

City Environmental Quality Review ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS) SHORT FORM

FOR UNLISTED ACTIONS ONLY • Please fill out and submit to the appropriate agency (see instructions)

Part I: GENERAL INFORMATION					
1. Does the Action Exceed Any 1977, as amended)?	YES	NO NO	t 617.4 or 43 RCNY §6-1	5(A) (Executive C)rder 91 of
If "yes," STOP and complete the	FULL EAS FORM.				
2. Project Name 125-18 & 125-	22 Merrick Boule	vard, Queens			
3. Reference Numbers					
CEQR REFERENCE NUMBER (to be assig	ned by lead agency)		BSA REFERENCE NUMBER	(if applicable)	
16DCP099Q	-1-1				
ULURP REFERENCE NUMBER (if applical 160306 ZMQ	ole)		OTHER REFERENCE NUMB		
4a. Lead Agency Information			(<i>e.g.</i> , legislative intro, CAP) 4b. <i>Applicant Inform</i>		
NAME OF LEAD AGENCY			NAME OF APPLICANT		
NYC Department of City Plannin	g		125-22 Owners LLC		
NAME OF LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PER			NAME OF APPLICANT'S RE	PRESENTATIVE OR CO	NTACT PERSON
Robert Dobruskin			Hiram Rothkrug, EPDS	CO, Inc.	
ADDRESS 120 Broadway, 31 st Flore	or		ADDRESS 55 Water Mi		
CITY New York	STATE NY	ZIP 10271	CITY Great Neck	STATE NY	ZIP 11021
TELEPHONE 212-720-3423	EMAIL	•	TELEPHONE 718-343-	EMAIL	•
	rdobrus@planni	ing.nyc.gov	0026	hrothkrug@e	pdsco.com
5. Project Description					
The Applicant, 125-22 Owners L	LC, is seeking a Zo	ning Map Ame	ndment, from R3A to R3	3A/C2-3, affecting	g a site located
at 125-18 Merrick Boulevard (Bl	ock 12525, Lot 12	the "Project A	rea") within the Springfi	eld Gardens secti	on of Queens
Community District 12. The prop	osed rezoning wo	ould facilitate a	proposal by the application	ant to develop an	8,996 gross
square foot (gsf) single-story cor	nmercial building	at the Develop	oment Site, which includ	es Lot 12 and adj	acent Lots 1
and 128, which are expected to	be merged into a	single zoning lo	ot in connection with th	e Applicant's prop	osal
Project Location					
BOROUGH Queens	COMMUNITY DISTR	RICT(S) 12	STREET ADDRESS 125-18	& 125-22 Merric	k Boulevard
TAX BLOCK(S) AND LOT(S) Block 125	25, Lots 1, 12, 128	3	ZIP CODE 11420		
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BY BOUND	ING OR CROSS STREE	TS The northwe	est corner of Merrick Bo	ulevard and 126t	h Avenue
EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT, INCLUDING	SPECIAL ZONING DIS	STRICT DESIGNATION	ON, IF ANY R3A ZON	ING SECTIONAL MAP	NUMBER 19a
6. Required Actions or Approva		ly)			
City Planning Commission: 🛛 🕥					(ULURP)
CITY MAP AMENDMENT		CERTIFICATION	co	DNCESSION	
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT	ZONING	AUTHORIZATION	UI	DAAP	
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT		TION—REAL PROP	PERTY RE	VOCABLE CONSENT	
SITE SELECTION—PUBLIC FACILITY		TION—REAL PROP	ERTY FR	ANCHISE	
HOUSING PLAN & PROJECT	OTHER, e	explain:			
SPECIAL PERMIT (if appropriate, sp	ecify type: 🗌 modi	fication; 🗌 rene	ewal; 🗌 other); EXPIRATIO	N DATE:	
SPECIFY AFFECTED SECTIONS OF THE ZO	NING RESOLUTION				
Board of Standards and Appeal	s: 🗌 YES 🛛	NO NO			
VARIANCE (use)					
VARIANCE (bulk)					
SPECIAL PERMIT (if appropriate, sp	ecify type: 🗌 modif	fication; 🗌 rene	ewal; 🗌 other); EXPIRATIO	N DATE:	
SPECIFY AFFECTED SECTIONS OF THE ZO	DNING RESOLUTION				
Department of Environmental P	Protection: 🗌 YE	is 🖂 no	If "yes," specify:		

Other City Approvals Subject to CEQR (check all that apply)

LEGISLATION			FUNDING OF CONSTRUCTION	DN, specify:
RULEMAKING			POLICY OR PLAN, specify:	
	JBLIC FACILITIES		FUNDING OF PROGRAMS, s	pecify:
384(b)(4) APPROVAL			PERMITS, specify:	
OTHER, explain:				
Other City Approvals	Not Subject to CEQR (ch	eck all that apply)		
PERMITS FROM DOT'S	SOFFICE OF CONSTRUCTION	MITIGATION AND	LANDMARKS PRESERVATIO	N COMMISSION APPROVAL
COORDINATION (OCMC)			OTHER, explain:	
State or Federal Actio	ns/Approvals/Funding	: 🗌 YES 🛛 NO	If "yes," specify:	
-		ists of the project site and the nation with regard to the dire		in regulatory controls. Except
		-		te. Each map must clearly depict
•				ries of the project site. Maps may
not exceed 11 x 17 inches i	n size and, for paper filings, n	nust be folded to 8.5 x 11 incl	nes.	
SITE LOCATION MAP	zor	NING MAP	SANBOF	N OR OTHER LAND USE MAP
🔀 ΤΑΧ ΜΑΡ	FOF	R LARGE AREAS OR MULTIPLE	SITES, A GIS SHAPE FILE THA	T DEFINES THE PROJECT SITE(S)
PHOTOGRAPHS OF TH	E PROJECT SITE TAKEN WITH	IIN 6 MONTHS OF EAS SUBMI	SSION AND KEYED TO THE SI	TE LOCATION MAP
	developed and undeveloped	areas)		
Total directly affected area			terbody area (sq. ft) and type	::
Roads, buildings, and other			er, describe (sq. ft.):	
•	• •		sites, provide the total devel	opment facilitated by the action)
	VELOPED (gross square feet):			
NUMBER OF BUILDINGS: 1			OR AREA OF EACH BUILDING	
HEIGHT OF EACH BUILDING			STORIES OF EACH BUILDING	i: 1
		one or more sites? XES		
		lled by the applicant: 10,77	8	
	square feet not owned or con		noluding but not limited to f	oundation work ailings utility
lines, or grading?		T OF SUBSULIACE DISTURBALLE, I	nciuding, but not innited to i	oundation work, pilings, utility
		sions of subsurface permane	nt and temporary disturbance	e (if known):
AREA OF TEMPORARY DIST			E OF DISTURBANCE:	cubic ft. (width x length x depth)
AREA OF PERMANENT DIST		vidth x length)		
Description of Propos	ed Uses (please complete t	he following information as a	ppropriate)	
	Residential	Commercial	Community Facility	Industrial/Manufacturing
Size (in gross sq. ft.)		8,996		
Type (e.g., retail, office, school)	units	Retail		
	increase the population of r	l esidents and/or on-site worke	ers? 🛛 YES 🗌 N	0
II yes, please specily.	NUMBER	R OF ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS		additional workers [,] 9
		R OF ADDITIONAL RESIDENTS e determined: 1 worker pe		ADDITIONAL WORKERS: 9
	of how these numbers were	e determined: 1 worker pe		
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project	of how these numbers were create new open space?	e determined: 1 worker pe	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-c	
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b	of how these numbers were create new open space?	e determined: 1 worker pe YES X NO If ' hat differs from the existing o	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-c	created open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t	e determined: 1 worker pe YES X NO If ' hat differs from the existing o	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-c	created open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es 9. Analysis Year CEQR	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t tablishing the Analysis Frame Technical Manual Chapter 2	e determined: 1 worker pe YES X NO If ' hat differs from the existing o	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-c condition? YES	created open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es 9. Analysis Year <u>CEQR</u> ANTICIPATED BUILD YEAR	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t tablishing the Analysis Frame Technical Manual Chapter 2	e determined: 1 worker pe YES NO If " that differs from the existing of ework" and describe briefly:	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-c condition? YES	created open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es 9. Analysis Year <u>CEQR</u> ANTICIPATED BUILD YEAR ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF C	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t tablishing the Analysis Frame <u>Technical Manual Chapter 2</u> (date the project would be co	e determined: 1 worker per YES NO If " that differs from the existing of ework" and describe briefly:	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-o condition? YES	sreated open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es 9. Analysis Year <u>CEQR</u> ANTICIPATED BUILD YEAR ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF C WOULD THE PROJECT BE IN	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t tablishing the Analysis Frame <u>Technical Manual Chapter 2</u> (date the project would be co ONSTRUCTION IN MONTHS:	e determined: 1 worker per YES NO If " that differs from the existing of ework" and describe briefly: ompleted and operational): 2 12 HASE? YES NO	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-o condition? YES	sreated open space: sq. ft.
Provide a brief explanation Does the proposed project Has a No-Action scenario b If "yes," see <u>Chapter 2</u> , "Es 9. <i>Analysis Year</i> <u>CEQR</u> ANTICIPATED BUILD YEAR ANTICIPATED BUILD YEAR ANTICIPATED PERIOD OF C WOULD THE PROJECT BE IN BRIEFLY DESCRIBE PHASES	of how these numbers were create new open space? een defined for this project t tablishing the Analysis Frame <u>Technical Manual Chapter 2</u> (date the project would be co ONSTRUCTION IN MONTHS: MPLEMENTED IN A SINGLE PH AND CONSTRUCTION SCHED	e determined: 1 worker per YES NO If " that differs from the existing of ework" and describe briefly: ompleted and operational): 2 12 HASE? YES NO ULE: the Project (check all that a	r 1,000 sf yes," specify size of project-o condition? YES 2018 D IF MULTIPLE PHASE	sreated open space: sq. ft.

Part II: TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

INSTRUCTIONS: For each of the analysis categories listed in this section, assess the proposed project's impacts based on the thresholds and criteria presented in the CEQR Technical Manual. Check each box that applies.

- If the proposed project can be demonstrated not to meet or exceed the threshold, check the "no" box.
- If the proposed project will meet or exceed the threshold, or if this cannot be determined, check the "yes" box.
- For each "yes" response, provide additional analyses (and, if needed, attach supporting information) based on guidance in the CEQR Technical Manual to determine whether the potential for significant impacts exists. Please note that a "yes" answer does not mean that an EIS must be prepared—it means that more information may be required for the lead agency to make a determination of significance.
- The lead agency, upon reviewing Part II, may require an applicant to provide additional information to support the Short EAS Form. For example, if a question is answered "no," an agency may request a short explanation for this response.

	YES	NO
1. LAND USE, ZONING, AND PUBLIC POLICY: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 4		
(a) Would the proposed project result in a change in land use different from surrounding land uses?	\boxtimes	
(b) Would the proposed project result in a change in zoning different from surrounding zoning?		\square
(c) Is there the potential to affect an applicable public policy?		\boxtimes
(d) If "yes," to (a), (b), and/or (c), complete a preliminary assessment and attach. See Attached.		_
(e) Is the project a large, publicly sponsored project?		\square
 If "yes," complete a PlaNYC assessment and attach. 		
(f) Is any part of the directly affected area within the City's <u>Waterfront Revitalization Program boundaries</u> ?		\boxtimes
 If "yes," complete the <u>Consistency Assessment Form</u>. See attached. 		
2. SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 5		
(a) Would the proposed project:		
 Generate a net increase of 200 or more residential units? 		\square
 Generate a net increase of 200,000 or more square feet of commercial space? 		\boxtimes
 Directly displace more than 500 residents? 		\square
 Directly displace more than 100 employees? 		\square
 Affect conditions in a specific industry? 		\square
3. COMMUNITY FACILITIES: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 6		
(a) Direct Effects		
 Would the project directly eliminate, displace, or alter public or publicly funded community facilities such as educational facilities, libraries, hospitals and other health care facilities, day care centers, police stations, or fire stations? 		\square
(b) Indirect Effects		
• Child Care Centers: Would the project result in 20 or more eligible children under age 6, based on the number of low or		\square
low/moderate income residential units? (See Table 6-1 in <u>Chapter 6</u>)		
 Libraries: Would the project result in a 5 percent or more increase in the ratio of residential units to library branches? (See Table 6-1 in Chapter 6) 		
• Public Schools: Would the project result in 50 or more elementary or middle school students, or 150 or more high		\boxtimes
 school students based on number of residential units? (See Table 6-1 in <u>Chapter 6</u>) Health Care Facilities and Fire/Police Protection: Would the project result in the introduction of a sizeable new 		
neighborhood?		
4. OPEN SPACE: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 7		
(a) Would the proposed project change or eliminate existing open space?		\square
(b) Is the project located within an under-served area in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, or Staten Island?		\square
 If "yes," would the proposed project generate more than 50 additional residents or 125 additional employees? 		
(c) Is the project located within a well-served area in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, or Staten Island?	\boxtimes	
 If "yes," would the proposed project generate more than 350 additional residents or 750 additional employees? 		\square
(d) If the project in located an area that is neither under-served nor well-served, would it generate more than 200 additional residents or 500 additional employees?		
5. SHADOWS: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 8		•

	YES	NO
(a) Would the proposed project result in a net height increase of any structure of 50 feet or more?		\square
(b) Would the proposed project result in any increase in structure height and be located adjacent to or across the street from a sunlight-sensitive resource?		\square
6. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 9		
(a) Does the proposed project site or an adjacent site contain any architectural and/or archaeological resource that is eligible for or has been designated (or is calendared for consideration) as a New York City Landmark, Interior Landmark or Scenic Landmark; that is listed or eligible for listing on the New York State or National Register of Historic Places; or that is within a designated or eligible New York City, New York State or National Register Historic District? (See the <u>GIS System for</u> <u>Archaeology and National Register</u> to confirm)		
(b) Would the proposed project involve construction resulting in in-ground disturbance to an area not previously excavated?		\square
(c) If "yes" to either of the above, list any identified architectural and/or archaeological resources and attach supporting informat	ion on	
whether the proposed project would potentially affect any architectural or archeological resources.		
7. URBAN DESIGN AND VISUAL RESOURCES: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 10		
(a) Would the proposed project introduce a new building, a new building height, or result in any substantial physical alteration	\boxtimes	
to the streetscape or public space in the vicinity of the proposed project that is not currently allowed by existing zoning?		
(b) Would the proposed project result in obstruction of publicly accessible views to visual resources not currently allowed by existing zoning?		\square
8. NATURAL RESOURCES: <u>CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 11</u>		
(a) Does the proposed project site or a site adjacent to the project contain natural resources as defined in Section 100 of		\boxtimes
Chapter 11?		
 If "yes," list the resources and attach supporting information on whether the proposed project would affect any of these re- 		
(b) Is any part of the directly affected area within the Jamaica Bay Watershed?	\square	
 If "yes," complete the <u>Jamaica Bay Watershed Form</u>, and submit according to its <u>instructions</u>. 		
9. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 12		
(a) Would the proposed project allow commercial or residential uses in an area that is currently, or was historically, a manufacturing area that involved hazardous materials?		\square
(b) Does the proposed project site have existing institutional controls (e.g., (E) designation or Restrictive Declaration) relating to		\boxtimes
hazardous materials that preclude the potential for significant adverse impacts? (c) Would the project require soil disturbance in a manufacturing area or any development on or near a manufacturing area or		
existing/historic facilities listed in Appendix 1 (including nonconforming uses)?		
(d) Would the project result in the development of a site where there is reason to suspect the presence of hazardous materials, contamination, illegal dumping or fill, or fill material of unknown origin?		\boxtimes
(e) Would the project result in development on or near a site that has or had underground and/or aboveground storage tanks		\boxtimes
(e.g., gas stations, oil storage facilities, heating oil storage)?(f) Would the project result in renovation of interior existing space on a site with the potential for compromised air quality;		
vapor intrusion from either on-site or off-site sources; or the presence of asbestos, PCBs, mercury or lead-based paint?		\bowtie
(g) Would the project result in development on or near a site with potential hazardous materials issues such as government-		\square
listed voluntary cleanup/brownfield site, current or former power generation/transmission facilities, coal gasification or gas storage sites, railroad tracks or rights-of-way, or municipal incinerators?		\square
(h) Has a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment been performed for the site?	\Box	\square
 If "yes," were Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) identified? Briefly identify: 		
10. WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 13		
(a) Would the project result in water demand of more than one million gallons per day?		\square
(b) If the proposed project located in a combined sewer area, would it result in at least 1,000 residential units or 250,000		
square feet or more of commercial space in Manhattan, or at least 400 residential units or 150,000 square feet or more of commercial space in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, or Queens?		\square
(c) If the proposed project located in a <u>separately sewered area</u> , would it result in the same or greater development than the amounts listed in Table 13-1 in <u>Chapter 13</u> ?		\square
(d) Would the proposed project involve development on a site that is 5 acres or larger where the amount of impervious surface would increase?		\boxtimes
(e) If the project is located within the Jamaica Bay Watershed or in certain specific drainage areas, including Bronx River, Coney		
Island Creek, Flushing Bay and Creek, Gowanus Canal, Hutchinson River, Newtown Creek, or Westchester Creek, would it		\bowtie
involve development on a site that is 1 acre or larger where the amount of impervious surface would increase?		
(f) Would the proposed project be located in an area that is partially sewered or currently unsewered?		\bowtie

	YES	NO	
(g) Is the project proposing an industrial facility or activity that would contribute industrial discharges to a Wastewater Treatment Plant and/or generate contaminated stormwater in a separate storm sewer system?		\square	
(h) Would the project involve construction of a new stormwater outfall that requires federal and/or state permits?		\square	
11. SOLID WASTE AND SANITATION SERVICES: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 14			
(a) Using Table 14-1 in Chapter 14, the project's projected operational solid waste generation is estimated to be (pounds per week and the set of the set	ek): 869		
• Would the proposed project have the potential to generate 100,000 pounds (50 tons) or more of solid waste per week?		\boxtimes	
(b) Would the proposed project involve a reduction in capacity at a solid waste management facility used for refuse or recyclables generated within the City?		\square	
12. ENERGY: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 15			
(a) Using energy modeling or Table 15-1 in Chapter 15, the project's projected energy use is estimated to be (annual BTUs): 2,3			
(b) Would the proposed project affect the transmission or generation of energy?		\boxtimes	
13. TRANSPORTATION: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 16			
(a) Would the proposed project exceed any threshold identified in Table 16-1 in Chapter 16?			
(b) If "yes," conduct the screening analyses, attach appropriate back up data as needed for each stage and answer the following q	uestions	:	
• Would the proposed project result in 50 or more Passenger Car Equivalents (PCEs) per project peak hour?		\boxtimes	
If "yes," would the proposed project result in 50 or more vehicle trips per project peak hour at any given intersection? **It should be noted that the lead agency may require further analysis of intersections of concern even when a project generates fewer than 50 vehicles in the peak hour. See Subsection 313 of <u>Chapter 16</u> for more information.			
• Would the proposed project result in more than 200 subway/rail or bus trips per project peak hour?		\boxtimes	
If "yes," would the proposed project result, per project peak hour, in 50 or more bus trips on a single line (in one direction) or 200 subway trips per station or line?			
 Would the proposed project result in more than 200 pedestrian trips per project peak hour? 		\boxtimes	
If "yes," would the proposed project result in more than 200 pedestrian trips per project peak hour to any given pedestrian or transit element, crosswalk, subway stair, or bus stop?			
14. AIR QUALITY: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 17			
(a) Mobile Sources: Would the proposed project result in the conditions outlined in Section 210 in Chapter 17?		\square	
(b) Stationary Sources: Would the proposed project result in the conditions outlined in Section 220 in Chapter 17?	\square		
 If "yes," would the proposed project exceed the thresholds in Figure 17-3, Stationary Source Screen Graph in <u>Chapter</u> <u>17</u>? (Attach graph as needed) 		\square	
(c) Does the proposed project involve multiple buildings on the project site?		\square	
(d) Does the proposed project require federal approvals, support, licensing, or permits subject to conformity requirements?		\boxtimes	
(e) Does the proposed project site have existing institutional controls (<i>e.g.</i> , (E) designation or Restrictive Declaration) relating to air quality that preclude the potential for significant adverse impacts?		\square	
15. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 18			
(a) Is the proposed project a city capital project or a power generation plant?		\boxtimes	
(b) Would the proposed project fundamentally change the City's solid waste management system?		\boxtimes	
(c) If "yes" to any of the above, would the project require a GHG emissions assessment based on the guidance in Chapter 18?		\boxtimes	
16. NOISE: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 19			
(a) Would the proposed project generate or reroute vehicular traffic?	\square		
(b) Would the proposed project introduce new or additional receptors (see Section 124 in <u>Chapter 19</u>) near heavily trafficked roadways, within one horizontal mile of an existing or proposed flight path, or within 1,500 feet of an existing or proposed rail line with a direct line of site to that rail line?		\square	
(c) Would the proposed project cause a stationary noise source to operate within 1,500 feet of a receptor with a direct line of sight to that receptor or introduce receptors into an area with high ambient stationary noise?		\square	
(d) Does the proposed project site have existing institutional controls (<i>e.g.</i> , (E) designation or Restrictive Declaration) relating to noise that preclude the potential for significant adverse impacts?		\boxtimes	
17. PUBLIC HEALTH: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 20	<u> </u>		
 (a) Based upon the analyses conducted, do any of the following technical areas require a detailed analysis: Air Quality; Hazardous Materials; Noise? 		\square	
(b) If "yes," explain why an assessment of public health is or is not warranted based on the guidance in <u>Chapter 20</u> , "Public Healt	h." Attac	ch a	

	YES	NO
preliminary analysis, if necessary.		
18. NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 21		
(a) Based upon the analyses conducted, do any of the following technical areas require a detailed analysis: Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy; Socioeconomic Conditions; Open Space; Historic and Cultural Resources; Urban Design and Visual Resources; Shadows; Transportation; Noise?		\boxtimes
(b) If "yes," explain why an assessment of neighborhood character is or is not warranted based on the guidance in <u>Chapter 21</u> , "N Character." Attach a preliminary analysis, if necessary.	leighbor	hood
19. CONSTRUCTION: CEQR Technical Manual Chapter 22		
(a) Would the project's construction activities involve:		
 Construction activities lasting longer than two years? 		\square
• Construction activities within a Central Business District or along an arterial highway or major thoroughfare?		\square
 Closing, narrowing, or otherwise impeding traffic, transit, or pedestrian elements (roadways, parking spaces, bicycle routes, sidewalks, crosswalks, corners, <i>etc.</i>)? 		
 Construction of multiple buildings where there is a potential for on-site receptors on buildings completed before the final build-out? 		\square
• The operation of several pieces of diesel equipment in a single location at peak construction?		\boxtimes
 Closure of a community facility or disruption in its services? 		\boxtimes
 Activities within 400 feet of a historic or cultural resource? 		\boxtimes
 Disturbance of a site containing or adjacent to a site containing natural resources? 		\boxtimes
 Construction on multiple development sites in the same geographic area, such that there is the potential for several construction timelines to overlap or last for more than two years overall? 		\square
(b) If any boxes are checked "yes," explain why a preliminary construction assessment is or is not warranted based on the guidance <u>22</u> , "Construction." It should be noted that the nature and extent of any commitment to use the Best Available Technology for equipment or Best Management Practices for construction activities should be considered when making this determination.		
20. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION		
I swear or affirm under oath and subject to the penalties for perjury that the information provided in this Environmental Statement (EAS) is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, based upon my personal knowledge and fa with the information described herein and after examination of the pertinent books and records and/or after inquiry of have personal knowledge of such information or who have examined pertinent books and records.	amiliarit	ty
Still under oath, I further swear or affirm that I make this statement in my capacity as the applicant or representative of that seeks the permits, approvals, funding, or other governmental action(s) described in this EAS.	the ent	ity
APPLICANT/REPRESENTATIVE NAME DATE		
Justin Jarboe, EPDSCO, Inc. 5/20/16		
SIGNATURE		
PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICANTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBSTANTIATE RESPONSES IN THIS FORM AT DISCRETION OF THE LEAD AGENCY SO THAT IT MAY SUPPORT ITS DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICAN		

Pa	t III: DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (To Be Complet	ed by Lead Agency)		The Alexandre		
	TRUCTIONS: In completing Part III, the lead agency shoul ler 91 or 1977, as amended), which contain the State and		06 (Executi	ve		
	 For each of the impact categories listed below, consider w adverse effect on the environment, taking into account its duration; (d) irreversibility; (e) geographic scope; and (f) r 	whether the project may have a significant s (a) location; (b) probability of occurring; (c)	Poten Signifi Adverse	cant		
	IMPACT CATEGORY		YES	NO		
	Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy			\boxtimes		
	Socioeconomic Conditions	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		\square		
	Community Facilities and Services			\square		
	Open Space					
	Shadows					
	Historic and Cultural Resources					
	Urban Design/Visual Resources					
	Natural Resources					
-	Hazardous Materials					
-	Water and Sewer Infrastructure		H H	X		
	Solid Waste and Sanitation Services		l T			
	Energy					
	Transportation			X		
	Air Quality					
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
	Noise	·····	H H			
	Public Health		17			
-	Neighborhood Character					
	Construction					
	 Are there any aspects of the project relevant to the deter significant impact on the environment, such as combined covered by other responses and supporting materials? If there are such impacts, attach an explanation stating w 	or cumulative impacts, that were not fully				
	have a significant impact on the environment.3. Check determination to be issued by the lead agence					
	 Check determination to be issued by the lead agency. Positive Declaration: If the lead agency has determined that the project may have a significant impact on the environment, and if a Conditional Negative Declaration is not appropriate, then the lead agency issues a <i>Positive Declaration</i> and prepares a draft Scope of Work for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Conditional Negative Declaration: A <i>Conditional Negative Declaration</i> (CND) may be appropriate if there is a private applicant for an Unlisted action AND when conditions imposed by the lead agency will modify the proposed project so that no significant adverse environmental impacts would result. The CND is prepared as a separate document and is subject to the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617. 					
	Negative Declaration: If the lead agency has determined that the project would not result in potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, then the lead agency issues a <i>Negative Declaration</i> . The <i>Negative Declaration</i> may be prepared as a separate document (see template) or using the embedded Negative Declaration on the next page.					
	4. LEAD AGENCY'S CERTIFICATION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		<u>-</u>		
	E puty Director, Environmental Assessment and Review vision	LEAD AGENCY The New York City Department of City Pl	anning (DC	P)		
NA		DATE				
1	a Abinader	May 20, 2016				
SIG	NATURE Lege abi					
-		(1945) - South Station (1975)				



Urban Cartographics









Current Zoning Map (19a)



Proposed Zoning Map (19a) - Project Area is outlined with dotted lines Rezoning from R3A to R3A/C2-3





1. View of 126th Avenue facing east (Development Site and Rezoning Area at left).



3. View of neighboring residential uses west of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing northwest from 126th Avenue.



2. View of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing northeast from 126th Avenue.





4. View of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing north from 126th Avenue.



6. View of the Development Site facing northwest from 126th Avenue.



5. View of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing northwest from 126th Avenue.





7. View of the Development Site facing northwest from the intersection of Merrick Boulevard and 126th Avenue.



9. View of the Development Site facing southwest from the intersection of Merrick Boulevard and 126th Avenue.



8. View of Merrick Boulevard facing northwest from 126th Avenue (Development Site at left).





10. View of the Development Site facing south from Merrick Boulevard (Rezoning Area in rear at right).



12. View of Merrick Boulevard facing southeast from 125th Avenue (Development Site ahead at right).





11. View of the south side of Merrick Boulevard facing southwest adjacent to the Development Site (Rezoning Area in rear at left).



13. View of the side of Merrick Boulevard facing north from the Development Site.



15. View of the side of 126th Avenue facing southeast from the Development Site.



14. View of the intersection of Merrick Boulevard and 126th Avenue facing northeast from the Development Site.





16. View of the side of 126th Avenue facing southwest from the Development Site.



18. View of the side of 126th Avenue facing southwest from the Development Site and Rezoning Area.





17. View of the side of 126th Avenue facing southeast from the Development Site and Rezoning Area.



19. View of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing northeast.



21. View of the Development Site and Rezoning Area facing southeast.





20. View of the Development Site facing southwest toward the Rezoning Area.

125-18 & 125-22 MERRICK BOULEVARD

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS)

Based on the analysis and the screens contained in the Environmental Assessment Statement Short Form, the analysis areas that require further explanation include land use, zoning, and public policy, urban design, air quality, and noise, as further detailed below.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The Applicant, 125-22 Owners LLC, is seeking a Zoning Map Amendment, from R3A to R3A/C2-3, affecting a site located at 125-18 Merrick Boulevard (Block 12525, Lot 12 the "Project Area") within the Springfield Gardens section of Queens Community District 12. The proposed rezoning would facilitate a proposal by the applicant to develop an 8,996 gross square foot (gsf) single-story commercial building at the Development Site, which includes Lot 12 and adjacent Lots 1 and 128, which are expected to be merged into a single zoning lot in connection with the Applicant's proposal.

(See Figure 1 – Zoning Map; Figure 2 – Tax Map; Figure 3 – Neighborhood Map; Figure 4 – Aerial Map; Figure 5 – Land Use Map; and Figure 6 – Site Photographs)

Background

In 2007 the City Council adopted the St. Albans / Hollis Rezoning (C 070472 ZMQ) which included Zoning Map changes on all or portions of 317 blocks in southeastern Queens. Although the Development Site was not included within this rezoning, it was located within a 600' radius beyond the project area boundary. The rezoning area was generally bounded by Merrick Boulevard to the west and south; Springfield Boulevard and Francis Lewis Boulevard to the east; 99th Avenue, Farmers Boulevard and Brinkerhoff Avenue to the north. The proposed rezoning included changes to existing commercial overlays, and served to preserve the area's predominant lower-density character and ensure that future residential development is consistent with its surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, the rezoning established moderate density residential districts along portions of Hollis Avenue, Farmers Boulevard.

In May of 2011, the City Council adopted the South Jamaica Rezoning (C 110145 ZMQ), which affected all or portions of 530 blocks in South Jamaica and several adjacent neighborhoods, including St. Albans and Springfield Gardens. The Development Site was also included in this rezoning, whose purpose was to protect the lower-density character of these neighborhoods while allowing for a moderate increase in residential and commercial density along the main corridors. The rezoning area encompassed South Jamaica and extends into portions of the Springfield Gardens and St. Albans communities, and is generally bounded by Liberty Avenue, 108th Avenue and South Road to the north; Merrick and Springfield Boulevards to the east; the North Conduit to the south; and the Van Wyck Expressway to the west.

Prior to the South Jamaica rezoning, this portion of Merrick Boulevard was located within an R3-2 district mapped with a C2-2 commercial overlay at a depth of 100 feet measured parallel to the Merrick Boulevard street line. When the area was rezoned in 2011, the C2-2 commercial overlay along this portion of Merrick Boulevard was mapped parallel to the residential side streets rather than Merrick Boulevard to prevent commercial uses encroaching along residential neighborhood streets. Because of this, Lot 12 was not mapped with a C2-2 overlay, whereas previously a portion of Lot 12 had been within the commercial C2-2 overlay.

Existing Conditions

The Proposed Project Area consists of Block 12525, Lots 1, 12 & 128.

Lot 1 is the corner lot, trapezoidal in shape with 75 feet of frontage on the west side Merrick Boulevard, and 114 feet of frontage on the north side of 126th Avenue. It contains 5,712.31 square feet of lot area and is located in an R5D district; a C2-3 commercial overlay is mapped along this portion of Merrick Boulevard at varying depths. Lot 1 is currently improved upon by a one-story, 1,734 gsf foot eating and drinking establishment.

Lot 128 is a trapezoidal interior lot with 20 feet of frontage on the west side Merrick Boulevard. It contains 757.96 square feet of lot area and is located completely within the R5D/C2-3 district. Lot 128 is currently undeveloped.

Lot 12 is an interior lot, adjacent to the west of Lot 1, with 56 feet of frontage on the north side of 126th Avenue, and 77 feet of depth; which equates to approximately 4,312.77 square feet of lot area. Lot 12 is located in an R3A district, wherein residential and community facility uses are permitted to an FAR of 0.5 and 1.0 FAR respectively. It is currently undeveloped.

The Proposed Development Site consists of Block 12525, Lots 12 and 128, as well as a portion of Lot 1 (combined, tentative Tax and Zoning Lot 12). The Development Site contains a total lot area of 9,019.5 square feet with 96.59 feet of frontage along Merrick Boulevard and 70.23 feet of frontage along 126th Avenue. The Development Site is currently located within both an R5D/C2-3 and R3A zoning district, as noted above.

The surrounding area is predominantly comprised of residential and commercial uses, with a mix of residential and commercial uses along Merrick Boulevard, the neighborhood's main thoroughfare. There are also community facility uses and vacant parcels of land in close proximity to the Development Site. Commercial overlays line Merrick Boulevard with C2-3 commercial overlays on the south side of the street, and C1-3 overlays on the north side.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The proposed development requires a Zoning Map Amendment of Block 12525, Lot 12 from R3A to R3A/C2-3. The proposed zoning map amendment intends to facilitate the

commercial use of the entire Development Site, a portion of which is currently outside of the commercial overlay in an R3A district. Merrick Boulevard is a major corridor and already hosts a range of commercial retail uses Currently, portions of the Development Site are already within an R5D/C2-3 district that supports higher density residential buildings (up to 2.0 FAR) with commercial retail permitted on the first two floors at a maximum of 1.0 FAR. Adjacent blocks to the north and south of the Development Site (Block 12516 and 12526) contain commercial uses with a depth in excess of 175 feet along both 125th Avenue and 127th Avenue. The proposed extension of a commercial overlay by approximately 55 feet (170 feet in depth along 126th Avenue) would be consistent with the surrounding area, and would not significantly alter the residential character of side streets, thereby continuing to support the goals of the South Jamaica Rezoning. In the Applicant's opinion, creating a new R3A/C2-3 district on Lot 12 would provide an appropriate transition from areas of moderate density with mixed-uses along Merrick Boulevard, where an existing R5D/C2-3 district currently exists, and the adjacent R3A district, which currently permits only residential and community facility uses at a maximum FAR of 1.0 FAR. The proposed 1.0 FAR commercial use would be an appropriate transition between these two districts

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed zoning map amendment would facilitate the zoning lot merger and development of a new one-story commercial retail building on a new combined zoning lot containing Block 12525, Lots 12 & 128 (tentatively Lot 12). As noted above, Lot 1 contains a pre-existing one-story, 1,734 gsf square foot (gsf) eating and drinking establishment, which would remain as its own subdivided tax and zoning lot to contain 1.0 FAR.

Existing Tax Lots 1, 12, and 128 would be divided into two tax and zoning lots. Lots 12, 128, and a portion of Lot 1, together comprising the Project Area, would be combined into Tax and Zoning Lot 12 with approximately 9,019.51 square feet of lot area. The remaining portion of existing Lot 1 would consist of a smaller tax and zoning lot (previously 5,712.31 square feet of lot area) with approximately 1,763.5 square feet of lot area.

The new commercial retail building would be contained on Lots 12 and 128 within a new tax and zoning lot (Tax and Zoning Lot 12) with 9,019.5 square feet of lot and approximately 8,996 gsf of floor area (1.0 FAR). The building would rise to a height of 16 feet. The building would be located in both R3A/C2-3 and R5D/C2-3 zoning districts.

No parking is required within the proposed development (or the existing building on Lot 1) per ZR section 36-231, which indicates that in C2-3 districts, parking requirements for retail uses within a shared zoning lot are waived under 25 required accessory spaces. For this development, approximately 23 spaces are required (one per 400 square feet of floor area), thus no accessory parking is required or provided.

(see **Appendix A** for illustrative site plans).

Based on an estimated 12-month approval process and a 12-month construction period, the Build Year is assumed to be 2018.

FUTURE NO-ACTION SCENARIO

Absent the proposed action, the existing conditions on the affected lots are anticipated to remain in the future. Subsequently, the No-Action scenario for the Development Site would consist of 1,743 gsf of commercial eating and drinking establishment with unimproved land.

FUTURE WITH-ACTION SCENARIO

The proposed zoning map amendment would facilitate the zoning lot merger and development of a new one-story commercial building on a new combined zoning lot containing Block 12525, Lots 12 & 128 (tentatively Lot 12). As noted above, Lot 1 contains a pre-existing one-story, 1,734 gsf foot eating and drinking establishment, which would remain as its own subdivided tax and zoning lot to contain 1.0 FAR.

Existing Tax Lots 1, 12, and 128 would be divided into two tax and zoning lots. Lots 12, 128, and a portion of Lot 1, together comprising the Project Area, would be combined into Tax and Zoning Lot 12 with approximately 9,019.51 square feet of lot area. The remaining portion of existing Lot 1 would consist of a smaller tax and zoning lot (previously 5,712.31 square feet of lot area) with approximately 1,763.5 square feet of lot area.

The new commercial building would be contained on Lots 12 and 128 (tentatively Tax and Zoning Lot 12) with 8,996 square feet of lot and floor area (1.0 FAR). The building would rise to a height of 16 feet. The building would be located in both R3A/C2-3 and R5D/C2-3 zoning districts.

Subsequently, the With-Action scenario for the Development Site would consist of 10,778 gsf of commercial space and no accessory parking. This would be the maximum amount of floor area permitted on the zoning lot and no additional floor area is possible.

The FAR is maximized at 1.0 per the R3A/C2-3 and R5D/C2-3 commercial maximum FAR.

No parking is required within the proposed development (or the existing building on Lot 1) per ZR section 36-231, which indicates that in C2-3 districts, parking requirements for retail uses within a shared zoning lot are waived under 25 required accessory spaces. For this development, approximately 23 spaces are required (one per 400 square feet of floor area), thus no accessory parking is required or provided.

The incremental difference between the No-Action and With-Action scenarios is illustrated in the table below.

ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of the environmental analysis, the increment between the No-Action scenario and the With-Action scenario would consist of a net increase of 8,996 gsf of local commercial retail floor area, as further illustrated above.

Reasonable Worst Case Development Scenario

		TING DITION		CTION DITION		ACTION DITION	INCREMENT
LAND USE							
Residential	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
Describe type of residential structures							
No. of dwelling units							
No. of low- to moderate-income units							
Gross floor area (sq. ft.)							
Commercial	YES	🗌 NO	YES	🗌 NO	X YES	🗌 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
Describe type (retail, office, other)	Restaurant		Restaurant	:	Use Gro	oup 6 Retail	
Gross floor area (sq. ft.)	1,743		1,743		10,778	•	+8,996
Manufacturing/Industrial	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
Type of use							
Gross floor area (sq. ft.)							
Open storage area (sq. ft.)							
If any unenclosed activities, specify:							
Community Facility	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
Туре							
Gross floor area (sq. ft.)							
Vacant Land	YES	🗌 NO	YES	🗌 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," describe:	11,698	8 square feet	11,698 squ	are feet			-11,698
Other Land Uses	YES	🖾 NO	☐ YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," describe:							
Parking							
Garages	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
No. of public spaces							
No. of accessory spaces							
Lots	YES	🛛 NO	YES	🛛 NO	T YES	🛛 NO	
If "yes," specify the following:							
No. of public spaces							
No. of accessory spaces	1						
ZONING							
Zoning classification	R5D/	C2-3 & R3A	R5D/0	C2-3 & R3A		/C2-3 & /C2-3	
Maximum amount of floor area that	2.0 FAR /	1.0 FAR	2.0 FAR / 1	1.0 FAR	2.0 FAR / 1		
can be developed Predominant land use and zoning classifications within land use study		tial & rcial, Vacant		al & cial, Vacant	Residen Comme		-Vacant Land
area(s) or a 400 ft. radius of proposed project	Land		Land				

1. LAND USE, ZONING AND PUBLIC POLICY

I. Introduction

Pursuant to Chapter 4 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*, an analysis of land use and zoning is required if a proposed action alters land use or zoning. Since the proposed action includes a zoning map amendment, a preliminary analysis of land use and zoning is included below.

II. Existing Conditions

Land use

Site Description

The Project Area is located in the Springfield Gardens section of Queens Community District #12. It includes three lots located at 125-18 & 125-22 Merrick Boulevard (Block 12525, Lots 1, 12 & 128) that occupy the southern corner of the block between 125th and 126th Avenue. These parcels combined contain a total lot area of 10,778 square feet with approximately 95 square feet of frontage along Merrick Boulevard and approximately 170 square feet of frontage along 126th Avenue. The proposed Zoning Map Amendment involves extending an existing C2-3 commercial overlay by approximately 55 feet to the west to include Lot 12 and be mapped at a depth of 150 feet. The purpose of this extension is to include Lot 12 under the proposed zoning, which is currently zoned R3A and does not contain a commercial overlay.

Lot 1 is the corner lot, trapezoidal in shape with 75 feet of frontage on the west side Merrick Boulevard, and 114 feet of frontage on the north side of 126th Avenue. It contains 8,629 square feet of lot area and is located in an R5D district; a C2-3 commercial overlay is mapped along this portion of Merrick Boulevard at varying depths. Lot 1 is currently improved upon by a one-story, 1,743 square foot commercial building (0.23 FAR where 1.0 is permitted for commercial uses). Lot 1 is occupied by an eating and drinking establishment; there is surface parking on the north side of the lot.

Lot 12 is an interior lot, adjacent to the west of Lot 1, with 56 feet of frontage on the north side of 126th Avenue, and 77 feet of depth; which equates to 4,312 square feet of lot area. Lot 12 is located in an R3A district, wherein residential and community facility uses are permitted to an FAR of 0.5. It is currently vacant land.

Lot 128 is a trapezoidal interior lot with 20 feet of frontage on the west side Merrick Boulevard. It contains 757 square feet of lot area and is located completely within the R5D/C2-3 district. Lot 128 is currently vacant land.

Land Use Study Area

The proposed rezoning area is located in the Springfield Gardens area of Queens. For the purpose of this preliminary analysis, the study area consists of the Development Site and 400 feet within the Site (see attached Land Use map). Irwin Place to the north, 174th Place to the west, 128th Avenue to the south and 129th Avenue to the south generally bind this study area.

As shown in the accompanying land-use map, the 400-foot surrounding area is predominantly residential and commercial, as well a mix of the two uses along Merrick Boulevard, the neighborhood's main thoroughfare. There are also a few community facilities and vacant parcels of land within proximity to the Proposed Development.

Development trends within the surrounding area consist primarily of the development of two-family homes within the residential areas adjoining the study area and some mixed-use properties along Merrick Boulevard. Within the last ten years, the 400-foot study area has experienced less than five new building permits, according to the Department of Buildings (DOB) Building Information System (BIS) indicating the surrounding area is stable with little new development. Merrick Boulevard is a commercial corridor and already hosts a range of commercial retail uses, making the proposed commercial overlay appropriate. Given Merrick Boulevard's more vibrant nature and mixed-use character, a new commercial overlay with frontage along 126th Avenue, while providing a commercial use off Merrick Boulevard, would still prevent commercial uses from encroaching into the adjacent residential neighborhood, immediately west of the Project Area with detached and semi-detached single-family homes.

Zoning

The applicant proposes a rezoning of the Project Area, Block 12525, Lot 12, to allow for commercial uses within the entirety of the Development Site, Block 12525, Lots 1, 12, and 128. The area surrounding the Development Site also contains R3-2 and R4B residential districts, as well as C1-3 commercial overlays. R3-R5 districts permit Use Groups 1-4 (residential and community facility uses).

R3A is a contextual zoning district that reflects older residential areas and generally permits single and two-family detached residences on narrow zoning lots. Yard requirements govern open space with two required side yards totaling at least eight feet. Front yards must be 10 feet deep and have a depth matching the adjacent front yard, not to exceed 20 feet The maximum FAR for R3A districts is 0.5 and can be increased by 20% with an attic allowance, up to a maximum building height of 35 feet. Parking is required along the sides or rear yard and could be provided within an in-house garage if the lot offers a width of 35 feet or wider. One off-street parking space is required per each dwelling unit.

R3-2 zoning districts are general residence districts that permit a variety of single- and twofamily houses, as well as small multi-family buildings. The maximum FAR for R3-2 districts is 0.5 and can be increased by 20% with an attic allowance, up to a maximum building height of 35 feet. One off-street parking space is required per each dwelling unit. R4B is a contextual zoning district that permits single- and two-family attached rowhouses, as well as semi-detached buildings. The maximum FAR is 0.9 with a maximum building height of 24 feet. This district predominantly creates two-story flat-roofed houses with 5-foot deep front yards. Parking must be contained in the rear of the building and one space is required per dwelling unit, which parking waived in single-family houses.

R5D is also a contextual zoning district typically mapped along major corridors. R5D districts require a maximum height of 45 feet and serve as transition district between lower-density R2 and R3 districts and high-density R6 zoning districts. The maximum density of R5D districts is 2.0 FAR. Front yard must be at least as deep as an adjacent front yard with a minimum depth of 5 feet and curb cuts are not permitted along a wide street when access is also available via a narrow street. Off street parking is not required in the front of the building and 66% of dwelling units require parking.

C1-3 and C2-3 are commercial overlays that allow 1.0 FAR of within R3, R4 and R5 districts and are mapped at a depth of 150 feet along thoroughfares of moderate density. C1 districts permit local retail (Use Groups 1-6) while C2 districts permit a variety of commercial retail (Use Groups 1-9 & 14).

Zoning For Quality and Affordability

The New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) approved the Zoning for Quality and Affordability (ZQA) zoning text amendment (ULURP application N 160051 ZRY) that modernized rules that shape buildings in the City through various updates and refinement to the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York. These include: general building envelope modifications in medium- and higher-density districts, including height, setbacks and corner lots; enhanced building envelope modifications for inclusionary and affordable senior housing and care facilities, including height, amenity space location, removal of narrow lot restrictions, flexible height limits in non-contextual districts, and new lower density bulk envelopes; improved design flexibility, as applicable to street walls, courtyards, ground floors, window regulations, use location provisions, and unit size mix; and modifications for constrained lots, including yards and lot coverage, street wall, additional flexibility for irregular topography, distance between buildings and relief for unusual conditions.

This component of the proposed ZQA zoning text amendment would primarily be applicable to R5D to R10 residence districts, as well as their residential equivalents in commercial and manufacturing districts, as applicable. These changes are reflected in Special Districts and special areas that include these zoning districts. In addition, this component of the proposed ZQA zoning text amendment, as it affects the development of affordable senior housing and care facilities, would be applicable to R3-2, R4, and R5 zoning districts.

The approved text amendment would not affect the proposed rezoning, as the proposed R3A/C2-3 commercial overlay zoning district is not subject to change as part of the text amendment and does not affect height or bulk regulations of the existing or proposed zoning district.

Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) Program

DCP approved a citywide zoning text amendment to authorize a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) program (ULURP # 160051ZRY). The purpose of the approved MIH program is to promote neighborhood economic diversity in locations where land use actions create substantial new housing opportunities. The text amendment will have no effect until mapped through subsequent discretionary actions of the CPC, each of which will be subject to a public review process and separate environmental review. As with zoning actions generally, MIH Areas may be applied through DCP-initiated actions or as part of private applications, including certain zoning map amendments, text amendments, and Special Permits that create opportunities for significant new housing development. This program would require permanently affordable housing within new residential developments, enlargements, and conversions from non-residential to residential use within the mapped "Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Areas" (MIHAs).

As noted above, the proposed rezoning consists of a C2-3 commercial rezoning, which is not affected by the MIH program and is not expected to create residential housing units.

Public Policy

The rezoning area is not controlled by or located in the City's Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP) nor is within any designated New York State Empire Zones or New York City Industrial Business Zones (IBZs). Additionally, the rezoning area is not governed by a 197a Plan, nor does the proposed action involve the siting of any public facilities (Fair Share). The proposed action is also not subject to the New Housing Marketplace Plan.

III. Future Without the Proposed Action (No-Action)

Land Use

Absent the proposed action, the existing conditions on the affected lots are anticipated to remain in the future. Subsequently, the No-Action scenario for the Development Site would consist of 1,743 gsf of commercial use (eating and drinking establishment) and unimproved land.

Surrounding land uses within the immediate study area are expected to remain largely unchanged by the project build year of 2018. The 400-foot area surrounding the Development Site is developed with a stable residential community containing a mix of residential properties, and some commercial retail uses. No significant new development or redevelopment in the area is expected.

Zoning and Public Policy

In the future without the proposed action, the existing zoning would remain unchanged. The Site would continue to be zoned R3A. In the future without the proposed action, no public policy changes are expected to occur in the study area.

IV. Future With The Proposed Action (With-Action Scenario)

Land Use

This scenario would result in a one-story commercial (Use Group 6) building with 10,778 square feet of floor area (1.0 FAR) on two separate zoning lots.

Compared to the No-Action condition, the With-Action condition results in a net change of approximately +8,996 gsf of commercial retail space.

The proposed zoning map amendment would facilitate the zoning lot merger and development of a new one-story commercial building on a new combined zoning lot containing Block 12525, Lots 12 & 128 (tentatively Lot 12). As noted above, Lot 1 contains a pre-existing one-story, 1,734 gsf foot eating and drinking establishment, which would remain as its own subdivided tax and zoning lot to contain 1.0 FAR.

Existing Tax Lots 1, 12, and 128 would be divided into two tax and zoning lots. Lots 12, 128, and a portion of Lot 1, together comprising the Project Area, would be combined into Tax and Zoning Lot 12 with approximately 9,019.51 square feet of lot area. The remaining portion of existing Lot 1 would consist of a smaller tax and zoning lot (previously 5,712.31 square feet of lot area) with approximately 1,763.5 square feet of lot area.

The new commercial building would be contained on Lots 12 and 128 with approximately 8,996 gsf (1.0 FAR). The building would rise to a height of 16 feet. The building would be located in both R3A/C2-3 and R5D/C2-3 zoning districts.

No parking is required within the proposed development (or the existing building on Lot 1) per ZR section 36-231, which indicates that in C2-3 districts, parking requirements for retail uses within a shared zoning lot are waived under 25 required accessory spaces. For this development, approximately 23 spaces are required (one per 400 square feet of floor area), thus no accessory parking is required or provided.

Overall, the proposed action and resulting proposed development would not represent a substantial land use change on the Site, as a similar commercial retail strip exists on portions of the Project Area and directly across the street. As noted above, the Project Area was previously mapped as an R3-2 district on either side, with a 100-foot deep C2-2 commercial overlay that included a portion of Lot 12. When the area was rezoned, the C2-2 commercial overlay along this portion of Merrick Boulevard was reduced and mapped parallel to the residential side streets, rather than along Merrick Boulevard, to prevent commercial uses encroaching along residential neighborhood streets. As a result, Lot 12

was no longer mapped with a C2-2 overlay. By expanding the existing C2-3 zoning district, no new or incompatible uses would be introduced to the study area.

The proposed rezoning and the resulting proposed development are therefore not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts or conflicts with the land use in the study area.

Zoning

The proposed action includes a zoning map amendment from R3A to R3A/C2-3, as illustrated in the proposed zoning map.

The proposed R3A/C2-3 district would not increase the maximum permitted floor area of 1.0 FAR, which is currently permitted for community facility uses in the underlying R3A zoning district. The proposed R3A/C2-3 district would increase the permitted uses within the Development Site from Use Groups 1-4 to Use Groups 1-9 & 14 and increase the maximum permitted FAR from 0.6 for residential uses and 1.0 for community facility uses to include 1.0 FAR for commercial uses.

Table 1 provides a comparison of the uses and bulk regulations permitted under the existing and proposed zoning districts.

0.5

1.00

Residential

35 Feet

Commercial/Community Facility

1 per dwelling unit/Varies by Use

	g Regulations. KSA an		Ay C2-3
	R3A		R3A/C2-3
Use Groups		1 - 4	

Table 1 Comparison of Zoning Regulations: R3A and R3A/C2-3

Residential

35 Feet

Community Facility

1 per dwelling unit

The proposed R3A/C2-3 districts allow up to 0.6 FAR of residential floor area, and up to 1.0 FAR of commercial and community facility floor area. The R3A zoning districts typically produce contextual two-family residential buildings. The R3A/C2-3 district permits Use Groups 1-9 & 14, which permit a wide range of commercial uses. All commercial uses within these districts must be contained below residential uses to maintain the vitality of the street. The maximum permitted height of R3A district is 35 feet with a base height of 21 feet. Driveways must be located on the side or rear yard on zoning lots less than 35 feet wide and if a garage exists, must be at least 18 feet deep. Front yards of new buildings must be as deep as an adjacent front yard with a minimum yard of 10 feet. New buildings must be separated by at least 8 feet and contain a side yard. One parking space is required per dwelling unit.

Maximum FAR

Maximum Height Parking Requirements 1 – 9, 14

0.5

1.00

The R5D/C2-3 district permits a residential FAR of 2.0 and a commercial FAR of 1.0, as well as Use Groups 1-9 & 14. R5D districts allow a maximum height of up to 40 feet and serve as transition district between lower-density R2 and R3 districts. Front yard must be at least as deep as an adjacent front yard with a minimum depth of 5 feet and curb cuts are not permitted along a wide street when access is also available via a narrow street. The maximum lot coverage for residential buildings is 80% on a corner lot and 60% on an interior/through lot. For commercial buildings, a 30-foot rear yard must be provided. Off street parking is required for 66% of dwelling units and cannot be provided in the front of the building.

Merrick Boulevard is a commercial corridor and already hosts a range of commercial retail uses, making the proposed commercial overlay appropriate. Currently, portions of the Development Site are already within an R5D/C2-3 district that supports higher density residential buildings (up to 2.0 FAR) with commercial retail permitted on the first two floors at a maximum of 1.0 FAR. Creating a new R3A/C2-3 district on Lot 12 would provide an appropriate transition from areas of moderate density with mixed-uses along Merrick Boulevard, where an existing R5D/C2-3 district currently exists, and the adjacent R3A district, which currently permits only residential and community facility uses at a maximum FAR of 1.0 FAR. The proposed 1.0 FAR commercial use would be an appropriate transition between these two districts.

Given Merrick Boulevard's more vibrant nature and mixed-use character, a new commercial overlay with frontage along 126th Avenue, while providing a commercial use off Merrick Boulevard, would still prevent commercial uses from encroaching into the adjacent R3A district, which contains a purely residential neighborhood immediately west of the Project Area with detached and semi-detached single-family homes. As noted above, the South Jamaica Rezoning aimed to prevent commercial uses from encroaching onto side streets, and this commercial overlay would still contain an appropriate depth (approximately 172 feet from Merrick Boulevard along 126th Avenue) to prevent commercial uses from encroaching onto residential side streets and significantly altering its residential character. The lot to be rezoned (Lot 12) is currently vacant and does not contain a residential use. Adjacent blocks to the north and south (Block 12516 and 12526) contain commercial uses with a depth in excess of 175 feet along both 125th Avenue and 127th Avenue. Therefore, the proposed extension of a commercial overlay by approximately 55 feet (172 feet in length along 126th Avenue) and would be consistent with the surrounding area, nor would significantly alter the residential character of side streets, thereby continuing to support the goals of the South Jamaica Rezoning.

The proposed development would not result in any non-conforming uses or noncomplying developments, as the proposed development would comply with the proposed R3A/C2-3 zoning district.

Therefore, the proposed rezoning action and the resulting proposed development are not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts or conflicts with the zoning in the study area.

Public Policy

The proposed action would map a C2-3 commercial overlay within an R3A zoning district. The proposed action is no within the coastal zone boundary and therefore is not subject to the Waterfront Revitalization Program. The Project Area is within the Jamaica Bay Watershed but would not be inconsistent with any policies or programs that regulate this area (see Appendix B). The proposed action is not within the vicinity of any Industrial Business Zones (IBZs). Additionally, the rezoning area is not governed by a 197a Plan, nor does the proposed action involve the siting of any public facilities (Fair Share). The proposed action is also not subject to the New Housing Marketplace Plan.

Therefore, the proposed action and the resulting proposed development are not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to or conflicts with public policies in the study area.

V. Assessment/Conclusion

Land Use

The proposed action and resulting proposed development would not represent a substantial land-use change in the area, as similar uses and developments exist within the study area. Therefore, by extending a C2-3 commercial overlay district to facilitate the applicant's proposed development is appropriate for the subject property. The proposed rezoning and the resulting proposed development are therefore not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts or conflicts with the land use in the study area.

Zoning

The proposed rezoning would extend a C2-3 commercial overlay, thereby facilitating a proposal by the applicant. Since the study area contains residential and commercial uses, the proposed R3A/C2-3 zoning district would not introduce or increase nonconforming uses to the study area.

With the R3A/C2-3 zoning expected to generate development compatible with existing development and uses in the area, the proposed action is not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts from zoning.

Public Policy

The proposed action would not be inconsistent with any applicable public policies, as discussed above. As such, the proposed actions are not expected to result in any significant adverse impacts to public policies.

2. URBAN DESIGN AND VISUAL RESOURCES

Introduction

An assessment of urban design is needed when a project may have effects on any of the elements that contribute to the pedestrian experience of public space. A preliminary assessment is appropriate when there is the potential for a pedestrian to observe, from the street level, a physical alteration beyond that allowed by existing zoning. An assessment would be appropriate for the following:

1. Projects that permit the modification of yard, height, and setback requirements; and

2. Projects that result in an increase in built floor area beyond what would be allowed 'as-of-right'.

The proposed action would facilitate a commercial development on the Development Site by rezoning a single lot from R3A to R3A/C2-3. The proposed rezoning would result in a one-story commercial building constructed in accordance with the R3A/C2-3 zoning district compared to the existing R3A zoning district, which does not permit commercial uses. The building would adhere to the underlying floor area, yard, height, and setback regulations of the proposed R3A/C2-3 zoning district.

While the proposed rezoning would increase the maximum permitted floor area from 0.6 FAR (residential) to 1.0 (commercial), the existing R3A zoning district permits a maximum FAR of 1.0 for community facility uses. Therefore, no new floor area is permitted as a result of the proposed action and the building envelope, yard, height, and setback requirements currently permitted as-of-right would not increase or be modified as a result of the proposed action.

Based on the above, a preliminary urban design assessment is not warranted and no urban design or visual resources impacts would occur.

6. AIR QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

Under CEQR, two potential types of air quality effects are examined. These are mobile and stationary source impacts. Potential mobile source impacts are those that could result from an increase in traffic in the area, resulting in greater congestion and higher levels of carbon monoxide (CO) and Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5). Potential stationary source impacts are those that could occur from stationary sources of air pollution, such as major industrial processes or heat and hot water boilers of major buildings in close proximity to a proposed project. Both the potential impacts of a proposed project on surrounding buildings and potential impacts of uses in the environs of a proposed sensitive use, such as residences, schools, and hospitals, are considered in the assessment.

Mobile Source

Under guidelines contained in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, and in this area of New York City, projects generating fewer than 170 additional vehicular trips in any given hour are considered as highly unlikely to result in significant mobile source impacts, and do not warrant detailed mobile source air quality studies. According to Table 16-1 of Chapter 16 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*, as the project is located in Zone 5, and the proposed action would permit less than 10,000 sf of regional retail commercial uses, a transportation analysis is not required. As the proposed development is below any noted transportation thresholds, according to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, it is assumed the proposed development would generate fewer than 170 vehicle trips at any intersection in the study area during any peak hour. Additionally, it is not projected to generate peak hour heavy-duty diesel vehicular traffic above the CEQR Technical Manual, January 2014 Edition threshold of 12 HDDV vehicles. Therefore, no detailed mobile source air quality analysis would be required per the *CEQR Technical Manual*, and no significant mobile source air quality impacts would be generated by proposed action.

In accordance with the analysis framework, the proposed development would generate 8,996 square feet of commercial space (gsf) and no accessory parking spaces. This is below the CEQR Technical Manual, January 2014 Edition threshold for transportation analysis (According to Table 16-1 of Chapter 16 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*). Therefore, no parking facility air quality analysis is warranted.

Stationary Source

Land use records and field visits confirm there are no manufacturing/industrial uses, including dry cleaners or auto-body repair shops containing spray booths, within 400 feet of the Development Site that generate industrial source emissions. Furthermore, there are no major industrial emissions sources within 1,000 feet of the Development Site and no Title V permits (or any DEC-issued industrial source permits) were found within the surrounding area.

The *CEQR Technical Manual* states that the potential for stationary source emissions from heat and hot water systems to have a significant adverse impact on nearby receptors depends on the type of fuel that would be used, the height of the stack venting the



Figure 17-3: Stationary Source (HVAC) Screen

emissions, the distance to the nearest building whose height is at least as great as the venting stack height, and the square footage of the development that would be served by the system. The *CEQR Technical Manual* provides a screening analysis based on these factors, which was utilized to determine the potential for significant impacts from the proposed building's system.

Impacts from boiler emissions associated with the proposed commercial development are a function of fuel type, stack height, minimum distance from the source to the nearest building of concern, and square footage of the proposed development. The analysis was based on a proposed single-story 8,996 gross square foot (gsf) commercial retail building, 16 feet in height, with an emissions stack height of three feet higher than the building height (Hs=33 feet was chosen for analysis). The attached *CEQR Technical Manual* Stationary Source Screen graph **Figure 17-3** was used for the analysis.

The nearest structure of the same or greater height than the proposed building would be the two-family residential house located to the immediate west of the Development Site at 176-17 126th Avenue (Block 12525, Lot 16). This building would be located at least 50 feet away from the proposed building's corner lot line assuming that the proposed stack would be located at the closest edge of the proposed building. At this distance, the proposed development would fall below the curve (see **Figure 17-3**). Therefore, the proposed project would not generate any stationary source impacts on any surrounding uses.



INTRODUCTION

Two types of potential noise impacts are considered under CEQR. These are potential mobile source and stationary source noise impacts. Mobile source impacts are those that could result from a proposed project adding a substantial amount of traffic to an area. Potential stationary source noise impacts are considered when a proposed action would cause a stationary noise source to be operating within 1,500 feet of a receptor, with a direct line of sight to that receptor, or if the project would include unenclosed mechanical equipment for building ventilation purposes.

Mobile Source

Relative to mobile source impacts, a noise analysis would be required if a proposed project would at least double existing passenger car equivalent (PCE) traffic volumes along a street on which a sensitive noise receptor (such as a residence, a park, a school, etc.) is located. The surrounding area is principally developed with a mix of residential, commercial, and warehouse uses.

Vehicles would travel to and from the Site along Merrick Boulevard. There would be an increase in vehicular traffic along both roads resulting from the proposed development, but this increment would be a small portion of total traffic volumes. Pursuant to CEQR methodology, no mobile source noise impacts would be anticipated since traffic volumes would not double along Merrick Boulevard due to the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a mobile source noise impact.

Stationary Source

The project would not locate new sensitive receptors within 1,500 feet of a substantial stationary source noise generator, and there is not a substantial stationary source noise generator close to the Development Site that is also a sensitive receptor. As noted in the background section, the proposed commercial overlay would permit an existing commercial use on the Development Site and facilitate the redevelopment of a portion of the Site with a commercial development, which is a less sensitive use than the residential use currently permitted as-of-right on the Development Site, according to the 2014 *CEQR Technical Manual*. Additionally, the proposed project would not include any unenclosed heating or ventilation equipment that could adversely impact other sensitive uses in the surrounding area. Therefore, the project would not have any potentially adverse stationary source noise impacts.

Conclusion

A detailed noise analysis is not required for the proposed action, as the action would not result in the introduction of new sensitive receptors near a substantial stationary source noise generator. In addition, the proposed development would not introduce significant mobile or stationary source noise into the surrounding area.

APPENDIX A: ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLANS









Appendix B: Jamaica Bay Watershed Form

Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Project Tracking Form

The Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan, developed pursuant to Local Law 71 of 2005, mandates that the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) work with the Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination (MOEC) to review and track proposed development projects in the Jamaica Bay Watershed (http://www.nyc.gov/html/oec/downloads/pdf/ceqr/Jamaica_Bay_Watershed_Map.jpg) that are subject to CEQR in order to monitor growth and trends. If a project is located in the Jamaica Bay Watershed, (the applicant should complete this form and submit it to DEP and MOEC. This form must be updated with any project modifications and resubmitted to DEP and MOEC.

The information below will be used for tracking purposes only. It is not intended to indicate whether further CEQR analysis is needed to substitute for the guidance offered in the relevant chapters of the CEQR Technical Manual.

A. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

1. CEQR Number:

ber: 16DCP099Q

- Merrick Boulevard Rezoning
- 1a. Modification

- 2. Project Name:
- 3. Project Description:

The proposed rezoning would facilitate a proposal by the applicant to develop an 8,996 gross square
foot (gsf) single-story commercial building at the Development Site, which includes Lot 12 and
adjacent Lots 1 and 128, which are expected to be merged into a single zoning lot in connection with
the Applicant's proposal.

4. Project Sponsor:

125-22 Owners LLC

- 5. Required approvals: Zoning map amendment
- 6. Project schedule (build year and construction schedule): 2018; 12 months

B. PROJECT LOCATION:

1.	treet address: Project Name 125-18 & 125-22 Merrick Boulevard, Queens			
2.	Tax block(s): 12525 Tax Lot(s): 1, 12, 128			
3.	dentify existing land use and zoning on the project site: Commercial building R3A & R5D/C2-3			
4.	dentify proposed land use and zoning on the project site: Commercial building			
5.	Identify land use of adjacent sites (include any open space): Multiple dwelling, vacant land			
6.	Describe existing density on the project site and the proposed density:			
	Existing Condition Proposed Condition			
	1,734 square foot eating and drinking 8,996 gross square foot (gsf) single-			
	establishment.			

7. Is project within 100 or 500 year floodplain (specify)? 🗌 100 Year 🛛 🗍 500 Year 🕅 No

C. GROUND AND GROUNDWATER

	1.	Total area of in-ground disturbance, if any (in square feet): None
	2.	Will soil be removed (if so, what is the volume in cubic yards)? No
	3.	Subsurface soil classification: (per the New York City Soil and Water Conservation Board): 211. Flatbush-Riverhead Complex
	4.	If project would change site grade, provide land contours (attach map showing existing in 1' contours and proposed in 1' contours).
	5.	Will groundwater be used (list volumes/rates)? 🗌 Yes 🛛 🗙 No
		Volumes: Rates:
	6.	Will project involve dewatering (list volumes/rates)? Yes X No
		Volumes: Rates:
	7.	Describe site elevation above seasonal high groundwater:
D.	НА	The seasonal high water table is rarely higher than 40 inches from the surface for any significant period during the growing season.
	1.	Will vegetation be removed, particularly native vegetation? 🔽 Yes 🛛 🔀 No
		 If YES, Attach a detailed list (species, size and location on site) of vegetation to be removed (including trees >2" caliper, shrubs, understory planting and groundcover). List species to remain on site. Provide a detailed list (species and sizes) of proposed landscape restoration plan (including any wetland restoration plans).
	2.	Is the site used or inhabited by any rare, threatened or endangered species? 🗌 Yes 🛛 🔀 No
	3.	Will the project affect habitat characteristics? 🗌 Yes 🛛 🔀 No
		If YES, describe existing wildlife use and habitat classification using "Ecological Communities of New York State." at http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29392.html.
	4.	Will pesticides, rodenticides or herbicides be used during construction? Yes X No If YES, estimate quantity, area and duration of application.

5. Will additional lighting be installed? 🔀 Yes 🗌 No

If YES and near existing open space or natural areas, what measures would be taken to reduce light penetration into these areas?

Additional lighting to be installed on building exterior; building not near open space/natural areas

E. SURFACE COVERAGE AND CHARACTERISTICS

(describe the following for both the existing and proposed condition):

Existing Condition	Proposed Condition
1,773 sf	8,996 sf
8,996 sf	None
None	None
None	None
	1,773 sf 8,996 sf None

2. Wetland (regulated or non-regulated) area and classification:

None	None

3. Water surface area:

None	None

4. Stormwater management (describe):

Existing – how is the site drained?

Storm water drains overland into sewers in adjacent streets.

Proposed – describe, including any infrastructure improvements necessary off-site:

Storm water would continue to drain overland into sewers in adjacent streets. No infrastructure improvements are necessary off-site.