CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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March 28, 2017 Start: 10:02 a.m. Recess: 10:55 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.

16th Fl

B E F O R E: DONOVAN J. RICHARDS

Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel R. Garodnick

Jumaane D. Williams Antonio Reynoso Ritchie J. Torres Vincent J. Gentile

Ruben Wills

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Jerry Johnson, Legal Counsel Fox Rothschild

Jesse Masyr, Legal Counsel Fox Rothschild

Richard Lobel Sheldon Lobel PC

Brian Brown SEIU, Local 32BJ

Yohay Albo, Architect Albo Liberis [gavel]

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CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Good morning. I'm Donovan Richards Chair of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, and this morning we're joined by Council Member Corey Johnson. We have two applications on public-for public hearing consideration today, West 23rd Street, text amendment Land Use Item No. 591 and 901 Manor Road commercial o overlay Land Use Item No. 592. [background comments] Oh, wrong. Oh, I'm-I apologize. Actually Rose Castle Land Use Item No. 589 and 590 and West 23rd Street Text Amendment Land Use Item No. 591. First, we are going to lay over Land Use Item No. 592 until our next public hearing, and we will now move onto a public hearing on Land Use Item No. 591, the West 23rd Street Text Amendment. This application is for an amendment to the zoning resolution that would modify the bulk regulations applicable to the Special West Chelsea District. The amendment would allow for the transfer of floor area between potions of the development site and facilitate the development of an approximately 228,000 square foot mixed-use building. This application affects property located in Council Member Johnson's district. I will now open the

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    SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES
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    public hearing on Land Use Item No. 591. Corey, do
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     you want to say anything? Okay. So we'll begin and
    we'll call the first applicant Jerry Johnson from 60
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     Columbus Circle? Am I right?
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                JERRY JOHNSON: [off mic] Oh, Rochelle.
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    Okay and Jessie--
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                JERRY JOHNSON: Mazer.
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                CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Mazer.
                JERRY JOHNSON: Has stepped out for a--
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                CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. No problem.
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     So you may begin.
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                JERRY JOHNSON:
                                [pause] Good morning,
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    Chair Richards, Committee Members and Council Member
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     Johnson. My name is Jerry Johnson with the firm of
    Fox Rothschild and we representing 23rd and Eleventh
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    Avenue Associates, LLC, the applicant for this
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    action. The action before you today is a request for
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    text amendment that will permit floor area generated
     in two different C63 districts to be located on the
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     zoning lot without regard to district boundary lines.
     If approved, the action will facilitate the
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    redevelopment of the property on the southeast corner
    of the intersection 11th Avenue and West 23rd Street
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in the West Chelsea District, the site currently

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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1 SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 7 by way of a chart where the old height factor FARs 2 3 were normalized and rounded down. So 6.02 became 6. 4 7.52 became 7.5. The change had the unintended consequence of allowing-of not allowing floor area to 5 be moved across the district boundary lines in an as-6 7 of-right manner. This application seeks only to break that movement in existing floor area between 8 the C63-A district and the C63 Subarea D district on the single zoning lot, and I'm available for 10 11 questions.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Great. Thank you so much, and—and before I go to Council Member

Johnson just a few quick questions. So I—I noticed the Community Board obviously voted against this application. Can you go into what—what some of the concerned raised at a Community Board?

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JERRY JOHNSON: The Community Boards for this application they were—they were fine with this project itself. Their vote was conditioned on some things happening on another site nearby and we are working with HPD to resolve that.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And can you go into that a little further, and are the some affordable housing issues or--?

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JERRY JOHNSON: There was a-there an existing-existing building that was demolished that seems to have been contrary to the underlying regulations in the harassment district for a Special West Chelsea, and we're resolving the-the question of having to do that right now.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: And those issues are not resolved. From what I heard, there was a breakdown somewhere perhaps in communication and--

JERRY JOHNSON: [interposing] Well, we're working with HPD to try to resolve the issue.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, and then can you just go through so I know U-Haul is there. If you can just go through how you're going to ensure that they can remain and any issues around U-Haul as well.

JERRY JOHNSON: U-Haul one of the conditions of—of dealing—we've worked with them for over 10 years on the site, and one of the conditions is that they remain on the site, and so their existing three-story building is—will need to be retrofitted, but they will be working to do that. They've got the plans to do that, and they will remain on site, but obviously reduced operation, but

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 9					
2	it was very important that they remain a presence in					
3	this part of Manhattan, and this location is a very					
4	popular location for them and they and they—that was					
5	one of their conditions of going forward with this,					
6	and so we will work with them to maintain on the					
7	site.					
8	CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Reduction in					
9	parking or anything of that nature in terms of?					
10	JERRY JOHNSON: Their-their operations					
11	will be a little bit reduced—					
12	CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing]					
13	Okay.					
14	JERRY JOHNSON:only because they now					
15	span the entire site, but they are comfortable with					
16	the space they have in their existing two-story					
17	building that will accommodate the					
18	CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] And					
19	with the reduction have any impact on the local					
20	community?					
21	JERRY JOHNSON: It should not other than					
22	consolidating it all in one location.					
23	CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alright, I'm going					

to go to Council Member Corey Johnson.

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Richards. Good to see you this morning. Thanks for being here. So I just want to dig a little deeper into the unresolved HPD issue. I know that related—your applicant [coughs] or your client has been looking to resolve this with HPD, but there is now a process that has to take place, a cure process for the replacement of I believe it was six units that had to be replaced. So do you have any sense right now of the actual timing or what—or what needs to happen because it doesn't sound like these issues are going to be resolved before this come up for a vote at the Council.

TERRY JOHNSON: The timing we we're—we're trying to work with HPD to do that, and that will not—I mean we've committed to resolving the issue.

There is nothing we can do on that property. I mean we can't move forward with that property or anything with until these issues are resolved. We're a longstanding member of the community. You know that. You're—we're—we're part of—in a number of locations here and—and it is our full intention to resolve the issues in a positive manner that works for everybody including HPD, the Community Board and yourself.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: So, I'm supportive 3 of this project, and I've worked with you all and I 4 have a great relationship with-you're client related, and I think they've done a lot of really important stuff in the community. At the same time, I don't 6 7 want to give anyone special treatment. S o what I 8 mean by that is no one should be illegally demolishing buildings. It doesn't matter if you're related, it doesn't matter if you are Mr. X, you 10 11 should not be illegally demolishing buildings. So it 12 just--the Community Board I believe, and I understand 13 the perception and related for whatever reason 14 demolishes a building that has six units of 15 affordable housing where the underlying zoning didn't 16 permit that, and now they're coming to us for 17 rezoning. It doesn't look great, but I'm willing to 18 see the project. We just need to sort this out. I know sorting it out is not all entirely within your 19 20 control that HPD has a process that likely will play 21 out over a longer time horizon than has allowed or 2.2 contemplated under the remaining time on the ULURP 2.3 clock, but what I need from-from you all from the related team and-and you as their counsel, you and 24 25 Jessie are counselors, is some type of sort of

2 roadmap and plan or document sort of stating kind of

3 just sort of stating this is in writing how—how we're

4 going to resolve this issue given that are Community

5 Board concerns. That's all I need. Something along

6 those lines. Make sure the light is on.

JESSE MASYR: Jesse Masyr. I'm Counsel to the related and a member of the firm of Fox Rothschild, and that's the longer part of my statement because the shorter part is yes we'll—we'll deliver to this committee exactly what you're saying, the road map to the solution and the steps and—and in concurrence with HPD.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And the commitment is to have related somewhere in its portfolio replace the six units that were lost with six affordable housing units? That's the—that's sort of the contours of this?

JESSE MASYR: Or of an equivalency, correct like a—one of the things that was discussed with the Community Board was extending and creating additional units and then—and building at a lower affordability, something like that.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: That's—that's

fine, but just to have that delineated and have a

document would be really helpful.

JESSE MASYR: We'll-we'll prepare and supply the committee with such a document.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And how long do you think it will take to get that?

 $\label{eq:def-JESSE MASYR: Barring a snowstorm} % \begin{subarray}{ll} \textbf{Masyr: Barring a snowstorm} \\ \textbf{Masyr: Barring a sn$

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great so next week would be great.

JESSE MASYR: Yeah.

the—the 23rd Street portion of the site and not just of—of your site, but of a significant portion of the block, you know, is pretty beat up given the U—Haul operations, the trucks being parked on the sidewalk and coming in and out. As part of the redevelopment of the site, are there plans to redo the sidewalk, keep the current council where they're needed (sic), but also ensure that the sidewalk is a safe, good sidewalk for the folks that are living in the building and also the folks in the public that use that sidewalk.

members-members of the public who wish to testify on

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: acknowledge this development team. I think when I first took over this portion of the district upon

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2 redistricting in 2014, I think one of the first

3 | meetings I had with Community Board 3 was regarding

4 | this site, and—and this development team came and—and

5 that conversation to-to my knowledge commenced back,

6 you know, in probably January or February of 2014.

7 So this is three years later. So just to-to go on

8 the record and saying that this has been probably an

9 ongoing conversation for those past three years?

10 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you, Council

11 Member Levin. So our first panel is Richard Lobel,

12 | Sheldon Lobel, Riverside Developers USA, Frank St.

13 Jacques, Sheldon Lobel, Riverside Developers USA

14 Yohay Albo, Project Architect and Mr. Weiss, River-

15 Riverside Developers as well. So, you may begin, Mr.

16 Lobel.

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17 RICHARD LOBEL: Thank you, Chair

18 Richards. Good morning and good morning to the

19 | Council Members. Again, Richard Lobel from Sheldon

20 | Lobel PC, and we're her today to discuss the Rose

21 | Castle Rezoning. We're happy to be here before the

22 subcommittee. This has been as Council Member Levin

23 | stated a longstanding project, and one which we've

than five times. So it's been a really long engaged

Board, we've now reached a point where there is a

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that Zelig and Riverside Developers is not a stranger

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which was initially proposed by the apps-the

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

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CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Yes, so can you just speak to why we didn't go with that option?

RICHARD LOBEL: This was a-a long and-and thoroughly reviewed discussion, and it was the product of-much reviewed by the applicant in accordance with the hearings that we attended, and what happened was that the applicant here looked at a building which was not going to request any subsidy from the city. So we did a really through review of the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program, the-the City Planning Report approving that, the Council's discussion of that report. And the-the workforce option basically would allow this building to exist without any subsidies from the city. So while Option 1 and Option 2 are often utilized with regards to in a very strong market low-lower subsidy, and in a weaker housing market would exist only with HPD subsidy or city subsidy. The permanent affordability of the workforce option allows that building to exist without any subsidy whatsoever. It's basically reserved for moderate emerging areas, which we'll be able to internally subsidize this property. So when we looked at the BA Economic Study produce in September 2015 in support of the Mandatory

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Inclusionary Housing program, this particular NTA, this Neighborhood Tabulation Area, was identified as on e of the areas within Brooklyn, which would allows for imposition of the-of the workforce option. so that's the decision that was made by the applicant. The idea here, and we've talked to HPD and reached out to them providing them with all the information with regards to this building. But the idea was that-would be that this building would be self-sustaining and would provide permanent affordable housing for middle-income families. so I think that that discussion was important to the applicant, and one of the reasons is because we come in here a lot for rezonings and we in here a lot forfor upzonings, and the truth is that the underlying district here in the M12 allows either the bulk they're asking for or actually M12 allows greater than that bulk. So we're asking for an R7A, and that would allow for a 4.6 floor area ratio. The existing floor area ratio under the M12 for a community facility and commercial building would be 4.8. think that there's been a recognition that-that we're asking for what amounts to less bulk in the building, but in order to really provide for a continuing

RICHARD LOBEL: There you go.

1 2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Right, so I--I get 3 that, but my-but my question to you is so did the 4 developers-did your team just not foresee the need for a subsidy here or--? RICHARD LOBEL: Correct. They basically 6 7 looked at the --8 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] So 9 you were looking to basically-and I-I appreciate your truth in this. So you're appreciate-you're-you 10 11 technically were looking just to build for the middle 12 market based on the-the study. 13 RICHARD LOBEL: Correct, to build for the middle market, and to-to not require city subsidies 14 15 for a building, which provide permanent affordability 16 for middle income families who are in may respects-17 don't have the-the available housing options that would otherwise be around that? 18 19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay. I'm going 20 to move from that. Can you go through parking and any other issues that the Community Board brought up. 21 So 262 units? 2.2

2.3 RICHARD LOBEL: 296 only.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: 296 units. Can

25 you speak to those?

2 RICHARD LOBEL: The parking that would 3 provided would actually be above and beyond what 4 would be required under zoning. I believe that there would be 84 spaces provided in the-on the Flushing 5 Avenue site, and 64 spaces provided on the Franklin 6 7 Skillman (sic) site. That provides spaces for 50% of 8 units including the inclusionary units, which would otherwise be extracted from the calculation. So wewe do-and we-you know, it was-I mean it was a really 10 11 great process. My history as far as Community Board 12 3 is in the past. I brought applications and frankly 13 as a matter of public record that application is with 14 applicants who were-who were as a-as a-you know, 15 really is a legal matter, and a-and a matter of 16 record with applicants who were Jewish applicants, 17 who did not receive really the—a really welcoming 18 discussion from the Community Board, and again as a 19 matter of public record, there was a-a discussion 20 back then of who is this property being-who is this 21 housing being built for? Will it be built for 2.2 members of the community? And there-it was the cause 2.3 of much divisiveness. It was great to now come to the Community Board and to have a project, which 24 there was an understanding, and that was an 25

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 28					
2	understanding is that the developer now will be held					
3	to a standard, which has been set forth by the City.					
4	This is Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. This is the					
5	law, and we know as a matter of fact that 50% of					
6	those affordable units are going to go community					
7	members. So it's-it was a, you know, this was a-full					
8	discussion with the community and—and—and we're happy					
9	to we're into that.					
10	CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.					
11	Alright, I'm going to go to Council Member Levin, and					
12	I'll come back.					
13	COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Chair					
14	Richards. So, on the workforce because this will be					
15	the first time that the workforce option was taken.					
16	So I just want to make sure that I have it—I have it					
17	clear. So, it's 30% of the units are—are quote,					
18	unquote affordable, right?					
19	RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.					
20	COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Five percent of					
21	the total units are at 70.					
22	RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.					
23	COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Five percent of					
24	the total units are at 90.					

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: So then we still
3 have another 20% affordable left. Now, does—is—is
4 115 the average of that 20% or is 115 the average of
5 the 30%?

RICHARD LOBEL: The 30%.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: The 30%. Okay. So then—so then that would—I mean we'd have to do the math to see exactly what the span then would be, but going up to 130 there will probably be more on the—on the upper end to balance—to average out to 115 if you've—if you've got, if you're factoring in the—the 70s and the 90s.

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay. With regard to—to unit size, how—there's—the application has identified unit size breakdown, and they're different for the two different sites.

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

council Member Levin: But if you could speak to that, and then—and then how is that—is that—is that—that's—you're not legally bound to that, right? So that—how—what would—what or are you legally bound to that under the Zoning Application?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: The same ratio.

be along Flushing. The Community Board noted that

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2 they did want to see retail in this area that

3 currently if you take a look at the uses particularly

4 on that block, you've got a catering facility and

5 | window and door company, and so, they were anxious to

6 see retail there. So that would be-that would be

7 provided on that street there.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: In terms of the—
the BP recommendations, one of the recommendations is
choosing from local not-for-profits to work with on—I
imagine on the affordable marketing, is that right?

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And you have agreed to that?

and the requirements t MIH require a regulatory agent, administering agent as per MIH guidelines, and so we're happy to work with one of the local development corporations that was offered by the community board. It's—it is—in the—in the views of—of Zelig, it's—it's someone who is going to be more familiar with the area anyway so we're happy to do that.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay, and that's
3 something that—that—that you'd commit to in some type
4 of binding fashion?

RICHARD LOBEL: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: In terms of the MWBE efforts, can you speak a little bit to that?

RICHARD LOBEL: Sure. Riverside has as we talked about already developed 25 buildings within Community Board 3, and so there was discussion—discussion of MWBE participation, and the community board was actually happy with their level of MWBE participation that had been utilized to date. So in their prior developments we talked about some of the larger buildings that they built, and talked about some of the MWBE participation, but I think the short of it is that the developer her is committed to local hiring, and to MWBE, and so that was something that the Community Board offered that we said we would be happy to comply with.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And that would be committed to in some type of legally binding fashion?

RICHARD LOBEL: Yes.

into the current data?

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measures?

2 RICHARD LOBEL: I'm—I'm a little bit
3 unclear. Is this with regards to the sustainability

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: It says we have an—that we plant additional street trees in—in—in consultation with CB3?

RICHARD LOBEL: Yes. Council Member

Levin, may I introduce the Project Director Claribel

(sic) to discuss this briefly?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Sure.

Obviously the regulations that govern or application, absolutely, you know, it will be Parks Department application and so forth, and it depends on what the Parks Department requires of us on the site itself.

I'm not sure if that particular statement was asked to go beyond that particular assessment. It's very hard actually in terms of I already know that just a little bit in terms of a preliminary total picture of the Parks Department, is that a lot of these commercial districts are—tend to not be desirable spaces for trees just simply from the nature of the storefronts and—and the commercial trucking and items and such that happens in these areas. But as far as—

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as—as let's say paying towards the bank of the Parks

Department so that we can commit to a certain amount—

a number of trees and so forth. It was absolutely

5 something that we're very much open to.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: In terms of sustainability measures. So this is a—this a fair amount of—of root space. Have you—have you explored any type of green roof or solar panel options. It's a lot roof space.

YOHAY ALBO: Correct. So the main—the main thing that we've tried to actually achieve, we are really open to achieve with this with the projects with our previous experiences we Zelig Weiss that remind—our first spaces are a remarkable investments in your business—in your buildings—

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Uh-huh.

YOHAY ALBO: -- and especially the fact that this is going to be a great mix of union talk and we're assuming all the families with kids and so forth, and so we are looking to capitalize on actually a lot of the roof surfaces such as the roof surface over the cellar level of the parking, possibly with—good portions of the main roof surfaces of the building. He turned them into actually

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay, and those would—for those spots that are not going to be recaptured for recreation space, have you explored doing anything around, you know, sustainability measures? I think green roofs can help with your—with your CO² emissions. It also helps with your own heating costs so on and so forth. Heating and cooling costs.

YOHAY ALBO: Correct. I mean solar panels and items of such have been improving themselves in over—you know, economically it's for such developments and—and owners on a really scales of reservation units, and as far as the majority of the—the surface of—of—

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing] And also plantings and things like that.

YOHAY ALBO: Correct. The majority of the surfaces of this roof—main roof surfaces are going to end up being planted or paved or areas for—for tenancies, and then some of the few areas such as

RICHARD LOBEL: Okay.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay, I'll this 3 back to my Chair.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you. We're going to go to Council Member Reynoso. Just want to acknowledge we've been joined by Chair Greenfield as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Hello, guys. I just wanted to ask questions regarding the CB3 vote. It says MIH Option 1 must be used. Should you have told them that you were going to use Option 4, that you're considering Option 4? Would they have approved this project?

approached them with the workforce option, it was ait was a distinctive conversation over the course of
about a year and a half to two years, and the answer
is I don't know. I think that the—the conversations
that took place after the first turndown were very
stark in that I think that the Community Board
recognized that it was a very feasible outcome here,
which was that there would be no housing produced on
the site, and I don't see that in the way of anything
threatening. It's more that the available bulk of
the site would be able to produce a building of

you'll excuse me for one moment. [pause]

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2 RICHARD LOBEL: [interposing] That was—
3 that was the language was—

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: That language is correct. (sic)

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Alright, and we'll work on with it with the Chair and see what they say. You know, it's still from 1 to 4.

RICHARD LOBEL: Understood.

and the second thing is the change from R7A to R6A on the Flushing Avenue site. Is that something that we're seeing here in our renderings when you presented to us as the—the change from R7A to R6A on Flushing?

RICHARD LOBEL: We did not reflect that.

The—there is an R6A component and an R7A component in the zoning, and the community board discussed the bulk on Flushing, and so again this is—this is their—that was their preference and it would—it said to consider the existing built character of Flushing Avenue. The built character of Flushing Avenue as reflected in the City Planning Commission approval discusses the fact that there are many seven to eight story buildings in this immediate area, and there's—

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there's an R7-1 District that was rezoned to R71 across the street. You can see it on the top of the gray area, R71 across Flushing Avenue. So, I think that the discussion with the Community Board understanding what's in the resolutions, and from an architectural standpoint we did make modifications to the building design in order to satisfy the Land Use Committee. We removed bulk and we set the bulk back from the street. It's really kind of heartening towhenever you looked at a process over the course of two years because there were aspects of the building design where the community board asked for changes in the design, and the-the two-the applicant team did that, and there was a very positive response. again, you are correct. It does say, you know, there was a request to reduce from 7A to 6A, but-but while we did not do that, I think there was a fairly thorough discussion in the Community Board, and there're were architectural methods that were explored as well as a modification of layouts and parking layouts and traffic layouts, which tried to respond to a lot of the Community Board comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Alright, so you're saying even though you might have not gotten

was a-a discussion at the Community Board. One of

officers of them. He was-he was a-an employee, but

he's known-he also-Mr. Weiss subsequently appeared at

the gentlemen who stood up was not one of the

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2 the Brooklyn Borough President's hearing as well as

3 in subsequent hearings, and we've-we've engaged them

4 in conversation through our representatives. So

5 there's-there's the awareness of who the applicants

6 | are and—and we're tipping down a little bit.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: So, just the history that we have with developers in our districts is that developers stand in the shadows. When things go awry or go wrong they're nowhere to be found. No one knows what they look like, and we're just trying to make sure that we put a face to the—their buildings. I—this is their property. We just want to know who it is.

RICHARD LOBEL: Absolutely, and—and—and I think to—to—to the credit of Riverside and to Zelig subsequent to the Community Board hearing we did reach out to some community representatives who had introduced themselves that CB3 full board hearing, and that's reflected in the Brooklyn Borough President's hearing, those individuals who identified themselves at Brooklyn Borough President's hearing said that, you know, on the record said that—that the applicant did reach out to them and there's been an

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the option that you have chosen here not because they

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have a higher AMI. I believe that people who have high AMIs are also in assistance, but if they need assistance, we certainly know that people at lower AMIs need assistance, and this doesn't include 80. It doesn't even go below 70, and what you're asking for, and I think that's reprehensible? I just want to put that on the record. My hope is that this body will revisit MIH. We are in a crisis now. Too often we're speaking about homelessness in separate terms than the housing client. This directly contributes homelessness. Most of the things that make the news are the larger re-zonings, but I think what's damaging more are these projects. These are the ones that chip away at communities. They go under the radar. They do not get the attention that they deserve, but they are destroying these communities and causing more and more homelessness. It is your job and the people who come here to look at it very myopathy I guess. We look at it as the basis of that one particular project. We as the body should be looking at it and how would that one project overlays with the entire city, the borough and the Community Board? We were derelict in that when we did the MIH. My hope is that we're not derelict any more as we

have one applicant another one person testifying from

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2 the public, Bryant Brown representing SEIU, Local
3 32BJ. [pause]

BRYANT BROWN: Good morning, Council Thank you for the opportunity to testify Members. this morning. My name is Bryant Brown, and I am here speaking on behalf of the 163,000 Building Service Workers that our Labor Union, SEIU 32BJ represents nationwide. 32BJ members maintain, clean and provide security services in schools as well as residential a commercial buildings all across the five boroughs including buildings like the proposed Rose Castle Redevelopment. Building service jobs can be jobs that pay poverty wages with no benefits, or they can be quality jobs that pay wages that allow people to put a roof over their head. This is why I'm here today. I want to ensure that Rose Castle will create good building service jobs that pay prevailing wage. This commitment to good jobs is important. The city has an affordable housing crisis, and an income and equality crisis. That's why we need to do all that we can to ensure that new developments like Rose Castle are creating the housing and the jobs that Brooklyn residents need to be able to afford and support themselves and their families in New York

City. SEIU 32BJ has repeatedly called on developers
to make a commitment to providing high quality jobs
at Rose Castle. We have reached out to Riverside
Developers USA and their head officer David Weiss
many times, but to this day they have not committed
to create good quality jobs. Until the developers
make this commitment, we cannot and will not support
this project and, therefore, call upon the Zoning and
Franchises Subcommittee to not approve the project
until this is a-until there is a commitment to good
jobs. The prevailing wage is the industry standard
wage across the five boroughs, and I urge the Zoning
and Franchises Subcommittee to ensure that it is
upheld as the standard in this community. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much for your testimony today. Alrighty, are there any other members of the public who wish to testify on Land Use Items No. 589 and 590? Okay. So we are laying over Land Use Items 589, 590 and 591 and 592 for a future meeting, and with that being said, this meeting is now adjourned. [gavel]

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 21, 2017