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AND APPEALS

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220-08-BZ

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221-08-BZ

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222-08-BZ

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223-08-BZ

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224-08-BZ

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DESIGNATIONS: D-Department of Buildings; B.BK.-Department of Buildings, Brooklyn; B.M.-Department of Buildings, Manhattan; B.Q.-Department of Buildings, Queens; B.S.I.-Department of Buildings, Staten Island; B.BX.-Department of Building, The Bronx; H.D.-Health Department; F.D.-Fire Department.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008, 10:00 A.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a public hearing, Tuesday morning, September 23, 2008, 10:00 A.M., at 40 Rector Street, 6th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10006, on the following matters:

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

681-68-BZ

APPLICANT – Gerald J. Caliendo, R.A., AIA, for Sharon Cohen, owner.

SUBJECT – Application June 4, 2008 - Amendment to a previously granted Variance (72-21) for the change of use on the first floor of an existing one story building from Offices (UG6) and Air-Freight Storage (UG16) to Retail Stores (UG6), in an R3-1 zoning district, with accessory storage in the cellar and accessory parking for patrons to remain.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 137-42 Guy Brewer Boulevard, northwest corner of 140th Avenue and Guy Brewer Boulevard, Block 12309, Lot 17, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #12Q

389-85-BZ

APPLICANT – Walter T. Gorman, P.E., P.C., for Exxon Mobil Corporation, owner; Mobil On The Run, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application June 13, 2008 - Extension of Time to Obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for a UG16 Automotive Service Station (Mobil), in a C2-3/R7-1 zoning district, which expired on October 26, 2000 and an Amendment to legalize the conversion of the service bays to a convenience store.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 2090 Bronxdale Avenue, bounded by Brady Avenue, White Plains Road, Bronx Park East and Bronxdale Avenue, Block 4283, Lot 1, Borough of Bronx.

COMMUNITY BOARD #11BX

222-90-BZ

APPLICANT – Cozen O'Connor by Barbara Hair, Esq., for 80-02 Fee Owner LLC, owner; Jack LaLanne Fitness Centers d/b/a Bally Total Fitness; lessee.

SUBJECT – Application August 7, 2008 - Extension of Term/waiver for the continued operation of a previously granted PCE (Bally Total Fitness), in a C4-4 zoning district, which expired on August 13, 2006 and an Extension of Time to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy which expired on September 23, 1998.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, west side of block front at Union Turnpike, Block 3348, Lot 37, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #9Q

68-94-BZ

APPLICANT – Cozen O'Connor, for Bay Plaza Community Center LLC, owner; Jack LaLanne Fitness Centers, Incorporated, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application August 14, 2008 - Extension of Time to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for a previously granted special permit for the operation of a PCE (Bally Total Fitness) on the first and second floors of the Co[Op City Bay Plaza shopping center which expired on March 12, 2008. The premise is located in a C4-3 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 2100 Bartow Avenue, southside of Baychester Avenue, Block 5141, Lot 810, Borough of Bronx.

COMMUNITY BOARD #10BX

APPEALS CALENDAR

151-08-BZY

APPLICANT – Law Office of Howard Goldman, for 5-15 West 125th Street, lessee Harlem Community Development Corp., owner,

SUBJECT – Application May 29, 2008 - Extension of time to complete construction (11-331) under the prior zoning district regulations C4-4. C4-4A zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 5-15 West 125th Street, between Fifth Avenue and Malcom X Boulevard, Block 1723, Lots 23, 31, 45, 46, 144, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #10M

152-08-A

APPLICANT – Quinn McCabe LLP, for 23 High-Line LLC, c/o Alf Naman, owners.

SUBJECT – Application May 30, 2008 - Appeals seeking to vacate a Stop Work Order issued by the Department of Buildings for failure to obtain the authorization of the adjacent property owner. C6-3A, Special District WCH.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 515 W 23rd Street, north side of West 23rd Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues, Block 695, Lot 27, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #4M

177-08-A

APPLICANT – Quinn McCabe LLP, for 23 High-Line LLC, c/o Alf Naman, owners.

SUBJECT – Application July 7, 2008 - Appeals seeking to vacate a Partial Stop Work Order issued by the Department of Buildings for failure to obtain the authorization of the adjacent property owner. C6-3A, Special District WCH.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 515 W 23rd Street, north side of West 23rd Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues, Block 695, Lot 27, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #4M

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a public hearing, Tuesday afternoon, September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., at 40 Rector Street, 6th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10006, on the following matters:

ZONING CALENDAR

159-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Jay A. Segal, for Greenberg Traurig, LLF, for DJL Family Limited Partnership, owners.

SUBJECT – Application June 10, 2008 – Variance (§ 72-21) to allow a new seven (7) story residential building (UG 2) containing twelve (12) dwelling units and ground floor retail (UG 6); contrary to use regulations (§ 42-10 & § 42-14 D(2)(b)). M1-5B district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 68-70 Spring Street, south side of Spring Street between Crosby and Lafayette Streets, Block 482, Lot 19, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #2M

165-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Ellen Hay, Wachtel & Masyr, LLP; for Vornado Office Management LLC, owner; Bally Sports Club, Incorporated, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application June 18, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-36) to allow a physical culture establishment on four levels in an existing 26-story building. The proposal is contrary to ZR section 32-10. C6-6 & C6-4.5 MiD districts.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 11 Penn Plaza, a/k/a 166 West 32nd Street, south side of West 32nd Street between Seventh and Sixth Avenues. Block 807, Lot 1, Borough of Manhattan

COMMUNITY BOARD # 5M

178-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Eric Palatnik, P.C., for Igor Yanovsky, owner.

SUBJECT – Application July 9, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of an existing single family residence. This application seeks to vary floor area, lot coverage and open space (23-141(b)) and less than the minimum side yards (23-461) in an R3-1 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 153 Norfolk Street, between Oriental Boulevard and Shore Boulevard, Block 8757, Lot 35, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #15BK

185-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Slater & Beckerman, LLP, for Claremont LaSalle, Incorporated c/o Manhattan Modern Management,

owner.

SUBJECT – Application July 11, 2008 – Variance (§72-21) to allow the enlargement of a six-story building and installation of an elevator, contrary to bulk regulations.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 170 Claremont Avenue, corner lot located on the eastside of Claremont Avenue and south side of LaSalle Street, Block 1993, Lot 43, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #9M

194-08-BZ

APPLICANT – The Law Office of Fredrick A. Becker, for Colonnade Management LLC, owner.

SUBJECT – Application July 16, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-19) to allow a Use Group 3 school on the first floor of an existing four-story mixed-use building. The proposal is contrary to ZR Section 42-10. M1-5B district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 432 Lafayette Street, westerly side of Lafayette Street, 229'-11" south of Astor Place, Block 545, Lot 38, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #2M

Jeff Mulligan, Executive Director

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**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 2008
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

16-92-BZ

APPLICANT – Stadtmauer Bailkin, LLP, for High Teck Park, Inc., owner.

SUBJECT – Application May 18, 2007 – Pursuant to Z.R §72-01 and §72-22 to permit a waiver of the rules of practice and procedure, a re-opening, an amendment, and an extension of the term of the variance. The requested application would permit the legalization from the change in use from auto repair and warehouse to a charity auto donation facility (Use Group 16 automotive storage), container storage (Use Group 16), a woodworking and metal working company (Use Group 16) and a legalization of a 2,420 square foot mezzanine addition. The premises is located in a R5/C1-1 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 115 King Street, 78 Sullivan Street, lot front King Street and Sullivan Street, between Richardson and Van Brunt Street, Block 556, Lot 15, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #6BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Elizabeth Safian.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, this is an application for a waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, a reopening, an amendment to a variance, a legalization of use, an amendment to approved plans, and an extension of term, of a variance permitting auto repair and warehouse use on a site partially within an R5 zoning district and partially within a C1-3 zoning district, which expired on September 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on September 25, 2007, after due notice by publication in *The City Record*, with continued hearings on October 30, 2007, January 15, 2008, February 26, 2008; April 1, 2008, June 17, 2008 and July 22, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the site and surrounding area had site and neighborhood examinations by Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Hinkson, Commissioner Montanez, and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, the site is located on the north side of Sullivan Street between Van Brunt Street and Richardson Street; and

WHEREAS, the site is located partially within an R5 zoning district (8,934 sq. ft.) and partially within a C1-3 district (9,111 sq. ft.) and has a total lot area of 18,045 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, site is occupied by two industrial buildings: a one-story building and a two-story building, with a total floor area of 22,738 sq. ft., which are occupied by warehouse (Use Group 16) uses, a carpentry shop, office use, and accessory parking; and

WHEREAS, the site has been under the Board's jurisdiction since 1958, when under BSA Cal. No. 1053-47-BZ, the Board amended a pre-existing variance permitting the erection and maintenance of a commercial building on an abutting site on King Street to include the subject site; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 1969, under BSA Cal. No. 815-68-BZ, the Board granted a variance under ZR § 11-412 to permit a further enlargement in lot area and an increase in the accessory parking area; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1981, under BSA Cal. No. 334-81-BZ, the Board granted a variance pursuant to ZR § 72-21, to permit the erection of a one-story enlargement, which was subsequently amended to extend the time to obtain building permits and complete construction; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 1992, under the subject calendar number, the Board granted a variance to legalize a change in use from refrigerator repair with accessory parking (Use Group 17) to auto repair and warehouse (Use Group 16) and office use (Use Group 6), and to legalize the enlargement of the lot area, for a term of ten years to expire on September 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the applicant initially filed an application on May 18, 2007 seeking a waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, a reopening, an extension of term and an amendment permitting the legalization of a change in use from auto repair and warehouse to a charity auto donation facility (Use Group 16, automotive storage), container storage (Use Group 16), woodworking and metal working uses (Use Group 16) and an amendment to the approved plans legalizing and enlarging a mezzanine addition (the "initial application"); and

WHEREAS, the subject site of the initial application was a 39,000 sq. ft. through block site located at former Block 556, Lot 15, with the address of 115 King Street/ 78 Sullivan Street; and

WHEREAS, numerous neighborhood residents testified in opposition to the initial application, citing concerns with illegal parking, noise, unapproved uses, and lack of compatibility with the neighborhood context; and

WHEREAS, specifically along King Street, the Board noted during various site visits that trucks servicing the premises were adding to existing traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Board expressed concern regarding the impacts of the uses on King Sing Street and asked the applicant to explore providing an off-street loading area on the premises or, alternatively, to modify the application to eliminate the portion of the property fronting on King Street, to diminish the impact of the commercial uses on the surrounding residential

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neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted the instant application, which concerns only the Sullivan Street portion of the site formerly within the Board's jurisdiction (identified as "tentative Lot 43" of Block 556), and which eliminates the King Street portion from the subject site (identified as "tentative Lot 15" of Block 556); and

WHEREAS, tentative Lot 15 site would no longer be subject to the jurisdiction of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the instant application includes an application to the Real Property Assessment Bureau seeking the formal designation of tentative lot 43, and tentative lot 15, to effect the severance of the King Street portion from the site which will remain under the jurisdiction of the Board; the applicant states that this application has been filed with the Department of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to extend the term of the variance for the remainder of the site, which expired on September 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that a timely renewal was not sought due to a change in ownership of the site, and a misunderstanding by the new owner of the expiration date of the term; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that any extension of term would date back to the period of the prior expiration; and

WHEREAS, issues were raised at hearing concerning the compliance of the site with the conditions of the previous grant, the Board finds it appropriate to provide a term which is shorter than the ten-year term requested; and

WHEREAS, the applicant also seeks to amend the site plan to legalize an office mezzanine created between the first and second floors of the building on the eastern portion of the site and to legalize a change in use to permit the carpentry, warehouse and office uses which currently occupy the site; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board asked the applicant to submit photographs showing how the site is being maintained; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted photographs indicating that the site is free of debris and illegally parked vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the applicant agrees not to permit any future illegal parking of vehicles at the site; and

WHEREAS, based upon its review of the record, the Board finds that the requested amendment to the plans and extension of term are appropriate with certain conditions as set forth below.

Therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Standards and Appeals *waives* the Rules of Practice and Procedure, *reopens*, and *amends* the resolution, as adopted September 22, 1992, so that as amended this portion of the resolution shall read: "to modify the plot plan to reduce the size of the subject site, to legalize the carpentry and metalworking uses, to permit the noted amendments to the plans, and to extend the term for eight years from the expiration of the prior grant, to expire on September 22, 2010, *on condition* that any and all work shall substantially conform to drawings filed with this application marked "Received July 8, 2008"- (5) sheets; and *on further condition*:

THAT all conditions from prior resolutions not specifically waived by the Board remain in effect;

THAT the term shall expire on September 22, 2010;

THAT the site be maintained free of debris, graffiti and illegally-parked vehicles;

THAT any changes in building occupancy or use must be approved by the Board;

THAT the above conditions shall appear on the Certificate of Occupancy;

THAT the site shall be brought into compliance with the BSA-approved plans and a certificate of occupancy shall be obtained by May 26, 2009;

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted." (DOB Application No. 301113916)

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

218-58-BZII

APPLICANT – Vassalotti Associates Architects, LLP, for Norman Dawson, owner.

SUBJECT – Application June 3, 2008 – Extension of Term for an existing gasoline service station (Exxon), in a C1-2/R-2 zoning district, which expired on July 29, 2008.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 77-40 Hewlett Street, west side, 80.02' south of 77th Road, Block 8555, Lots 60 & 61, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #13Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant:

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5
Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 9, 2008, at 10 A.M., for decision, hearing closed.

705-68-BZ

APPLICANT – Rothkrug, Rothkrug & Spector, LLP, for Lanide Realty Corporation, owner; City Auto Corporation, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application March 27, 2008 – Extension of Term/waiver for a (UG8) parking lot in an R4-1 zoning district which expired on April 27, 2007.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 88-14/22 182nd Street, 128' south of the intersection of Hillside Avenue and 182nd Street, Block 9917, Lots 7, 11, 143, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #12Q

APPEARANCES –

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For Applicant:

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 10 A.M., for continued hearing.

546-82-BZIII

APPLICANT – Pasquale Carpentiere, owner; Ganesh Budhu, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application April 14, 2008 – Extension of Term for a UG8 parking lot which expires on June 14, 2008 in an R7a/DJ zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 148-15 89th Avenue, north side of 89th Avenue, between 148th and 150th Streets, Block 9693, Lot 60, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #12Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Pasquale Carpentiere.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 9, 2008, at 10 A.M., for decision, hearing closed.

164-99-BZ

APPLICANT – Gerald J. Caliendo, R.A., AIA, for Ivan Duque, owner.

SUBJECT – Application March 20, 2008 – Extension of Term/waiver for a (UG12) eating and drinking establishment without restrictions on entertainment, in a C2-3/R-6 zoning district, which expired on August 15, 2006; an Amendment to the seating layout on the first and second floors, relocation of the bar on the second floor and the addition of two storage rooms in the cellar.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 79-03 Roosevelt Avenue, north side of Roosevelt Avenue, 22’ east of the intersection of 79th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, Block 1290, Lot 46, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #3Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Sandy Anagnostov.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 9, 2008, at 10 A.M., for continued hearing.

340-03-BZ

APPLICANT – Davidoff Malito & Hutcher, LLP, by Howard S. Weiss, Esq., for 408-410 Greenwich Street LLC.

SUBJECT – Application February 20, 2008 – Reopening for an Amendment to allow in a mixed use building the change of the use on the fifth floor from commercial use (UG6) to residential use (UG2).

PREMISES AFFECTED – 408 Greenwich Street, a/k/a 22-24 Hubert Street, northwest corner of Hubert and Greenwich Street, Block 217, Lot 23, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #1M

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Ron Mandel.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 10 A.M., for an adjourned hearing.

96-08-A

APPLICANT – Gary D. Lenhart, R.A., for The Breezy Point Cooperative, Inc., owner; Mary Jo and William d’Ecclesiis, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application April 17, 2008 – Proposed reconstruction and enlargement of an existing single family home located within the bed of a mapped street contrary to Section 35 of the General City Law. R4 Zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 208 Oceanside Avenue, north side of Oceanside Avenue 49.27’ east of mapped Beach 203rd Street, Block 16350, Lot p/o 400, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Gary Lenhart.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Queens Borough Commissioner, dated April 9, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 410064594 reads, in pertinent part:

“The existing building to be altered lies within the bed of a mapped street contrary to General City Law Article 3, Section 35;” and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on August 26, 2008, after due notice by publication in the *City Record*, and then to closure and decision on this same date; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 6, 2008, the Fire Department states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 9, 2008, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 24, 2008, the Department of Transportation states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board has determined that the applicant has submitted adequate evidence to warrant this approval under certain conditions.

Therefore it is Resolved that the decision of the Queens Borough Commissioner dated April 9, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 410064594 is modified by the power vested in the Board by Section 35 of the General City Law, and that this appeal is granted, limited to the decision noted above; *on condition* that construction shall substantially conform to the drawing filed with the application marked “Received April 17, 2008”-(1) sheet; that the proposal

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shall comply with all applicable zoning district requirements; that all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations shall be complied with and; *on further condition*:

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

150-08-A

APPLICANT – Gary D. Lenhart, R.A., for The Breezy Point Cooperative, Inc., owner; Kari And Michael Fitzsimmons, lessees.

SUBJECT – Application May 29, 2008 – Proposed reconstruction and enlargement of an existing single family home and the upgrade of an existing non-conforming private disposal system within the bed of a mapped street contrary to General City Law Section 35 and the Department of Buildings Policy. R4 Zoning District.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 331 Hillside Avenue, intersection of Hillside Avenue and the mapped Beach 182nd Street, Block 16340, Lot 50, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Gary Lenhart.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Queens Borough Commissioner, dated May 20, 2008 acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 410094776 reads, in pertinent part:

“A1- The existing building to be reconstructed and altered lies within the bed of a mapped street contrary to General City Law Article 3, Section 35;

A2- The proposed upgraded private disposal system is in the bed of a mapped street contrary to General City Law Article 3, Section 35 and Department of Buildings Policy; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on August 26, 2008, after due notice by publication in the *City Record*, and then to closure and decision on this same date; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 18, 2008, the Fire

Department states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 18, 2008, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections ; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 24, 2008, the Department of Transportation states that it has reviewed the subject proposal and has no objections; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board has determined that the applicant has submitted adequate evidence to warrant this approval under certain conditions.

Therefore it is Resolved that the decision of the Queens Borough Commissioner dated May 20, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 410094776, is modified by the power vested in the Board by Section 35 of the General City Law, and that this appeal is granted, limited to the decision noted above; *on condition* that construction shall substantially conform to the drawing filed with the application marked “Received May 29, 2008”-(1) sheet; that the proposal shall comply with all applicable zoning district requirements; that all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations shall be complied with and; *on further condition*:

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

306-05-BZY

APPLICANT – Stuart A. Klein, Esq., for Manuel Scharf, owner.

SUBJECT – Application October 12, 2005 – Extension of Time to complete construction (§11-331) of a major/minor development under the prior Zoning District regulations.

PREMISES AFFECTED –206A Beach 3rd Street, Block 15604, Lot 34, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14Q

APPEARANCES – None.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to October 28, 2008, at 10 A.M., for continued hearing.

47-08-A

APPLICANT – Rothkrug, Rothkrug & Spector, LLP, for Elizabeth Ave Realty Corp., owner.

SUBJECT – Application March 3, 2008 – Proposed construction of a two family dwelling located partially within the bed of a mapped street contrary to General City Law Section 35. R3-2.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 7228 Thursby Avenue, north

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side Thursby Avenue, 247.50' west of intersection with Beach 72nd Street, Block 16066, Lot 46, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant:

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 16, 2008, at 10 A.M., for decision, hearing closed.

Jeffrey Mulligan, Executive Director

Adjourned: 10:15 A.M.

REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 26, 2008 1:30 P.M.

Present: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.

ZONING CALENDAR

74-07-BZ

CEQR #07-BSA-071M

APPLICANT – Friedman & Gotbaum, LLP, by Shelly S. Friedman, Esq., for Congregation Shearith Israel a/k/a Trustees of the Congregation Shearith Israel in the City of N.Y. a/k/a the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

SUBJECT – Application April 2, 2007 – Variance (§72-21) to allow a nine (9) story residential/community facility building; the proposal is contrary to regulations for lot coverage (§24-11), rear yard (§24-36), base height, building height and setback (§23-633) and rear setback (§23-663). R8B and R10A districts.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 6-10 West 70th Street, south side of West 70th Street, west of the corner formed by the intersection of Central Park West and West 70th Street, Block 1122, Lots 36 & 37, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #7M

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Lori Cuisinier.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, dated August 28, 2007,¹ acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 104250481, reads, in pertinent part:

1. “Proposed lot coverage for the interior portions of R8B & R10A exceeds the maximum allowed. This is contrary to Section 24-11/77-24. Proposed interior portion lot coverage is 0.80;
2. Proposed rear yard in R8B does not comply. 20'.00 provided instead of 30.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
3. Proposed rear yard in R10A interior portion does not comply. 20.—' provided instead of 30.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
4. Proposed initial setback in R8B does not comply. 12.00' provided instead of 15.00' contrary to Section 24-36;
5. Proposed base height in R8B does not comply. . . contrary to Section 23-633;
6. Proposed maximum building height in R8B does not comply. . . contrary to 23-66;
7. Proposed rear setback in an R8B does not comply. 6.67' provided instead of 10.00' contrary to Section 23-633;”² and

WHEREAS, this is an application under ZR § 72-21, to permit, on a site partially within an R8B district and partially within an R10A district within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District, the proposed construction of a nine-story and cellar mixed-use community facility / residential building that does not comply with zoning parameters for lot coverage, rear yard, base height, building height, front setback, and rear yard setback contrary to ZR §§ 24-11, 77-24, 24-36, 23-66, and 23-633; and

WHEREAS, this application is brought on behalf of Congregation Shearith Israel, a not-for-profit religious institution (the “Synagogue”); and

1 The referenced August 28, 2007 decision supersedes a March 27, 2007 decision by the Department of Buildings which included eight objections, one of which was eliminated after the applicant modified the plans.

2 A letter dated January 28, 2008 to Chair Srinivasan from David Rosenberg, an attorney representing local residents, claims that a purported failure by the Department of Buildings (“DOB”) Commissioner or the Manhattan Borough Commissioner to sign the above-referenced August 28, 2007 objections, as allegedly required by Section 666 of the New York City Charter (the “Charter”), divests the Board of jurisdiction to hear the instant application. However, the jurisdiction of the Board to hear an application for variances from zoning regulations, such as the instant application, is conferred by Charter Section 668, which does not require a letter of final determination executed by the DOB Commissioner or by an authorized DOB borough commissioner.

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WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on November 27, 2007, after due notice by publication in the *City Record*, with continued hearings on February 12, 2008, April 15, 2008 and June 24, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the premises and surrounding area had site and neighborhood examinations by Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Hinkson, Commissioner Montanez, and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7, Manhattan, recommends disapproval of this application; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of the Synagogue testified in support of the application; and

WHEREAS, a representative of New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane testified at hearing in opposition to the application; and

WHEREAS, a representative of New York State Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried testified at hearing in opposition to the application; and

WHEREAS, a number of area residents testified in opposition to the application; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Landmark West! and a group of neighbors represented by counsel testified at hearing and made submissions into the record in opposition to the application (the "Opposition"); the arguments made by the Opposition related to the required findings for a variance, and are addressed below; and

WHEREAS, the subject zoning lot on which the Synagogue is located consists of Lots 36 and 37 within Block 1122 (the "site"); and

WHEREAS, the site has a total lot area of 17,286 square feet, with 172 feet of frontage along the south side of West 70th Street, and 100.5 feet of frontage on Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the site that extends 125 feet west of Central Park West is located in an R10A zoning district; the remainder of the site is located within an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the site is also located within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District; and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 36 is occupied by the Synagogue, with a height of 75'-0", and a connected four-story parsonage house located at 99-100 Central Park West, with a total floor area of 27,760 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 37 is occupied in part by a four-story Synagogue community house with 11,079 sq. ft. of floor area located at 6-10 West 70th Street (comprising approximately 40 percent of the tax lot area); the remainder of Lot 37 is vacant (comprising approximately 60 percent of the tax lot area) (the "Community House"); and

WHEREAS, the Community House is proposed to be demolished; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that Tax Lot 36 and Tax Lot 37 together constitute a single zoning lot under ZR § 12-10, as they have been in common ownership since 1965 (the "Zoning Lot"); and

WHEREAS, Tax Lot 37 is divided by a zoning district boundary, pursuant to 1984 zoning map and text

amendments to the Zoning Resolution that relocated the former R8/R10 district boundary line to a depth of 47 feet within the lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the formation of the Zoning Lot predates the relocation of the zoning district boundary, and that development on the site is therefore entitled to utilize the zoning floor area averaging methodology provided for in ZR § 77-211, thereby allowing the zoning floor area to be distributed over the entire Zoning Lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that as 73 percent of the site is within an R10A zoning district, which permits an FAR of 10.0, and 27 percent of the site is within an R8B zoning district, which permits an FAR of 4.0, the averaging methodology allows for an overall site FAR of 8.36 and a maximum permitted zoning floor area of 144,511 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the site is currently built to an FAR of 2.25 and a floor area of 38,838 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes a nine-story and cellar mixed-use building with community facility (Use Group 3) uses on two cellar levels and the lower four stories, and residential (Use Group 2) uses on five stories including a penthouse (the "proposed building"), which will be built on Tax Lot 37; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the community facility uses include: Synagogue lobby and reception space, a toddler program, adult education and Hebrew school classes, a caretaker's unit, and a Jewish day school; the upper five stories are proposed to be occupied by five market-rate residential condominium units; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have a total floor area of 42,406 sq. ft., comprising 20,054 sq. ft. of community facility floor area and 22,352 sq. ft. of residential floor area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have a base height along West 70th Street of 95'-1" (60 feet is the maximum permitted in an R8B zoning district); with a front setback of 12'-0" (a 15'-0" setback is the minimum required in an R8B zoning district); a total height of 105'-10" (75'-0" is the maximum permitted in an R8B zone), a rear yard of 20'-0" for the second through fourth floors (30'-0" is the minimum required); a rear setback of 6'-8" (10'-0" is required in an R8B zone), and an interior lot coverage of 80 percent (70 percent is the maximum permitted lot coverage); and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue initially proposed a nine-story building with a total floor area of 42,961 sq. ft., a residential floor area of 22,966 sq. ft., and no court above the fifth floor (the "original proposed building"); and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue modified the proposal to provide a complying court at the north rear above the fifth floor, thereby reducing the floor plates of the sixth, seventh and eighth floors of the building by approximately 556 sq. ft. and reducing the floor plate of the ninth floor penthouse by approximately 58 sq. ft., for an overall reduction in the variance of the rear yard setback by 25 percent and a reduction in the residential floor area to 22,352 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue is seeking waivers of zoning

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regulations for lot coverage and rear yard to develop a community facility that can accommodate its religious mission, and is seeking waivers of zoning regulations pertaining to base height, total height, front setback, and rear setback to accommodate a market rate residential development that can generate a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, as a religious and educational institution, the Synagogue is entitled to significant deference under the laws of the State of New York pertaining to proposed changes in zoning and is able to rely upon programmatic needs in support of the subject variance application (see Westchester Reform Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968)); and

WHEREAS, under ZR § 72-21(b), a not-for-profit institution is generally exempted from having to establish that the property for which a variance is sought could not otherwise achieve a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, however, the instant application is for a mixed-use project in which approximately 50 percent of the proposed floor area will be devoted to a revenue-generating residential use which is not connected to the mission and program of the Synagogue; and

WHEREAS, under New York State law, a not-for-profit organization which seeks land use approvals for a commercial or revenue-generating use is not entitled to the deference that must be accorded to such an organization when it seeks to develop a project that is in furtherance of its mission (see Little Joseph Realty v. Babylon, 41 N.Y.2d 738 (1977); Foster v. Saylor, 85 A.D.2d 876 (4th Dep't 1981) and Roman Cath. Dioc. of Rockville Ctr v. Vill. Of Old Westbury, 170 Misc.2d 314 (1996)); and

WHEREAS, consequently, prior Board decisions regarding applications for projects sponsored by not-for-profit religious or educational institutions which have included commercial or revenue-generating uses have included analysis of the hardship, financial return, and minimum variance findings under ZR § 72-21 (see BSA Cal. No. 315-02-BZ, applicant Touro College; BSA Cal. No. 179-03-BZ, applicant Torah Studies, Inc.; BSA Cal. No. 349-05-BZ, Church of the Resurrection; and BSA Cal. No. 194-03-BZ, applicant B'nos Menachem School); and

WHEREAS, therefore, as discussed in greater detail below, the Board subjected this application to the standard of review required under ZR § 72-21 for the discrete community facility and residential development uses, respectively, and evaluated whether the proposed residential development met all the findings required by ZR § 72-21, notwithstanding its sponsorship by a religious institution; and

ZR § 72-21 (a) – Unique Physical Conditions Finding

WHEREAS, under § 72-21 (a) of the Zoning Resolution, the Board must find that there are unique physical conditions inherent to the Zoning Lot which create practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship in strictly complying with the zoning requirements (the "(a) finding"); and

Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the zoning district regulations limit lot coverage to 80 percent and require a rear yard of 30'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have the following program: (1) a multi-function room on the sub-cellar level with a capacity of 360 persons for the hosting of life cycle events and weddings and mechanical space; (2) dairy and meat kitchens, babysitting and storage space on the cellar level; (3) a synagogue lobby, rabbi's office and archive space on the first floor; (4) toddler classrooms on the second floor; (5) classrooms for the Synagogue's Hebrew School and Beit Rabban day school on the third floor; and (6) a caretaker's apartment and classrooms for adult education on the fourth floor; and

WHEREAS, the first floor will have 5,624 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, the second and third floor will each have 4,826.5 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, and the fourth floor will have 4,777 sq. ft. of community facility floor area, for a total of 20,054 sq. ft. of community facility floor area; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the variance request is necessitated by the programmatic needs of the Synagogue, and by the physical obsolescence and poorly configured floor plates of the existing Community House which constrain circulation and interfere with its religious programming; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the programmatic needs and mission of the Synagogue include an expansion of its lobby and ancillary space, an expanded toddler program expected to serve approximately 60 children, classroom space for 35 to 50 afternoon and weekend students in the Synagogue's Hebrew school and a projected 40 to 50 students in the Synagogue's adult education program, a residence for an onsite caretaker to ensure that the Synagogue's extensive collection of antiquities is protected against electrical, plumbing or heating malfunctions, and shared classrooms that will also accommodate the Beit Rabban day school; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed building will also permit the growth of new religious, pastoral and educational programs to accommodate a congregation which has grown from 300 families to 550 families; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate these programmatic needs, the Synagogue is seeking lot coverage and rear yard waivers to provide four floors of community facility use in the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the Synagogue, as a religious institution, is entitled to substantial deference under the law of the State of New York as to zoning and as to its ability to rely upon programmatic needs in support of the subject variance application (see Cornell Univ. v. Bagnardi, 68 N.Y.2d 583 (1986)); and

WHEREAS, however, in addition to its programmatic needs, the applicant also represents that the following site conditions create an unnecessary hardship in developing the site in compliance with applicable regulations as to lot coverage and yards: if the required 30'-0" rear yard and lot coverage were provided, the floor area of the community

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facility would be reduced by approximately 1,500 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the required floor area cannot be accommodated within the as-of-right lot coverage and yard parameters and allow for efficient floor plates that will accommodate the Synagogue's programmatic needs, thus necessitating the requested waivers of these provisions; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that a complying building would necessitate a reduction in the size of three classrooms per floor, affecting nine proposed classrooms which would consequently be too narrow to accommodate the proposed students; the resultant floor plates would be small and inefficient with a significant portion of both space and floor area allocated toward circulation space, egress, and exits; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the reduction in classroom floor area would consequently reduce the toddler program by approximately 14 children and reduce the size of the Synagogue's Hebrew School, Adult Education program and other programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the requested yard and lot coverage waivers would enable the Synagogue to develop the site with a building with viable floor plates and adequate space for its needs; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has argued that the Synagogue cannot satisfy the (a) finding based solely on its programmatic need and must still demonstrate that the site is burdened by a unique physical hardship in order to qualify for a variance; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that the applicant has asserted that the site is also burdened with a physical hardship that constrains an as-of-right development, discussed below, the Board notes that the Opposition ignores 50 years of unwavering New York jurisprudence holding that zoning boards must accord religious institutions a presumption of moral, spiritual and educational benefit in evaluations of applications for zoning variances (see e.g.; Diocese of Rochester v. Planning Bd., 1 N.Y.2d 508 (1956) (zoning board cannot wholly deny permit to build church in residential district; because such institutions further the morals and welfare of the community, zoning board must instead seek to accommodate their needs); see also Westchester Ref. Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968); and Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D. 2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983)), and therefore need not demonstrate that the site is also encumbered by a physical hardship; and

WHEREAS, in support of its proposition that a religious institution must establish a physical hardship, the Opposition cites to decisions in Yeshiva & Mesivta Toras Chaim v. Rose (137 A.D.2d 710 (2d Dep't 1988)) and Bright Horizon House, Inc. v Zng. Bd. of Appeals of Henrietta (121 Misc.2d 703 (Sup. Ct. 1983)); and

WHEREAS, both decisions uphold the denial of variance applications based on findings that the contested proposals constituted neither religious uses, nor were they ancillary or accessory uses to a religious institution in which

the principal use was as a house of worship, and are therefore irrelevant to the instant case; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed Synagogue lobby space, expanded toddler program, Hebrew school and adult education program, caretaker's apartment, and accommodation of Beit Rabban day school constitute religious uses in furtherance of the Synagogue's program and mission; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contends that the Synagogue's programmatic needs are too speculative to serve as the basis for an (a) finding; and

WHEREAS, in response to a request by the Board to document demand for the proposed programmatic floor area, the applicant submitted a detailed analysis of the program needs of the Synagogue on a space-by-space and time-allocated basis which confirms that the daily simultaneous use of the overwhelming majority of the spaces requires the proposed floor area and layout and associated waivers; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues, nonetheless, that the Synagogue's programmatic needs could be accommodated within an as-of-right building, or within existing buildings on the Synagogue's campus and that the proposed variances for the community facility use are unmerited and should consequently be denied; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Opposition has contended that the Synagogue's programmatic needs could be accommodated within the existing parsonage house; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the narrow width of the parsonage house, at approximately 24'-0", would make it subject to the "sliver" limitations of ZR § 23-692 which limit the height of its development and, after deducting for the share of the footprint that would be dedicated to elevator and stairs, would generate little floor area; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that development of the parsonage house would not address the circulation deficiencies of the synagogue and would block several dozen windows on the north elevation of 91 Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that where a nonprofit organization has established the need to place its program in a particular location, it is not appropriate for a zoning board to second-guess that decision (see Guggenheim Neighbors v. Bd. of Estimate, June 10, 1988, N.Y. Sup. Ct., Index No. 29290/87), see also Jewish Recons. Syn. of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, furthermore, a zoning board may not wholly reject a request by a religious institution, but must instead seek to accommodate the planned religious use without causing the institution to incur excessive additional costs (see Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D.2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983); and

WHEREAS, religious institutions are entitled to locate on their property facilities for other uses that are reasonably associated with their overall purposes and a day care center/preschool has been found to constitute such a use (see Uni. Church v. Shorten, 63 Misc.2d 978, 982 (Sup. Ct. 1970)); and

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WHEREAS, in submissions to the Board, the Opposition argues that the Beit Rabban school does not constitute a programmatic need entitled to deference as a religious use because it is not operated for or by the Synagogue; and

WHEREAS, however, it is well-established under New York law that religious use is not limited to houses of worship, but is defined as conduct with a 'religious purpose;' the operation of an educational facility on the property of a religious institution is construed to be a religious activity and a valid extension of the religious institution for zoning purposes, even if the school is operated by a separate corporate entity (see Slevin v. Long Isl. Jew. Med. Ctr., 66 Misc.2d 312, 317 (Sup. Ct. 1971); and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the siting of the Beit Rabban school on the premises helps the Synagogue to attract congregants and thereby enlarge its congregation, which the courts have also found to constitute a religious activity (see Community Synagogue v. Bates, 1 N.Y.2d 445, 448 (1958)), in which the Court of Appeals stated, "[t]o limit a church to being merely a house of prayer and sacrifice would, in a large degree, be depriving the church of the opportunity of enlarging, perpetuating and strengthening itself and the congregation"); and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the applicant has provided supportive evidence showing that, even without the Beit Rabban school, the floor area as well as the waivers to lot coverage and rear yard would be necessary to accommodate the Synagogue's programmatic needs; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the variance request is necessitated not only by its programmatic needs, but also by physical conditions on the subject site – namely – the need to retain and preserve the existing landmarked Synagogue and by the obsolescence of the existing Community House; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that as-of-right development of the site is constrained by the existence of the landmarked Synagogue building which occupies 63 percent of the Zoning Lot footprint; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that because so much of its property is occupied by a building that cannot be disturbed, a relatively small portion of the site is available for development – largely limited to the westernmost portion of the Zoning Lot; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the physical obsolescence and poorly configured floorplates of the existing Community House constrain circulation and interfere with its religious programming and compromise the Synagogue's religious and educational mission, and that these limitations cannot be addressed through interior alterations; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed building will provide new horizontal and vertical circulation systems to provide barrier-free access to its sanctuaries and ancillary facilities; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, the Board finds that the aforementioned physical conditions, when

considered in conjunction with the programmatic needs of Synagogue, create unnecessary hardship and practical difficulty in developing the site in compliance with the applicable zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that uniqueness is limited to the physical conditions of the Zoning Lot and that the obsolescence of an existing building or other building constraints therefore cannot fulfill the requirements of the (a) finding, while citing no support for such a proposition; and

WHEREAS, to the contrary, New York courts have found that unique physical conditions under Section 72-21(a) of the Zoning Resolution can refer to buildings as well as land (see Guggenheim Neighbors v. Board of Estimate, June 10, 1988, N.Y. Sup. Ct. Index No. 29290/87; see also, Homes for the Homeless v. BSA, 7/23/2004, N.Y.L.J. citing UOB Realty (USA) Ltd. v. Chin, 291 A.D.2d 248 (1st Dep't 2002)); and, further, obsolescence of a building is well-established as a basis for a finding of uniqueness (see Matter of Commco, Inc. v. Amelkin, 109 A.D.2d 794, 796 (2d Dep't 1985), and Polsinello v. Dwyer, 160 A.D. 2d 1056, 1058 (3d Dep't 1990) (condition creating hardship was land improved with a now-obsolete structure)); and

WHEREAS, in submissions to the Board, the Opposition has also contended that the Synagogue had failed to establish a financial need for the project as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that to be entitled to a variance, a religious or educational institution must establish that existing zoning requirements impair its ability to meet its programmatic needs; neither New York State law, nor ZR § 72-21, require a showing of financial need as a precondition to the granting of a variance to such an organization; and

WHEREAS, the applicant proposed the need to generate revenue for its mission as a programmatic need, New York law does not permit the generation of income to satisfy the programmatic need requirement of a not-for-profit organization, notwithstanding an intent to use the revenue to support a school or worship space; and

WHEREAS, further, in previous decisions, the Board has rejected the notion that revenue generation could satisfy the (a) finding for a variance application by a not-for-profit organization (see BSA Cal. No. 72-05-BZ, denial of use variance permitting operation by a religious institution of a catering facility in a residential district) and, therefore, requested that the applicant forgo such a justification in its submissions; and

WHEREAS, however, in numerous prior instances the Board has found that unique physical conditions, when considered in the aggregate and in conjunction with the programmatic needs of a not-for-profit organization, can create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing a site in strict conformity with the current zoning (see, e.g., BSA Cal. No. 145-07-BZ, approving variance of lot coverage requirements to permit development of a medical facility; BSA Cal. No. 209-07-BZ, approving bulk variance to permit enlargement of a school for disabled

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children; and 215-07-BZ, approving bulk variance to permit enlargement of a YMCA); and

Residential Use

WHEREAS, the building is proposed for a portion of the Zoning Lot comprised of Lot 37, with a lot area of approximately 6,400 sq. ft. (the “development site”); and

WHEREAS, proposed residential portion of the building is configured as follows: (1) mechanical space and accessory storage on the cellar level; (2) elevators and a small lobby on the first floor; (2) core building space on the second, third and fourth floors; and (3) a condominium unit on each of the fifth through eighth, and ninth (penthouse) floors, for a total of five units; and

WHEREAS, the first floor is proposed to have approximately 1,018 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the second through fourth floors will each have 325 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the fifth floor will have 4,512 sq. ft. of residential floor area, the sixth through eighth floors will each have approximately 4,347 sq. ft. of residential floor area and the ninth (penthouse) floor will have approximately 2,756 sq. ft., for a total residential floor area of approximately 22,352 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that compliance with the zoning requirements for base height, building height, and front and rear setback would allow a residential floor area of approximately 9,638 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the following unique physical conditions create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing the subject site in compliance with underlying district regulations: (1) the development site’s location on a Zoning Lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary; (2) the existence and dominance of a landmarked synagogue on the footprint of the Zoning Lot; and (3) the limitations on development imposed by the site’s contextual zoning district regulations; and

WHEREAS, as to the development site’s location on a zoning lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary, the applicant states that the development site is split between an eastern portion, comprising approximately 73 percent of the Zoning Lot, which is located within an R10A zoning district, and a western portion, comprising approximately 27 percent of the Zoning Lot, which is located in an R8B zoning district; and

WHEREAS, applicant represents that the division of the development site by a zoning district boundary constrains an as-of-right development by imposing different height limitations on the two respective portions of the lot; and

WHEREAS, in the R10A portion of the Zoning Lot, a total height of 185’-0” and maximum base height of 125’-0” are permitted; and

WHEREAS, in the R8B portion of the development site, a building is limited to a total height of 75’-0” and a maximum base height of 60’-0” with a setback of 15’-0”; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the requirements of the R8B district also limit the size of floor plates of a residential development; and

WHEREAS, in the R8B portion of the development

site, a setback of 15’-0” is required at the 60 ft. maximum base height, and a 10’-0” rear setback is required; the applicant represents that a complying development would therefore be forced to set back from the street line at the mid-point between the fifth and sixth floors; and

WHEREAS, in the R10A portion of the development site, a 15’-0” setback is not required below the maximum base height of 125’-0”, and a total height of 185’-0” is permitted, which would otherwise permit construction of a 16-story residential tower on the development site; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is constrained from building to the height that would otherwise be permitted as-of-right on the development site by the “sliver law” provisions of ZR § 23-692, which operate to limit the maximum base height of the building to 60’-0” because the frontage of the site within the R10A zoning district is less than 45 feet; and

WHEREAS, a diagram provided by the applicant indicates that less than two full stories of residential floor area would be permitted above a four-story community facility, if the R8B zoning district front and rear setbacks and height limitations were applied to the development site; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that several Zoning Resolution provisions recognize the constraints created by zoning district boundaries where different regulations apply to portions of the same zoning lot; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Board notes that the provisions of ZR § 77-00, permitting the transfer of zoning lot floor area over a zoning district boundary for zoning lots created prior to their division by a zoning district boundary, recognize that there is a hardship to a property owner whose property becomes burdened by a district boundary which imposes differing requirements to portions of the same zoning lot; and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that that the special permit provisions of ZR § 73-52 allow the extension of a district boundary line after a finding by the Board that relief is required from hardship created by the location of the district boundary line; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents, however, that because of the constraints imposed by the contextual zoning requirements and the sliver law, the Synagogue can transfer only a small share of its zoning lot area across the R8B district boundary; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the site is unique in being the only underdeveloped site overlapping the R10A/R8B district boundary line within a 20-block area to the north and south of the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that 17 other residential zoning lots overlap the R10A/ R8B district boundary line between West 65th Street and West 86th Street, but that none were characterized by a similar amount of surplus development rights; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that all the properties within the 22-block study area bisected by the district boundary line are developed to an FAR exceeding 10.0, while the subject Zoning Lot is developed to an FAR of 2.25; and

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WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that the presence of a zoning district boundary within a lot is not a “unique physical condition” under the language of ZR § 72-21 and represents that four other properties are characterized by the same R10A/ R8B zoning district boundary division within the area bounded by Central Park West and Columbus Avenue and 59th Street and 110th Street owned by religious or nonprofit institutions, identified as: (i) First Church of Christ Scientist, located at Central Park West at West 68th Street; (ii) Universalist Church of New York, located at Central Park West at West 76th Street; (iii) New-York Historical Society, located at Central Park West at West 77th Street; and (iv) American Museum of Natural History, located at Central Park West at West 77th Street to West 81st Street; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that it has recognized that the location of zoning district boundary, in combination with other factors such as the size and shape of a lot and the presence of buildings on the site, may create an unnecessary hardship in realizing the development potential otherwise permitted by the zoning regulations (see BSA Cal. No. 358-05-BZ, applicant WR Group 434 Port Richmond Avenue, LLC; BSA Cal. No. 388-04-BZ, applicant DRD Development, Inc.; BSA Cal. No. 291-03-BZ, applicant 6202 & 6217 Realty Company; and 208-03-BZ, applicant Shell Road, LLC); and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that the incidence of four sites within a 51-block area sharing the same “unique conditions” as the subject site would not, in and of itself, be sufficient to defeat a finding of uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, under New York law, a finding of uniqueness does not require that a given parcel be the only property so burdened by the condition(s) giving rise to the hardship, only that the condition is not so generally applicable as to dictate that the grant of a variance to all similarly situated properties would effect a material change in the district’s zoning (see Douglaston Civ. Assn. v. Klein, 51 N.Y.2d 963, 965 (1980)); and

WHEREAS, as to the impact of the landmarked Congregation Shearith Israel synagogue building on the ability to develop an as-of-right development on the same zoning lot, the applicant states that the landmarked synagogue occupies nearly 63 percent of the Zoning Lot footprint; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that because so much of the Zoning Lot is occupied by a building that cannot be disturbed, only a relatively small portion of the site is available for development; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that only the area occupied by the parsonage house, located directly to the south of the Synagogue on Tax Lot 36, and the development site are available for development; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the narrow width of the parsonage house makes its development infeasible; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the area of development site, at approximately 6,400 sq. ft., constitutes only 37 percent of Zoning Lot area of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the site is significantly underdeveloped and that the location of the landmark Synagogue limits the developable portion of the site to the development site; and

WHEREAS, as to the limitations on development imposed by the site’s location within the R8B contextual zoning district, the applicant represents the district’s height limits and setback requirements, and the limitations imposed by ZR § 23-692, result in an inability to use the Synagogue’s substantial surplus development rights; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that, as a result of these constraints, the Synagogue would be permitted to use a total of 28,274 sq. ft. for an as-of-right development, although it has approximately 116,752 sq. ft. in developable floor area; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue further represents that, after development of the proposed building the Zoning Lot would be built to a floor area of 70,166 sq. ft. and an FAR of 4.36, although development of 144,511 sq. ft. of floor area and an FAR of 8.36 would be permitted as-of-right, and that approximately 74,345 sq. ft. of floor area will remain unused; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contends that the inability of the Synagogue to use its development rights is not a hardship under ZR § 72-21 because a religious institution lacks the protected property interest in the monetization of its air rights that a private owner might have, citing Matter of Soc. for Ethical Cult. v. Spatt, 51 N.Y.2d 449 (1980); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition further contends that the inability of the Synagogue to use its development rights is not a hardship because there is no fixed entitlement to use air rights contrary to the bulk limitations of a zoning district; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that Spatt concerns whether the landmark designation of a religious property imposes an unconstitutional taking or an interference with the free exercise of religion, and is inapplicable to a case in which a religious institution merely seeks the same entitlement to develop its property possessed by any other private owner; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, Spatt does not stand for the proposition that government land use regulation may impose a greater burden on a religious institution than on a private owner; indeed, the court noted that the Ethical Culture Society, like any similarly situated owner, retained the right to generate a reasonable return from its property by the transfer of its excess development rights (see 51 N.Y.2d at 455, FN1); and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the Zoning Resolution includes several provisions permitting the utilization or transfer of available development rights from a landmark building within the lot on which it is located or to an adjacent lot, and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that while a nonprofit organization is entitled to no special deference for a development that is unrelated to its mission, it would be improper to impose a heavier burden on its ability to

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develop its property than would be imposed on a private owner; and

WHEREAS, the Board agrees that the unique physical conditions cited above, when considered in the aggregate and in light of the Synagogue's programmatic needs, create practical difficulties and unnecessary hardship in developing the site in strict compliance with the applicable zoning regulations; thereby meeting the required finding under ZR § 72-21(a); and

ZR § 72-21 (b) – Financial Return Finding

WHEREAS, under ZR § 72-21 (b), the Board must establish that the physical conditions of the site preclude any reasonable possibility that its development in strict conformity with the zoning requirements will yield a reasonable return, and that the grant of a variance is therefore necessary to realize a reasonable return (the “(b) finding”), unless the applicant is a nonprofit organization, in which case the (b) finding is not required for the granting of a variance; and

Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that it need not address the (b) finding since it is a not-for-profit religious institution and the community facility use will be in furtherance of its not-for-profit mission; and

Residential Development

WHEREAS, under New York State law, a not-for-profit organization which seeks land use approvals for a commercial or revenue-generating use is not entitled to the deference that must be accorded to such an organization when it seeks to develop a project that is in furtherance of its mission (see Little Joseph Realty v. Babylon, 41 N.Y.2d 738 (1977); (municipal agency was required to make the variance findings because proposed use would be operated solely by and for the benefit of a private entrepreneur); Foster v. Saylor, 85 A.D.2d 876 (4th Dep't 1981) (variance upheld permitting office and limited industrial use of former school building after district established inability to develop for a conforming use or otherwise realize a financial return on the property as zoned); and Roman Cath. Dioc. of Rockville Ctr v. Vill. Of Old Westbury, 170 Misc.2d 314 (1996) (cemetery to be operated by church was found to constitute a commercial use)); and

WHEREAS, the residential development was not proposed to meet its programmatic needs, the Board therefore directed the applicant to perform a financial feasibility study evaluating the ability of the Synagogue to realize a reasonable financial return from as-of-right residential development of the site, despite the fact that it is a not-for-profit religious institution; and

WHEREAS, the applicant initially submitted a feasibility study that analyzed: (1) an as-of-right community facility/residential building within an R8B envelope (the “as-of-right building”); (2) an as-of-right residential building with 4.0 FAR; (3) the original proposed building; and (4) a lesser variance community facility/residential building; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board questioned why the analysis included the community facility floor area and asked the applicant to revise the financial analysis to eliminate the value of the floor area attributable to the community facility

from the site value and to evaluate an as-of-right development; and

WHEREAS, in response, the applicant revised the financial analysis to analyze: (1) the as-of-right building; (2) the as-of-right residential building with 4.0 FAR; (3) the original proposed building; (4) the lesser variance community facility/residential building; and (5) an as-of-right community facility/residential tower building, using the modified the site value; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study indicated that the as-of-right scenarios and lesser variance community facility/residential building, would not result in a reasonable financial return and that, of the five scenarios only the original proposed building would result in a reasonable return; and

WHEREAS, it was subsequently determined that a tower configuration in the R10A portion of the Zoning Lot was contrary to ZR § 73-692 (the “sliver law”) and therefore that the as-of-right community facility/residential tower building could not represent an as-of-right development; the Board then questioned the basis for the previous valuation of the development rights and requested that the applicant recalculate the site value using only R8 and R8B sales; and

WHEREAS, the Board also requested the applicant to evaluate the feasibility of providing a complying court to the rear above the fifth floor of the original proposed building; and

WHEREAS, applicant subsequently analyzed the financial feasibility of: (i) the proposed building (the original proposed building with a complying court); (ii) an eight-story building with a complying court (the “eight-story building”); and (iii) a seven-story building with penthouse and complying court (the “seven-story building”), using the revised site value; the modified analysis concluded that of the three scenarios, only the proposed building was feasible; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board raised questions as to the how the space attributable to the building's rear terraces had been treated in the financial feasibility analysis; and

WHEREAS, in a written response, the applicant stated that the rear terraces on the fifth and sixth floors had not originally been considered as accessible open spaces and were therefore not included in the sales price as sellable terrace areas of the appertaining units; the applicant provided an alternative analysis considering the rear terraces as sellable outdoor terrace area and revised the sales prices of the two units accordingly; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board also asked the applicant to explain the calculation of the ratio of sellable floor area gross square footage (the “efficiency ratio”) for each of the following scenarios: the proposed building, the eight-story building, the seven-story building, and the as-of-right building; and

WHEREAS, in a subsequent submission, the applicant provided a chart identifying the efficiency ratios for each respective scenario, and explained that the architects had calculated the sellable area for each by determining the overall area of the building and then subtracting the exterior walls, the lobby, the elevator core and stairs, hallways, elevator overrun and terraces from each respective scenario; and

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WHEREAS, the applicant also submitted a revised analysis of the as-of-right building using the revised estimated value of the property; this analysis showed that the revised as-of-right alternative would result in substantial loss; and

WHEREAS, in a submission, the Opposition questioned the use of comparable sales prices based on property values established for the period of mid-2006 to mid-2007, rather than using more recent comparable sales prices, and questioned the adjustments made by the applicant to those sales prices; and

WHEREAS, in a written response, the applicant pointed out that, to allow for comparison of earlier to later analyses, it is BSA practice to establish sales comparables from the initial feasibility analysis to serve as the baseline, and then to adjust those sales prices in subsequent revisions to reflect intervening changes in the market; the applicant also stated that sales prices indicated for units on higher floors reflected the premium price units generated by such units compared to the average sales price for comparable units on lower floors; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also questioned the choice of methodology used by the applicant, which calculated the financial return based on profits, contending that it should have been based instead on the projected return on equity, and further contended that the applicant's treatment of the property acquisition costs distorted the analysis; and

WHEREAS, in response to the questions raised by the Opposition concerning the methodology used to calculate the rate of return, the applicant states that it used a return on profit model which considered the profit or loss from net sales proceeds less the total project development cost on an unleveraged basis, rather than evaluating the project's return on equity on a leveraged basis; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further stated that a return on equity methodology is characteristically used for income producing residential or commercial rental projects, whereas the calculation of a rate of return based on profits is typically used on an unleveraged basis for condominium or home sale analyses and would therefore be more appropriate for a residential project, such as that proposed by the subject application; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that a return on profit model which evaluates profit or loss on an unleveraged basis is the customary model used to evaluate the feasibility of market-rate residential condominium developments; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also raised concerns as to the omission of the income from the Beit Rabban school from the feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, in response to concerns raised by the Opposition as to why the feasibility study omitted the income from the Beit Rabban school, a submission by the applicant states that the projected market rent for community facility use was provided to the Board in an earlier submission and that the cost of development far exceeded the potential rental income from the community facility portion of the development; and

WHEREAS, further, the Board notes that it requested that costs, value and revenue attributable to the community

facility be eliminated from the financial feasibility analysis to allow a clearer depiction of the feasibility of the proposed residential development and of lesser variance and as-of-right alternatives; and

WHEREAS, based upon its review of the applicant's submissions, the Board has determined that because of the subject site's unique physical conditions, there is no reasonable possibility that development in strict compliance with applicable zoning requirements would provide a reasonable return; and

ZR § 72-21 (c) – Neighborhood Character Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (c) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the grant of the variance will not alter the essential neighborhood character, impair the use or development of adjacent property, or be detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, because the variances sought to permit the community facility use differ from the variances sought to permit the proposed residential use, the potential affects on neighborhood character of each respective set of proposed variances are discussed separately below; and

Community Facility Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed rear yard and lot coverage variances permitting the community facility use will not negatively affect the character of the neighborhood, nor affect adjacent uses; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed waivers would allow the community facility to encroach into the rear yard by ten feet, to a height of approximately 49 feet; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that, as a community facility, the Synagogue would be permitted to build to the rear lot line up to a height of 23 feet; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the affect of the encroachment into the rear yard is partly offset by the depths of the yards of the adjacent buildings to its rear; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted an environmental review of the proposed action and found that it would not have significant adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition disputes the findings of the Environmental Assessment Statement ("EAS") and contends that the expanded toddler program, and the life cycle events and weddings held in the multi-purpose room of the lower cellar level of the proposed community facility would produce significant adverse traffic, solid waste, and noise impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that the additional traffic and noise created by the expanded toddler program – which is projected to grow from 20 children to 60 children daily – falls below the CEQR threshold for potential environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Board further notes that the waivers of lot coverage and rear yard requirements are requested to meet the Synagogue's need for additional classroom space and that the sub-cellar multi-purpose room represents an as-of-right use; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed multi-function room would result in an estimated 22 to 30

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life cycle events and weddings over and above those currently held; and

WHEREAS, with respect to traffic, the applicant states that life cycle events would generate no additional traffic impacts because they are held on the Sabbath and, as Congregation Shearith Israel is an Orthodox synagogue, members and guests would not drive or ride to these events in motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that significant traffic impacts are not expected from the increased number of weddings, because they are generally held on weekends during off-peak periods when traffic is typically lighter, or from the expanded toddler program, which is not expected to result in a substantial number of new vehicle trips during the peak hours; and

WHEREAS, with respect to solid waste, the EAS estimated the solid waste attributable to the entirety of the proposed building, including the occupants of the residential portion and the students in the school, and conservatively assumed full occupancy of the multi-function room (at 360 persons); and

WHEREAS, the estimates of solid waste generation found that the amount of projected additional waste represented a small amount, relative to the amount of solid waste collected weekly on a given route by the Department of Sanitation, and would not affect the City's ability to provide trash collection services; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue states that trash from multi-purpose room events will be stored within a refrigerated area within the proposed building and, if necessary, will be removed by a private carter on the morning following each event; and

WHEREAS, at the Board's direction, the applicant submitted revised plans showing the cellar location of the refrigerated trash storage area; and

WHEREAS, with respect to noise, as the multi-purpose room is proposed for the sub-cellar of the proposed building, even at maximum capacity it is not expected to cause significant noise impacts; and

WHEREAS, as held in Westchester Reform Temple v. Brown (22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968)), a religious institution's application is entitled to deference unless significant adverse effects upon the health, safety, or welfare of the community are documented (see also Jewish Recons. Syn. of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has raised general concerns about disruption to the character of the surrounding neighborhood, but has presented no evidence to the Board supporting the alleged traffic, solid waste and noise impacts of the proposed community facility; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental effects alleged by the Opposition largely concern the purported impact of events held in the multi-purpose room which, as noted above, is permitted as-of-right; and

Residential Use

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed variances to height and setback permitting the residential use will not negatively affect the character of the neighborhood,

nor affect adjacent uses; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed base height waiver and front setback waivers of the R8B zoning requirements allow the building to rise to a height of approximately 94'-10" along the West 70th Street street-line, before setting back by 12'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that the R8B zoning regulations limit the base height to 60 feet, at which point the building must set back by a minimum of 15'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the proposed waiver of maximum building height will allow a total height of approximately 105'-10", instead of the maximum building height of 75'-0" permitted in an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant also seeks a rear setback of 6'-8", instead of the 10'-0" rear setback required in an R8B district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the front and rear setbacks are required because the enlargement would rise upward and extend from the existing front and rear walls; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed base height, wall height and front and rear setbacks are compatible with neighborhood character; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that a Certificate of Appropriateness approving the design for the proposed building was issued by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on March 14, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition raised issues at hearing concerning the scale of the proposed building and its compatibility to the neighborhood context; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed bulk and height of the building is consistent with the height and bulk of neighboring buildings, and that the subject site is flanked by a nine-story building at 18 West 70th Street which has a base height of approximately 95 ft. with no setback, and an FAR of 7.23; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the building located at 101 Central Park West, directly to its north, has a height of 15 stories and an FAR of 13.92; and that the building located directly to its south, at 91 Central Park West, has a height of 13 stories and an FAR of 13.03; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that, at nine stories in height, the building would be comparable in size to the adjacent nine-story building located at 18 West 70th Street, while remaining shorter than the 15-story and 13-story buildings located within 60 feet of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also contends that the proposed nine-story building disrupts the mid-block character of West 70th Street and thereby diminishes the visual distinction between the low-rise mid-block area and the higher scale along Central Park West; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted a streetscape of West 70th Street indicating that the street wall of the subject building matches that of the adjacent building at 18 West 70th Street and that no disruption to the midblock character is created by the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition also contends that approval of the proposed height waiver will create a precedent for the

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construction of more mid-block high-rise buildings; and

WHEREAS, as discussed above, the Opposition has identified four sites within a 51-block area bounded by Central Park West and Columbus Avenue, and 59th Street and 110th Street that purportedly could seek variances permitting midblock buildings which do not comply with the requirements of the R8B zoning district; and

WHEREAS, an analysis submitted by the applicant in response found that none of the four sites identified by the Opposition shared the same potential for mid-block development as the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition argues that the proposed building will significantly diminish the accessibility to light and air of its adjacent buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition contended specifically that the proposed building abuts the easterly wall and court of the building located at 18 West 70th Street, thereby eliminating natural light and views from seven eastern facing apartments which would not be blocked by an as-of-right building; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition further argues that the proposed building will cut off natural lighting to apartments in the building located at 91 Central Park West and diminish light to apartments in the rear of the building located at 9 West 69th Street, and that the consequentially diminished light and views will reduce the market values of the affected apartments; and

WHEREAS, in response the applicant noted that lot line windows cannot be used to satisfy light and air requirements and, therefore, rooms which depend solely on lot line windows for light and air were necessarily created illegally and the occupants lack a legally protected right to their maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further notes that an owner of real property also has no protected right in a view; and

WHEREAS, nonetheless, the Board directed the applicant to provide a fully compliant outer court to the sixth through eighth floors of the building, thereby retaining three more lot line windows than originally proposed; and

WHEREAS, the applicant submitted revised plans in response showing a compliant outer court; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition asserts that the proposed building would cast shadows on the midblock of West 70th Street; and

WHEREAS, CEQR regulations provide that an adverse shadow impact is considered to occur when the shadow from a proposed project falls upon a publicly accessible open space, a historic landscape, or other historic resource, if the features that make the resource significant depend on sunlight, or if the shadow falls on an important natural feature and adversely affects its uses or threatens the survival of important vegetation, and that shadows on streets and sidewalks or on other buildings are not considered significant under CEQR; and

WHEREAS, a submission by the applicant states that that no publicly accessible open space or historic resources are located in the mid-block area of West 70th Street; thus any incremental shadows in this area would not constitute a

significant impact on the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, a shadow study submitted by the applicant compared the shadows cast by the existing building to those cast by the proposed new building to identify incremental shadows that would be cast by the new building that are not cast presently; and

WHEREAS, the EAS analyzed the potential shadow impacts on publicly accessible open space and historic resources and found that no significant impacts would occur; and

WHEREAS, the applicant evaluated shadows cast over the course of a full year, with particular attention to December 21, when shadows are longest, March 21 and September 21 (vernal and autumnal equinoxes) and June 21, when shadows are shortest, disregarding the shadows cast by existing buildings, and found that the proposed building casts few incremental shadows, and those that are cast are insignificant in size; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the shadow study of the EAS found that the building would cast a small incremental shadow on Central Park in the late afternoon in the spring and summer that would fall onto a grassy area and path where no benches or other recreational equipment are present; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, the Board finds that neither the proposed community facility use, nor the proposed residential use, will alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood or impair the use or development of adjacent properties, or be detrimental to the public welfare; and ZR § 72-21 (d) - Self Created Hardship Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (d) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship burdening the site have not been created by the owner or by a predecessor in title; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the unnecessary hardship encountered by compliance with the zoning regulations is inherent to the site's unique physical conditions: (1) the existence and dominance of a landmarked synagogue on the footprint of the Zoning Lot, (2) the site's location on a zoning lot that is divided by a zoning district boundary; and (3) the limitations on development imposed by the site's contextual zoning district; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that these conditions originate with the landmarking of its Synagogue building and with the 1984 rezoning of the site; and

WHEREAS, based on the above, the Board therefore finds that the hardship herein was not created by the owner or by a predecessor in title; and

ZR § 72-21 (e) – Minimum Variance Finding

WHEREAS, as pertains to the (e) finding under ZR § 72-21, the Board is required to find that the variance sought is the minimum necessary to afford relief; and

WHEREAS, the original proposed building of the Synagogue had no rear court above the fifth floor, and

WHEREAS, in response to concerns raised by the residents of the adjacent building, the Board directed the applicant to provide a fully compliant outer court to the sixth through eighth floors of the building, thereby retaining

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access to light and air of three additional lot line windows; and

WHEREAS, the applicant modified the proposal to provide a complying court at the north rear above the fifth floor, thereby reducing the floor plates of the sixth, seventh and eighth floors of the building by approximately 556 sq. ft. and reducing the floor plate of the ninth floor penthouse by approximately 58 sq. ft., for an overall reduction in the variance of the rear yard setback of 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, during the hearing process, the Board also directed the applicant to assess the feasibility of several lesser variance scenarios; and

WHEREAS, financial analyses submitted by the applicant established that none of these alternatives yielded a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, however, the Opposition argues that the minimum variance finding is no variance because the building could be developed as a smaller as-of-right mixed-use community facility/ residential building that achieved its programmatic mission, improved the circulation of its worship space and produced some residential units; and

WHEREAS, the Synagogue has fully established its programmatic need for the proposed building and the nexus of the proposed uses with its religious mission; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes again that a zoning board must accommodate a proposal by a religious or educational institution for a project in furtherance of its mission, unless the proposed project is shown to have significant and measurable detrimental impacts on surrounding residents (See Westchester Ref. Temple v. Brown, 22 N.Y.2d 488 (1968); Islamic Soc. of Westchester v. Foley, 96 A.D. 2d 536 (2d Dep't 1983); and Jewish Recons. Synagogue of No. Shore v. Roslyn Harbor, 38 N.Y.2d 283 (1975)); and

WHEREAS, the Opposition has not established such impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Opposition may have raised other issues that are not specifically addressed herein, the Board has determined that all cognizable issues with respect to the required variance findings or CEQR review are addressed by the record; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the requested lot coverage and rear yard waivers are the minimum necessary to allow the applicant to fulfill its programmatic needs and that the front setback, rear setback, base height and building height waivers are the minimum necessary to allow it to achieve a reasonable financial return; and

WHEREAS, thus, the Board has determined that the evidence in the record supports the findings required to be made under ZR § 72-21; and

WHEREAS, the project is classified as a Type I action pursuant to 6NYCRR, Part 617; and

WHEREAS, the Board has conducted an environmental review of the proposed action and has documented relevant information about the project in the Final Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) CEQR No. 07BSA071M dated May 13, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the EAS documents that the project as proposed would not have significant adverse impacts on Land

Use, Zoning, and Public Policy; Socioeconomic Conditions; Community Facilities and Services; Open Space; Shadows; Historic Resources; Urban Design and Visual Resources; Neighborhood Character; Natural Resources; Waterfront Revitalization Program; Infrastructure; Solid Waste and Sanitation Services; Energy; Traffic and Parking; Transit and Pedestrians; Air Quality; Noise; and Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Negative Declaration with conditions as stipulated below, prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, as amended, and makes the required findings under ZR § 72-21, to permit, on a site partially within an R8B district and partially within an R10A district within the Upper West Side/ Central Park West Historic District, the proposed construction of a nine-story and cellar mixed-use community facility/ residential building that does not comply with zoning parameters for lot coverage, rear yard, base height, building height, front setback and rear setback contrary to ZR §§ 24-11, 77-24, 24-36, 23-66, and 23-633; *on condition* that any and all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above noted, filed with this application marked "Received May 13, 2008"—nineteen (19) sheets and "Received July 8, 2008"—one (1) sheet; and *on further condition*:

THAT the parameters of the proposed building shall be as follows: a total floor area of 42,406 sq. ft.; a community facility floor area of 20,054 sq. ft.; a residential floor area of 22,352 sq. ft.; a base height of 95'-1"; with a front setback of 12'-0"; a total height of 105'-10"; a rear yard of 20'-0"; a rear setback of 6'-8"; and an interior lot coverage of 0.80; and

THAT the applicant shall obtain an updated Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Preservation Commission prior to any building permit being issued by the Department of Buildings;

THAT refuse generated by the Synagogue shall be stored in a refrigerated vault within the building, as shown on the BSA-approved plans;

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board, in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted;

THAT substantial construction be completed in accordance with ZR § 72-23;

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

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44-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Law Office of Fredrick A. Becker, for Peggy Hoffman and Abraham Joseph Hoffman, owners.

SUBJECT – Application February 28, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of an existing single family home. This application seeks to vary open space and floor area (§23-141(a)), and rear yard (§23-47) in an R-2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 1015 East 23rd Street, East 23rd Street between Avenues J and K, Block 7605, Lot 38, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Lyra J. Altman.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Brooklyn Borough Superintendent, dated January 29, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 310069591, reads in pertinent part:

- “1. Proposed rear yard [of] 21’-0” does not comply with ZR 23-47 for required rear yard of 30’-0”;
2. Proposed floor area and open space ratio exceeds requirements of ZR 23-141(a)”;

WHEREAS, this is an application under ZR §§ 73-622 and 73-03, to permit, within an R2 zoning district, the proposed enlargement of a single-family home, which does not comply with the zoning requirements for floor area, open space ratio, and rear yard, contrary to ZR §§ 23-141 and 23-47; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on April 8, 2008, after due notice by publication in *The City Record*, with continued hearings on May 13, 2008, June 3, 2008, July 1, 2008 and July 22, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the premises and surrounding area had a site and neighborhood examination by Commissioner Hinkson, Commissioner Montanez and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 14, Brooklyn, recommends approval of this application; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is located on the east side of East 23rd Street, between Avenue J and Avenue K; and

WHEREAS, the subject site has a total lot area of 4,500 sq. ft., and is occupied by a single-family home with floor area of 3,149.1 sq. ft. (0.70 FAR); and

WHEREAS, the premises is within the boundaries of a designated area in which the subject special permit is available; and

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks an increase in the

floor area from 3,149.1 sq. ft. (0.70 FAR), to approximately 4,495 sq. ft. (1.00 FAR); the maximum floor area permitted is 2,250 sq. ft. (0.50 FAR); and

WHEREAS, the proposed enlargement will provide an open space ratio of 54.7 percent (a minimum of 150 percent is required); and

WHEREAS, the proposed enlargement will provide a rear yard with a depth of 21’-0” (a minimum rear yard of 30’-0” is required); and

WHEREAS, the enlargement of the home is not located within 20’-0” of the rear lot line; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board raised concerns about whether a sufficient portion of the existing home would be retained and questioned the size of proposed dormers; and

WHEREAS, in response, the applicant agreed to retain additional portions of the existing home and modified the appearance of the proposed dormers; and

WHEREAS, based upon its review of the record, the Board finds that the proposed enlargement will neither alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood, nor impair the future use and development of the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed project will not interfere with any pending public improvement project; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, under the conditions and safeguards imposed, any hazard or disadvantage to the community at large due to the proposed special permit use is outweighed by the advantages to be derived by the community; and

WHEREAS, therefore, the Board has determined that the evidence in the record supports the findings required to be made under ZR §§ 73-622 and 73-03.

Therefore it is Resolved, that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Type II determination under 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.5 and 617.3 and §§ 5-02(a), 5-02(b)(2) and 6-15 of the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review and makes the required findings under ZR §§ 73-622 and 73-03, to permit, within an R2 zoning district, the proposed enlargement of a single-family home, which does not comply with the zoning requirements for floor area ratio, open space ratio, and rear yard, contrary to ZR §§ 23-141 and 23-47; *on condition* that all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above-noted, filed with this application and marked “Received June 18, 2008”–(8) sheets and “July 9, 2008”–2 sheets; and *on further condition*:

THAT there shall be no habitable room in the cellar;

THAT the floor area of the attic shall be limited to 540 sq. ft.;

THAT the above conditions shall be set forth in the certificate of occupancy;

THAT the following shall be the bulk parameters of the building: a total floor area of 4,495 sq. ft. (1.00 FAR), an open space ratio of 54.7 percent, and a rear yard with a minimum depth of 21’-0”, as illustrated on the BSA-approved plans;

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by

MINUTES

the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objections(s) only; no approval has been given by the Board as to the use and layout of the cellar;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of the plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

66-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Sheldon Lobel, P.C., for Manic Friendland, owner.

SUBJECT – Application March 28, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of an existing single family residence. This application seeks to vary open space and floor area (§23-141(a)) and less than the required rear yard (§23-47) in an R2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 1497 East 21st Street, east side of East 21st Street, between Avenue N and Avenue M, Block 7657, Lot 12, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Richard Lobel.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Brooklyn Borough Superintendent, dated February 27, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 310091343, reads in pertinent part:

- “1. Proposed floor area is in excess of permitted floor area ratio as per ZR Section 23-141;
2. Proposed open space is less than the permitted open space as per ZR Section 23-141;
3. Proposed rear yard is less than rear yard required as per ZR Section 23-147;” and

WHEREAS, this is an application under ZR §§ 73-622 and 73-03, to permit, within an R2 zoning district, the proposed enlargement of a single-family home, which does not comply with the zoning requirements for floor area, open space and rear yard, contrary to ZR §§ 23-141 and 23-47; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on May 20, 2008, after due notice by publication in *The City Record*, with continued hearings on July 1, 2008 and July 22, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008;

and

WHEREAS, the premises and surrounding area had site and neighborhood examinations by Commissioner Hinkson, Commissioner Montanez and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 14, Brooklyn, recommends approval of this application; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is located on the east side of East 21st Street, between Avenue M and Avenue N; and

WHEREAS, the subject site has a total lot area of 8,000 sq. ft., and is occupied by a single-family home with a floor area of 4,557 sq. ft. (0.57 FAR); and

WHEREAS, the premises is within the boundaries of a designated area in which the subject special permit is available; and

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks an increase in the floor area from 4,557 sq. ft. (0.57 FAR), to 7,880 sq. ft. (0.99 FAR); the maximum floor area permitted is 4,000 sq. ft. (0.50 FAR); and

WHEREAS, the proposed enlargement will provide an open space ratio of 51 percent (a minimum of 150 percent is required); and

WHEREAS, the proposed enlargement will provide a rear yard with a depth of 20’-0” (a minimum rear yard of 30’-0” is required); and

WHEREAS, the enlargement of the home is not located within 20’-0” of the rear lot line; and

WHEREAS, a neighbor to the rear of the subject site testified in opposition to the application citing concerns with its potential impact on his privacy; and

WHEREAS, the neighbor subsequently submitted a letter withdrawing his opposition, on condition that the applicant construct a new fence along the common property line and provide plantings of at least seven feet in height for screening and privacy between the two property; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to provide the requested fencing and screening; and

WHEREAS, based upon its review of the record, the Board finds that the proposed enlargement will neither alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood, nor impair the future use and development of the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the proposed project will not interfere with any pending public improvement project; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, under the conditions and safeguards imposed, any hazard or disadvantage to the community at large due to the proposed special permit use is outweighed by the advantages to be derived by the community; and

WHEREAS, therefore, the Board has determined that the evidence in the record supports the findings required to be made under ZR §§ 73-622 and 73-03.

Therefore it is Resolved, that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Type II determination under 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.5 and 617.3 and §§ 5-02(a), 5-02(b)(2) and 6-15 of the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review and makes the required findings under ZR

MINUTES

§§ 73-622 and 73-03, to permit, within an R2 zoning district, the proposed enlargement of a single-family home, which does not comply with the zoning requirements for floor area ratio, open space ratio, and rear yard, contrary to ZR §§ 23-141 and 23-47; *on condition* that all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above-noted, filed with this application and marked “Received July 8, 2008”–(12) sheets and “July 29, 2008”–(1) sheet; and *on further condition*:

THAT there shall be no habitable room in the cellar or attic;

THAT the above conditions shall be set forth in the certificate of occupancy;

THAT the following shall be the bulk parameters of the building: a total floor area of 7,880 sq. ft. (0.99 FAR), an open space ratio of 51 percent, and a rear yard with a minimum depth of 20’-0”, as illustrated on the BSA-approved plans;

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objections(s) only; no approval has been given by the Board as to the use and layout of the cellar;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of the plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

78-08-BZ

CEQR #08-BSA-075X

APPLICANT – Flora Edwards, Esq., for SBCSICA, owner.
SUBJECT – Application April 3, 2008 – Variance (§72-21) to permit a new community facility building (South Bronx Charter School). The proposal is contrary to §§123-62 (Maximum floor area ratio for community facilities), 24-11 (Maximum floor area ratio and percentage of lot coverage) and 123-662 (b)(4) (As it relates to street wall height for all buildings in Special Mixed-Use Districts with R6, R7, R8 and R10 district designations). MX-1 (M1-2/R6A).

PREMISES AFFECTED – 611-617 East 133rd Street, Block 2546, Lot 27, Borough of Bronx.

COMMUNITY BOARD #1BX

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Flora Edwards.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Application granted on condition.

THE VOTE TO GRANT –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the decision of the Bronx Borough Commissioner, dated March 25, 2008, acting on Department of Buildings Application No. 210040784, reads in pertinent part:

“Proposed 5 Story elementary school building . . . infringes on 15’-0” setback on Cypress Place & 133rd Street Facades and infringes on 10’-0” setback on the Cypress Place/Bruckner Boulevard façade pursuant to ZR 123-662(b)(4) & ZR 123-662(1).

Floor area is exceeded with a total floor area of 39,614.33 SF with an allowable floor area of 27,707.00 sf pursuant to ZR 123-62 & ZR 24-11”; and

WHEREAS, this is an application under ZR § 72-21, to permit, on a site within an MX-1 (M1-2/R6A) Special Mixed Use Zoning District, the construction of a five-story charter elementary school which does not comply with regulations for floor area, FAR and setbacks, contrary to ZR §§ 24-11, 123-62 and 123-662; and

WHEREAS, the application is brought on behalf of the South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts (the “School”), a non-profit educational institution; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this application on July 1, 2008, after due notice by publication in the *City Record*, with a continued hearing on August 19, 2008, and then to decision on August 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the site and surrounding area had site and neighborhood examinations by Chair Srinivasan, Commissioner Hinkson, and Commissioner Ottley-Brown; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 1, Bronx, recommends approval of this application; and

WHEREAS, City Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo provided testimony in support of this project; and

WHEREAS, a parent of a current student of the School testified in support of the application; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is located the intersection of Bruckner Boulevard/ Cypress Place and East 133rd Street within an MX-1 (M1-2/R6A) Special Mixed Use Zoning District; and

WHEREAS, the site has approximately 150 feet of frontage on East 133rd Street, approximately 92 feet of frontage on the eastern side of Cypress Place, approximately 164 feet of frontage on the north at Bruckner Boulevard/Cypress Place, and approximately 26’ feet of frontage at the western intersection of Cypress Place/Bruckner Boulevard and East 133rd Street; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is occupied by a vacant two-story building that will be demolished; and

WHEREAS, the applicant proposes to construct a five-story school (Use Group 3), with a total floor area of approximately 39,614 sq. ft. (4.62 FAR), and a street wall height of 69’-10” without setbacks; and

3 Although the tax map shows the site as bounded by Bruckner Boulevard to the north and west, East 133rd Street to the south and Cypress Place to the east, Cypress Place actually bounds the site on the north, west and east, separated from Bruckner Boulevard by a barrier wall to the north and by a traffic island to the west.

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WHEREAS, the zoning district regulations limit total floor area to 27,707 sq. ft., (3.00 FAR) and require a 10'-0" setback on Bruckner Boulevard/Cypress Place and 15'-0" setbacks on Cypress Place and on 133rd Street, respectively, at a street wall height of 60'-0"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the following are the programmatic needs of the School: (1) accommodating the projected enrollment of 450 kindergarten through fifth grade students at a single permanent location, (2) providing sufficient classroom and accessory space to implement the educational requirements of the School; and (3) a location convenient to its student body; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet its programmatic needs, the applicant seeks a variance pursuant to ZR § 72-21; thus the instant application was filed; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that without the waivers, the School would lack sufficient space for the accessory language laboratory, library and multimedia center which are required by its educational program, and would be unable to provide classrooms of a size sufficient to meet its Charter requirements; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that a complying development would limit the size of a 25-pupil classroom to 637 sq. ft, less than the 713 sq. ft. minimum standard for new construction established by the New York State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the applicant represents that a complying school could not provide adequate space for a fully operational kitchen and cafeteria; and

WHEREAS, the proposed building will have the following program: (i) mechanical room and kitchen storage in a 420 sq. ft. cellar; (ii) kitchen, administrative rooms and a multi-purpose room on the first floor; (iii) music, art, language, media and project rooms on the second floor; and (iii) classroom space on the third through fifth floors; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed building will allow the School to operate permanently at a single location with sufficient classroom space for 450 students in kindergarten through fifth grade, as required by its charter; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that it currently operates its educational facilities at two temporary locations and that it must vacate one of these current facilities after the 2009-2010 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the School further states that its charter requires it to add an additional grade each year until it reaches its full capacity of 450 students in the 2010-2011 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the School represents that its current facilities provide an inadequate number of classrooms and only limited access to gym, library and other educational facilities and cannot accommodate the future growth of the School; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the addition of another grade in the fall of 2008 will increase its classroom requirement to a total of 15, and its consequential deficit to eight classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that its program

includes a location proximate to the Mott Haven community where 70 percent of its student body lives; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the School, as an educational institution, is entitled to significant deference under the law of the State of New York as to zoning and as to its ability to rely upon programmatic needs in support of the subject variance application; and

WHEREAS, specifically, as held in Cornell Univ. v. Bagnardi, 68 N.Y.2d 583 (1986), an educational institution's application is to be permitted unless it can be shown to have an adverse effect upon the health, safety, or welfare of the community, and general concerns about traffic, and disruption of the residential character of a neighborhood are insufficient grounds for the denial of an application; and

WHEREAS, however, the applicant also presents the following site conditions which create an unnecessary hardship in developing the subject site in compliance with the applicable regulations as to floor area and setbacks: (1) its small and irregular shape; and (2) its sub-surface conditions, and

WHEREAS, with respect to its size and shape, the applicant states that the site is an irregularly-shaped trapezoid that is only 91'-0" at its widest point, with a frontage of approximately 26'-0" at its western boundary and a lot area of 8,569 sq. ft.; and

WHEREAS, at a maximum street wall height of 60'-0", the zoning district regulations require setbacks of 15 feet along the Bruckner Boulevard/ Cypress Place frontage of the site, and 10 foot setbacks along each of the other three lot lines; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the small and irregular shape of the lot, coupled with the required setbacks, would result in a floor plate with a width of approximately five feet on the western side of the site, making it impossible to provide adequate classroom and hallway space on the fifth floor of the building; and

WHEREAS, with respect to the sub-surface conditions. the applicant has submitted a geotechnical investigation indicating bedrock sub-surface conditions between 1.5 ft. and 2.5 ft. below the first floor slab; and

WHEREAS, due to the practical and financial difficulties of excavating bedrock, the applicant represents that the School must therefore place building uses above-grade that would otherwise be located in the cellar-level; and

WHEREAS, above-grade development of the required floor area increases the volume of space considered as floor area, partially necessitating a waiver of the required FAR; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that its program includes serving a student body largely residing in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the School's programmatic needs are legitimate and agrees that the proposed building is necessary to address its needs, given the current unique conditions that constrain the site; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, based on the above, the Board finds that the unique site conditions, when considered

MINUTES

in conjunction with the programmatic needs of the School, create an unnecessary hardship and practical difficulty in developing the site in compliance with the applicable zoning regulations; and

WHEREAS, since the School is a non-profit educational institution and the variance is requested to further its non-profit mission, the finding set forth at ZR § 72-21(b) does not have to be made in order to grant the variance requested in this application; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, will not substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, and will not be detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the proposed school will be the only building on the subject block, the building therefore is not directly adjacent to other neighboring buildings; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the property closest to the site is a small park to its east on the opposite side of Cypress Place and that the land uses within a 400 foot radius of the subject site are primarily characterized by warehouse distribution and industrial uses; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further states that Bruckner Boulevard, elevated roadways leading to the Major Deegan Expressway and Triborough Bridge, and their associated exit and entrance ramps occupy the northern and eastern portions of the study area; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed school would be higher than most of the buildings in the area, which are characteristically bulky one-story warehouses, but would have little or no impact on the visual character of the area which is dominated by elevated roadways which create a sense of height far exceeding that of the proposed building; and

WHEREAS, the school is permitted as of right within the subject zoning district and its overall building height is compliant with the R6A zoning district regulations; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the School's hours of operations will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the school is designed to address the potential effects of its proximity to the Bruckner Boulevard truck route, as well as to the highway and bridge approach; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that the building will include windows that provide at least 35 dBA of noise attenuation and a central air conditioning system that allows all windows to remain closed, as well as a ventilation system compliant with New York City Green School standards; and

WHEREAS, at hearing, the Board cited concerns about traffic safety and student crossings; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that a modal split analysis indicates that 70 percent of the students will arrive by school bus and that 19 percent will be dropped off by private motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the applicant further represents that the entrance to the School will be situated at the western end of the site at the intersection of Cypress Place and East 133rd Street, and that pick-up and drop-off for students will take

place on Cypress Avenue, a virtually traffic-free enclave surrounding the site on its east, north and south sides, and which connects to no other street other than 133rd Street; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the applicant states that it is applying to the New York City Department of Transportation to create a no-standing zone during School hours at the designated drop off/ pick up points; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Transportation ("DOT") has conducted a traffic safety review of the subject proposal; and

WHEREAS, DOT determined that the following traffic improvement measures or similar measures may be necessary after the project is completed: (i) modification of traffic signal timings, parking regulations and related signage at the intersection of Bruckner Boulevard and St. Ann's Avenue; (ii) prohibition of southbound left-turn movement and installation of traffic signs at the intersections of Bruckner Boulevard/East 133rd Street and St. Ann's Avenue, and East 134th Street and St. Ann's Avenue, respectively; (iii) installation of regulatory signs at the intersection of East 138th Street and St. Ann's Avenue; and (iv) installation of fences at the southern side of Bruckner Boulevard between East 133rd Street and Cypress Place; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will conduct a traffic and pedestrian safety monitoring study within six months of its occupancy to verify the need for the proposed traffic improvement measures, which would be implemented by the applicant after construction is completed; and

WHEREAS, the applicant must submit the scope of work for the traffic and pedestrian safety monitoring study to DOT for approval prior to commencing the study; and

WHEREAS, the Board notes that DOT has also begun preparations for the installation of signs and markings at intersections surrounding the School; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the proposed signage, signal timing changes, and other traffic control measures can be expected to enhance the safety of students crossing at intersections surrounding the School; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") has approved the instant application, subject to the adoption of certain fire safety measures set forth in a letter dated July 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to comply with the measures contained within the July 22, 2008 letter of the FDNY; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board finds that this action will not alter the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood nor impair the use or development of adjacent properties, nor will it be detrimental to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the hardship was not self-created and is inherent in the size, shape and subsurface conditions of the site; and

WHEREAS, the applicant states that more than a dozen alternative properties were evaluated during a yearlong search for an adequate site for the School; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that each of the identified sites which met the School's requirements as to

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location and potential floor area had acquisition costs that far exceeded the School's acquisition budget; and

WHEREAS, each of the alternative sites identified as being within the acquisition budget were either found to be too small to accommodate the School's program, too distant from its Mott Haven service area, or was burdened by environmental conditions which precluded its use for an educational facility; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Board finds that the hardship herein was not created by the owner or a predecessor in title; and

WHEREAS, the applicant represents that the requested floor area and setback waivers are the minimum necessary to accommodate the programmatic needs of the School; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the requested relief is the minimum necessary to allow the School to fulfill its programmatic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the evidence in the record supports the findings required to be made under ZR § 72-21; and

WHEREAS, the project is classified as a Unlisted action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §§ 617.2(a) – 617.2(k); and

WHEREAS, the Board has conducted an environmental review of the proposed action and has documented relevant information about the project in the Final Environmental Assessment Statement ("EAS") CEQR No. 08BSA075X, dated August 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the EAS documents that the project as proposed would not have significant adverse impacts on Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy; Socioeconomic Conditions; Community Facilities and Services; Open Space; Shadows; Historic Resources; Urban Design and Visual Resources; Neighborhood Character; Natural Resources; Waterfront Revitalization Program; Infrastructure; Hazardous Materials; Solid Waste and Sanitation Services; Energy; Traffic and Parking; Transit and Pedestrians; Air Quality; Noise; and Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Environmental Planning and Assessment of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") has reviewed the following submissions by the applicant: (1) a March 2008 EAS; (2) a May 2007 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment; (3) Limited Subsurface Investigation Reports of June 2007 and August 2007; (4) a July 2008 Phase II Subsurface Investigation Workplan; (5) July 2008 and August 2008 air quality submissions ("air quality submissions"); and (6) a Health and Safety Plan ("HASP"); and

WHEREAS, the latter submissions specifically examined the proposed action for Hazardous Materials, Air Quality; and Noise; and

WHEREAS, DEP approved the July 2008 Phase II Subsurface Investigation Workplan and the HASP; and

WHEREAS, the EAS identified hazardous materials present on the subject site, a Restrictive Declaration was therefore executed on August 20, 2008 and recorded against the subject property on August 22, 2008 to protect construction workers and future occupants from exposure; and

WHEREAS, prior to the issuance of any building permits, approval of a Remedial Action Plan ("RAP") by DEP is also required to ensure that necessary remedial measures are undertaken so that the proposed action does not result in a significant adverse impact on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to DEP approval of the RAP, a Remedial Closure Report certified by a Professional Engineer, must be submitted to DEP showing that all remedial requirements have been properly prior to occupancy; and

WHEREAS the issuance of a Notice to Proceed for the subject property is contingent on DEP approval of the RAP, and the issuance of a Notice of Satisfaction is contingent on DEP approval of a Remedial Closure Report; and

WHEREAS, with respect to air quality review, the applicant conducted an analysis of combustion sources for boiler and emergency power generators of the Bronx Grit Chamber which determined that no air pollutant standards and thresholds would be exceeded by construction of the School; therefore, there is no potential significant adverse air quality impact anticipated from the Bronx Grit Chamber; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to install double glazed windows that achieve a 35 dBA of attenuation for each building façade and a dedicated outdoor air system, therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant adverse noise impacts; and

WHEREAS, no other significant effects upon the environment that would require an Environmental Impact Statement are foreseeable; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Therefore it is Resolved that the Board of Standards and Appeals issues a Negative Declaration, with conditions as stipulated below, prepared in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, as amended, and makes each and every one of the required findings under ZR § 72-21 and grants a variance to permit, within an R6 zoning district, the development of a new community facility (Use Group 3), which does not comply with floor area ratio and setback requirements, contrary to ZR §§ 24-11 and 123-662, *on condition* that any and all work shall substantially conform to drawings as they apply to the objections above noted, filed with this application marked "Received May 8, 2008"- Two (2) sheets; "Received July 15, 2008"- Six (6) sheets; "Received August 5, 2008"- One (1) sheet; "Received August 14, 2008"-One (1) sheet; and "Received August 26, 2008"-Four (4) sheets and, *on further condition*:

THAT the proposed school shall have a floor area of approximately 39,614 sq. ft. (4.62 FAR), and a street wall height of 69'-10" without setbacks, as shown on the BSA-approved plans;

THAT the premises shall comply with all applicable fire safety measures, as required;

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THAT DEP shall be notified one week prior to the onset of investigative field work relating to hazardous materials testing;

THAT the issuance of building permits shall be conditioned on the issuance by DEP of a Notice to Proceed;

THAT the issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall be conditioned on the issuance by DEP of a Notice of Satisfaction;

THAT a dedicated outdoor air system and double glazed windows on each facade capable of achieving a 35 dBA of attenuation shall be provided;

THAT the applicant shall inform DOT six months prior to the anticipated initial occupancy of the proposed development so that DOT can investigate the feasibility of implementing the proposed traffic safety measures prior to the occupancy of the project;

THAT the applicant shall conduct a traffic and pedestrian safety monitoring study within six months of its occupancy;

THAT the applicant shall submit a proposed scope of work to DOT for approval prior to conducting the traffic and pedestrian monitoring study;

THAT the applicant shall, with the cooperation of DOT, implement the design, construction and installation of improvements identified by the traffic and pedestrian safety monitoring study and approved by DOT;

THAT a drop-off/pick-up area shall be maintained on Cypress Place, as shown on the BSA-approved plans;

THAT two dedicated employees shall coordinate assistance to students entering and leaving the building during the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.;

THAT the approved plans shall be considered approved only for the portions related to the specific relief granted;

THAT construction will be substantially completed in accordance with the requirements of ZR § 72-23; and

THAT the Department of Buildings must ensure compliance with all other applicable provisions of the Zoning Resolution, the Administrative Code, and any other relevant laws under its jurisdiction irrespective of plan(s)/configuration(s) not related to the relief granted; and

THAT this approval is limited to the relief granted by the Board in response to specifically cited and filed DOB/other jurisdiction objection(s) only.

Adopted by the Board of Standards and Appeals, August 26, 2008.

39-06-BZ

APPLICANT – Moshe M. Friedman, P.E., for Rachel Klagsbrun, owner.

SUBJECT – Application March 8, 2006 – Variance (§72-21) to allow the legalization of two (2) dwelling units (U.G. 2) in an existing three-story industrial building. Ground floor is proposed to be retained as manufacturing space (U.G. 17d). M1-2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 245 Varet Street, north side 100' east of intersection of White Street and Varet Street, Block 3110, Lot 33, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #1BK

APPEARANCES – None.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to October 28, 2007, at 1:30 P.M., for deferred decision.

243-07-BZ/244-07-A

APPLICANT – Rothkrug, Rothkrug & Spector LLP, for Cee Jay Real Estate Development Company, owner.

SUBJECT – Application October 29, 2007 – Variance (§72-21) to construct a three story, one family residence on a irregular, vacant, triangular lot in a Lower Density Growth Management (LDGM) area. This application seeks to vary floor area and open space (§23-141); less than the minimum front yards (§23-45) and less than the required amount of parking (§23-622) in an R3-2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 120 John Street, northwest corner of the intersection of John Street and Douglas Street, Block 1123, Lot 120, Borough of Staten Island.

COMMUNITY BOARD #1SI

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Todd Dale.

For Opposition: Marie Wausnock and Vikki Palmer.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for continued hearing.

271-07-BZ

APPLICANT – The Rizzo Group, for Mitchell Marks, owner; Club Ventures II, LLC., lessee.

SUBJECT – Application November 28, 2007 – Special Permit (§73-36) to permit the legalization of a Physical Culture Establishment (PCE) in the C2-7A portion of the zoning district. A variance is also requested to allow the PCE use in the 22'3" portion of the site in the R8A zoning district. The proposal is contrary to §§ 22-10 and 32-18.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 213-219 West 23rd Street, north side of 23rd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, Block 773, Lot 34, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #4M

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Kenneth Barbina, Esq.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5
Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 16, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for decision, hearing closed.

59-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Sheldon Lobel, P.C., for 591-595 Forest Avenue Realty Corp., owner; Forest Avenue Fitness Group, LLC, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application March 17, 2008 – Special Permit

MINUTES

(§73-36) to allow the operation of a Physical Culture Establishment on the first and second floors of an existing building. The proposal is contrary to section 32-10. C2-1 within R3X district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 591 Forest Avenue, north side of Forest Avenue, between Pelton Avenue and Regan Avenue, Block 154, Lot 140, Borough of Staten Island.

COMMUNITY BOARD #1SI

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Elizabeth Safian and James Heineman.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for continued hearing.

84-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Walter T. Gorman, P.E., for Exxon Mobil Corporation, owner; L & M Service Station, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application April 9, 2008 – Special Permit (§§11-411, 11-412 & 73-01 (d)) to reinstate and amend the variance granted under Cal No. 410-48-BZ for an automotive service station with accessory uses located in a C1-2/R4 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 67-24 Main Street, a/k/a 68-12 Main Street, West side Street 315.5' north of 68th Drive, Block 6486, Lot 38, Borough of Queens.

COMMUNITY BOARD #8Q

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Patrick Gorman.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for continued hearing.

94-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Law Offices of Howard Goldman, LLC, for ZTI Corp., owner; Pitkin Managers, LLC, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application April 16, 2008 – Variance (§72-21) to waive all the required accessory parking (23 spaces) for the residential portion of a mixed-use redevelopment of an existing theatre building; contrary to §25-00. C4-3 district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 1501 Pitkin Avenue, between Legion Street and Saratoga Avenues, Block 3492, Lot 1, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #16BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Chris Wright and Daniel Gorthe.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for decision, hearing closed.

145-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Law Office of Fredrick A. Becker, for Faige

Neuman and Stephen Neuman, owner.

SUBJECT – Application May 16, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of an existing single family home. This application seeks to vary open space and floor area (§23-141); less than the minimum side yards (§23-461) and less than the required rear yard (§23-47) in an R2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 1121 East 28th Street, east side of East 28th Street, between Avenue K and Avenue L, Block 7628, Lot 37, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD # 14BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Lyra Altman.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for decision, hearing closed.

148-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Dennis D Dell' Angelo, for Michael Hass, owner.

SUBJECT – Application May 28, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of a single family residence. This application seeks to vary floor area and open space (§23-141); less than the required side yards (§23-461) and rear yard (§23-47) in an R-2 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 1383 East 27th Street, east side of East 27th Street, 60' north of Avenue N, Block 7663, Lot 10, Borough of Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Dennis Dell' Angelo.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 23, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for decision, hearing closed.

155-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Eric Palatnik, P.C., for Arkadiy Kofman, owner.

SUBJECT – Application June 3, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-622) for the enlargement of an existing two family home to be converted to a one family home. This application seeks to vary floor area, open space and lot coverage (§23-141(a)); less than the minimum required rear yard (§23-47) in an R3-1 zoning district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 282 Beaumont Street, south of Oriental Boulevard, Block 8739, Lot 71, Borough of

MINUTES

Brooklyn.

COMMUNITY BOARD #15BK

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Todd Dale.

For Opposition: Samuel Falack, Michael Penn, Irvin Peters, Susan Klapper and Francine Odk.

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to October 7, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for continued hearing.

167-08-BZ

APPLICANT – Sheldon Lobel, P.C., for Profile Enterprises, L.P., owner; for Garden Retreat Spa, LLC, lessee.

SUBJECT – Application June 19, 2008 – Special Permit (§73-36) to allow the legalization of a physical culture establishment on the second floor of an existing seven-story building. The proposal is contrary to ZR §32-10. C5-2 district.

PREMISES AFFECTED – 253 5th Avenue, northeast corner of the intersection formed by 5th Avenue and West 28th Street, Block 858, Lot 1, Borough of Manhattan.

COMMUNITY BOARD #5M

APPEARANCES –

For Applicant: Elizabeth Safian.

THE VOTE TO CLOSE HEARING –

Affirmative: Chair Srinivasan, Vice-Chair Collins, Commissioner Ottley-Brown, Commissioner Hinkson and Commissioner Montanez.....5

Negative:.....0

ACTION OF THE BOARD – Laid over to September 16, 2008, at 1:30 P.M., for decision, hearing closed.

Jeff Mulligan, Executive Director

Adjourned: 4:50 P.M.