CITY OF ALEXANDRIA Planning Division





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3	CITY OF ALEXANDRIA - PLANNING DIVISION
4	ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
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6	Before Lauren A. Denham, Certified Court
7	Reporter, at the Alexandria City Hall City
8	Council Chambers, 915 3rd Street, Alexandria,
9	Louisiana, on Monday, November 27, 2017,
10	beginning at 4:00 p.m.
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APPEARANCES:

COMMISSIONERS:

JOE BETTY STERKX GEORGE WHITE ELLIS SAYBE CHAD SOPRANO DAMON BERNARD

ALSO PRESENT:

DELORES BREWER RUTH BASCO ROBERT L. BUSSEY

SPEAKERS:

GREGORY UPTON
MICHAEL HANKINS
CLIFFORD MOLLER
CHUCK JOHNSON
TREY GIST
HARRY SILVER
GRAHAM KRAMER

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EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1	(THINKAlex	Resiliency	Plan-in	aloho)
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Exhibit 2A (Initial Resolution 9654-in globo)

Exhibit 2B (Ordinance 81-2017-in globo)

Exhibit 2C (Council Meeting Agenda-in globo)

Exhibit 2D (Proposed Resolution-in globo)

Exhibit 3 (Revitalizing the Neighborhood)

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MR. SAYBE:
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         All right. It's 4:00 so we will start with
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    this November meeting of the Alexandria Zoning
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    Commission. I'll start by introducing the
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    council members and then we'll have a roll
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    call, which is a formality.
         I'm Ellis Saybe, the Chairman of the
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    Commission. On my far left is Damon Bernard.
    Chad Soprano is on my immediate left. On my
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    immediate right is Mr. George White and on my
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    far right is Mrs. Joe Betty Sterkx. And we
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    have, for the first time in a long time, we have
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    five members on the Commission and they're all
    here. So if we'd have a formal roll call at
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    this point.
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    MS. BASCO:
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         Yes, sir. Mr. Saybe?
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Present.
    MS. BASCO:
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         Mr. White?
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    MR. WHITE:
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         Present.
    MS. BASCO:
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         Mr. Bernard?
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    MR. BERNARD:
         Present.
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    MS. BASCO:
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         Mr. Soprano?
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    MR. SOPRANO:
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         Present.
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    MS. BASCO:
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         Mrs. Sterkx?
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    MRS. STERKX:
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         Present.
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    MS. BASCO:
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         Okay. And we have quorum, Mr. President.
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    MR. SAYBE:
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         That we do. Okay. I normally give a little
14
    introduction but I think this is kind of
15
    recessed meeting so I'll try to keep those
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    comments brief and we'll get right to the meat
    of the matter. The one thing that I always go
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    over though is we ask you to when you're
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    addressing the Commission or if you're involved
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    in a discussion, always address the Commission,
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    not each other because that leads to kind of
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    emotional, personal responses and less than
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    civil interaction. So if you're going to speak
     in support of the matter you'd come to the
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podium and you'd address the Commission.
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    it's time for opposition we'd ask those people
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    to come to the podium and address your
3
    Commission. Always give your name and address
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    so the ladies taking the minutes can have them
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    -- have you in the minutes with your address in
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    case you would ever have to be notified.
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         Having said that, we only have one thing on
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    the agenda today which is kind of recessed from
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    the October meeting and that's an application
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    on behalf of GAEDA Alexandria, Greater
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    Alexandria Economic Development Authority
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    represented by Mr. Garrett Carter of Hankins
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    Development requesting re-zoning of property
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    located at 3017 Masonic Drive. That's Lots 3,
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    4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and part of Lot 10, Square 9,
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    Bacon Place. I think that's a few more lots
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    than we're actually re-zoning; is that correct,
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    Mr. Upton?
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    MR. UPTON:
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         Yes, sir, it is. It's 3, 4, 5 and 6.
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    MR. SAYBE:
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         Okay, that's what I thought. Okay.
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    re-zoning application is from SF-2, single
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    family moderate density district to single
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    unlimited commercial district to allow for the
    development of all lots to construct a Family
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    Dollar store.
         Mr. Upton, I assume you'll lead off with a
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    MR. UPTON:
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         Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
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    name is Greg Upton, address 2001 MacArthur
    Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana, and I'm here on
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    behalf of GAEDA, the applicant for the re-
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    zoning. And then after I speak I'd like to turn
    it over to Mr. Michael Hankins a few minutes
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    and he'll tell you what the plans are the
14
    property.
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         I'd like to hand you right now a hand out if
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    I could a current zoning plat that shows what
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    we're here about today. I find it's more times
18
    easier to visualize something than explain
19
    something.
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    MR. SAYBE:
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         Yes, sir.
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    MR. UPTON:
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          If you look at the plat I just gave you,
24
    it's the current zoning. You can see Masonic
25
    Drive on there just to give you some
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perspective. And all, you see all the yellow, 1 2 that's already zoned commercial in this area. All the lots that are on Masonic Drive were 3 initially zoned commercial and apparently all 4 the lots on the blocks that weren't on Masonic 5 Drive, were on Hebert Street, were zoned Single 6 Family-2. As you can see, we're -- the lots 7 we're seeking to re-zone are the ones in pink. So we're just that little island of pink among 9 10 all that yellow commercial property there. Over the years as things have changed, all 11 12 the property that bordered on Hebert Street has 13 been slowly re-zoned to commercial. And you 14 can see I have the different references. 15 lots that are to the northeast of the property 16 we're seeking to have re-zoned, which re-zoned 17 in 1993 from a Single Family-2 to C-1, and 18 that's what we're asking for today. The lot 19 next to that one was re-zoned in 2000 from 20 single -- Single Family-2 to C-1. And the lots northeast of that were re-zoned in 2012 from C-21 22 2 -- or to actually C-2. So as you can see, 23 we're really the last of the property in this 24 area that is seeking to be re-zoned commercial. 25 MR. SAYBE:

Okay.

MR. UPTON:

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And GAEDA has been trying to give you a little history on this. GAEDA's been trying to sell this property for over ten years. In 2007 GAEDA purchased the property and y'all may remember there was a hotel on it that was sort of rundown at the light and it really wasn't compatible with the area, so GAEDA purchased the property and tore down the hotel. And since there GAEDA's been trying to sell the property. And I know Mr. Moller handed out a letter earlier to y'all, but in -- on March 19, 2009 GAEDA had correspondence with the zoo, I don't remember if it has a little zoo emblem on it, and you can see there was correspondence from Lee Ann Whitt, Mr. Moller and back, and GAEDA expressed an interest in selling or leasing the property to the City or to the zoo and that's the letter in March of 2009.

In 2011, Mr. Moller was in correspondence with the City and made a formal offer to sell the property to the City, and I know Mr. Moller handed out that letter, it's on a dated letterhead. And in the first paragraph it says

"GAEDA Organization is interested in selling 1 the referenced property to the City. 2 property is being offered to the City of 3 Alexandria for the appraised value of the 4 land." And later in the last paragraph it says 5 "This letter will serve as a formal offer to 6 the City of Alexandria to acquire the 7 property." Well, apparently nothing ever 8 became of that series of exchanges in 2011. 9 In 2016, in this room where GAEDA meets, 10 the GAEDA Board instructed Mr. Moller to not 11 only to continue efforts but to really step up 12 the efforts and sell the property. And as a 13 result of his efforts and on December 15, 2016 14 GAEDA and Mr. Hankins' entity entered into an 15 agreement to purchase and sell that property. 16 When Mr. Hankins was doing his due diligence he 17 18 noticed part of it had to be re-zoned so we filed our application in January of this year 19 20 and we've been trying to essentially have a hearing on this since then. We had one meeting 21 I think in January or February where there was 22 concern about that C-2, which was alcohol, so 23 24 GAEDA amended its application to C-1. 25 So really what we're here today, if you

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look at the current zoning situation, I can't think of any reason why this property should not be re-zoned. And it has to be re-zoned if GAEDA's going to sell it. I mean just having the front lots as commercial isn't large enough to get a commercial establishment there. Mr. Moller did a lot of due diligence in trying to sell and he was hoping to get maybe some type of fast food restaurant or a restaurant on that property. And he spoke with, I guess, Mr. Antoon maybe, and some others, about a restaurant which would not only serve the neighborhood but also to serve people going to the zoo. And the reality is there just isn't sufficient traffic out there to support a fast food restaurant. So we were out on the open market and Mr. Hankins came up with a -- with a Family Dollar store and he'll tell y'all a little bit about that. But if you look at the zoning rules and regulations they talk about consistency and compatibility. And when you look at the current zoning map, the only way to be consistent with what this Commission's done for

the last 25 year is to re-zone it commercial.

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And there's no reason why it should not be re-
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    zoned commercial. In fact not re-zoning it
    commercial would be totally inconsistent with
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    what has been done in the last 25 to 30 years.
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    And re-zoning it is perfectly compatible with
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    what -- what's going on there on Masonic Drive.
    We're all familiar with the corridor and what's
    there and this would be one of the better -- one
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    of the best buildings on that corridor once
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    it's built and constructed.
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         So those are all the comments I have, Mr.
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    Chairman. Thank you for your time. I quess can
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    I turn it over to Mr. Hankins?
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Yes, sir.
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    MR. UPTON:
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         Okay.
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    MR. SAYBE:
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         We're still in the support area. Would
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    anyone wishing to speak in support please fill
    the podium. Give us your name and address and
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    the reasons you're in favor of this
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    application.
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    MR. HANKINS:
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         Good evening. Michael Hankins, 419 Alamo
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Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, 70601. quickly, I just -- I want to -- I'm going to touch on a few things, and I don't want to duplicate too much of what Mr. Upton said, but I do want to touch on a few things. And this is, again, the current zoning in the area. thing I did want to point out that wasn't pointed out is that the one small lot to the north that is -- that is actually still zoned SF-2 is actually nonconforming, probably grandfathered use, and it actually is acting as a commercial use because it's an ancillary parking to a commercial business. So that -while it's not zoned commercial it is actually a commercial lot.

We initially came with a C-2 zoning request because that would essentially match what we currently had and was also the most recent rezoning from 2012 that had been done. Back in, as Mr. Upton said, February/March there was some concern and obviously wanted to be open to those types of questions and issues and we decided to pull back and go to a C-1 zoning because it seemed like that would be, you know, be a better possible fit for what the community

wanted and what we would do.

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If you could flip the slide, we actually went out and spoke to a lot of folks in the neighborhood. This is a neighborhood directly behind the property and the neighborhood that would be most I would say affected or have the, I guess, the greatest amount of stake in this type of project. On one afternoon for a couple of hours we knocked on doors and we got 73 signatures in support of this project and we did not get a single person that said "We don't want this project." We had a couple of people who said "Well, I don't know anything about that, I'm not going to necessarily sign anything because I'm not sure, " maybe one or two of those, but 73 signatures. A lot of excitement. A lot of people happy that their neighborhood, which is under served, would have an opportunity to -- they'd have an opportunity to walk somewhere and also a lot of questions about hey, would there be jobs, and of course there will be jobs available to folks in the So we felt like that was a good thing. area.

I also wanted to show the building that we -- that we're proposing. This is, you know,

dollar stores have kind of had a -- you know, 1 some of the older looking buildings are not the 2 best looking buildings. They, you know, had 3 metal on the front and some different things, 4 but this is a -- this is a nice looking building 5 This is a -- this is what it will probably 6 now. look like. It's been a little while here so they've actually got to a new prototype which 8 has e-fits instead of this cement fiber 9 material. But this is a long lasting material 10 11 and the look of the buildings really has improved tremendously in the past couple of 12 years since they've started making improvements 13 to it. 14 The last thing I wanted to go over was the 15 16 financial impact that this project could have in the area. We took some rough numbers, 17 obviously you can't nail this thing down 18 completely, but we ran through some rough 19 numbers and we wanted to talk about first year 20 money into the Alexandria economy. And between 21 the construction, which is purchasing of 22 23 materials and, you know, local labor, that's not the entire job, we'll obviously have 24 25 materials bought from Alexandria and local

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labor, but we figured 50 percent first year payroll and total square revenue. So we're talking about a 1.6 Million Dollar first year impact on the local economy, and these are conservative numbers. So then you look at the tax money for the public entities and we've looked at about Seventy-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$77,000.00) per year. Now, this is a 15-year firm term lease so that'll come out to about 1.1 Million Dollars in tax revenue to local entities that otherwise will not be there. There might be Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00), I'm not sure what the property taxes are currently. In fact I don't think GAEDA's even paying property taxes. So this is all straight to the bottom line. So I think the last thing worth mentioning is, and Mr. Upton touched on this a little bit, you know we're from Lake Charles, we came into the market and we're looking for a piece of property. I know that you're going to hear from some other folks who have other plans for the property but we didn't saddle in and try to sneak this thing through or steal a piece of

property from somebody else. There was a eight

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by eight sign on the property, we called about
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         There were two or three public hearings
    about selling the property to us, from day one
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    we told everyone exactly what our project was
    and what we intended to do and we've been, you
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    know, very up front with everybody and just
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    wanted to, you know, let y'all know that.
         So anyway, I appreciate you letting us have
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    the case today and I appreciate your interest
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    in it.
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Thank you, Mr. Hankins. Anyone else like
    to speak in support of this application?
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    MR. MOLLER:
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         Good evening. Clifford Moller, the
    Executive Director of the Greater Alexandria
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    Economic Development Authority. I appreciate
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    the opportunity to --
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Mr. Moller, excuse me for interrupting you
    but go ahead and give us an address that you --
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    MR. MOLLER:
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         201 Johnston Street, 6th Floor.
    MR. SAYBE:
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25
         Thank you.
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MR. MOLLER:

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Much of what I have to say is basically going to rehash what has been said but I'll make it brief. Mr. Upton mentioned that there was correspondence between the City and GAEDA on this property very early on. I made a pledge to the mayor of the City of Alexandria, Mr. Jacques Roy at that time, that we would use this property for the purpose of enhancing the street because the street had such a bad reputation in terms of its visuals. And I kept that promise as far as I'm concerned. Clifford Moller never wanted to sell this property. I have told my Board for ten years we are holding this property off the market because the City wants to do something with it. It was the Board that decided that the property was to be sold. At that point Clifford Moller went out and found a buyer 30 days later. A buyer, as Mr. Hankins has said, brings value to the property, to the community, to the neighborhood.

We offered this property, and in some of those documents that I gave you we basically state that we are in agreement with making a project on that property that conforms with the

intent of the City. We went through an 1 exhaustive process to get this property sold. 2 We're a public entity, we have to go through an 3 exhaustive process. Mr. Upton mentioned that. It had to be published in the newspaper, it had 5 to be announced at a public meeting that the 6 property was for sale. Anyone at anytime could have come forward and said "Stop the process, 8 we'd like to buy this property." That did not 9 occur. We got Mr. Hankins, we think Mr. 10 Hankins is a good use for the community, for 11 the neighbors who live there, and we'd like to 12 have your satisfaction in changing the zoning 13 14 so that we can get this job done. I would also like to mention that we also 15 have plans, as I say in some -- one of those 16 documents, for 95 space parking facility that 17 we offered to the City of Alexandria to assist 18 in building. It's in that document. It's what 19 I said, it's what I was willing to do, never a 20 response. Thank you, very much. 21 22 MR. SAYBE: 23 Thank you, Mr. Moller. Anyone else would like to speak in support of this application? 24 25 Okay, now we'll flip to the other side.

Someone would like to speak in opposition to 1 2 this application? MR. JOHNSON: 3 Good afternoon, everybody. My name is 4 Chuck Johnson, I'm with the legal division. 5 I'm here with Assistant City Attorney Trey 6 Gist, we're going to make a brief presentation to you on why you should not re-zone this 8 9 property. We believe that there are legitimate land 10 use reasons not to do so. Trey has a series of 11 attachments that he's going to introduce into 12 the record and I'll let him go through them 13 first before I make the presentation. 14 15 MR. SAYBE: Okay, Mr. Johnson. 16 MR. GIST: 17 Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen of the 18 Zoning Commission. First as a predicate let's 19 look at R.S. 47.26, which is the powers and the 20 21 responsibilities of the Zoning Commission. we call your attention to the requirement that 22 23 after the hearing has been held by the Zoning Commission it shall make a report of its 24 findings and recommendations to the legislative 25

body of the municipality. In not only this proceeding but in any proceeding we would ask and remind that we would like to have a comprehensive report and written recommendation to the City Council after this public hearing this afternoon. In conjunction, we want to make several filings which I think are important in the consideration.

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It is true that for some time the City of Alexandria and GAEDA cooperated. By brief history, and I think you've already heard it alluded to, in 2007 GAEDA purchased this property. In the -- in 2012 and 2013 citywide meetings were held under the concept called THINKAlex, in which the new land use plan for the City of Alexandria was put together. Neighborhoods met, the communities met, there were meetings in Zone 1 and Zone 2 throughout the Summer of 2013 which resulted in some findings that dealt specifically with the Masonic Corridor. And the public was particularly interested, and the citizens seemed particularly interested, in upgrading the Masonic Corridor. Particularly considering that over 50 percent of the Masonic Corridor

consisted of the City Park on one side predominantly; although as you go further down toward the fire station, we have Ben Bradford Field, the tennis courts, and another number of items that were eventually incorporated into the land use. And this is important and it has to do with the reason the City is opposing this request by GAEDA this afternoon.

I want to make a couple of filings and specifically I have an excerpt which GAEDA participated in and Mr. Moller, but also the City, and which was produced and first sent to the Zoning Commission in June of 2013. And it is the THINKAlex Resiliency Plan. I have an excerpt, Mr. Saybe, but I also have the entire plan that deals not only with Masonic Drive but the entire City of Alexandria which we would offer in globo as our "Exhibit #1" and I'll bring it to the court reporter.

MR. SAYBE:

Yes, sir.

MR. GIST:

Again, THINKAlex Resiliency Plan has previously been discussed and reviewed. I know you have new members but we're interested in is

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the consistency and the compliance with what the people wanted to do with that land use plan. FOTAZ and the City Zoo are in close cooperation. And it may be correct that Lee Ann Whitt and perhaps members of FOTAZ as individuals did discuss with Clifford Moller 6 the possibility of what would happen to the vacant lot that's in question tonight. 8 told that the price was considerably more than 9 the current appraised price which is Three 10 Hundred and Twenty (320,000) to Three Hundred 11 12 and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars 13 (\$325,000.00). In fact, I don't have specific 14 knowledge as to the conversations Mr. Moller had with different individuals but I have been 15 16 told by representatives of the zoo and 17 representatives of FOTAZ that they were not able to purchase the property in years past 18 19 because of the demand and the price at that 20 time that they thought was high. And it was 21 higher than the current offered price. 22 Be that as it may, the City has gone on 23 record in both Resolution 9654 of 2017 24 expressing the legislative will and intent of 25 the City Council to go forward and purchase

this property from GAEDA, who we are supposed to be in cooperation with but GAEDA was under a contract at the time. That contract ran out on its terms but Mr. Moller was able to give them an extension. They apparently still have an extension. I find it interesting that Mr. Moller said this Board instructed him to sell the property and within 30 days he found this purchaser, which is fine but still the City finds that the use would be inconsistent with many of the ideas brought up in the Alexandria Resiliency Plan.

Not only did the City pass a resolution to express the legislative will and intent to offer to GAEDA that same amount of consideration, the Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000.00). The City Council, after a legal delay of a month to publish, passed Ordinance 81 of 2017. Ladies and gentlemen of the Zoning Commission, this ordinance was passed in fact a number of months ago and I believe it would have been finalized on June 2, 2017. An ordinance authorizing the purchase from GAEDA of this property but GAEDA has chosen not to sell it to the City, the

property.

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That has brought about the agenda which is currently filed at the Alexandria City Council for the agenda meeting tomorrow evening, November 28, 2017, in which it has now been placed on the agenda. The item proposing a resolution authorizing the purchase, the expropriation, or otherwise the acquisition by the City of Alexandria of that certain parcel or tract of land on Masonic Drive consistent with previous Resolution 9654-2017 and Ordinance 81-2017 declaring it is necessary or useful for the authority granting the City under R.S. 19:132 and to authorize the City to acquire that certain property known as the Masonic Drive Corridor Property of GAEDA, reconfirming the intention to adhere to existing comprehensive planning and land use within the Masonic Drive development corridor and otherwise to provide with respect thereto, including specific council policy for the corridor and address of certified state code of questions.

Mr. Chair, I'd like to offer and introduce in globo the several filings, specifically in

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globo "2A" being the initial resolution #9654,
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    the ordinance which will be "2B," 81-2017, the
    ordinance "2C," which is the agenda for
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    tomorrow evenings council meeting, and the
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    proposed resolution that I just read the title
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    to as "2D." We would make those offerings at
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    this time, Mr. Chairman.
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Yes, sir.
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    MR. GIST:
         Mr. Chair, Mr. Chuck Johnson has additional
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    comments.
    MR. SAYBE:
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         Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gist.
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    MR. JOHNSON:
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          I'll be brief, ladies and gentlemen. We
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    think that there is a reason, I'm just going to
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    break it down for you in practical terms why
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    you should not re-zone this property. And the
    real reason is because the City's policy on
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    land use on our capital projects, our capital
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    budget, our SPARC plan, our joint development
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    plans with GAEDA, our zoning plan and all of
    those recent policy statements that Trey just
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    outlined to you in those resolutions and
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ordinances would make this a situation where we have a development that violates all of those plans that I just explained to you. We would like to purchase this property and use it as a parking lot for legitimate public purpose. We got the Cabrini ball fields there, we have Big Island, we have the zoo, we have Bringhurst, we have the new dog park, we have the recreation complex which used to be the Boys and Girls Club, the splash pad, the golf course, the tennis courts that we're working on now, some new constructions, and all of those multiple ball fields. We spent over 5 Million Dollars in that small corridor of tax payer money. Title 4 -- well, it's Title 33:2740.60C specifically provides that GAEDA is to provide for the redevelopment of land specifically in cooperation with the City of Alexandria. What we have here is a situation that we have an economic entity that was created by the City opposing the City's own redevelopment plans, and by law and just as a practical matter it just doesn't make any sense. Personally I don't understand why GAEDA cares who gets the

money, they're going to have a sale and they're

going to get the asking price which is the market value property.

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Now, we're going to go through these exercises in having to vote on the re-zoning, I understand all of that, but Mr. Moller knows and Mr. Upton knows too, that the end -- at the end of the day if the City chose to expropriate the property we could do that. Now since I've been City attorney we've never had a hostile expropriation. What we've always done is get with the land owner, the land owner agrees that there's going to be a sale, and then we haggle over what price it's going to be. But there's never been a situation since I've been City attorney that I'm aware of where we just go try to take some property from somebody who has a future use or a future development for it. And that's not what any of us in this room would like to see happen today. What we'd like y'all to do is to deny this motion to re-zone, allow the City to purchase the property from GAEDA at its stated market price.

And Mr. Saybe we talked about this briefly a short while ago, the City would also like to come back to y'all at your next meeting and

show you what our updated resiliency and 1 redevelopment plans are specifically for that 2 3 corridor. Give you some more details of what I'm explaining to you. Now having said all of 4 that, if this Board is inclined to have a vote 5 6 tonight up or down on whether to re-zone it, 7 we'd ask you to respectfully vote it down. If that's not your wish, we'd ask that you allow 9 the City to come back at your next meeting with a more detailed explanation and -- if you chose 10 to do it at that time. Thank you. 11 12 MR. SAYBE: 13 Mr. Gist, did you want to say anything else or -- because I have a question and I'm not sure 14 15 who to direct it to, maybe either one of you could answer this. 16 17 MR. GIST: We can both be up here. 18 MR. SAYBE: 19 20 I'm, you know, I'm more than a little 21 confused from the standpoint of let's say GAEDA 22 had no buyer and let's say they wanted to re-23 zone this property C-1 and they came and said 24 "We are better able to market this property if we had a C-1 zoning." The question in my mind 25

```
1
    is is the zoning appropriate. I'm having a
    little trouble with us being the arbiter of
2
    who's going to buy the property. You know, I
3
    don't see that as our function. So my question
    is: We have four lots here that are
5
    residential, we have a lot owner that wants to
6
    re-zone it and they want to re-zone it to C-1.
    What is your vision about what this should be
8
9
    re-zoned or is your vision it should remain
    residential?
10
11
    MR. JOHNSON:
         Our position on that, Mr. Saybe, is I think
12
    that's a policy question that's outside the
13
    jurisdiction of the Board. I think the highest
14
15
    and best use of that property is as a parking
16
    lot for all that City infrastructure and all
    those City facilities there. I think as an
17
18
    agency of the City I think y'all have to take
    into consideration at least what our policy
19
20
    wishes are and try to act in a manner that's
    consistent with it, just as GAEDA has to do by
21
22
    statute. That would be the best way I could
23
    answer that question.
    MR. SAYBE:
24
25
         Well, I'm not sure -- what would we have
```

```
those four lots be zoned if GAEDA was just
1
    applying for a re-zone and not selling the
2
3
    property? That's my question. I mean to me
    that's what -- what we're here to decide is the
4
5
    zoning issue not who the purchaser will be.
6
    And I'm sorry, I'm just -- I'm struggling with
7
    this. And don't -- I completely agree with the
    City's vision and I'm completely onboard with
8
    everything y'all want to do, I'm just -- I'm
9
    just having a rough time with the Zoning
10
11
    Commission being the agency that implements
12
    that vision. I don't think that's why we're
    here. That's not -- I'm not trying to say which
13
14
    way I'll vote, I'm just struggling with this
15
    and I wanted -- I thought maybe y'all could
    shed some light on that. But anyway, I think I
16
17
    made my point. Anyway --
18
    MR. JOHNSON:
         You want to add anything?
19
20
    MR. GIST:
         Just that GAEDA's the party that requested
21
22
    the re-zoning, the City didn't, Mr. Saybe,
23
    that's the first point I'd make. The second
24
    point is that it's the -- actually zoning this
25
    property commercial is not consistent with the
```

```
stated current land use plan of the City of
1
2
    Alexandria.
3
    MR. SAYBE:
         Well --
4
    MR. GIST:
5
         Which for the Masonic Drive corridor would
6
    emphasize residential areas and parks.
7
8
    MR. SAYBE:
         If you wanted to have parking there, would
9
    you not need commercial zoning?
10
    MR. GIST:
11
         The parking we're talking about is for the
12
13
    parks and the zoo.
    MR. SAYBE:
14
15
         Yes.
    MR. GIST:
16
          I mean it's not a commercial parking lot.
17
18
    MR. SAYBE:
          I don't know about that. To me if you're
19
20
    going to park in this area this has to be re-
21
             I'm not sure what it would require but
    zoned.
22
    I'm quessing it would be business or
    commercial. You can't have a parking lot on
23
    residential -- residentially zoned lots. Yes,
24
    sir, it's okay, I'm trying to think this
25
```

through. Thank you.

Anyone else making -- I don't mean to cut you off. If you want to say something else it's okay and then I'm going to allow other people to speak in opposition.

MR. SILVER:

I'm in opposition. I'm speaking officially as a member of its council. I'm Harry Silver, 3117 Marie Street in Alexandria. We normally, out in the council, acquiesce to the person who represents this district.

I have my heart and soul in District 4 and realize that this will help what we're trying to do to finish SPARC 1, SPARC 2, SPARC 3. Just if you could visualize a moment, if this were approved the parking that we're referring to we also are planning to have a pedestrian safety bridge from one side of the street to the other going like that with a big sign that could be illuminated for nighttime and would look very attractive in the daytime, "Welcome to Alexandria, City of Alexandria." So it will just be part of the what we tried to do a few years ago this SPARC 1, SPARC 2 and SPARC 3 and I think we have originally -- most of this came

```
about as a result of a drawing and activities
1
    initiated by the GAEDA Board. We in turn
2
    approved it so it was with wholehearted
3
    support. The fact that, you know, you can run
4
5
    an ad in the paper, we do that in the retail
    business sometimes, you read it and you don't
6
    read, like for today's use the best use this
    would be exactly what we wanted and I as
8
    representing District 4, along with the City,
9
    who also has approved the purpose for which we
10
    are speaking of tonight would like to see it
11
    remain so the attorney can acquire it. Thank
12
13
    you very much.
14
    MR. SAYBE:
         Thank you, Mr. Silver. Anyone else would
15
    like to speak in opposition?
16
    MR. KRAMER:
17
18
         Mr. Saybe, may I approach? May I approach
    you to give you that?
19
20
    MR. SAYBE:
         Yes, sir. Okay.
21
22
    MR. KRAMER:
         And I'm going make some comments.
23
24
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. Mr. Kramer, could you give us your
25
```

name and address and then I will allow you to introduce this.

MR. KRAMER:

Thank you. I'm Graham Kramer, I'm the president of Kramer Funeral Home, 2905 Masonic Drive, Alexandria. And sometime back I attended a meeting at the GAEDA office and there was a presentation made at that time and the presentation proposed development along Masonic Drive. Revitalizing the neighborhood was the title of the presentation. As I recall, the neighborhood went from a point on Masonic Drive and Texas towards Lee Street and then from that same point down Texas Avenue to Lee Street. And it was a triangle basically and it was not only going to enhance the corridor of Masonic Drive but also make efforts to clean up the neighborhood behind that.

Part of the proposal was to have sidewalks for pedestrian travel and some of this has been accomplished and is to the improvement of the City. Enhance and expand the landscape along the bayou and the City Park, and a great deal of that has been accomplished also to the betterment of the City. And move the parking

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away from Masonic Drive and have more of a gateway for pedestrians to walk along the street with shops along the way, with parking I think behind the shops so that it would enhance a friendly atmosphere. The property was going to be used for commercial and lodging, mixed purpose. Pedestrian walkways with traffic signals and lakes between the existing park area and the pedestrian area. In other words, I think earlier someone mentioned the idea of having a Starbucks there. So you could go to the zoo and then cross over to that kind of facility. But they wanted wide sidewalks in this proposal to encourage a buffer zone between the street itself and the facilities that were going to be filled.

I realize that this was a proposal and proposals are rarely put in stone, but Kramer Funeral Home was considering at the time selling that facility on Masonic Drive and moving to a different section of town. We were encouraged by this proposal and the efforts to enhance Masonic Drive and we wanted to be a part of that. So in the last three years we have added to our facility and upgraded it to

```
1
    try to make it a more desirable part of -- for
    Masonic Drive. I would suggest that GAEDA
2
    attempt to live up to this proposal rather than
3
    use this property for something that is not
4
    included in that proposal. And I thank you
5
    very much for your time.
6
    MR. SAYBE:
7
         Thank you, Mr. Kramer. Anyone else would
8
    like to speak in opposition in this
9
    application? Commissioners, anyone have any
10
11
    questions of anyone? And if any Commissioners
    have a question directed to you, please come to
12
    the podium to answer it. Anyone?
13
         Anyone want to make a motion to approve or
14
15
    deny it?
    MRS. STERKX:
16
17
         I'd like to make a motion.
18
    MR. SAYBE:
19
         Yes, ma'am.
20
    MRS. STERKX:
21
          I'd like to move that we defer action on
22
    this until we -- I mean we've got three board
23
    members. I've only been a board member for,
    what, 45 minutes and I'd like to see more about
24
25
    the update of the land use before I can really
```

say. I mean it's been some very nice 1 2 explanations but I just think we don't need to rush into this. 3 4 MR. SAYBE: 5 Just a question. MRS. STERKX: 6 Uh-huh? MR. SAYBE: 8 9 You're making a motion to defer action on this to what date? I mean --10 MRS. STERKX: 11 12 How soon can we meet again? They've obviously got all the paperwork on the land use 13 14 program, they spent a lot of money on THINKAlex. And so, surely it couldn't take 15 16 very long. 17 MR. SAYBE: Well, you -- you -- we could -- if we could 18 19 defer it to a specific day if that's what you're proposing, I guess we could recess for 20 further -- recess the meeting to a specific day 21 and come back and vote. But you have to give us 22 23 a day and then we have to agree on it. I mean 24 you have to propose a day and then you can get a 25 second and then it'll be voted on.

```
MRS. STERKX:
1
2
         Fellow Board members?
    MS. BREWER:
3
4
         The next --
5
    MR. SAYBE:
6
         Yes, ma'am.
7
    MS. BREWER:
         The meeting's -- the first council meeting
8
    in January is the 9th and then I don't know --
9
10
    MS. BASCO:
         When's the next zoning meeting? It would
11
12
    be the 8th, that Monday?
    MS. BREWER:
13
         Yeah, this is the council -- that's
14
    correct. Sometime in January but I don't know
15
    the exact date. It would be like that Monday.
16
    Our first Monday would be the 8th.
17
    MR. SAYBE:
18
19
         What is the first Monday in January?
    MS. BREWER:
20
21
         The 8th.
    MR. SAYBE:
22
          If you -- I don't want to make a suggestion
23
24
    or tell you what to do but --
25
    MRS. STERKX:
```

```
I just want to find something that would be
1
2
    convenient.
    MR. SAYBE:
3
         Mr. George wanted to make a --
4
    MR. WHITE:
5
         I have a question before we go into that.
6
7
    Mr. Gist, Mr. Saybe said we are not to get
    involved -- really should not be involved and
8
    get ourselves tied up into who purchases it and
9
    what the price is. My concern is I have a
10
    twofold question to you as Mr. -- the City
11
12
    attorney: One, you said demote them back to
    personal property across the street where GAEDA
13
    owns the property, right, for a parking lot?
14
15
    MR. GIST:
         Well, the City has offered to purchase this
16
17
    property.
18
    MR. WHITE:
19
         But that's -- that's the plan for a parking
    lot, right?
20
    MR. GIST:
21
22
          It would be a parking lot and park. Yes,
    sir.
23
    MR. WHITE:
24
          My concern as a citizen is when I drive
25
```

```
1
    down that street quite a bit and it's kind of
    dark and the traffic can get kind of hectic and
2
    you got those people crossing that street.
3
    MR. GIST:
4
         They're talking about putting an archway
5
    over the street that will be lit that'll have a
6
    -- it'll be a bridge over the street, that's
7
    part of the plan that the City is
8
    contemplating. The FOTAZ and the zoo folks are
9
    interested in that being a gateway. That's
10
11
    what Mr. Silver referred to as a gateway
    structure, but it's going to be a bridge over
12
    the Masonic that's at least been talked about,
13
    Mr. White. Now what they end up doing down the
14
    road I don't know. I know they need parking.
15
         Does that answer your question?
16
    MR. WHITE:
17
18
         Partially, yes.
19
    MR. GIST:
         Okay. We've had a number of not only the
20
    FOTAZ, hotel/motel people have asked us to
21
    improve parking. We've had a number of other
22
23
    individuals that have expressed interest in the
    improvements to parking for not only the
24
25
    current location of the zoo but any expansion
```

```
of the zoo.
1
    MR. SAYBE:
2
         Ms. Joe Betty you want -- you want to
3
    finish your motion and we'll see if we can get a
4
    second?
5
    MRS. STERKX:
6
         Well, I'd like to have a definite date.
7
8
    MR. SAYBE:
         January the 8th I think is what --
9
    MRS. STERKX:
10
         Would that be acceptable to y'all?
11
    MR. SAYBE:
12
         Well, let's -- well you have to make the
13
    motion and we'll --
14
15
    MS. BREWER:
         Mr. Chairman, can I just interject, we have
16
    to have time to advertise and we've gone back
17
    into this. So really and truly it would be more
18
    -- it would be easier on everybody if we could
19
20
    do January the 29th or go into February 29th.
    MR. SAYBE:
21
22
          But wait a minute. We're not talking about
     -- we're not talking about another meeting --
23
    MS. BREWER:
24
          Yeah, but we have to advertise it.
25
```

```
1
    MR. SAYBE:
         I think we're deferring action to a
2
3
    particular date. This is the meeting.
    MR. JOHNSON:
4
         That's right.
5
    MS. BREWER:
6
         So we don't have to re-advertise?
7
    MR. GIST:
8
         No, no, no. No. You may have another
9
    meeting but this is just deferring.
10
    MR. SAYBE:
11
12
         And we're just deferring --
    MR. BUSSEY:
13
14
         The question will be put off till the next
15
    meeting is what we're doing.
16
    MR. SAYBE:
         We're recessing this meeting to a
17
    particular date to finish this meeting.
18
    MR. JOHNSON:
19
          We will be prepared at the earliest date
20
    that this Board wants to meet.
21
22
    MR. SAYBE:
23
          So you pick a date, put it to your motion,
24
    and --
25
                      (BOARD DISCUSSION)
```

```
MRS. STERKX:
1
2
         I propose, because of the Board of
    Adjustments and Appeal on the 8th, we'll do it
3
    -- I propose that we defer this until January
4
    16th.
5
6
    MS. BREWER:
         Monday's the 15th.
    MR. SAYBE:
8
         Well, let me just mention this to you. I
9
    don't think it has to be on a Monday, you
10
    understand, we're just recessing this meeting
11
    to a -- I mean your motion would be to recess
12
    this meeting to a particular day and time. So
13
    that's all you're restricted to, a particular
14
    day and time.
15
    MRS. STERKX:
16
         Could we do one in December?
17
    MR. BUSSEY:
18
19
         Yes, you can do December. You can do -- you
    can't do it on a council meeting night and they
20
    meet, I think, on the 9th. I think.
21
                    (BOARD DISCUSSION)
22
    MR. SAYBE:
23
         All right. Let's do this, let's try this,
24
    would you like to make a motion to recess this
25
```

```
meeting to a future date? Let's see if we can
1
2
    get a second and get that approved and then you
    can make a motion about what date you want it to
3
    be on. Because I'm not even sure this is going
4
    to fly.
5
6
    MRS. STERKX:
         Yeah.
    MR. SAYBE:
8
9
         You see what I'm saying?
    MRS. STERKX:
10
11
         Right.
12
    MR. SAYBE:
         All right. So I'm sorry, I shouldn't have
13
    made you -- just -- I think what you want to do,
14
    and don't let me do it, is that you want to move
15
    that this meeting be recessed to a future
16
17
    hearing day so at which time the City could
    present more information?
18
19
    MRS. STERKX:
20
          Exactly.
21
    MR. SAYBE:
22
          Okay.
23
    MRS. STERKX:
24
          I so move.
25
    MR. SAYBE:
```

```
Is that your motion?
1
    MRS. STERKX:
2
3
         That's my motion.
    MR. SAYBE:
4
         Okay. The next question is, is there a
5
    second?
6
    MR. BERNARD:
7
         I've got one question. If we did do this
8
    what would be good for you guys to meet? What
9
    day?
10
    MR. UPTON:
11
         We filed our application in January --
12
    MR. SAYBE:
13
         Well, excuse. Go ahead and come to the
14
15
    podium.
16
    MR. UPTON:
         Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. We would like a
17
18
    vote today. I mean we've been fighting this
    for a year. Mr. Hankins has been up here four
19
20
    times from Lake Charles. I mean we just want a
    resolution today. If the preference is to
21
22
    delay it and it's just deferred let's have the
    meeting next week. If there's no advertising
23
    or anything.
24
25
    MR. SAYBE:
```

```
Well, first of all we've got to see if
1
2
    there's enough votes to defer it or to recess
    the meeting to a future day. So that's the
3
4
    motion that's on the table right now.
    MRS. STERKX:
5
6
         So can I get a second from any --
7
    MR. SAYBE:
         Well, that's what --
8
    MRS. STERKX:
9
         -- to do this?
10
    MR. SAYBE:
11
12
         -- that's what we're trying to find out.
    MR. BERNARD:
13
14
          I just want one more question. Would the
15
    City be ready next week to --
16
    MR. GIST:
17
         Yes.
    MR. GREEN:
18
19
         No.
    MR. BERNARD:
20
21
         Huh?
22
    MR. GIST:
23
          Yes.
    MR. BERNARD:
24
25
         Well what's next week, next Monday?
```

```
1
    MR. WHITE:
      He said no.
    MR. GREEN:
3
         I'm sorry. That came from me and it was
4
    illegal but okay.
5
    MR. JOHNSON:
6
         The presentation would be from the
7
    administration, it wouldn't be from Mr. Green.
8
    Yes, we can do it next week.
9
10
    MR. SAYBE:
         Well, you -- I'm sorry. Mr. Johnson, your
11
12
    answer is one week would be sufficient?
    MR. JOHNSON:
13
         Yes, sir.
14
15
    MR. SAYBE:
16
         Okay, thank you. All right. So Mr.
17
    Bernard had his question answered. The motion
    is on the floor that we recess this meeting for
18
    one -- no, just the motion is on the floor that
19
20
    this meeting be recessed and a future date be
21
    set, that's the motion. Is there a second to
22
    that motion? Okay, the motion dies for lack of
    a second.
23
24
         All right. Now is there a motion to
    approve or deny this application?
25
```

MR. SOPRANO:

1

2

3

4

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25

Based on everything I heard, and I agree with everything you said, but I'm a little confused on the zoning role on this. But as a citizen of the City of Alexandria and the community I have a -- I have a belief in the Masonic Corridor and what I think the vision has always been from both GAEDA and the City. I feel like you guys are kind of getting caught in the cross hairs to be honest. But I would like to do a motion to deny it.

MR. SAYBE:

Mr. Soprano has made a motion to deny the application. Is there a second to that motion? Look, we cannot -- we cannot do nothing. That is not an option.

All right, so let's try again. Is there a motion to approve the application? All right. MR. BUSSEY:

I would recommend that you go back and perhaps someone would want to re-urge the motion to postpone to a definite date. sounds to me -- and you can do that at any time. It sounds to me like the commissioners need more time to decide. Would y'all --

```
1
    MR. SAYBE:
2
         Well, let's -- I appreciate that. Let's
3
    play this out a little bit. All right. There's
    a motion to approve -- there has not been a
4
    motion to approve. There's been a motion to
5
    deny. So let's try one more time. Are you
6
    still willing to make that motion?
    MR. SOPRANO:
8
9
         Yes, sir.
10
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. Is there a second to that motion?
11
12
    Okay, let's circle the wagons again. Do you
13
    want to make a motion to recess this meeting to
14
    a future date and time?
15
    MRS. STERKX:
16
         I do.
    MR. SAYBE:
17
         Okay. And what date and time would that
18
    be?
19
    MS. BREWER:
20
21
        Next week.
22
    MRS. STERKX:
23
         Whatever day next week.
    MR. SAYBE:
24
         Okay. What is next Monday?
25
```

```
MS. BREWER:
1
2
         Next Monday is December the 4th.
    MR. SAYBE:
3
         Okay, the motion's been made that we recess
4
5
    this meeting till Monday, December the 4th at
    4:00 p.m.
6
    MRS. STERKX:
8
         Correct.
9
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. Where this matter will be taken up
10
    and voted on; are we okay with that?
11
    MRS. STERKX:
12
         And be done with it.
13
    MR. SAYBE:
14
          Okay. All right. So the motion on the
15
    table is that this matter be recessed for one
16
17
    week till Monday, December the 4th at 4p.m. and
    that it be voted on. Is there a second to that?
18
    MR. BERNARD:
19
20
          I second.
    MR. SAYBE:
21
2.2
          Okay. Second by Mr. Bernard. All in favor
23
    signify by saying aye.
    MRS. STERKX:
24
25
          Aye.
```

```
MR. BERNARD:
1
2
        Aye.
3
    MR. SAYBE:
        All opposed?
4
    MR. SOPRANO:
5
         Opposed.
6
7
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. You're opposed?
8
    MR. SOPRANO:
9
10
         I mean that's not going to change the vote.
    MR. SAYBE:
11
         No. It's two to one, so.
12
    MR. SOPRANO:
13
         Did Mr. White not vote?
14
15
    MR. SAYBE:
         Did you vote, Mr. White?
16
    MRS. STERKX:
17
         No.
18
    MR. WHITE:
19
         No, I won't be able to make the meeting.
20
    MR. SAYBE:
21
22
          No, well this is just the motion about it.
    MR. WHITE:
23
24
         Oh. Yeah.
    MR. SAYBE:
25
```

```
Are you against that because you won't be
1
2
    here?
    MR. WHITE:
3
         I decline.
4
    MR. SAYBE:
5
         You're going to abstain?
6
7
    MR. WHITE:
        Abstain.
8
    MR. SAYBE:
9
10
        All right. So --
    MR. JOHNSON:
11
12
         So we still need how many votes --
    MR. SAYBE:
13
         Let's have a roll call vote on this. How
14
15
    about that? Okay.
    MS. BASCO:
16
17
         Mr. Saybe?
    MR. SAYBE:
18
          I'm sorry, who?
19
    MS. BASCO:
20
          I'm doing a roll call?
21
    MR. SAYBE:
22
          Well, I can't vote so -- I mean I can vote
23
     if there's a tie.
24
25
    MS. BREWER:
```

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Right. Mr. White?
1
2
    MR. JOHNSON:
         I disagree with you. You -- you are the
3
    Chair of this Board, you're present for the
4
    meeting, you either have to vote for it,
5
6
    against it, or you have to abstain.
7
    MR. SAYBE:
         No. Mr. Johnson, years ago we adopted a
8
9
    policy --
10
    MR. WHITE:
         We have five people.
11
12
    MR. SAYBE:
         We adopted a policy that the Chairman would
13
    not vote except in the matter of a tie to break
14
    the tie. So --
15
16
    MS. BASCO:
17
         Mr. Bernard?
18
    MR. BERNARD:
          What am I voting on now?
19
    MR. SAYBE:
20
          This is the motion to recess it for one
21
22
    week till Monday, December the 4th at 4:00 p.m.
23
    where there will be a vote yay or nay.
24
    MR. BERNARD:
          Yeah. Yes.
25
```

```
MR. SAYBE:
1
2
         Okay.
    MS. BASCO:
3
         Mr. Soprano?
4
    MR. SOPRANO:
5
6
        No.
    MS. BASCO:
        Mrs. Sterkx?
8
    MRS. STERKX:
9
         Yes.
10
11
    MS. BASCO:
         We have two yeses, one no.
12
    MR. SAYBE:
13
         Okay. And Mr. White's going to -- you want
14
    to go on record as an abstention; is that
15
16
    correct?
17
    MR. WHITE:
         Yeah, I abstain.
18
19
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. All right. So we have the roll call
20
    vote. We'll -- we will meet Monday, December
21
22
    the 4th at 4:00 p.m. to finish this matter.
23
    MR. UPTON:
          I just wanted -- the quorum, you need three
24
25
    of the five votes. You only have two to one the
```

motion fails. 1 MR. SAYBE: 3 No, it's -- it's -- it's a majority of the voting membership. 4 MR. WHITE: 5 6 Well, two to three. MR. UPTON: 7 So a majority of the voting --8 9 MR. JOHNSON: 10 The majority of the entire Body voted. Three out of the five voted. 11 12 MR. SAYBE: 13 He abstained so you got two --MR. WHITE: 14 15 Two -- two yes. MR. UPTON: 16 So we have a -- we have a Board of five so 17 18 to pass a motion you need three votes to pass any motion. 19 20 MR. SAYBE: All right. To break the tie I vote in favor 21 22 so that this happens next Monday at 4:00 p.m. That should clear it up. 23 So the next item on the agenda would be an 24 adoption of the minutes from the last meeting. 25

```
MRS. STERKX:
1
2
         So move to accept the minutes.
    MR. BERNARD:
3
         I second.
4
5
    MR. SAYBE:
         Okay. It's been moved by Mrs. Sterkx that
6
    the minutes from the last meeting be approved
    and seconded by Mr. Bernard. All in favor
8
    signify by saying aye.
9
10
    ALL PRESENT:
11
         Aye.
    MR. SAYBE:
12
         Any opposed? That's by unanimous vote.
13
    The next item would be any other business.
14
15
    Anybody want to bring anything up? Okay. The
    next item would be a motion to adjourn.
16
17
    MR. WHITE:
18
         So moved.
    MRS. STERKX:
19
20
    I second.
    MR. SAYBE:
21
22
          It's been moved by Mr. White and seconded
    by Mrs. Sterkx that we adjourn the meeting.
23
    All in favor signify by saying aye.
24
25
    ALL PRESENT:
```

1	Aye.
2	MR. SAYBE:
3	Any opposed? Okay. The meeting is
4	adjourned.
5	MEETING CONCLUDED AT 4:58 P.M.
6	
7	
8	
9	- CHAIRPERSON
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
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