noise levels that we're referring to on the right. | 3 it -- it's a strange coincidence, but yeah. It would |
| 4 Q. So the ones on the right actually are | 4 be eight -- it would be the same at the closest for |
| 5 reflective of if -- as if there were 40 children in | 520 kids as it would be at the far distance for 40 |
| 6 the playground, not 20. That's what you're saying? | 6 kids. So the -- the other will have noise levels of |
| 7 A. No. I -- no. I don't think the math | 783 dB with 19 kid |
| 8 works out that way. | 8 Oh, I'm -- I'm sorry. That's the wrong -- |
| 9 Q. Okay. | 9 yeah. I -- I'm sorry. Just -- so it's a 3 dB |
| 10 A. So it'd be 86 minus 36. So it would be | 10 difference at 230 feet. So it would be slightly |
| 1150 then, max event. If you had two kids being as | 11 louder. So 49 for them with the 20 -- with the 20 |
| 12 loud as we measured, which again, I do--- I think | 12 kids, and so 30, 41. So just -- just add three to |
| 13 that's a hypothetical worst-case scenario, may or | 13 everything. |
| 14 may not match reality. | 14 Q. Okay. And -- and you -- just because |
| 15 Q. And again, still considerably lower | 15 there was a lot of back and forth, and that may have |
| 16 than the noise ordinance? | 16 been a little confusing, and my apologies. Can you |
| 17 A. Yes. | 17 just briefly summarize what the -- restate that |
| 18 MALE 1: Excuse me? | 18 again and as it relates to the general noise level? |
| 19 THE WITNESS: And I -- I -- I did want to | 19 A. Sure. No. I understand. So the noise |
| 20 bring up, it's not in the notes, but we -- we | 20 levels here are representative of 20 kids. So that's |
| 21 approach this from both the noise ordinance and from | 21 what the -- shown on the screen. So we're -- I'm |
| 22 the noise disturbance. And that's why we measured | 22 just going to stick with max event. It's 83 with 20 |
| 23 the background noise levels. | 23 kids, hypothetically, it could be 86 with 40 kids. |
| 24 And so we wanted to show here's the noise | 24 That's at five feet. At 331 feet, it's 46 with 20 |
| 25 of the children versus the background noise, and | 25 kids, 49 with 40 kids. And then if you shrink that |
| 150 | 152 |
| 1 here's the noise of the children versus the -- the | 1 down to 230, it's 52 with 40 kids, and 49 with 20 |
| 2 zoning ordinance. And so we -- we were cognizant of | 2 kids. |
| 3 the noise disturbance environment | 3 Q. Got it. Thank you. |
| 4 Q. So -- okay. So just to be clear, if at | $4 \quad$ A. I don't know if that's clearer. But |
| 5 Mr . Gruenspecht's house, if there were 40 children | 5 it's all accurate, at least. |
| 6 out on the playground at one time, what would -- | 6 Q. Okay -- okay. And so, just to be clear, |
| 7 what would the -- what would the indoor and outdoor | 7 these noise -- the noise levels were taken without |
| 8 numbers be? | 8 the addition. Is that correct? |
| 9 A. The -- so yeah. So, sorry. It's 49 if | 9 A. Correct. So when we measured from the |
| 10 you have -- that's the loudness level, it would be | 10 playground, the re-- at Takoma Park, there was |
| 1149 at the property line, so outside, and then minus | 11 nothing between us and the children, just a bar |
| 1220 of that would be 29 inside. | 12 fence. And we did not include any kind of mitigation |
| 13 Q. Okay. And then I think I interrupted | 13 in our calculations, there was no modeling. It's |
| 14 you, the levels at -- or you were headed toward, | 14 just sound traveling through air. It's not taking to |
| 15 while none of the other neighbors have brought this | 15 account the existing building, or any other |
| 16 issue up, just to clar--- or just make sure | 16 buildings in the way. |
| 17 everything's okay. Did you take a look at what the | 17 Q. Okay. And in your professional opinion, |
| 18 measurements would be at the closest residence? And | 18 is there any need for any further mitigation giving |
| 19 if so, what are those? | 19 these -- given these noise levels? |
| 20 A. Could you mind asking that in a second, | $20 \quad$ A. Could you go to the next slide? |
| 21 or giving you time to -- | 21 Q. Mm-hmm. |
| 22 Q. Certainly. | 22 A. So this is kind of summarizing |
| 23 A. -- check for that? Do you know that | 23 everything. But the background noise that we |
| 24 second distance? | 24 measured was 46 to 59. The max event with 20 kids |
| 25 Q. Two-hundred and -- I believe it was | 25 that we measured was 46, so that's equal to the |


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| background noise. If you have 40 kids, and I -- if two of them yelled at the same time, it would be 49, which would be a three $d B$ increase. <br> Which as you remember earlier, it's <br> considered a just noticeable difference. Meaning you would go, oh, you can -- you can kind of hear that, maybe. And then again, that assumes that they're -they're at the max measured level. But the average event that we measured during that hour was eight dB 10 less than the background noise. <br> So those -- an average only with the <br> exception of that loudest noise, you -- it would be 13 inaudible. So let's assume that they'll be audible 4 sometimes, is what the conclusion says. They'll be 5 audible, that doesn't mean it's a disturbance, it 16 just means there'll be just noticeable of the 17 background noise. But never within the house with 18 the windows closed will they be audible. <br> And then there -- all the noise levels that <br> 0 we showed calculated out to the houses are well <br> 1 below the 65 limit. And, you know, like I said, it's <br> 22 a just noticeable difference, which is not the same <br> 23 thing as a noise disturbance. <br> 24 Q. And when you said that you were out <br> 25 there and you measured noise, you measured the | adverse effects on the surrounding neighborhood that could be reasonably expected? <br> A. I would not consider a 3 dB increase over background noise to be substantial. So -- <br> Q.: And -- and not substantial? And also, not -- I -- I assume from that, and not causing any adverse effects? <br> A. Correct. <br> Q. And in your opinion, and I think <br> 10 already asked this, but I'll re-ask it, in your <br> 11 professional opinion, are any additional mitigation <br> 12 strategies required to mitigate the noise from the 3 playground? <br> A. No. None are required per the county code. <br> Q. And just out of curiosity, when you've been engaged by other clients to do this kind of 18 work, are there ever instances where you do 9 recommend mitigation? <br> A. So we tend to work with requirements or 21 -- only, not recommendations. We would not be well- <br> 22 liked if we recommended expensive things that <br> 23 weren't needed. So yes. There was a sim- -- not as 24 similar project, but we had a project in DC at The <br> 25 Darcy Hotel, which I think some of the people are |
| background noise. So if someone's sitting in their <br> house with their window open, will they hear noise <br> from the outside based on -- <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. -- noise that you heard? <br> A. Yes. They will hear the same -- more or <br> less the same kind of background noise that we measured. <br> Q. And I heard -- I saw Mr. Gruenspecht 0 shaking his head, yes, yes, I hear noise with my windows open. <br> A. Yeah. A lot -- yeah. If you're opening your windows, the expectation of not hearing noise 14 is fair. <br> Q. Okay. And are you familiar with the <br> 16 standard that's applicable to the minor amendment of 17 a conditional use, which states that a minor 18 amendment is one that does not change the nature, 9 character, or intensity of the conditional use to an 0 extent that substantial adverse effects on the surrounding neighborhood could reasonably be expected? <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. And in your professional opinion, will <br> 25 the proposed modifications have any substantial | familiar with. <br> They were concerned because they wanted to <br> turn their backyard patio into, like, a party area <br> for weddings, and just adults singing, and being <br> loud, and cheering, and whatnot. So they made a <br> glass, plexiglass enclosure, just -- and they had <br> residences within the courtyard, two high-rise <br> residences. <br> So yes. They -- we helped with <br> 0 recommendations on materials and stuff. But the -- <br> 1 them putting that in there was not up to the <br> 12 residents. It was The Darcy Hotel that wanted to do <br> 13 that so they could have these kinds of raucous <br> 14 parties without disturbing the neighbors. <br> Q. And then in that case, you did <br> 16 recommend mitigation. Is that correct? <br> A. We provided -- we advised on <br> mitigation. <br> Q. Okay. Good. Is there anything else that <br> you would like to add in your testimony? <br> A. No. <br> MS. HARRIS: Thank you. That concludes my questions of Mr. Karner. <br> 24 MS. BYRNE: Mr. Gruenspecht, do you have <br> 25 any questions for Mr. Karner? |

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| MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh, I -- I have many <br> questions, actually. Because this is clearly <br> critical testimony. So shall we proceed? <br> MS. BYRNE: Go ahead. <br> CROSS EXAMINATION <br> BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: <br> Q. So I'd like -- can you put this <br> presentation on the screen, the stack version? I'd <br> like you to be controlling it. Thank you. <br> MS. BYRNE: Sure. No problem. Ms. Harris, do you want to stop sharing? <br> MS. HARRIS: Oh, sorry. <br> MS. BYRNE: I'll go ahead. That's all <br> right, no worries. I will go ahead and share the 15 PowerPoint. The -- there it is. It's 112 , I believe. 16 Which I actually already have up. Okay. <br> 17 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: <br> Q. Perfect. Thank you so much. So -- so <br> page 1, where we are, starts with extended <br> 20 discussion of, you know, maximum allowable noise <br> levels, and the county noise control ordinance. <br> So Mr. Karner, do you believe that an <br> adverse noise impact significantly affecting the <br> 24 enjoyment and use of neighboring properties, as <br> 25 considered in the necessary findings in the zoning | Q. Right. But you -- but a violation is <br> not a prerequisite here under the zoning. Is that <br> correct? I think that's what you just said. <br> A. I -- I don't understand that question. <br> Q. Okay -- okay. Do you believe -- I think <br> the object is to get me to go on. So I will go on. <br> Do you believe that a noise disturbance can occur <br> without a noise violation? That's a yes or no <br> question. <br> A. Sure. Yeah. I'm -- I'm not Montgomery <br> County to say what a noise disturbance is or not. <br> But -- <br> Q. Well -- <br> A. Yes. <br> Q. Okay. Thank you. <br> A. As -- as I mentioned about the urban or <br> rural areas. <br> Q. Okay. <br> A. It could [inaudible]. <br> Q. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But the answer is <br> yes. Right? Okay. So, Mr. Karner, when were you <br> 22 first engaged by the applicant to evaluate the noise <br> 23 impacts of the proposed Silver Spring daycare <br> 24 playground? <br> 25 <br> A. I don't know the answer to that |
| ordinance, can only occur if the conditional use results in violation of the maximum allowable noise limits in your table? <br> A. We looked at it in both ways, both from <br> a noise disturbance and the maximum allowable noise <br> level percentage. <br> Q. So I guess, what's the answer to my question? <br> A. Can you rephrase it? <br> Q. Sure. Do you believe that an adverse <br> noise impact significantly affecting enjoyment in the use can only occur if the conditional use results in a violation of the maximum allowable noise limits in your table? <br> A. It's not my table. But -- <br> Q. Well, it's in your presentation. It <br> says Polysonics on the bottom. So -- <br> A. Okay. I -- I understand. But wi- -- it <br> is what Montgomery County chose to do, choice -chose to have on there. So it depends on the site whether a noise disturbance would -- if you were in 22 a rural area, a noise level of 65 from mechanical 23 equipment or something else would be a disturbance. <br> 24 But if you're in an urban area, 65 may not be a <br> 25 noise disturbance. So it's con- -- it's conditional. | offhand. Polysonics have been working in -- on the project internally, an AV group, and then they passed it along to me. So give me a second, I can check that. Yeah. It was early August. <br> Q. Early August. Okay. Thank you. Okay. <br> Since -- here's a question that I asked a previous <br> witness who didn't seem to be able to answer it. But you are a sound expert. Is that correct? <br> A. Sure. <br> Q. Sure. Okay. <br> A. Yeah. <br> Q. So in your capacity as a sound expert, <br> what do you think -- what do you -- do you think a 1430 foot high, 30 foot wide building would have a 15 significant ability to act as a barrier to sound 16 reaching the other side of the building? And I'm not 17 suggesting that, you know, the amount of sound is 18 large or low, but how much attenuation would you 9 think such a structure would provide? <br> A. So if you're okay with some caveats, I <br> Q. Caveats are fine. <br> A. Okay. So the first caveat, assuming <br> that the noise source is lower than the roof, and <br> 25 the receiver is lower than the roof, and that |

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| 1 there's some kind of visual barrier in there. The | 1 I -- which we mentioned was least 20 dB , and if it's |
| 2 second being -- and I don't -- is that the noise | 2 a brick building, it's 30 dB , that's for -- the |
| 3 would be audible if the building weren't there. So | 3 sound is diffracting over the top of the house. |
| 4 somebody stepping on a leaf -- | 4 Q. Right. |
| 5 Q. Yeah. | 5 A. So if, for example, all of these |
| 6 A. -- building or not, it's not going to | 6 highway barriers that you see along the roadway, as |
| 7 be audible. | 7 tall as they are, they're only trying to achieve |
| 8 Q. Sure, sure | 8 seven -- per Federal Highway Administration, a seven |
| $9 \quad$ A. So yes. | 9 dB reduction. |
| 10 Q. I'm just asking how much reduction you | 10 Q. Right. |
| 11 get; I'm not asserting -- | 11 A. That's because the sound is going over |
| 12 A. Yeah. It -- it really -- it's -- it's a | 12 the thing. |
| 13 complicated question. There's no easy answer to | 13 Q. Right. Right, right, right. |
| 14 that. But the general assumption is about 10 dB of | 14 A. So -- |
| 15 reduction if there's a building that meets all | 15 Q. Under- -- understand. |
| 16 those, if it completely blocks the line of sight | 16 A. So yeah. Plexiglass, if you made a |
| 17 plus a little bit, and the noise is loud enough to | 17 plexiglass building, the sound would still go over |
| 18 go over it. | 18 it. There's no 20 dB -- |
| 19 Q. It's -- it's -- it's interesting. I -- | 19 Q. Okay. |
| 20 I want to remind you of your testimony in The Darcy | 20 A. -- reduction. |
| 21 Hotel case that you mentioned. | 21 Q. Fair enough. Yeah. Okay. Got it. Thank |
| 22 A. Mm-hmm. | 22 you, I appreciate that. And I really appreciate your |
| 23 Q. And you said that you'd get 26 decibels | 23 effort to answer, you know, honestly. So did you |
| 24 of noise reduction for a quarter inch of cleared, | 24 personally conduct the noise measurements at the |
| 25 tempered, single pane of glass. | 25 existing Takoma Park daycare and the proposed Silver |
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| 1 A. Mm-hmm. | 1 Spring daycare I -- in the -- you know, as shown on |
| 2 Q. And 19 decibels of noise reduction for | 2 your chart that are cited in the presentation? |
| 3 a three eight-inch polycarbonate panel. Is that | 3 A. Yes. |
| 4 correct? | 4 Q. And when did you conduct those? You |
| 5 A. Yes. | 5 mentioned April 15th earlier, but I-- I don't -- is |
| 6 Q. I'll bring it up if you want. | 6 that for both Silver Spring and Takoma Park? Or -- |
| 7 A. No. I-- I recall. | 7 A. Yeah. I did both at the same day. So it |
| 8 Q. Okay. So you're telling me that a 30 | 8 was probably both were August 15th. |
| 9 foot high, 30 foot wide building would provide 10 | 9 Q. August 15th, I'm sorry. Not April 15th. |
| 10 decibels? | 10 Perfect. So you said you spent one hour at Takoma |
| 11 A. Correct. And so some -- yes. I'm just | 11 Park, I guess from 10:00 to 11:00 on August 15th. Is |
| 12 going to say that. I -- I am happy to answer follow- | 12 that correct? |
| 13 up questions. | 13 A. Correct. |
| 14 Q. Excuse me? | 14 Q. And then at Silver Spring, you spent |
| 15 A. I'm happy to answer follow-up questions | 15 how much time? I mean, how much did you measure? I |
| 16 about that. | 16 don't -- I don't physically care how much time you |
| 17 Q. Okay. Can you explain why a quarter | 17 were there. How much measurement did you do? |
| 18 inch pane of glass has a -- has a larger sound | 18 A. No. I understand. I did those three |
| 19 blocking effect than a 30 -foot high, 30 foot wide | 19 measurements; they were about a minute each |
| 20 building? | 20 location. |
| 21 A. So The Darcy thing was an enclosure, it | 21 Q. One minute each. And what time of day? |
| 22 did not have openings and gaps. There was nowhere -- | 22 A. I think it was in the afternoon. I can |
| 23 Q. Right. | 23 -- I can tell you. |
| 24 A. -- for the sound to go, except through | 24 Q. That's fine. Afternoon is good. |
| 25 the material. If you're talking about a house, which | 25 A. Just a second. Yeah. It was -- |

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| 1 it's not a document that he prepared. But your |  | 1 A. Correct. |
| 2 point's been taken Mr. Gruenspecht. |  | 2 Q . We're doing good. Would you agree that |
| 3 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |  | 3 the calculations made using this formula are very |
| $4 \quad$ Q. But you put -- I'm asking the witness; |  | 4 sensitive to the value of distance one? So that's |
| 5 did you provide any basis at the time of the filing |  | 5 the five feet. |
| 6 of that statement for such a statement? That's a |  | 6 A. Yeah. |
| 7 question I presumably can ask the witness. Is that |  | $7 \quad$ Q. For example, if distance one was 30 |
| 8 correct? |  | 8 feet rather than five feet, noise reduction at 331 |
| 9 A. I -- I was not involved with the |  | 9 feet would be 21 decibels rather than 36 decibels. |
| 10 project at that time. |  | 10 Is that correct? I think -- |
| 11 Q. Thank you. Well, I guess it speaks to |  | 11 A. Yes. |
| 12 some of the matters in the record here. Okay. So |  | 12 Q. -- you can you can look that up easily. |
| 13 please display page 6 of this presentation. Okay. |  | 13 A. Yes. It's correct. |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: Think this is 6. Correct? Yes. |  | 14 Q. Okay. And if distance one is 40 feet, |
| 15 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I think it -- let me see. |  | 15 noise reduction at 331 feet is about 18 decibels. Is |
| 16 It's very hard. Unfortunately, I'm not -- okay. So |  | 16 that correct? |
| 17 this page, that's correct. Thank you so much. |  | 17 A. That's correct. |
| 18 MS. BYRNE: Mm-hmm. |  | 18 Q. Okay. So we already -- I already |
| 19 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |  | 19 mentioned to you that the overall size of the |
| 20 Q. This page provides estimated noise |  | 20 outdoor playground at Takoma Park is about 80 feet |
| 21 locations, estimated noise impacts at my location |  | 21 along the wall where you took your measurements, and |
| 22 from the proposed Silver Spring daycare as I |  | 2260 feet along one of the other walls with the |
| 23 understand it. I also understand that your estimate |  | 23 trapezoid. You can look at your picture. Let's go |
| 24 uses the standard inverse square root formula 20 |  | 24 look at your picture on -- on slide three, I guess. |
| 25 times the log of distance one divided by distance |  | 25 Yeah. So again, I'm looking at the -- the - |
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| 1 two, which is what you illustrate on page 2 of your |  | 1 - the fenced in area of the -- of the playground. So |
| 2 presentation to show the reduction of noise with |  | 2 --and you mentioned, you said that that was not |
| 3 increasing distance. Is that correct? It's not a |  | 3 surprising to you, although you did say you did not |
| 4 trick question, I promise. |  | 4 measure it yourself. Is that correct? I'm just |
| 5 A. I answered, correct. I'm sorry if it -- |  | 5 saying what you just said. |
| 6 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. There |  | 6 A. I -- I did not measure the distance. |
| 7 might be trick questions later. |  | 7 That's correct. |
| 8 MS. BYRNE: What decibel was that? |  | 8 Q. Yeah. That's right. Okay. So doesn't |
| 9 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I like that. |  | 9 the playground noise measure picked up by your noise |
| 10 THE WITNESS: I don't know. |  | 10 meter at the Takoma location come from all over the |
| 11 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |  | 11 playground, not just from children standing at the |
| 12 Q. No. This is meant to be a friendly |  | 12 fence within five feet of your noise meter? And |
| 13 process, I do understand it. So your calculation |  | 13 again, since the -- your meter was five feet back |
| 14 uses five feet for distance one in the formula based |  | 14 from the fence, someone standing five feet from your |
| 15 on your collection of noise data at the Takoma care |  | 15 noise meter would have had to be directly in front |
| 16 -- daycare playground, and 331 feet for distance |  | 16 of your noise meter with their face against the |
| 17 two, which figure six of Exhibit 113 shows as the |  | 17 fence. |
| 18 estimated difference -- estimated distance from the |  | 18 A. Correct. And I did see that. That was |
| 19 Silver Spring daycare playground to my residence. Is |  | 19 not unusual for the children. |
| 20 that correct? |  | 20 Q. Yeah. Okay. So given that the noise |
| 21 A. Correct. |  | 21 comes from all over the playground, not just from |
| 22 Q. Correct. So using these values, you |  | 22 children standing at the fence within five feet of |
| 23 calculate a noise reduction of 36 decibels between |  | 23 your noise meter, isn't the midpoint of the |
| 24 the Silver Spring daycare playground and my |  | 24 playground, which is about 35 feet from the location |
| 25 residence. Is that correct? |  | 25 of your noise meter a more -- a more appropriate |


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| 1 value for distance one? | 1 playground, you know, and be recorded as 83 |
| 2 In other words, the playground noise you | 2 decibels. But what about the average sound? I mean, |
| 3 measured at your location five feet from the fence | 3 why is the average sound being computed based on |
| 4 was already significantly attenuated by the distance | 4 five foot of distance? Certainly, the average sound, |
| 5 between the point where the noise is made and the | 5 I would think, would reflect sound all over the |
| 6 time it reaches the meter. | 6 playground. |
| $7 \quad$ A. No. I don't believe that | $7 \quad$ A. Yes. I would agree with that. |
| $8 \quad$ Q. Okay. So you believe -- okay. So please | $8 \quad$ Q. So would the midpoint distance be |
| 9 explain why you think your -- the distance from your | 9 appropriate there? |
| 10 meter to the fence immediately in front of your | 10 A. No. And for the reasons we explained |
| 11 meter is the right distance to be used when the | 11 that the playground is an area, and that we -- we |
| 12 noise is being made all over the playground? | 12 did not focus on the average sound level in our |
| 13 A. The noise is being made all over the | 13 analysis. It's -- it's just -- |
| 14 playground, I don't disagree with that. That is why | 14 Q. Well, I'm sorry. You presented the |
| 15 we measured for the full hour, and also why we chose | 15 average sound levels in the discussion you had |
| 16 the loudest noise level. So if the loudest noise | 16 previously on your slides, and also in the |
| 17 level we measured was 83 dB , if a child was 35 feet | 17 discussion you had previously with -- so -- so let - |
| 18 away during that event, from the fence, so that | 18 - let's start to page 6 again. |
| 19 means that child was 100 dB making noise, which is - | 19 A. Yeah -- no. Sure. We presented it, but |
| 20 - is not possible. | 20 we didn't focus on it. We knew -- |
| 21 Similar, if you take the whole 80 feet, you | 21 Q. Oh, okay. |
| 22 know, they were a hun- -- you know, 107 dB . So the | 22 A. -- we focused on the loudest level. I |
| 23 reason we chose -- I-- I agree for most of the | 23 don't -- I wouldn't -- I just presented the -- I |
| 24 noise events that the children were not at the | 24 pre- -- we presented them as, here's what -- |
| 25 loudest nearest the property line. But that's why we | 25 Q. All right. |
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| 1 focused on the loudest one. And in addition, the | 1 A. -- we measured. But -- |
| 2 initial measurement, the 331 is taken from the edge | 2 Q. No. They're -- look -- look. I'm -- I'm |
| 3 of the green play space, not the [inaudible]. | 3 not, you know -- I think I've made -- you know, this |
| 4 Q. That's -- so honestly, I'll get to the | 4 is a goo--- useful conversation, I think. So you |
| 5 331, I promise you. | 5 think that for the average level, the midpoint is |
| 6 A. Okay. | 6 potentially -- certainly more appropriate than the |
| $7 \quad$ Q. Because I am trying to be fair -- I am | 7 five feet. Is that correct? |
| 8 trying to be -- | 8 A. No. I -- I still think that the |
| 9 A. But our five feet represent -- we | 9 measurement was in the correct location for the |
| 10 consider the playground as an area source, meaning | 10 analysis that we were doing. |
| 11 that the edge of it is where the meter should be. | 11 Q. I'm talking about the analysis of the |
| 12 And frankly, I think if I put a meter in the center | 12 average now. You just said it would be different for |
| 13 of the playground, it might disrupt the | 13 the average than for the loudest noise. |
| 14 measurements. I don't think the children noticed the | 14 A. It's -- no. I -- I -- the average -- |
| 15 microphone, but they would've -- | 15 yeah. There was distan- -- there's different |
| 16 Q. Oh, I'm not -- | 16 distances for the measurement location -- |
| 17 A. -- noticed a tripod. | 17 Q. So -- |
| 18 Q. Right. So -- and I would -- I would | 18 A. -- for the average noise level. |
| 19 agree with your latter statement, I'm no- -- I'm not | 19 Q. Yeah. So what would --? |
| 20 objecting to your location of the meter. I'm | 20 A. And much as in the future playground, |
| 21 objecting to the interpretation that you use in | 21 there will be children throughout the playground. |
| 22 applying the distance formula. Okay? To be clear. | 22 Q. Of course it will be -- of course it |
| 23 So again -- so you mentioned something with | 23 will be. |
| 24 respect to the loudest sound and saying that | 24 A. Yeah. |
| 25 couldn't have been emitted from the center of the | 25 Q. And you deal with this all the time in |

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| 1 your work. | $1 \quad \mathrm{Q}$. When measured at what distance? |
| 2 A. Yeah. | 2 A. Usually five feet is the normal |
| 3 Q. But I'm telling you, I'm -- I'm just | 3 measuring distance. |
| 4 trying to decide, you know, understand from you, the | 4 Q. Okay. So -- so you were saying it might |
| 5 expert, what you think. If you were measuring, | 5 be 85, you know, for whatever. But you measured it |
| 6 again, from an area source with, you know, noise | 6 at 83. |
| 7 located, you know, let's say randomly throughout | $7 \quad$ A. Okay. |
| 8 that area, and you were measuring from a boundary, | 8 Q. But you don't know how far the person |
| 9 what would you -- what distance would you use? | 9 actually was. |
| 10 Would you use the distance to the midpoint? | 10 A. No. |
| 11 Again, not for the loudest sound, just for the | 11 Q. Or the person who -- or the recording |
| 12 average sound. I think you do in other work. I mean, | 12 of 80 , you don't know how far the person actually |
| 13 I can show you. But -- but I'd like you to just, you | 13 was, but you used five. |
| 14 know, be clear about it. | 14 A. Five feet from the edge of the |
| 15 A. It -- it would depend on the situation. | 15 playground. But yes. I -- |
| 16 I don't -- I don't think I would measure in the | 16 MS. BYRNE: Mr. -- Mr. Gruenspecht, I -- I |
| 17 middle of this playground even given a choice to | 17 think you're -- I think we understand the point that |
| 18 redo it. | 18 you're making. |
| 19 Q. Okay. No. Because I would say my | 19 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |
| 20 concern reflects the fact that, you know, the -- the | 20 Q. Okay. Well, I'm making more than a |
| $21 \text {-- the -- }$ | 21 point, I'm actually going to go into, you know, |
| 22 MS. HARRIS: Objection. That's testimony. | 22 discuss this further. So -- okay. So again, turning |
| 23 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah. | 23 back to slide six of your presentation, and again, |
| 24 MS. BYRNE: It is testimony. You can -- you | 24 I'm not questioning the -- the measurements of the |
| 25 can definitely follow up with that -- | 2583 and the 75. |
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| 1 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I didn't say it. Yep. I | 1 You know, I am questioning the at five |
| 2 will say it. | 2 feet, because some of those measurements reflect |
| 3 MS. BYRNE: -- in a rebuttal. | 3 noise taken at a much longer distance. Certainly, |
| 4 BYMR. GRUENSPECHT: | 4 the average, and to an unknown extent the maximum. |
| 5 Q. I'll say it later. I get it. No. I | 5 If the existing playground noise, and I |
| 6 think the witness is trying hard. So again, you | 6 know you don't necessarily agree with this, was in |
| 7 record the 83 as the maximum. And I think you made | 7 fact measured at a distance of 35 feet rather than |
| 8 an argument that the midpoint would not be | 8 five feet, doesn't the application of the standard |
| 9 appropriate for that. | 9 noise propagation formula extrapolating to a 31 -- |
| 10 But would the five feet strictly apply | 10331 -foot distance provide a reduction of only 19 |
| 11 unless that maximum sound was being made by the | 11 decibels, rather than the 36 decibels of reduction |
| 12 person literally against the fence, directly into | 12 you calculated? |
| 13 your sound device? I'm not saying what the | 13 A. That formula would be correct. But I -- |
| 14 substitute would be now. I'm just saying, you don't | 14 I disagree. |
| 15 know where the person actually was when that was | 15 Q. I understand. You already made clear |
| 16 recorded. Is that right? | 16 that you would not recommend that. Okay? So using |
| 17 A. That's correct. | 17 the 19 decibel reduction, wouldn't the estimated |
| 18 Q. Okay. And do you think five feet is the | 18 outdoor playground noise level at 331 feet shown |
| 19 -- the representative best guess as to where the | 19 that the right hand side of slide six, be 63 |
| 20 person might have been? | 20 decibels for the max event, and 55 decibels for the |
| 21 A. I don't know where the person might | 21 average event? Rather than the much lower -- |
| 22 have been. But I do know that -- and even based on | 22 MS. HARRIS: I'm going to object to this |
| 23 the earlier charts, that 85 is an elevated noise | 23 question. The expert explained his ex- -- his |
| 24 level, it's not a typical noise level for someone to 25 be yelling. | 24 expertise as to why he measured how he did. Mr. Gru- <br> 25 -- Gruenspecht can come up with any hypothetical |
| 25 be yelling. | 25 -- Gruenspecht can come up with any hypothetical |

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| 1 different measurement, and we can go through a |  | 1 time, so give me time. |
| 2 mathematical equation. It's not what the expert did, |  | 2 MS. BYRNE: It's -- you know, it's a little |
| 3 and I don't see the relevance in it. |  | 3 trial and error sometimes, but we'll get there. |
| 4 MR. GRUENSPECHT: All right. Look, you |  | 4 BYMR. GRUENSPECHT |
| 5 know, it's not fair to ask the architect about the |  | 5 Q. Okay. Right. But you would agree -- |
| 6 playground area, it's not fair to ask the sound |  | 6 well, I don't think you would agree. I'll say, do |
| 7 expert about sound calculations. You know, this is |  | 7 you agree that -- that five feet, when your meter is |
| 8 getting out of hand a little bit, I think. |  | 8 five feet from the fence line, is the absolute most |
| 9 MS. BYRNE: Mis- -- Mr. Gruenspecht -- |  | 9 favorable assumption that could have been made to |
| 10 MR. GRUENSPECHT: And not from my side. |  | 10 maximize your estimate of the noise reduction for |
| 11 MS. BYRNE: -- what we have in front of us |  | 11 both the peak measure and the average measure? |
| 12 is measurements done by the expert. So what you're |  | 12 A. We did not try to favor the client at |
| 13 asking him is a hypothetical. So you're asking him |  | 13 all, we just -- we measured and |
| 14 to do his calculations in a different way that would |  | 14 Q. I didn't ask you -- |
| 15 end up with a different result. |  | 15 A. -- calculated. |
| 16 MR. GRUENSPECHT: And I'm not telling him |  | 16 Q. -- if you tried to favor the client. I |
| 17 to agree to that result. I'm just trying to get the |  | 17 asked you if five feet is the assumption that |
| 18 sound expert's estimate on what the implications of |  | 18 produces the largest possible noise reduction for |
| 19 that different calculation would be. I'm not trying |  | 19 both the peak, whatever the -- the maximum event and |
| 20 to change his testimony. |  | 20 the average event. I'm not impugning you. |
| 21 MS. BYRNE: So let's -- let's -- let's look |  | 21 A. I don't understand the question then. |
| 22 at it a different way. And I'm going to split the |  | 22 The -- the distance -- |
| 23 baby a little bit here. The -- what you're asking |  | 23 MS. BYRNE: I think -- I think what he's |
| 24 for is to do the calculations a different way. So |  | 24 asking is, is five feet the norm? Is five feet |
| 25 I'm going to ask the expert, is it -- would you do |  | 25 designed to get the maximum event? |
|  | 182 | 184 |
| 1 the calculations the way that Mr. Gruenspecht |  | 1 MR. GRUENSPECHT: I didn't say what it was |
| 2 asking? Is that something that you would do in your |  | 2 designed to do. I'm saying, would it, since the |
| 3 normal course? |  | 3 meter is five feet from the fence? |
| 4 THE WITNESS: No. Because it assumes -- if |  | 4 THE WITNESS: That -- that was the distance |
| 5 you're going to take my 83 and add 35 feet to it, |  | 5 from the fence, the -- the distances were fixed. The |
| 6 it's arbitrary because it -- and it's -- it's an |  | 6 -- we did not -- |
| 7 arbitrary noise level. Much -- much as we measured, |  | 7 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |
| 8 a person cannot be that loud that they're 83 dB at |  | $8 \quad$ Q. But not the distance to the voice |
| 935 feet, you can't have both somebody's in the |  | 9 source, those were not fixed. Okay. I -- I think we |
| 10 average location, and pick the maximum measured |  | 10 understand. So again, your presentation drew a |
| 11 noise level. The -- those two things are -- are not |  | 11 distinction between inside noise and outside noise. |
| 12 related. You can't benefit from the loud noise, but |  | 12 So does the rule apply when the windows are open? |
| 13 then also benefit from the distance. |  | 13 And the answer I think you've already alluded to. |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: Okay. |  | 14 But -- |
| 15 THE WITNESS : It's an impossibly loud |  | 15 A. It's -- it's no. It's no. |
| 16 child. |  | 16 Q. Okay. So the -- is the outside noise |
| 17 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. I -- I do |  | 17 representative of the situation when the windows are |
| 18 understand that answer. Thank you. |  | 18 open? |
| 19 MS. BYRNE: All right. So let's go ahead |  | 19 A. It's somewhere in between. There is |
| 20 and move on to the next question. |  | 20 some reduction because you only have a small hole |
| 21 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. I'm just trying to, |  | 21 versus -- |
| 22 you know, figure out how to phrase these things |  | 22 Q. Area, right. Exactly. |
| 23 within your boundaries. |  | 23 A. Yeah. A smaller area. I don't have the |
| 24 MS. BYRNE: Un- -- understood, understood. |  | 24 number in front of me of what that reduction would |
| 25 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Takes me a little bit of |  | 25 be. |

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| 1 Q. Sure. And of course, you know, and I |  | 1 MS. BYRNE: Sure. |
| 2 think this was already alluded to earlier, there are |  | 2 BYMR. GRUENSPECHT: |
| 3 other people who -- effects would be, you know, |  | 3 Q. Right. It's also, I think, on a |
| 4 larger because they're closer to the building. And I |  | 4 previous slide, but this will work. You notice that |
| 5 would point out that the witness was very happy to |  | 5 all them are clustered kind of right around |
| 6 make -- |  | 6 Ellsworth Drive, whereas my house is further back of |
| 7 MS. HARRIS: Objection. |  | 7 Ellsworth Drive. |
| 8 MR. GRUENSPECHT: -- calculations. |  | $8 \quad$ So given what you cited as a six decibel |
| 9 MS. HARRIS: Objection. |  | 9 attenuation of noise with a doubling of distance at |
| 10 MS. BYRNE: Yep. Mr. Gruenspecht, again, |  | 10 the top of page two, and also I believe in your oral |
| 11 try not to make -- |  | 11 testimony, wouldn't ambient noise levels at my |
| 12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Yeah |  | 12 residence be lower than the figure shown on your |
| 13 MS. BYRNE: -- statements. |  | 13 table for locations -- not would be, I'll say, |
| 14 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Right. I -- right, right. |  | 14 likely to be lower than figures shown in your table |
| 15 So I'm not allowed to suggest hypothetical |  | 15 for locations M1, M2, M3 -- on M1, M2, M3? |
| 16 presentations, only the counsel, I get that. Okay. |  | 16 A. I -- I understand. I didn't want to go |
| 17 That seems to be the situation. |  | 17 too far into the site. |
| 18 MS. BYRNE: It -- it's not a -- it's not a |  | 18 Q. I don't blame you. No. I understand why |
| 19 hypothetical. I just -- |  | 19 you did it. I'm just asking a question about what -- |
| 20 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Well, no. |  | 20 A. Yeah. I -- I'm starting -- I'm just |
| 21 MS. BYRNE: -- everything needs to be |  | 21 explaining that -- why we didn't. |
| 22 phrased in the form of a question, sir. That's all. |  | 22 Q. Yeah. |
| 23 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh, okay. Just like |  | 23 A. But we presented overall minimum and |
| 24 Jeopardy. Got it. Okay. |  | 24 maximum noise level. If you note, the minimum noise |
| 25 MS. BYRNE: No. |  | 25 level is equal in all accounts, the max is probably |
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| 1 BY MR. GRUENSPECHT: |  | 1 a car driving down Ellsworth. I agree that if you |
| 2 Q. So I was trying to make a joke, but I |  | 2 mer- -- moved further away from the roadway, a car |
| 3 know I come off as too serious a person. But all |  | 3 driving by would be quieter. But the minimum noise |
| 4 right. So if in fact, one -- one used longer |  | 4 level of all three being equal tells me that there's |
| 5 distances, would the -- the -- the -- the |  | 5 other consistent noise sources in the background |
| 6 calculations on the right hand side of this chart, |  | 6 besides this roadway. |
| 7 you know, show higher for distance one in |  | 7 MR. GRUENSHPECHT: Got it. Okay. Just a |
| 8 particular, because it's much more sensitive to |  | 8 couple more. We already talked a little bit about |
| 9 distance one than distance two. Would those show |  | 9 the noise attenuation from a 30-foot high, 30 -foot- |
| 10 higher values for the outdoor playground noise |  | 10 wide building. We already talked about the noise |
| 11 levels at 331 feet? |  | 11 attenuation levels from various barriers that could |
| 12 A. Yes. If you change the inputs into the |  | 12 be used that wouldn't necessarily be expensive. So I |
| 13 formula, the -- the set, the results -- |  | 13 don't think we have to do more there. |
| 14 Q. Right. |  | 14 All right. So I guess I will save the rest |
| 15 A. -- would change. |  | 15 of my comments about this analysis for the -- I |
| 16 Q. Okay. Good. So now let's -- we're going |  | 16 don't know, what you call rebuttal, or -- |
| 17 to get through this. So now let's go back to |  | 17 MS. BYRNE: Rebuttal's a good -- a good |
| 18 extrapolating the noise impacts of the playground to |  | 18 word. |
| 19 my hou- -- to my residence. And you -- you focused |  | 19 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Conclusion, whatever. |
| 20 on the actual measured distance from my playground |  | 20 MS. BYRNE: That gets you -- gets you where |
| 21 to the house, which is the 331 feet that was |  | 21 -- gets you where you need to -- |
| 22 mentioned. |  | 22 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. |
| 23 However, when looking at the measurements |  | 23 MS. BYRNE: -- need to go. |
| 24 site shown on slide five, I believe it is, can you |  | 24 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Got it. |
| 25 go backwards? |  | 25 MS. BYRNE: Ms. Harris -- yeah. Ms. Harris, |


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| 1 any redirect? | 1 from the beginning, was -- all my stuff. We -- we |
| 2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION | 2 thought -- we weren't sure what our scope was going |
| 3 BY MS. HARRIS: | 3 to be for the project yet. And so if there would be |
| 4 Q. Yes. Just a few, please. Mr. Karner, | 4 modeling, or there'd be measurements, or what it was |
| 5 Mr. Gruenspecht made the point that the -- or | 5 going to be. |
| 6 questioned whether an adverse impact could occur | 6 So without knowing how loud CentroNia |
| 7 even if the noise levels were below the allowable 65 | 7 daycares are, we -- I tried to find a source of how |
| 8 dBA per code. | 8 loud a daycare center would be. And that was |
| 9 So the -- so the question is, how much | 9 something -- let's see, that Ifound, and a program |
| 10 lower, and we'll take the worst case scenario, of | 10 we called had a sound plan, and they have a lot of |
| 11 outside? How much lower is the outside noise level | 11 noise sources for just various items that you could |
| 12 from the allowable 65 dBA ? If you could go back to | 12 plug into the model. |
| 13 that, I think that the chart that was just up had | 13 And so there was a German study, I can't |
| 14 that number. | 14 pronounce it or -- or say what it was. But they said |
| 15 A. Oh, sure. So the av- -- the quietest | 15 that emissions from playing children would be -- the |
| 16 noise level was 46. And then again, the coun | 16 sound power would be 88 dB , meaning sound power is |
| 17 is 65. | 17 not five feet, but zero feet. Right -- right? Im- -- |
| 18 Q. And that's from the outside. Correct? | 18 impossible. You can't measure it because you can't |
| 19 A. Yes. | 19 measure at zero feet. |
| $20 \quad$ Q. And just by way of example, what would | 20 But that the loudest -- at zero feet, a |
| 21 a 46 dBA equate to versus a 65 in terms of sound? | 21 loud child playing would be 88 dB . And so that -- we |
| 22 A. Yeah. So a 46 is -- going back to the | 22 were going to start with that level, but we -- you |
| 23 things that have been submitted, it's somewher | 23 know, we did not pursue it. I -- the -- the source |
| 24 between a background of an office, which it's a | 24 is long, I don't have the paper in front of me to |
| 25 pretty typical -- if you have sound masking in your | 25 accurately say, I can just refer that it came from |
| 190 | 192 |
| 1 office, that's a pretty typical level to set it to. | 1 this program. |
| 2 You can talk over it, maybe you don't hear | 2 But it does serve an example of what kind |
| 3 incidental noise. Sixty-five is kind of close to a | 3 of noise levels you could expect from a child. So at |
| 4 roa- -- a roadway, any near roadway. | 4 zero feet, it's 88 dB . But again, that's not what we |
| 5 Q. In terms of your preparation for this | 5 used in our -- we didn't use those numbers in our |
| 6 matter, did you -- do you recall that you had a | 6 analysis. |
| 7 conversation with the architect, Lynn -- Jen Lyon on | $7 \quad$ Q. But at that time, were you reasonably |
| 8 July 25th? | 8 confident, although you hadn't conducted your study, |
| $9$ <br> A. Yes. I think when it all started out. | 9 that you did not anticipate the noise level to be an |
| 10 Q. And can you -- and I'll note that July | 10 issue? Is that a fair statement? |
| 11 26th was prior to the re--- the submission of the | 11 A. That -- that's correct. Well, without |
| 12 pre-hearing statement. And while you hadn't | 12 knowing the back- -- we wanted to know more about |
| 13 conducted your analysis at that part, given that you | 13 the background noise of the site. And so -- but |
| 14 have 19 years of experience, can you just generally | 14 comparing to the 65 dB , it was not possible for 40 |
| 15 summarize what your conversation was with respect to | 15 kids to exceed 65 dB . |
| 16 this matter? And also, I believe you had referenced | 16 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. I have no further |
| 17 a German study. Is that correct? | 17 questions at Mr. Kra--- Karner unless my co-counsel |
| 18 A. That's correct. And I think we did not | 18 has anything that she'd like to ask. |
| 19 present that, I thought it would be distracting. So | 19 MS. BYRNE: All right. Thank you. That's |
| 20 before we did any kind of measurement, we looked at | 20 very helpful, Mr. Karner. |
| 2165 versus the distance from the daycare center and | 21 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Thank you also. |
| 22 saying, how loud would the children need to be to | 22 MS. BYRNE: All right. So I believe that |
| 23 exceed 65? And it was impossibly loud, it was 116 | 23 concludes. Ms. Harris, is that your case in chief? |
| 24 dB . So well, that was not possible. | 24 MS. HARRIS: That is our case in chief. All |
| 25 The other approach and, like I said, it was | 25 right. Mr. Gruenspecht, you now have the opportunity |


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| 1 for rebuttal. So all the things that you wanted to |  | 1 know, the data analysis that he presents in this |  |
| 2 say before, please say them now. |  | 2 report that he described as being related to this |  |
| 3 MR. GRUENSPECHT: No. They will just come |  | 3 hotel terrace. And he described it accurately. So he |  |
| 4 out as a random set of comments of an old man. So I |  | 4 talks about a person and -- and how to measure, you |  |
| 5 have to be very careful and control myself. |  | 5 know, what a person speaking on the terrace, what |  |
| 6 MS. BYRNE: Understood. |  | 6 effect that would have on a certain distance, the |  |
| MR. GRUENSPECHT: I'm just trying to -- let |  | 7 distance to the wall. |  |
| 8 me get my act together here. |  | 8 And he says, you know, any -- in the third |  |
| MS. BYRNE: Sure. |  | 9 paragraph there, he says, the -- the speech from |  |
| 10 REBUTTAL |  | 10 people is a point source, just like the yelling of a |  |
| 11 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Dear. All right. So -- so |  | 11 child is a point source, and it decreases 6 dB for |  |
| 12 I mean, I guess what -- I'm going to go first to |  | 12 doubling of distance. And then he says, the center |  |
| 13 actually one of the exhibits, if I can. |  | 13 of the terrace is approximately 58 feet from the |  |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: Sure. Which one? |  | 14 closest facade of the buildings to the west, and 50 |  |
| 15 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Which I did -- wasn't |  | 15 -- you know, and whatever many feet from the facade |  |
| 16 planning to bring up, but I guess I'll have to. |  | 16 from the bushes to the -- to the east. |  |
| 17 Exhibit 109, the Karner report on 1515 Rhode Island |  | 17 And interestingly enough, you know, in |  |
| 18 Avenue. |  | 18 trying to measure what the reduction in noise is, |  |
| 19 MS. BYRNE: I was going to ask you about |  | 19 you know, from people speaking on the terrace, he |  |
| 20 that. |  | 20 indeed cites a calculation from the center of the |  |
| 21 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Hmm? |  | 21 terrace. You know, so this is not just some crazy |  |
| 22 MS. BYRNE: I was going to ask you about |  | 22 idea that -- that I've brought up. And again, I -- I |  |
| 23 that. |  | 23 do understand that in all likelihood, the -- the |  |
| 24 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh, well, see? I, you |  | 24 student, you know, yelling at being recorded at 83 |  |
| 25 know, aga- -- again, I -- I do feel compelled not to |  | 25 decibels, five feet back from the fence was not |  |
|  | 194 |  | 196 |
| -- not to go too crazy on this process. I got to say |  | 1 standing at the center. |  |
| -- |  | 2 But again, this effort to, you know -- what |  |
| MS. BYRNE: Okay. |  | 3 I do is make extremely favorable assumptions for |  |
| MR. GRUENSPECHT: -- this is a -- it's a |  | 4 the, you know -- for the distance, average distance |  |
| 5 lesson to me. Okay. So go to page -- page 13 of the |  | 5 to be used in the formula is -- is really a problem. |  |
| 6 file, which is page 5 of his report on the matter. |  | 6 And doing it in the more conventional way, |  |
| 7 You have to go further, that's page 8 of the file. |  | 7 in the way that Mr. Darcy -- sorry that Mr. Karner |  |
| MS. BYRNE: Oh, I'm sorry. |  | 8 has done this in The Darcy Hotel case, would indeed |  |
| MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh, no. No problem. |  | 9 lead to a very significant reduction in the |  |
| 10 MS. BYRNE: No. I think -- I thought it was |  | 10 attenuation of sound. And that would lead to much |  |
| 11 page -- |  | 11 higher outside levels at my home. And please bring |  |
| 12 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Oh, there's the -- |  | 12 up again, Mr. Darcy's presentation, Exhibit 112. And |  |
| 13 there's the report. And it's page 5 of the report. |  | 13 go back to his little sound primer, which is very |  |
| 14 MS. BYRNE: Page 5. |  | 14 useful. Second page, ah, okay. |  |
| 15 MR. GRUENSPECHT: It's -- yeah. |  | 15 So if the noise, the reduction due to |  |
| 16 MS. BYRNE: Okay. |  | 16 distance, if distance one was, again, you know, |  |
| 17 MR. GRUENSPECHT: So it's -- so it's hard |  | 17 measured from the midpoint, which might be, again, |  |
| 18 to get the whole page up. So give me the data |  | 18 suitable for the average, might be less suitable for |  |
| 19 analysis part first. |  | 19 the maximum. But certainly, greater than five feet |  |
| 20 MS. BYRNE: Oh, so that -- the table is |  | 20 is definitely suitable for the maximum. You'd be |  |
| 21 what you want? |  | 21 bringing those impacts up by the difference between |  |
| 22 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Further down -- no. |  | 2236 decibels and 19 decibels or 17 decibels. |  |
| 23 Further down. |  | 23 And if you add 17 decibels to the values he |  |
| 24 MS. BYRNE: Okay. That's it. |  | 24 presents, you would find that you are in the loud |  |
| 25 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Okay. So this is, you |  | 25 range. Okay. And if you made those calculations for |  |




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| to circumvent the requirement to demonstrate all required findings for conditional use. <br> And allowing this to -- process to make <br> major changes in a project that adve- -- adversely <br> impact the surrounding neighborhood has broad and <br> disturbing applications. Again, since the minor <br> amendment process allows for no input from parties <br> other than the applicant. And becomes known to other <br> affected parties only after the hearing examiner has 0 issued an order. <br> I do think this puts the hearing examiners <br> 12 in a very bad position. Because I wonder if some of 13 these issues were aired in advance of the issuance 14 of that order, that order would actually have been 15 issued as it was. <br> And I also believe, that it's awkward for <br> 17 the hearing examiners, frankly. Because they've now 8 gone on the record. But, you know, the hearing 9 examiner has to consider reversing a prior order that he or she or one -- in this case, a colleague, might not have issued given access to a fuller set of inputs from a variety of interested parties. <br> It requires a lot of courage to look afresh <br> at a decision already made, and possibly reverse it <br> 25 given fuller consideration of the entire record of | this is not just an unsupported assertion. I did not object to the November 20 approval of the original project. <br> I also believe a variant of the project <br> that is substantially cheaper than the original <br> proposal, but still provides noise mitigation <br> features that significantly attenuate playground noise could avoid the adverse neighborhood impacts that led me to object to the June 23 rd order. And 10 again, I look forward to working with all the <br> parties regarding my substantive concerns and how they might be resolved. Thank you. <br> MS. BYRNE: Ms. Harris, do you have any closing? <br> CLOSING STATEMENTS <br> MS. HARRIS: Yes. Thank you. First of all, <br> thank you Ms. Byrne for your time this -- today. As 18 the -- as the ZHA originally determined, the 9 proposed modification is, in fact, minor in nature. <br> It -- there's elimination of a mass 13,000 square <br> feet of building. There's essentially no revisions <br> to the existing structure. There's no changes in <br> operation to the -- the previously approved use. <br> More importantly, and through the testimony <br> of our expert, Mr. Karner, the applicant |
| the matter, not just the unsubstantiated or incorrect claims made by the applicant. And I've shown many. <br> At this point, all I can do is offer my thanks to the hearing examiner. And her excellent support staff for helping me, a complete -- a completely naive person in these matters, I would say, understand the rules and procedures governing this hearing. And I'm sorry I couldn't have been 10 more professional because I don't understand fully 1 all the rules. <br> I now put my case in the hands of the <br> hearing examiner and hope, in the words of Spike <br> 4 Lee, that she will do the right thing. If she does, <br> 5 I'd be happy to work with the applicant and others 6 to address these -- my concerns, substantive <br> 17 concerns through the major amendment process. So as 8 I noted at the start of this hearing, I oppose the 19 minor amendment. <br> But I'm not trying to prevent the <br> development of the daycare center at the site of the Silver Spring Library. I do not insist that the 23 daycare center be exactly the one that was approved 24 in the original approved conditional use. You know, 25 unlike so many of the applicant's recent claims, | demonstrated that the proposed modifications will not result in any changes to exterior noise levels that will substantially, adversely affect the surrounding neighborhood when considered in combination with the underlying use. <br> As Mr. Karner testified, the distance -first of all, the distance between the subject playground and Mr. Gruenspecht's house is over the length of a football field, we should keep that in 10 mind. And with that distance, the noise will be well below the 65 dBA allowed by the county. <br> And while we recognize that conditional 13 uses, that the standards are sort of a starting 14 point, but that doesn't necessarily prove that 5 there's no adverse effect, the -- the -- our expert 6 explained that the exterior noise would be barely 17 audible from Mr. Gruenspecht's house from the 18 exterior. <br> Based on that, he further concluded that no mitigation is necessary. There's not the need for <br> 21 plexiglass or some other material, because there's <br> 22 not going to be an adverse effect that -- that would <br> 23 lead to mitigation. <br> 24 I think it's also important to bring up, <br> 25 Mr . Gruenspecht raised this issue. And -- and in |


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| 1 doing so, if it was so important, perhaps he should | 1 recognize the intricacies of the Montgomery County |
| 2 have thought about hiring an expert to prove his | 2 Zoning Ordinance when it comes to inherent and non- |
| 3 case. | 3 inherent characteristics. |
| 4 Instead, what he did, and he admitted -- he | $4 \quad$ And as -- as section 7.31 e.g. says, the -- |
| 5 self-admitted that he's not an expert in noise. He | 5 the qual- -- the test is, will not cause undue harm |
| 6 took our noise consultants testimony and tried to | 6 to the neighborhood as a result of non-inherent |
| 7 discredit it, whether it was having to do with the | 7 adverse effects alone, or in combination with |
| 8 measurements, or why he appro- -- the measurements, | 8 inherent effects. And the hearing examiner |
| 9 or why he appropriately measured from the point that | 9 previously found that there are no non-adverse |
| 10 he did. And he offered just hypotheticals in its | 10 effects in this matt |
| 11 place. | 11 Finally, I -- I would note again that Mr. - |
| 12 The reason that we didn't initially have a | 12 - Mr. Gruenspecht's allegations about the noise are |
| 13 noise consultant on the first case is that we didn't | 13 totally speculative. There was no evidence, he's not |
| 14 think it was an issue. It was brought up as an issue | 14 an expert. And I would -- I would finally note that |
| 15 by Mr. Gruenspecht. And so what did we do? We hired | 15 -- and I -- I just -- I need to say this. |
| 16 an expert who did an analysis to prove, in fact, | 16 That I find it extremely unfortunate that |
| 17 that it's not an issue. And what we were doing was | 17 this nonprofit childcare center has had to use some |
| 18 proving a negative. | 18 of its valuable resources, now, we've been at this |
| 19 I mean, so the fact that we didn't have a | 19 now for five hours, I believe, making the case that |
| 20 noise expert originally is -- is of no material | 20 the elimination of the addition is not going to |
| 21 effect. What we've done now is that that we've had | 21 cause an adverse impact, and that in fact, the -- |
| 22 expert testimony showing that there is no adverse | 22 the change is minor in nature, and was properly |
| 23 effect. I think it's also important to emphasize | 23 determined to be a minor modification to the |
| 24 that -- that what the standard is. It's a | 24 originally approved conditional use. |
| 25 substantial adverse effect. The slightest audible | 25 I believe that our evidence fully supports |
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| 1 noise from children does not create a substantial | 1 that, and that the -- this should be the end of thi- |
| 2 adverse effect. | $2-$ - this proceeding. I would recommend that the |
| 3 And while maybe it would create an adverse | 3 record be closed, except for the 10-day allowance, |
| 4 effect in certain settings, and those settings maybe | 4 only to allow the transcript into -- into the |
| 5 being a sensitive laboratory situation, or certain | 5 record. And with that, again, we appreciate your |
| 6 areas of a hospital, this property is on the edge of | 6 time. And -- and -- and that concludes our |
| 7 the Silver Springs central business district, it's | 7 testimony. Thank you. |
| 8 next to a park. Mr. Gruenspecht even admitted that | 8 MS. BYRNE: All right. Thank you. |
| 9 he can hear noises from the park. | 9 MS. HARRIS: Oh, sorry. That's me. |
| 10 It's surrounded by dense urban development, | 10 MS. BYRNE: All right. No -- no worries. We |
| 11 there's a high-rise across the street, there's | 11 are at the end, as we just talked about for the |
| 12 townhouses. He's within a townhouse development, | 12 record. Everyone agreed there were no objections to |
| 13 there's a six lane Colesville Road arterial, and | 13 the exhibits, the exhibits that are submitted are |
| 14 other busy roads in the area. So noises do exist. | 14 going to be part of the record. |
| 15 Every time someone from Chelsea Courts | 15 The -- technically the record will remain |
| 16 leaves their house, they hear noises. Mr. | 16 open for 10 days in order for the transcript to be |
| 17 Gruenspecht said it, our -- and our -- and our civ- | 17 created. So once the transcript is created and |
| 18 -- and our expert also confirmed that. And the no- - | 18 provided, but re- -- the record itself is closed now |
| 19 - the additive noise of this child -- of the | 19 to all other documents. And then the decision will |
| 20 playground is in no way substantially going to | 20 be rendered within 30 days of when I receive that |
| 21 create a substantially adverse eff--- effect. | 21 transcript, which is essentially, I would hope, 40 |
| 22 The other thing to note is, and I | 22 days from now. Right? So making that assumption that |
| 23 recognize, and Mr. Gruenspecht said this, is that | 23 I get that transcript within 10 days, and then 30 |
| 24 he's not an expert in zoning. And for those of us | 24 days from this point forward. |
| 25 that live and breathe this stuff every day, we | 25 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Sounds -- |

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| MS. BYRNE: Doesn't that sound like I just <br> did the math, right? Right. Ten and -- 10 and 30 -- <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Forty days. <br> MS. BYRNE: -- sounds like 40. <br> MR. GRUENSPECHT: Forty days and 40 nights. <br> MS. BYRNE: There you go. I appreciate <br> everybody's participation today and share of <br> information. And I think that's all we have. All <br> right. Everybody go take a bathroom break. And thank 0 you so much, and my decision will be out shortly. <br> 1 MR. GRUENSPECHT: Thanks to you and your staff. Thank you. <br> MS. BYRNE: Thank you. <br> MS. HARRIS: Thank you very much. <br> [End of Proceedings 2:05 p.m.] | CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER <br> I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 214 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of 10 the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1. <br> I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action. Center, 8-25-2022) |
| CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC <br> I, Joe Lorete, the officer <br> before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do <br> hereby certify that said proceedings were <br> electronically recorded by me; and that I am <br> neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by <br> any of the parties to this case and have no <br> interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome. <br> IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set <br> my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 6th day <br> of September, 2022. <br> Soe larete <br> JOE LORETE, NOTARY PUBLIC, <br> 6 FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND |  |

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| $90: 19, \quad 90: 21$, $90: 22, \quad 90: 24$, $91: 18, \quad 105: 17$, $106: 15, \quad 107: 5$, $109: 7, \quad 109: 24$, $110: 23, \quad 110: 24$, $112: 5, \quad 114: 14$, $116: 5, \quad 116: 19$, $118: 20, \quad 124: 19$, $130: 3, \quad 138: 13$, $152: 8, \quad 174: 1$, $200: 20, \quad 201: 1$, $202: 5, \quad 211: 20$ additional $41: 15, \quad 57: 2$, $59: 21, \quad 60: 5$, $60: 18, \quad 68: 11$, $89: 6, \quad 103: 4$, $104: 17, \quad 155: 11$ additionally $109: 23$ additive $210: 19$ address $15: 13, \quad 19: 3$, $20: 2, \quad 20: 10$, $20: 14, \quad 30: 20$, $32: 9, \quad 61: 22$, $200: 7, \quad 201: 11$, $206: 16$ addressed $36: 23, \quad 46: 15$ addresses $32: 14$ addressing $52: 5, \quad 76: 18$ adds $41: 19$ adequate $53: 19$ adequately $56: 17$ adjacent $27: 8, \quad 28: 9$, $46: 16, \quad 46: 18$, $104: 9, \quad 109: 20$ adjoining $128: 14$ | ```adjustments 203:8 administratingly 32:16 administration 163:8 administrative 1:2, 2:4, 32:19, 100:14, 137:12 administratively 17:9 admitted 100:23, 101:8, 137:25, 209:4, 210:8 adopts 198:24 adults 156:4 advance 205:13 advantage 204:6 adve 205:4 adverse 18:3, 19:13, 22:17, 24:17, 28:1, 28:8, 28:12, 29:13, 33:6, 33:9, 34:21, 42:14, 43:8, 43:9, 44:20, 53:4, 54:1, 54:2, 56:17, 58:12, 60:11, 61:3, 61:11, 108:10, 109:13, 154:20, 155:1, 155:7, 157:23, 158:10, 168:17, 189:6, 203:18, 207:8, 208:15, 208:22, 209:22, 209:25, 210:2, 210:3, 210:21, 211:7,``` | ```211:21 adversely 17:15, 18:11, 205:4, 208:3 advised 156:17 advisor 202:1 advisors 198:20 aerial 139:1 aesthetic 134:18 aesthetically 134:14 af 165:1 affect 58:25, 59:12, 208:3 affected 18:15, 205:9 affecting 41:3, 157:23, 158:11 affixed 214:10 affordable 25:16, 79:11, 79:21, 79:22 afresh 205:23 after 7:2, 14:16, 18:15, 22:20, 29:5, 52:24, 56:15, 64:3, 65:12, 77:8, 81:2, 95:10, 97:18, 129:14, 201:14, 203:8, 205:9 after-school 81:7, 81:10 afternoon 65:11, 164:22, 164:24, 165:1,``` |  |
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