BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG PLANNING BOARD COUNTY OF SOMERSET - STATE OF NEW JERSEY REGULAR MEETING FOR:

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
BLOCK 7801, LOT 1
100 UNION AVENUE
BB ZONE
CASE NO. PB 19-02
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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

BEFORE:
TRACEE SCHAEFER, CHAIRWOMAN
KEITH BALLA, MAYOR
PETER J. DESNOYERS
ALBERT ELLIS
PAUL FIORILLA
KAREN PENNETT
STEPHEN POTE
GEORGE SOPKO, Councilman
DONALD V. SPEENEY
ELLEN SPINGLER
$\begin{array}{llllllllll}A & L & S & O & P & R & S & E & N\end{array}$
FRANCIS P. LINNUS, ESQUIRE, Board Attorney THOMAS J. HERITS, P.E., Board Engineer THERESA SNYDER, Board Secretary

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TRANSCRIPT of the stenographic notes of the continued proceedings in the above-entitled matter, as taken by and before ANGELA C.

BUONANTUONO, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered
Professional Reporter, Certified LiveNote Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, held at THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey 07069 on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, commencing at 7:30 in the evening.

## A P P E A R A N C E S:

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PB-1 November 18, 2019 email from fire chief 124
(Time noted, 7:34 p.m.)
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Peter, please call our application this evening.

MR. DESNOYERS: Case Number PB 19-02, The Learning Experience, 100 Union Avenue, Block 7801, Lot 1, BB Zone, expiration 2/ 28/ 20.

Summary: To construct 2-story Learning Experience branded daycare on what is currently a vacant lot. Site improvements would include a parking lot and outside play area. Any and all variances associated with this application as needed.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you. Before we come to you, I just want to ask -- I'm not looking for summary right now, but I 'm looking for anyone who is represented by an attorney that may be opposing.

So if you could just, please -- I know who you are, but could you please just state who you are?

MR. BUTLER: Yes, of course.
My name is Bill Butler. I'm with the law firm of Butler \& Butler. We practice law in Westfield. I represent the property owner across the street, Weldon Materials, Inc., and we object to
this application.
And while I'm making a presentation, are both attorneys going to have an opportunity to do a brief opening?

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So what we're going to do is we will have -- Mr. Hehl?

MR. HEHL: Hehl.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Hehl?
MR. HEHL: Hehl. Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- do his
presentation. I will let you do an opening after he does his presentation. But then as his experts come up, like we did with the other application, you will be able to ask questions of those experts. If you have experts that you want to introduce, we will do that after we have dealt with Mr. --

MR. HEHL: Hehl.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So sorry.
MR. BUTLER: Hehl.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- Hehl.
MR. BUTLER: Mr. Hehl. Stephen Hehl.
MR. HEHL: I've only -- we've only
been in court together for 40 years or so, so...
MR. BUTLER: I knew his father before
I knew him.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: But as each expert comes up, you'll obviously have the ability to ask questions. The public will also have the ability to ask questions. After Mr. Hehl makes his complete presentation, if you want to then present any experts, you know, from the opposing --

MR. BUTLER: I do.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- then we'll do
the same thing for you, and I he'll be able to ask questions. The public will be able to ask questions. And once we're through that whole process, at the very end then your summary can be made from both sides, and any comments, at that point, from the public may be made.

So that's how we're going to handle it.
MR. BUTLER: Okay. I think you answered my question. Before Mr. Hehl calls witnesses, he's going to do an opening, and I'm going to do an opening; is that correct?

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Correct.
MR. BUTLER: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You're welcome.
Mr. Hehl.
MR. HEHL: Thank you very much. And it's a pleasure to be here this evening, coming out
on a beautiful, sunny night.
But again, we're here this evening for converting this vacant piece of property into a Learning Experience childcare facility. The applicant is \(\mathbf{1 0 0}\) Union Avenue, LLC. Just by way of overview -- and I 'd like to, first of all, also thank the board, and staff, and its professionals by providing us with their -- the reports in connection with this project. It gives us the opportunity to digest those reports, respond to them, and make a good project even better so -- again, that doesn't happen in every municipality where you get -- many times you walk in and you get handed a ten-page report. That doesn't happen here, and that's to be commended.

This is an application, again, to construct a Learning Experience childcare facility. We're here before this board, the planning board. It is a permitted use in Watchung. The variances associated with this application, we will show, are minimal variances. There's -- frankly, there's one variance for the lot frontage along New Providence and then the distance of parking setback on Union.

Those are the only variances associated with the application. Again, it's a permitted use.

We meet all other bulk standards in connection with this application and, again, we've had the opportunity to modify the plans and eliminate a few of the variances associated with the application.

There was a comment -- I know
Mr. Butler will bring this up -- that we need a parking variance. It's clear and we will have testimony in the case law that under the Municipal Land Use Law childcare centers are not -- there is no parking requirement. But we will -- we did notice for that, and I talked to Frank about that. We noticed, out of the abundance of caution, to say -- and you'll see in our notice for a parking variance. Again, that was done not conceding that we need a parking variance. But regardless of that, from an operational standpoint, we will show that there's more than sufficient site access and parking.

By way of -- oh, and there's a few minor design waivers for lighting, which, again, we will address. This property is somewhat isolated, being on a corner property with the wetlands behind it. Again, a fairly isolated tract in respect to other properties around it.

What we'd like to do is to first -- and

I'll give you the witnesses that we are going to be presenting. First, our site engineer, Mr. Gerry Gesario; our architect, Matthew J armel, who also is very familiar -- has done many of these applications and can provide the operational testimony; Elizabeth "Betsy" Dolan, our traffic engineer; and Creigh Rahenkamp, our professional planner. So those are the witnesses that we are prepared to present this evening, and we look forward to moving forward with our presentation.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you. MR. HEHL: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler, I'II
allow you -- short, please.
MR. BUTLER: I'll make it as short as
possible. I think it might be a little longer than
Mr. Hehl's. I'm more long-winded than he is.
This day care center -- as he
indicated, it's a permitted use where it's to be
located -- wants to be located, and it's an
inherently beneficial use. Why is it a permitted use?

It's a permitted use because the Municipal Land Use Law states that a child day care center is permitted in any zone in New Jersey that's
not zoned residential. Okay? That applies to a pristine, flat lot that has no environmental restraints at all. It also applies to this lot. It applies -- it sweeps with a broad brush. And that's why, thank God, we have site plan application and site plan approval, right? It's permitted not because the zoning ordinance says it's permitted in this BB Zone; it's permitted because the Municipal Land Use Law says it's permitted.

They propose 154 children, babies from six months to kindergarten. And they get that by looking at the size of the building. The size of the building determines the number of the babies that go there. And then the number of babies that go there determines the number of the teachers that are subject there. As I get it -- and as I said, it's in the BB professional office zone, which has no mentions of a day care center, but it's a permitted, inherently beneficial use; that's not controversial. I' m not raising that as an argument.

However, this lot is a critical lot. It's in a critical area. It's bordered on the east by the Green Brook. The Green Brook has a floodway. The Green Brook has a floodplain. The Green Brook has wetlands. The Green Brook has a flood hazard

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area. This is an environmentally sensitive lot. This is no place to be putting 154 babies, and we say that emphatically. Your ordinance under the definition "critical areas" -- and this is a critical area lot. It defines critical areas as wetlands, 100-year floodplain or flood hazard area, and lands with a topographic slope greater than 15 percent.

I'm not worried about slopes. I'm worried about the beginning of this. The wetlands, the \(\mathbf{1 0 0}\) plan, the \(\mathbf{1 0 0}\)-year storm, the flood hazard area, that's what we're worried about.

Parking. They say they need 31 parking spaces. We're going to show testimony. Hal Simoff is a traffic expert. He's going to show testimony that this needs 52 spaces, and he's not going to cherry-pick locations like Ms. Dolan did in her report and say you only need 31 spaces. She said, 32, but then they brought it down to 31. Okay? My engineer did it the way you're supposed to do it. He -- he went and he checked with the I nternational Institute of Engineers. They have studies for day care centers. And he's going to testify, and I'm going to introduce into evidence an ITE report that reflects 39 studies and predicated upon 154 little
kids.
You need 52 parking spaces. They're short on parking spaces, and they can't get around it. And there's nothing in the Municipal Land Use Law that says that you don't need parking. I magine you don't need parking? In other words, you go put up a child day care center and don't need one parking space? Where are the mothers going to park when they leave the kids? Where are the 22 employees going to park when they're working there?

Now, I wrote a couple of memos; I 'd ask you to look at them. They deal with the variances. One of the variances isn't a big deal. I admit that. I pointed it out to them. Originally it wasn't noted, but it's a variance. And that is the front yard on New Providence Road. It's a corner lot. You need \(\mathbf{1 5 0}\) feet. They only have \(\mathbf{4 0}\) feet. It's existing, as Mr. Hehl has pointed out. Of course, it's existing now with a vacant wooded lot, and they're going to develop this thing into what I consider a high-intense use.

High intense? Because when you take the lot -- and if you look at the site plan, which is Page 5, they're building on about 25 percent of this lot. The other 75 percent is environmental
hazard. They have to stay away from it. So they shoehorned everything into \(\mathbf{2 5}\) percent of the lot. This application fails dramatically on site plan.

The other variance, and the one that's a little more important, is they're parking along Union place 5 feet. They have to be 20 feet. Bring them back to \(\mathbf{2 0}\) feet. Why -- why are they getting the variance? You know why? Because it'll change the size of the building. You change the size of the building, you have less students. You have less students, you make less money. That ain't a reason, to use gutter language, to get a variance, not in New Jersey. You have to show beneficial to the community, not benefit to the individual applicant. To get these variances, there's a positive criteria and a negative criteria, and both of them have to be proved, even though these are inherently beneficial uses. The statutes specifically say that. That's not the home run. The home run is if you people think that this is an ideal site to locate this particular property.

Now, let's say they go with 31 spaces.
That's all they say they need. They have 22
employees. That means they have nine for the mothers and fathers to pick up and leave off the
kids. Nine spaces. I magine that? You don't have to sit on a planning board very long to know that if people are going to deliver 154 kids, nine parking spaces -- it won't be enough for them.

Traffic. The entrance and exit, they're in the flood hazard area. Take a look at Page 5. It's right in the flood hazard area.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You're going to be bringing experts up --

MR. BUTLER: Excuse me?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- right -Mr. Butler, you're going to be bringing your experts up to testify to all of this, correct?

MR. BUTLER: Yeah. I'm just giving an outline of what they're going to say.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. I'm just trying to move you along.

MR. BUTLER: Huh?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm just trying to move you along.

MR. BUTLER: I know you are, as usual. But you do it fairly and I 've never said anything else.

If you look at Page 9, their landscape plan. You have to have landscaping. There's 2016
feet. You have to have landscaping between your property to conceal the buffer of the parking. They show landscaping on Page 9. It's in the Union Avenue right-of-way. It's not even on their property.

I told you that the -- there's seven parking places in the flood hazard area. I told you that the ingress and egress is in the flood hazard area. Now I'm going to talk to Chapter 23, Flood Management Prevention. Section 22, 1.2 defines "flood hazard." Listen to this definition. They're going to put seven parking places in what I 'm going to just read to you. Their entrance and exit -their main entrance and exit.
"The flood hazard area of the Borough of Watchung are subject to periodic inundation, which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazard, disruption of commerce and government services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection relief and impairment of the tax base and general welfare." That's where they want to put seven spaces. That's where they want their main ingress and egress. I read it to you; I didn't make that up.

Our traffic guy is going to talk about
levels of service at the corner of Union Avenue and New Providence Road. And he's going to testify that that is a level of service of \(F\). It fails and it backs up. And there's going to be such a backup that the entrance and exit -- and there's two -will both -- will both --

MR. LI NNUS: Mr. Butler, it sounds
like you're bordering into testimony. You want to keep it a little bit brief here? You're going to have witnesses; they'll testify. You're not testifying. Unless you want to get sworn in?

MR. BUTLER: No.
MR. LINNUS: Okay.
MR. BUTLER: No.
What I ' \(m\) telling you is I ' \(m\) going to
offer and, whatever I say, I'm going to offer is true. The backup at that intersection of Union is going to back up so people can't get in out of the site.

MR. LI NNUS: And, Mr. Butler, what I'm saying is that's testimony -- anticipated testimony, so I think you should rely on your witnesses to present that testimony and not in opening statement.

MR. BUTLER: Are you telling mel can't continue?

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MR. LI NNUS: On another subject, if you have --

MR. BUTLER: What?
MR. LINNUS: On another subject, if you have something further to say.

MR. BUTLER: All right. We will introduce testimony showing that the Scotch Plains Police Department, on numerous occasions over the last five years, has closed Route 22 because of flooding. Route 22 is the main entrance and exit to this site.

We're also going to show accident reports which we received through OPRA applications showing accidents at the intersection of Bonnie Burn Road and New Providence Road; and New Providence Road and Union Avenue. Many accidents. These are dangerous intersections.

We're going to prove that the trucks can't turn around in the site. The garbage trucks, the trucks that deliver food. We're going to show all that.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So you have all your witnesses here tonight --

MR. BUTLER: No.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- correct?

You don't?
MR. BUTLER: No. I don't have all my witnesses. This -- this is not going to be concluded tonight.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Understood. I'm
just asking you, do you have any of your witnesses
here tonight?
MR. BUTLER: There will be one coming. CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
MR. BUTLER: Two had conflicts. CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Unless
you have further -- I really want to get on with this application.

MR. BUTLER: One final thing. One final thing.

This particular applicant received in \(2^{\prime} 07\) and 2'08, permission from the Board of Adjustment to use this site as an automobile wash and lubrication center. And I was there, and Weldon did not object to that application. We wanted shrubbery. They got it in 2'07 from the Board of Adjustment. And then the DEP said they
needed -- they had to change it around, so they needed more shrubbery. We offered to give them the next lot, Lot 2. Not offer, we let them use it to
put shrubbery on it. Okay? I don't know why they didn't put up the car wash and the lube center. But if you deny this application, you're not planning this thing into inutility. It's already been given a use. And they decided, in their own wisdom, not to use their use. This is, basically, too big and intense a use for the limited part of the land that they want to build on.

I'll conclude with that. Thank you for your patience.

Frank, I understand exactly what you say, and I don't disagree with it.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Butler.

Okay. Mr. Hehl.
MR. HEHL: Thank you. So as our first witness, I 'd like to call --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm sorry. Before we go into --

MR. HEHL: Oh, no problem.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Don? Don?
MR. SPEENEY: What?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Can we have you,
please, read our site committee plan into the
record?

MR. SPEENEY: Yeah. I had it in front of me about \(\mathbf{3 0}\) seconds ago.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And then we'II proceed.

MR. SPEENEY: Yes, I got it.
MR. HEHL: We received that.
MR. SPEENEY: The Site Plan Subdivision Committee report for The Learning Experience, which is PB 19-02. I just want to preface this that this report was made on the initial submission of drawings.

Okay. So the committee report is for The Learning Experience, PB 19-02. The proposal before the Planning Board, an Applicant seeks preliminary and final site plan approval to construct a building at New Providence Road and Union Avenue. The proposed use of the building is for a child care learning center and is located in the Watchung Borough's BB Zone.

The applicant proposes to construct a two-story, 10,794 square-foot building for approximately \(\mathbf{1 5 4}\) children and 22 staff persons.

B, obtain from the Board two variances
-- one for front yard setback, \(\mathbf{2 5}\) feet required, but 14.7 feet offered; and another for permitting a
parking lot within a half a foot of the southerly property line where 5 feet is required.

C, obtain from the Board a waiver to the requirement posting performance guarantees prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

D, provide 32 parking spaces, two of which are handicap spaces.

E , clear a portion of the existing heavily wooded area and replant trees where required in its final landscape plan.
\(F\), create a force main, one and a half inches in diameter, type of sanitary sewer line along Union Avenue and under the Green Brook to a Scotch Plains municipal sewer connection on Union Avenue.

G, provide underground water detention system under the parking area, draining underground to a Union Avenue collection system.
\(H\), have ingress and egress driveway cuts only on Union Avenue, a one-way out to make a right turn from the property on Union Avenue heading to New Providence Road, and a two-lane in and out onto Union Avenue heading to Route 22.

Item \(\mathbf{3}\) is discussion. Committee members met to review the submitted application on

November 15, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. at Cupa Cafe. I get a plug for that from those people, extra coffee there. Present were Peter Desnoyers, Tracee Schaefer, Ellen Spingler, and Don Speeney, and board engineer Tom Herits. A subsequent visit to the site was made at 9:45 a.m. and ended at 10:20 a.m.

The following are notes, questions, issues raised by committee members reviewing the submissions with this application and making a site visit:

So 3-A, the site is in the borough's BB Zone. It's not an allowed use called out in -under our land development ordinance, but New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law supersedes local ordinances and permits childcare centers in non-residential districts. The area of the property is \(\mathbf{2 . 1 7}\) acres, heavily wooded and bounded by the Green Brook, Union Avenue, and New Providence Road. While this is a large area, there appears to be significant environmental restrictions upon this site. And the applicant should explain these site limitations. The proposed building location requires setback variances for two locations, and the applicant should justify this need. Also, speak to your requested waiver dealing with the issuance of a

Certificate of Occupancy versus timing of the requirement for Performance Guarantee.

E, parking. The question that the number of parking spaces is adequate. How is the parking requirement calculated if there is a license for the Department of Human Services or local School Board approval for a formal kindergarten, how does that affect the student-teacher ratio for determining parking? How does the applicant expect to handle overflow parking requirements when students' special performances are held that draw parents and others to the site?

C, traffic. At 10:00 a.m. we
experienced significant heavy-duty truck traffic leaving Weldon Quarry. Some of these drivers sped up within the quarry egress road to merge with the existing traffic southbound on New Providence Road. These trucks also exhibited loud engine and exhaust noises. The automobile traffic seemed to be bumper-to-bumper going northbound on New Providence Road except for momentary openings because of the traffic signal at New Providence Road and Bonnie Burn Road. There seemed to be pockets of automobile traffic on Union Avenue in each direction. Though there were not too many courtesy openings for
southbound drivers turning left from New Providence Road onto Union Avenue, this caused backup on New Providence Road in the existing turning lane.

These traffic observations are at the very corner of where the school building is proposed -- is proposed to be built and occupied after the request for variance -- after request for the variance for the building to be constructed across from both roads.

Because of the heavy truck traffic and the at-capacity auto traffic at peak times, we are suggesting the applicant consider a guide rail on New Providence Road generally along the length of the building and its play area.

D, environmental. Applicant must discuss the environmental position of this property and the effect that they have on your choice of building location and the need for these variances. The plans should indicate any buffer zones that are required with the wetlands LOI. An LOI should be submitted as part of the application.

E, neighborly. Applicant must submit a notice of an active quarry whereby waiving any claim for interruption of or interference with its use and enjoyment of the property of the close proximity of

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the operation of the Weldon Quarry.
F, preliminary and final approval request. Applicant is asking for preliminary and final approval. The policy of the Watchung Planning Board is to consider applications for preliminary approval and, if approval is given, then the applicant returns for final approval.

The committee also defers to the reports of Mark Healey, professional planner, planning board, and Tom -- Thomas Herits, planning board engineer from Maser Consulting, for additional questions or comments.

Done.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you.
Okay, Mr. Hehl.
MR. HEHL: Yeah. And, thank you,
Mr. Speeney, thank you for reading that report in.
And as you noted, we did make revisions to the plans that address a number of these items subsequent to the issuance of your report and the other professionals' reports.

So with that said, I 'd like to call upon our first witness, Mr. Gerry Gesario.

MR. LI NNUS: Want to raise your right
hand, sir.

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\section*{GERARD GESARI O, sworn.}

MR. LINNUS: State your name and address for the record, please.

THE WITNESS: Full name is Gerard,
G-E-R-A-R-D, Gesario, G-E-S, as in Sam, A-R-I-O.
Business address, 42 Okner, O-K-N-E-R, Parkway, Livingston, New Jersey.

MR. LI NNUS: Your witness.
MR. HEHL: Yes. Thank you.

\section*{DI RECT EXAMI NATI ON BY MR. HEHL:}
Q. Mr. Gesario, if you would please give the Board the benefit of your work, educational experience, area of expertise, and whether you've been qualified as an expert in the field of professional engineering before other boards or courts in the State of New Jersey.
A. Sure. I'm a 1988 graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Currently employed as the director of civil engineering for Jarmel Kizel Architects and Engineers. I'm a licensed engineer in the State of New Jersey, license in good standing, and have been

\section*{GERARD GESARIO, P.E.}
since 1994.
I've provided expert testimony to well over 50 planning and zoning boards throughout the State of New Jersey.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. We'II
accept you. Thank you.
MR. HEHL: Great.
THE WITNESS: Thank you.
MR. HEHL: Thank you very much.
MR. BUTLER: No voir dire.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm sorry?
MR. BUTLER: No voir dire.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm --
MR. LINNUS: He wants to --
MR. BUTLER: No voir dire.
MR. LI NNUS: -- question his qualifications.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: He wants what? MR. LI NNUS: He wants to question his qualifications.

MR. HEHL: No, he doesn't.
MR. BUTLER: No. I accept him.
MR. HEHL: He's accepting our witness.
MR. LI NNUS: I thought he said -- I
thought he said, "Voir dire."

GERARD GESARIO, P.E.
first.
MR. HEHL: He did, but he said, "No,"

MR. LI NNUS: I didn't hear the "no." CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And I'm oblivious to what he's even talking about. Okay. MR. HEHL: And perhaps -- Tom had mentioned, if you want -- if you want to take the mike and if you want to use the exhibit over there. And unless there are exhibits that were marked as -- or submitted as part of the application, I assume, Frank, we would then mark them as we go along. But the ones that were submitted --

MR. LI NNUS: That's correct. Just identify them for the record that they were submitted.

MR. HEHL: Great.
MR. LI NNUS: And anything not on the record, you'll have to mark as an exhibit --

MR. HEHL: Great.
MR. LI NNUS: -- for this proceeding.
MR. HEHL: Thank you very much.
THE WITNESS: All right. This will be an exhibit, the first one I m going to talk to.

MR. LINNUS: All right. Do you want GERARD GESARIO, P.E.
to characterize the exhibit?
THE WITNESS: Sure. This is entitled
"Aerial Exhibit" with a drawing number of E-200 and the date of December 10, 2019. This is a Google aerial image at a scale of \(\mathbf{1}\) inch equals 200 feet of the site and the surrounding area.

MR. LINNUS: All right. So that's
Exhibit A-1. Do you want to put A-1 on there and put a date on it, please.
(Exhibit A-1, Aerial Map, is marked.)
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Do we have that in our packet?

MR. LINNUS: No.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
THE WITNESS: No.
MR. LI NNUS: That's why they're
marking it.
THE WITNESS: And so Exhibit A-1 here, the aerial exhibit, this shows our development lot. This application is for the development of Lot 1 in Block 7801, which is highlighted in yellow on the exhibit. As you can see, the site is triangular in shape. It's 2.21 acres or 96,359 square feet. It has an address of \(\mathbf{1 0 0}\) Union Avenue and, as was mentioned, it's located in the borough's BB
professional and office zone and, as you can see, the lot is currently vacant and unimproved land.

Adjacent to our site, to the south we're bound by Union Avenue and, as mentioned, a small frontage on New Providence Road of about 40 feet. To the west is some wooded areas that are part of the adjacent Lots 2 and 3 also on Block 7801. And to the east, you know, we are bound by the Green Brook. The centerline of the brook is the limit of our property and also makes up the municipal boundary line between the Borough of Watchung and Scotch Plains.

So as I mentioned, the lot is currently unoccupied. It's wooded. Roughly two-thirds of the lot slope and drain directly towards the Green Brook. The remainder of the lot is sloped towards Union Avenue and drains out to Union Avenue.

Elevation-wise, the site has a topographic high in the -- above the west corner near New Providence of about elevation 170, and it reaches a low near the covert on Union Avenue of about elevation 155.

The site is encumbered by some environmental restrictions. There are wetlands that pretty much follow the top of bank of the Green

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Brook. The site lies partially within the 100-year flood hazard area of the Green Brook. There are some slopes over 15 percent. I think all of them are along the Green Brook, and they're areas that we're not proposing to disturb. We're well aware that we'll need an individual permit from the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize approvals on this site.

With that, I 'm going to switch to another color exhibit. This is a blowup with the aerial beneath it of the site plan. This is just called "Site Exhibit," drawing E-300, also dated December 10, 2019, also includes our zone data and parking table.

MR. LI NNUS: Was that submitted as part of the package?

THE WITNESS: No. This is an exhibit.
MR. LI NNUS: So mark that A-2, please, and put the date on it.
(Exhibit A-2, Site Drawing E-300, is marked.)

THE WITNESS: So as you can see, the building is tucked into the southwest corner. The proposal is for --

MR. BUTLER: Excuse me. Is that a
page that's part of the exhibit?
CHAIRWOMAN SCHAEFER: No.
MR. LINNUS: No, it is not.
MR. BUTLER: I'm sorry.
MR. HEHL: Yeah. It's A-2.
MR. BUTLER: I'm sorry. Thanks,
Steve. I'm sorry.
THE WITNESS: So the building, as was
mentioned, is \(\mathbf{1 0 , 7 8 2}\) gross square feet. The footprint is half of that, so a little under 5,400 square feet, and the proposed play area sits to the north or east of the building. That's proposed at 3,813 square feet.

Just to touch on the DEP, we have met with the DEP in a pre-application meeting. As was mentioned for the initial submission, there are -there were some revisions that were made to this plan, and some of that was based on our discussions with DEP. Primarily, the access points were revised. The main full-movement access, which is to the east, does lie within the flood hazard zone, so we do have to do some calculations there.

The secondary exit to the west, DEP considers this use what they call a critical building. So for them to approve it, it has to have GERARD GESARIO, P.E.
an alternate means of egress from the site outside of the floodplain and 1 foot above the flood elevation. So that's what drove the secondary means of egress from the site.

With that, we also sat with Somerset County preliminarily to get their feel for these driveways and what we need to do -- improvements to Union Avenue because that's a county-controlled road. So this also represents feedback from our meetings with Somerset County.

Total parking is mentioned. Right now it's 31 spaces. I'm going to defer to traffic to get into why and how that's sufficient for the site.

The site will also have a fully screened trash enclosure that'Il accommodate two dumpsters. Our parking stalls are all 9-by-18. Our aisle widths are \(\mathbf{2 4}\) feet. So those are all per code and in accordance with industry standards.

I mentioned variance-wise, we have the one existing condition for the insufficient frontage on New Providence, and then we have the parking setback of 5 feet where 20 feet is required. So those are the two.

We have a couple of design waivers for the lighting, which I'Il address, and a couple of
islands are not sufficient width.
We are proposing a monument sign. The sign is to the east of the proposed driveway. It's my understanding it conforms to the height and size requirements of the ordinance. That sign will not be lit.

Lighting is handled mostly by the single pole in the center island with a double fixture. We do have one pole behind the play area, and then there's building security lights at all the doors, which are required by code. Those are motion sensor. They go on and off as needed. I believe we can eliminate the design waiver for lighting. The pole behind the play area is probably causing that, and we can shift that and move that around, if need be.

Landscaping. The eastern portion of the site is going to remain undisturbed and wooded, so we're not proposing too much back there at this time, but we're aware that DEP is going to require some riparian zone mitigation. So there's probably going to be more landscaping going in in that area. We're proposing some landscaping along the -- both the west and south sides of the building and along the parking spots that front Union Avenue. If those

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shrubs are shown to be in the county right-of-way, they're not intended to be. They're intended to be in the 5 -foot buffer between the parking lot and the property line.

Touch base on drainage a little bit. We are proposing a subsurface utility drainage basin that'll sit under the parking area. This site is a major development, as defined by New Jersey DEP, so we have to address water quantity, water quality, and groundwater recharge.

Water quantity is addressed with our basin, which is five rows, 36 -inch inch pipe at 88 feet and an outlet control structure. So that -the requirement is your proposed peak flows have to be \(\mathbf{5 0}, \mathbf{7 5}\), and 80 percent of your existing peak flows. So this detention basin stores and attenuates the runoff to meet that requirement. When it leaves the basin, it'll connect back into the existing inlet on Union Avenue and the pipe that goes across Union Avenue and discharges into the Green Brook.

Water quality is handled. It's going to be a single manufactured treatment device that'll take all the runoff from the pavement, treat the minor storm. It'll be certified for \(\mathbf{8 0}\) percent
removed total suspended solids before it goes into the detention basin before it discharges back to the Green Brook.

Groundwater recharge is proposed to be
handled. The proposed pipes are going to be perforated so they will sit on a gravel base and will infiltrate into the soil. One thing to note, we haven't done the permeability testing yet for this site, so it's possible that the testing comes back that the site is not sufficient for groundwater recharge and, in that case, we would require a waiver from the Board for that requirement due to the results of actual field testing of the soil. Lastly, with regard to utilities, we do have Will Serve letters now from PSE\&G for electric and gas. We also have a Will Serve from New Jersey American Water. And the sanitary, there is no public sewer fronting Union Avenue, so what's being proposed is a small pump station on-site just for this building. A small force main will be routed down Union Avenue that will tie into the public system at Meadow Street.

And that summarizes my testimony of the
site.
BY MR. HEHL:
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Q. Okay. Now, I know you also had an opportunity to review the reports from the various professionals, including Mr. Herits.

If you could touch on some of those items and provide testimony in that regard?
A. Sure. There were a couple of items.

I believe the letter also needed some decision from
the Board. I'll refer to the last letter I received
-- we received dated November 14, 2019, under "Site
Considerations," Item 3.
MR. LINNUS: That would be the report of Mr. Herits?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MR. LI NNUS: Okay.
THE WITNESS: Mr. Herits' report.
November 14, Item 3. It's the Board to decide on whether or not they want sidewalks along the frontage or a donation of the cost to the Borough Sidewalk Fund. I'm not sure sidewalks make much sense along this frontage, but we defer to the Board.

MR. LINNUS: That's not Number 3.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: It's not Number
3.

THE WITNESS: It's under "Site

Considerations."
MR. LI NNUS: Okay.
THE WITNESS: Item three.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: That's Number 3,
Page 4.
THE WITNESS: It's broken down into
different titles. This was the "Site
Considerations" portion.
MR. HERITS: I think the simplest solution is to make a contribution. Even single-family homes on -- you know, where there's no sidewalks makes a sidewalk contribution, so...

MR. HEHL: The applicant would have no objection to either way but...

MR. SPEENEY: Chairman?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yes.
MR. SPEENEY: Relative to sidewalks, I would wait until we hear more about their parking, and their overflow parking, and things of that sort.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I agree.
THE WITNESS: Just going through the few items and looking for direction on that, the next item, Item 4, requests curbing to be added along Union Avenue where none exists. I 'd ask that since this is a Somerset County road, that if

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they're fine with us adding curbing, we'll add it. But I think to defer that to Somerset County and see if they have an issue with it. We have no objection to doing it as long as the county doesn't have any objections to it.

Site considerations, I tem 6. The board shall decide what type of parking lot striping, hairpin style or the single-line style. It's the Board's preference for the type of striping.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Tom, what would you recommend?

MR. HERITS: I could live with single striping, single line.

THE WITNESS: Site considerations,
Item \(\mathbf{1 2}\) is the request for a construction staging plan. This is something we would need the contractors, which we don't have yet, discuss or details where material is going to be stored, types of equipment. So we would ask that, possibly, this get -- be a requisite for a pre-construction meeting as opposed to a final approval because it gives them time to get a contractor. That's stuff the contractor would need to answer as far as --

MR. HERITS: Normally, when projects this size or larger are being constructed, we do

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have a pre-construction meeting with their contractor.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So you would be fine with that?

MR. HERITS: Yes.
THE WITNESS: Okay. Stormwater
management, Item 1 asks to demonstrate the existing
pipe that we tie into has adequate capacity for additional runoff. I just -- if I could get clarification because the purpose of our detention system is to attenuate the flow so that what's leaving our site is less than what's contributing to that peak flow rise to that inlet. And generally, if the offsite pipe is, somebody knows it's undersized already, as a developer, our responsibility is to control the flows off-site so they're less than what's going there now. So I'm not quite sure if --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So this -- these questions are directed --

THE WITNESS: Yeah.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- to our --
THE WITNESS: J ust this one --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- our engineer,
Tom.
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THE WITNESS: -- in particular.
So I just -- we can discuss it
further --
MR. HERITS: And I can review it, I can review that with --

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MR. HERITS: -- you to see if there's
any existing problems --
THE WITNESS: Okay.
MR. HERITS: -- with that pipe.
THE WITNESS: Okay. And just two
more, the stormwater management section, Item 10.
It was suggested by Mr. Herits that if, when we do the soil testing, it turns out the site is not suitable for infiltration, that the Board grant the waiver this evening so we don't have to come back for that waiver after the permeability testing.

So just in case it doesn't satisfy recharge requirements, we would be looking for that waiver this evening if the Board were to --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I think we'II
look at the entire application. I don't think we're prepared to give you a waiver at this given moment now. Let's look at the entire application, and we'll make our decision.

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THE WITNESS: And the last item then, is going to be similar. It's exact number of trees that are going to be replaced are going to be dependent on our application with the DEP, so we just -- we don't want to be --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: What --
THE WITNESS: We may be short.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: What number --
what number is that that you're looking at?
THE WITNESS: This is lighting and landscaping, Item 4. It's also in the plan, but it deals with tree replacement. So we may have to pay into the tree fund. That's another item we just -if the Board -- I don't know if they want to do that. This evening, though, just allowing the Applicant -- if we cannot meet the required trees to be planted on-site, to allow them to pay into the tree bank fund. That's it.

MS. PENNETT: That's pretty much standard, you know, procedure.

THE WITNESS: That's all I have.
MR. HEHL: Okay. Thank you.
I have no further questions of Mr.
Gesario at this time.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Planning Board?
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Mr. Butler, let's go to you first. Do you have any questions?

MR. BUTLER: Yes, I do.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Oh, Tom?
MR. HERITS: I just want to ask that, in the LOI, what was the transition zone? Was it a 50 foot?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. The official LOI is pending, but it is a \(\mathbf{5 0}\) foot for this wetlands --

MR. HERITS: It would have been nice if you would have shown that on the plans so the Board could see where the transition zone would have been.

THE WITNESS: The other item, just to know, the riparian zone that goes with the Green Brook, I forgot to mention that's 150-foot buffer from top of bank.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So if our engineer is looking for a transition zone, we're going to expect to see that.

THE WITNESS: Yes, absolutely. MR. HERITS: I think it would help to do an exhibit to show both those lines just so the Board can see the extent of the environmental constraints. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Understood. MR. HERITS: Okay.
THE WITNESS: No problem.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Before we get to
you, Mr. Butler, let me -- any questions from our Planning Board?

MS. PENNETT: No. I think this is all, I don't have any questions. The town does have a tree ordinance and that you're going to have to -you have to prepare a replacement plan, and then, you know, following the guidelines of the ordinance in whatever -- if you have to replace 100 trees and you don't have room for that -- and you don't have room for that, then you can put money into the tree bank. But you do have to have a tree replacement plan submitted so that we can review it.

THE WITNESS: We -- as part of our submission package, I think we calculated the trees we need to replace. We just haven't finalized how many are actually going to be on the site.

MS. PENNETT: You just have to submit the plan to us so we can review it.

THE WITNESS: Understood.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Questions from
Board members?
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MR. ELLIS: I have a question on the pump. You have a small pump station you're proposing?

THE WITNESS: Correct.
MR. ELLIS: And is there any details about maintaining it, or who's going to service it, or how's -- you know --

THE WITNESS: It'll be serviced privately. The owner would have to have a service contract with someone to maintain that. It's just serving this one building.

MR. ELLIS: Is there any estimate about the gallons per day that might be used?

THE WITNESS: There is. I don't -- I
don't have that number --
MR. ELLIS: It's okay.
THE WITNESS: -- off the top of my
head.
MR. ELLIS: It'll come.
THE WITNESS: It's small.
MR. ELLIS: But just don't put any
diapers in those.
THE WITNESS: Well, it'll be a grinder pump, but I don't know if it'll handle diapers.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Other questions

\section*{from the Board?}

Mr. Butler?
MR. HERITS: I just want to --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Oh.
MR. HERITS: With the sewer, I know the other applicant, the car wash, they did have approval from, I guess, the dump in the Scotch Plains. Is that still --

THE WITNESS: I don't know if it's still good. It's still the same plan. We haven't gotten a new approval of that. So the approach is the same as what was previously approved, but I don't have anything official from Scotch Plains.

MR. HERITS: Okay. So their approval was to the previous applicant for the car wash, correct?

THE WITNESS: Correct.
MR. HERITS: So you have to get one for your site, correct?

THE WITNESS: Yeah.
MR. HERITS: Okay.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler.

CROSS-EXAMI NATI ON BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. This question might have been answered

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by Madam Chairperson. When I looked through the papers as part of this application, I didn't see a letter of interpretation regarding wetlands from the DEP. Did I miss something?
A. No. A new letter is pending. We
don't have the final letter yet.
Q. You don't have a wetlands letter?
A. We've done the delineation. We don't have the LOI back from DEP.
Q. Okay. So, in other words, as you appear before the Board, you're not in a position to tell them, number one, where wetlands are?
A. Well, there are wetlands shown on our plan from a wetlands scientist. They just haven't been approved by the DEP.
Q. Doesn't the DEP have to approve the wetlands?
A. Yes, they do.
Q. And as you appear before the Board,
then, you're not in a position to tell us what type of wetlands the DEP has determined these wetlands to be; is that true?
A. Only from the prior approval, the wetlands were deemed ordinary resource wetlands so --
Q. Okay. Well, how long ago was that?
A. Ten years.
Q. Were you involved in that application?
A. No, sir.
Q. Would you agree with me that a new
application for interpretation regarding wetlands is required?
A. Yes.
Q. Yeah?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. So at this point we don't know where
the wetlands are as approved by the DEP. We don't
know what type of wetlands they are. Nor, then, do
we know what transition area or buffer area are
associated with these wetlands as determined by the DEP.

Is that correct?
A. By the DEP, correct.
Q. Okay. Did you think it appropriate,
maybe, to get that letter of interpretation before we started hearings before the Board?
A. No. We're pretty confident of our
line and the buffer.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So let me ask
this question. What kind of time frame are you
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looking for this interpretation to come out?
THE WITNESS: Hopefully within \(\mathbf{3 0}\) days
to get the letter from them.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Are you
done, Mr. Butler?
MR. BUTLER: No, no, no, no, I'm not done.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: That was wishful thinking maybe.

MR. BUTLER: I know you're a little impatient.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You turned
around. You can't turn around.
MR. BUTLER: Well, you know, I keep --
I keep files here. The older you get, you sometimes drop things, or you leave them behind you a little bit. BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. Do me a favor -- do you have your plans here tonight?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Would you -- will you pull out

Page 9, which is the landscape plan.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler, if you're going to follow him, would you bring the mike
with you, please.
MR. BUTLER: Yeah. I 'm just looking at him at the moment. I just want to see what he's doing. You'll hear me. You'll hear me.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: We want to capture you on the mike.

MR. LI NNUS: For the record, do you want to have the latest revision date on that, Mr. Gesario?

THE WITNESS: Okay.
MR. LI NNUS: Sheet 9 --
THE WITNESS: As requested, I 'm looking at sheet 9, drawing C-600, has an issue date of December 2, revision date also of December 2, 2019, landscape plan.

MR. BUTLER: I'm going to use the mike with him. He's carrying it with him.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: There's no one over here, Mr. Butler.

THE WITNESS: I'Il share.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Or he'll share.
MR. BUTLER: I think he can share it.
That's what I suggested.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. BY MR. BUTLER:

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Q. On the bottom of the plan, you show
landscaping adjacent to the parking and Union
Avenue; do you not?
A. Yes, we do.
Q. And that landscaping --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Into the mike.
Q. -- appears, to me, to be within the Union

Avenue right-of-way; is that correct?
A. That is what's shown on the plan. But
as I've testified to, that if that's what was on the plan, it's going to be corrected and it will sit -it looks like it was mistakenly not moved or revised to plan to provide a 5 -foot buffer. So those plans will be revised. That landscaping will be --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Can you show us --

THE WITNESS: -- on our property.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- exactly where
you're talking?
THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm pointing to -along Union Avenue, the six spaces that face Union Avenue. Between the curb and the property line, there are some shrubs proposed. This plan does show them on and over the railway line. That will be corrected, and those shrubs will sit between the
curb of the parking and the property line.
COUNCI LMAN SOPKO: What's that
distance?
THE WITNESS: 5 feet.
MR. SOPKO: That's the 5 feet. Okay.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. Okay. So, in other words, Page 9 is going to be revised?
A. Yes.
Q. And at the next hearing, are we going
to have a revised Page 9?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yes. THE WI TNESS: J ust Page 9 or -CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Well, if we come up with anything else, that's one page that will be revised.

THE WI TNESS: That's fine.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So you have two
so far -- the transitional, and now that, and hopefully the DEP. So you've got three things right now on the list.

Go ahead.
BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. Now, you correctly indicated that your

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parking is within \(\mathbf{2 0}\) feet of Union Avenue, whereas our ordinance requires 5 feet; is that correct?
A. That's the reverse. The ordinance requires 20 feet.
Q. Yeah. Didn't I --
A. We are parking --
Q. I thought I said that.
A. -- within 5. No. You said the reverse.
Q. Okay.
A. But --
Q. We're supposed to be 20 feet from the road --
A. Correct.
Q. \(\quad--\) and we're 5 feet from the road?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. Now, if you put that parking back 20 feet and you eliminated the variance, would that affect the size of the building?
A. It would affect the number of parking spots we get.
Q. What would reduce the parking spots, too?
A. I haven't drawn it. I can estimate we'd lose 4 or 5 and end up with maybe 26 , but I
haven't drawn it to plan to know that for sure.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler, can you show us what you're talking about on that map, please, what --

MR. BUTLER: Sure.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- you're describing.

MR. BUTLER: Sure. On the landscape plan, Page 9 --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: We're back to Page 9? Okay.

THE WI TNESS: I 'm looking at Sheet 5, the site plan now. I'm pointing. It's, again, the six spaces that front Union Avenue.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
THE WITNESS: If we were to push them back to meet the \(\mathbf{2 0}\) feet, how many spaces would we end up with?

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. THE WI TNESS: We haven't drawn that plan. I can say, you know, we'll loose at least four or five spaces for sure.
BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. Okay. Now, when you lose those spaces, would that have any effect on the size of

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the building?
A. I can't say that for sure.
Q. Why can't you answer that question?
A. Because parking is not based on the
size of the building, it's based on need. So I
defer to our traffic engineer and the studies
they've done on what's required for parking.
MR. BUTLER: Okay. I have no further questions of this witness.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Does the public
have any questions of this witness?
Okay. Mr. Hehl?
Thank you very much.
Mr. Hehl?
MR. HERITS: I just have one other question.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yes.
MR. HERITS: The flood hazard line
that you show on the map, that is based off the FEMA
-- the FEMA maps, correct?
THE WI TNESS: It's the DEP study maps,
yes. I got the maps from the DEP, from their office, so yes. It's the FEMA maps, but the DEP did the FEMA studies.

MR. HERITS: Okay. So just --
normally, what -- if I was doing this, I would -- I have a topo of my property that's based on the FEMA vertical datum and, like -- so, for instance, you're showing a flood hazard elevation pointing to that line at 161, but on the property the elevation's 155.

So wouldn't you draw the flood hazard line based on your topography and the elevations?

THE WITNESS: From the information from DEP, the line varies from Union Avenue, the elevation, to the northwest corner of the site.

MR. HERITS: No. I understand.
THE WITNESS: Yeah.
MR. HERITS: It goes 163, 162. All I 'm saying is you're showing it in some instances -where your elevation is 155, you're pointing to a flood hazard line with the elevation at 161.

THE WITNESS: We'll take a look at that.

MR. HERITS: No. I think what I would do is draw the flood hazard line based on your topography using the elevations that the DEP is giving you. I don't know. I don't --

THE WITNESS: Yeah.
MR. HERITS: I don't think it's going GERARD GESARIO, P.E.
to create a problem for you, but I --
THE WITNESS: Right.
MR. HERITS: -- think that's where the
line belongs on your property.
THE WITNESS: We'll look at it --
MR. HERITS: Okay. Please.
THE WITNESS: -- again because the prior approval, that was the line. When we met with DEP, that was the line so -- but we will look at it, though.

MR. HERITS: Definitely an exhibit with those other two, the riparian and the --

THE WITNESS: Sure.
MR. HERITS: -- other lines.
THE WITNESS: Understood.
MR. HERITS: Resubmit one of them.
THE WITNESS: Okay. Sure.
MR. HERITS: Thank you.
MR. SPEENEY: Question.
THE WITNESS: Yes.
MR. SPEENEY: If you are proposing parking spots within the 100-foot flood hazard, do you need special permits for that?

THE WITNESS: You need a permit for the overall development from DEP, and that's part of
it. Sometimes they require you to place signs up that alert someone that you're parking in a flood hazard area, but that's all part of one individual permit for the site.

MR. SPEENEY: All right.
THE WITNESS: But DEP can impose certain requirements such as signing it so people are aware that these seven spaces are in a flood zone.

MR. SPEENEY: So, for the record, part of your parking is in a flood hazard area as defined by the DEP?

THE WITNESS: Correct. There is a portion of this development in the flood hazard area, yes.

MR. SPEENEY: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Any other questions from the Board?

MR. POTE: Yeah.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yes.
MR. POTE: So, again, whether it be on this map or another map, can you, again, point to where the variance is being asked for for the frontage.

THE WITNESS: Sure.

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MR. POTE: And, again, just confirm that we're talking about 25 feet down to 14.

MR. HEHL: No. Actually, that was -we revised the plans to eliminate the building setback variance.

THE WITNESS: Yeah. There are no longer variances associated with the building. The one is for the parking.

I 'm looking again at Sheet C-300, the site plan. It's where the six parking spaces that front Union Avenue. We have 5 feet. The ordinance requires a 20-foot setback for parking. So it's involving these spaces that face Union Avenue.

MR. POTE: Okay.
THE WITNESS: That's the variance.
MR. POTE: And with regards to the corner of the building, what would be the -- is that right where your fingers are?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. The building now meets the 25-foot required setback for the --

MR. POTE: Okay.
THE WITNESS: That's part of the ordinance.

MR. POTE: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Any additional

\section*{questions?}
Okay. Mr. Hehl --
MR. BUTLER: Madam Chairwoman, I just
Mave a couple more. I 'm sorry. May I ask
Muestions?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: By the
picking up on, I think, either the mayor's question
or Mr. Speeney's question regarding parking in the
flood hazard area.
microphone, please.
MR. BUTLER: I can do it from here.
THE WI TNESS: J ust to clarify, there's
only one spot that's in the flood hazard line that
we show currently. This heavy line that runs
through is the flood hazard line. So this portion
of the parking is outside the flood hazard line.
Our driveway is -- this is the flood hazard, so all
this to the right is a flood hazard. This is our
site in the flood zone. So the six spaces that
front Union Avenue are in the flood hazard.
RECROSS-EXAMI NATI ON BY MR. BUTLER:
That's correct.
Q. That's correct.

GERARD GESARIO, P.E.

And then there's one more space behind it?
A. Correct.
Q. There's seven spaces --
A. That's correct.
Q. -- in the flood hazard area?
A. That is correct.
Q. Right?

Okay. Now, your ingress and egress,
that's east of the building; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Both your ingress and egress are also
in the flood hazard area; are they not?
A. The main driveway -- the two-lane driveway is in the flood hazard, correct.
Q. Isn't that -- you can only go in that way, right?
A. Yeah. Yeah. That's correct.
Q. That's your main ingress and egress?
A. That's correct.
Q. Okay. Now, you indicated that originally you needed 25 set -- setback from New Providence Road, and you needed an 8-foot -- or a 7-foot variance setback on Union place, right? In other words, on -- let's take one street at a time.

Union Avenue requires a setback --
excuse me. New Providence Road requires a setback of 25 feet, right?
A. Correct.
Q. Originally -- you corrected this?
A. Correct.
Q. Originally, you were only going to show a setback of about 15 feet, right?
A. That's correct.
Q. And you corrected that?
A. Again, correct.
Q. And that's conceded.

Now, on Union place, that also requires a 25-foot setback; does it not?
A. That's correct.
Q. Because this is a corner lot, right?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. And you only proposed an 18 -foot setback, right?
A. I believe that's what it was.
Q. And you eliminated that variance; did you not?
A. Yes, we did.
Q. Okay. Why didn't you originally draw the plans without those variances?
A. Because -- two reasons. One, we were GERARD GESARIO, P.E.

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trying to honor the line that was previously approved by the DEP --
Q. In '08?
A. -- for a disturbance.

In '08 for a riparian zone disturbance, so we didn't want to go beyond that line.

The second reason is, by going beyond that line, we now have to do more mitigation than was previously approved by DEP.

So we were trying to honor a line that was previously approved to make the process with DEP hopefully a little smoother. This will require, obviously, all new calculations and more mitigation for a disturbance in the riparian zone.
Q. Now, would you describe the mitigation that you just made reference to.
A. It involves additional plantings within the 150 -foot buffer, the riparian zone measured from the top of bank to our area of disturbance. You are allowed to disturb in the riparian zone; you just have to mitigate.
Q. Your total site's a little over 2 acres; is it not?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. Would you agree with me that
approximately 25 to 30 percent of the property's proposed for development?
A. I don't -- I didn't -- I don't have that number off the top of my head.
Q. Give it some thought. You're an engineer. You drew up the plan, didn't you?
A. Yeah, I did.
Q. What percent --
A. I don't know what percentage of property is being disturbed off the top of my head. I'm not sure --
Q. Let me ask you this way: All the other areas --
A. I have that --
Q. -- next to the lot --
A. I actually have that number. I'll give you a number. It's somewhere in my notes. Excuse me.

Let's see here. I can tell you that the approximate area of the site that is outside of wetlands, wetlands buffer, riparian zone, and the floodway is about a little over -- is a little over half acre, about 25,000 -- 22,500 square feet.
Q. Okay. So --
A. So --

GERARD GESARIO, P.E.
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\(\square\)
\begin{tabular}{ll} 
Q. Okay. So -- \\
A. & So --
\end{tabular}

\section*{interrupt you.}
A. That's the land area that's -- has no environmental restrictions.
Q. Okay.
A. It's a half acre.
Q. 22,000 is about a half an acre?
A. So -- so 25 --
Q. So 25?
A. -- to 30 percent is approximately.
Q. 25 , right?
A. Yeah.
Q. And all the rest of the vacant land, you're not touching that because that's environmentally sensitive, isn't it?
A. Yes. It's either wetlands, wetlands buffer, or riparian zone.
Q. Right. And that's why you had to take the building, and the parking, and the ingress and crouch it in about 25 percent of the total site, correct?
A. The environmental -- the environmental constraints certainly dictated the layout of the project, sure.

MR. BUTLER: I have no further

\section*{questions.}

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Thank you.

One more time, Board, any questions?
Public, any further questions that you

\section*{may have of this particular witness?}

Okay. Mr. Hehl, you're next.
MR. HEHL: Yes. I now call upon

\section*{Mathew Jarmel.}

MR. LINNUS: Want to raise your right hand, please.

\section*{MATTHEW JARMEL, sworn.}

MR. LINNUS: Your witness, Counsel.
MR. HEHL: Thank you very much,

\section*{Counsel.}

And Mr. J armel will be testifying not only as a professional architect, but also an expert in the field of childcare operations. So I 'd like to qualify him in both those -- those areas.

\section*{DI RECT EXAMI NATION BY MR. HEHL:}
Q. So, first, let's touch upon as an architect.
A. Good evening. My name is Matthew MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

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Jarmel. I'm a registered architect. I hold a
Bachelor's of Architectural degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology. I also have an MBA with a concentration in real estate development and urban land use from Rutgers University.

I've been licensed in the State of New
Jersey since 1994. My license in New Jersey is in good standing. I'm board certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, which entitles me to reciprocity in any state. I currently hold 31 licenses in the United States, including Washington, D.C.

In New Jersey, I've testified to well over 100 municipal planning and/or zoning boards.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay, I think you're good. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
MR. HEHL: Thank you. And then --
THE WITNESS: As far as the -- as far
as -- so my firm has multiple specialties in what I'll call commercial real estate. One of them is childcare centers. We've designed approximately 300 childcare centers throughout the country for major brands, such as The Learning Experience, which we're here to discuss this evening, but other brands which

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you may be familiar with, such as Goddard, Kiddie
Academy, Children of America, Primrose, Lightbridge, and as well as local YMCAs and other -- what I'II call mom-and-pop-type operations. Within New Jersey, I've done approximately 75 childcare centers.

With regards to The Learning Experience, there's about -- in New Jersey I've done about 85 projects. In New Jersey there's about 70 Learning Experiences operating. They're local centers that are in close proximity to this site, including Union, Livingston, Parsippany, Denville, Bloomfield, Paramus -- we're starting to get into Bergen County -- Tenafly, Cedar Grove, Roseland. They like to be about 5 miles apart.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: There's one right in Green Brook, as well.

THE WITNESS: Arguably, Bound Brook is actually the mailing address. That one was just completed. There's one under construction in Raritan right now. There's one in Princeton, East Windsor. They like New Jersey; most of the operators do.

For The Learning Experience in particular, I have about a 16-year relationship with

\section*{MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA}
them. In that time frame we've designed well over 200 centers for them. We've created the prototype, and we update the prototype for them on a regular basis.

Sometimes I also wear the hat of real estate developer, and in this capacity I 've actually been involved in the development where I'm a principal and owner of childcare centers. I have completed five in the State of New Jersey and actually have seven I'm working on right now, including one that's just about to be completed in Eatontown. I have an application before the Summit Zoning Board, as well. We own a center in Union. We own the center in Livingston.

In fact, the Livingston center is a little over 16 years of age. It's the very first Learning Experience, and it's attached to my office, so \(I\) see it in operation every day, so I witness it, as well.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You say you're the principal?

THE WITNESS: As a -- as a landlord. CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Oh.
THE WITNESS: Real estate
developer/ landlord.

So besides designing them, I 've also been intimately involved in the development. I'm not a principal of this site; I 'm just the architect. My firm is doing the architecture and the civil engineering.

I'd like to start my testimony with --
BY MR. HEHL:
Q. Let me just --
A. Sure.
Q. Well, I want to finish the
qualification in that regard.
And so you're obviously well familiar
with hours of operation, number of employees,
requirements of parking, ingress, egress, and the like?
A. Yes. Intimately familiar with it.

Now, there is no --
MR. LI NNUS: What kind of license do you need --

THE WITNESS: So --
MR. LI NNUS: -- to operate?
THE WITNESS: So I was just going to say, Mr. Linnus, there is no -- I 'm sorry. What type of license you need to operate a childcare center?

\section*{MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA}

MR. LI NNUS: Yes, in New Jersey.
THE WITNESS: In New Jersey childcare centers are licensed by the Department of Children and Families.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Children and...
THE WITNESS: Children and Families.
Sometimes people call them DYFS; they no longer go by that name.

So I was just going to start my testimony.

MR. HEHL: So I was going to say -- so I would seek his qualification also in the field of childcare.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Yeah. We're good. Thank you.

MR. HEHL: Thank you.
THE WITNESS: Thank you.
So what I 'd like to do is start my
testimony, and I 'Il mix sort of an architectural operation testimony this evening about defining what a childcare center is.

Mr. Linnus just asked me how they're
licensed and, just to be repetitive, they're licensed by the State Department of Children and

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

Families. One of the nice things or, what I 'll say, safety things that New Jersey does, before that department can issue a license, New Jersey DEP has to sign off on a site through what they call a remedial action letter. So in New Jersey you have to go to the DEP before you can go to the Department of Children and Families if you're licensed. What the DEP looks for is soil contamination around the -- around the exterior playground, and they look at potable water as well.

This particular center is going to be designed for children that are six weeks of age to about six years of age. The license goes to 12, but this center is designed to house children from six weeks to six years. It'll be -- it'll be open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. It's not open on the weekends.

The operator of this center is an organization called The Learning Experience. The owners of The Learning Experience have been in the development and management of childcare centers since the mid-80s. It's a family-owned business. This is their second time doing it. Their original brand was a brand called Tutor Time, which they built over \(\mathbf{3 0 0}\) childcare centers under that brand.

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

That brand still exists, but they no longer own it. And they've been building Learning Experiences under this brand name for about 16 and a half years --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So this is not -- a franchise? This is --

THE WITNESS: This organization builds both franchise and corporate-owned. About 30 percent of their centers are corporate, and the balance are franchise. It's really transparent to the community and to the operation. They have very strict requirements for their franchisees, both from a financial standpoint, training standpoint. They actually do random inspections on them more frequently than the State will, we'll inspect them as well.

Currently, they're operating well over 250 centers throughout the country, and they're taking care of about 30,000 children a day. So they're very experienced in this. They review and approve each site. And they analyze the site both from a demographic standpoint and a needs standpoint. They know every operator within a 5-mile radius, full public knowledge, how many children there are in that area. And they would not open this site if they didn't, one, think they could

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA 75
be successful here as an operator and, two, if they didn't feel there was a community need for it.

What I would like to do is start now with an exhibit.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Was this in our
packet?

THE WITNESS: I do not believe it is. MR. LI NNUS: All right. Do you want
to --

THE WITNESS: No. Actually, I did -MR. LI NNUS: Do you want to mark that as A-3 and put today's date on it --

THE WITNESS: I 'm going to mark it, although we do say it was issued to you.
(Exhibit A-3, Rendered Architectural Drawing, is marked.)

THE WITNESS: This is a rendering. It's actually dated, although I marked it with today's date, December 2nd. It was part of a planning board resubmission. So you may have it in your packet, but I just want to mark it --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: No, I don't think we have that. Go ahead.

THE WITNESS: -- because it's a larger
one.

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And this is the rendering of the proposed building. As you can see, we propose to construct a two-story building at the site. It will use high-quality materials that will include a brick base to a water table. The corners of the building will have brick.

We've designed a sloping roof, and I'd like to kind of talk about that for a second because we actually have a well behind this -- what I'll call a sloping mansard or a sloping parapet. This is about 6 feet high. We put all the mechanical equipment behind that well. So the roof acts as a screen, both for a visual screen and an audible screen for the mechanical equipment that will go into the building. There's nothing on the ground. It's all up on the roof and all screened.

We like to use sloping roofs for -because we find it's a nicer aesthetic. The materials around it are -- above the brick and around it are a synthetic stucco. The entry to the building will have a portico that provides weather protection to parents as they're walking into the facility. And I 'll talk to you a little bit about the drop-off/ pick up procedures in a moment.

The columns of the portico are held up
or decorated with what we consider to be children's building blocks that are numbered one, two, three, four and A, B, C, D. You can see that the signage has an elephant, which is the mascot of The Learning Experience -- his name is Bubbles -- and colorful, playful signs to identify it.

All the signs that we propose this evening comply with your ordinance. In fact, the sign areas are not only meet it, it's less than what's allowed. And if the Board desires, I can go through those calculations.

I'm now putting up a drawing that is in your packet. Excuse me. This is drawing SA 2.1. It's entitled "Proposed Floor Plans," and it's dated December 2, 2019. I 'm going to talk a little bit about drop-off and pick up.

One of the big misconceptions about childcare centers -- and we talk about the numbers of children that will be in here -- is that they don't operate like a school. Schools open at a certain time, 8:30 in the morning perhaps, and all the children that go to that school that are attending that day show up at the same time. Childcare centers are designed to operate to cater to working parents, and parents are allowed to

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really drop off their children and pick them up at any time. That's why they open as early as 6:30, and they stay open as late as 6:30 p.m.

So the typical procedure is a parent will drive to the center. Usually they're -- and our traffic engineer will give some data where she's actually measured and studied operating centers. But they'll arrive, typically, before 9:00 a.m. in the morning, and they'll be required to park -- park their car, and they will turn the engine off, and they will walk their child into the facility.

Excuse me one second.
So I 've just put up drawing -- the drawing entitled "Site Plan." It's part of your set. It's drawing 5 of 17, dated December 2, 2019, which is -- which is the floor plan.

Our layout -- the parking lot layout, it works very efficiently for childcare because it allows for a circular motion around the site. It's very -- no dead-end corridors or dead-end drive aisles, and it allows parents to come in one way and has two options for exiting.

What I wanted to point out is there are ten parking spaces directly in front of the building, two of which are handicap, which are
really designed for parents to utilize for drop-off and pick up. What we find -- and I 'll get into some of the numbers in a moment -- is that typically you need about six to eight drop-off spaces. We have ten. We've discounted the two handicap, so we have eight spaces directly in front of the building for parents to pull in, park, and walk their child.

One of the things that The Learning Experience does in their contracts and agreements with the families that they bring their children here is they kind of explain they have procedures for drop-off and pick up. They don't like them to have to walk across the drive aisle with a child. You can imagine that a parent walking in with an infant, that child is not walking in. They're being carried or the older children are being brought in by a hand -- by hand.

So they walk. They park and they enter the building. Referring back to the Exhibit A-3, there's a canopy there that provides weather protection for parents when they're walking into the building.

Coming back to the floor plan, the lower floor plan is entitled "First Floor." You'll note that there's two, a double door, a vestibule, MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA 80
and a reception area. During business hours, both of these doors into the -- the outer door and the inner door to the vestibule are glass, so they're visible. You can see who's coming and going from the reception desk. During business hours, the outer doors are locked. The inner door is locked, and the parents are issued a key fob. So only a parent can open the door or they have to be buzzed in. If you or I went to the site, if we didn't have a child there, we could be -- we'd have to be granted access. The system is so sophisticated it could be set up so if a grandparent picks up a child only on Thursdays, their fob would only open the facility on Thursdays.

We find that typically -- and this is kind of an interesting statistic based on the 250-plus centers The Learning Experience operates. They've had a lot of data on how they work. They find that about \(\mathbf{2 5}\) percent of the children that come to the center are siblings. They come in the same car. And about \(\mathbf{1 0}\) percent of them are out sick on any given day. So think about -- when I talk about, in a moment, the occupancy numbers in the building, that 25 percent of those kids are going to be related and kind of coming in the same trips.

So we find -- and I know there's going to be a lot of testimony this evening and questions about the adequacy of parking. We find that a childcare center of this size operates very well with the 30 to 35 parking spaces. I have designed centers that actually have no parking depending on -- in more urban areas. We have a center in South Orange that is about to break ground. It has about 21 spaces, I believe, and it's actually a comparable-sized center to this.

So they -- the amount of parking varies significantly, but, in my opinion, 31 parking spaces is very good for this type of size, and this center will work very well. And there'll be an abundance of extra parking, and I'll talk about why.

Think about a parking space. Parent drives in. They park. They drop their child off and they leave. That's been timed, that process. I think our traffic engineer will talk about that being somewhere around plus or minus seven minutes. And if you think about it, even if you rounded up to ten minutes, one parking space can turn over six times an hour. So they move very quickly in terms of how they drop off and pick up.

Within the building there's an array of MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
classrooms. The first floor of the building includes infants. In fact, the Building Code requires any child less than two and a half to be on the level of grade so that they have easy access in and out. The Building Code recognizes and classifies the building as what's called an insitutional use group. The reason they do that is that the occupants of the building either do not have the physical or cognitive ability to exit on their own. So as a result of that, the code puts a whole lot more life safety requirements into the design. For example, full sprinkler system, full fire detection system. Any room with more than two -- I 'm sorry -- more than 10 occupants needs to have two means of egress.

I point that out because -- it's
interesting -- we're sitting in a room where it says, "Maximum 150 people," and it only has two means of egress. All uses in the code, you don't need a second means of egress until you have 50 people. Childcare center, it's ten which -- for children less than two and a half.

This center will have two fire stairs.
They're fire-rated and also include an elevator. For the most part, the rooms that you'll see in here
are classrooms. There's an administrative -there's a reception area. There's an isolation room off of the reception area. I think I saw a letter from your health department asking what happens when children are sick. There are procedures put in place for that, that they're put into the isolation room, parents called, so they're not contaminating or infecting other children as they are waiting for their parent to pick up.

The restrooms, or toilet facilities, are located within the classrooms. And that's to facilitate ease for both the child to utilize it, but to keep the -- prevent the teacher from having to leave the classroom to take a child to a toilet room.

Other facilities -- this particular brand likes to do that. They don't like to gang the bathrooms, like you might see, because they find from an operational standpoint this is a safer way to do it. Some of the classrooms have changing tables with sinks in them because many of the children that come here are pottying and learning how to use the toilet.

This building has an overall gross area of 10,792 square feet. The first and second floor

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
have the same gross area, 5,396 square feet.
Frequently, by the way, we build a 10,000-square-foot childcare center, which seems to be a magic number for most of the brands. And when that single-story building -- we build it that way. When we do a two-story building, we make it a little larger, not because it holds more children because the two-story's a little bit less efficient because we have two stairs and an elevator in it. So it holds -- actually holds -- a two-story building of this size will hold slightly less children than a single-story, 10,000-square-foot building.

Based on the licensing requirements and the facility standards set by the State -- they have different requirements based on age group in terms of children-to-teacher ratios, square footage ratios, maximum group sizes, a whole science to it. It gets really complicated because it's different every state. But in New Jersey, based on the requirements, this facility can hold a maximum of 154 children. Okay?

Now, my client would be ecstatic if they filled this to \(\mathbf{1 5 4}\) children. Most childcare centers operate somewhere around the 80 to 85 percent range. The reason for that is primarily
because they need to keep open spaces in the facility to allow for children to mature, and age, and be moved around. I magine a room that has -filled with children that are crawling and all of a sudden one of them stands up and is walking. That child just became -- they're developing, it's great, but they just became a danger to the other children because they can pull something down on them, walk on them. So they have to be taken out of that environment and put into an environment more appropriate for their developmental stage. So as a result of that, they tend to keep openings in all the classrooms so that they don't fill entirely.

I'll also point out that within that 154 capacity there's a room that we call Make Believe Boulevard. It's on the second floor of the building. I'm pointing to it. That's an indoor playground. Okay? The requirements of the State require that room, in order to be used, be licensed. That room has a license capacity of 21 people; however, it's not used as a classroom. I'll make an analogy. It's similar to a conference room in an office building. The rooms there can hold 10 or 12 people, but the people are coming from within the building to utilize it.

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
So although we're designed for 154 -licensed for 154 because every room has to be licensed -- the reality of it is we're going to be a little bit less because one room is an indoor playground that's designed for 21 people, and we keep open spaces to rotate children.

But based on full occupancy -- we need about \(\mathbf{2 0}\) staff. We say 22 because one or two of them would be administrative. There's probably going to be someone that stays in the reception room all day long. Similar to the children arriving in a staggered pattern, so do the staff. Okay? So what happens is -- not day one, but once they get up and running -- by the way, it usually takes about a year to get to a good occupancy. In fact, they're designed economically in the lease structure that their rent staggers up as -- over time because they start with either zero or a low occupancy, and it builds up hopefully over a little less than a year, and they get to a point where they have a good occupancy number.

But when it opens in the morning, it will be two staff at 6:30. They may find that -and our traffic engineer will talk about times when we see peak hours, but they'll have staff arrive as
they need them. So what happens is, once they're up and running, they get in a groove. They kind of understand when they need to have staff there. Similarly in the afternoon. They have half-day, three-quarter-day, full-day programs. If they find themselves where parents are picking up children at, say, 4 o'clock as opposed to 5:30 or 6:00 and they don't need staff, they send them home because most of them are actually on an hourly basis employees.

There is a licensed teacher. That is a requirement of the State, by the way. That's within the facility.

On the lower left-hand plan -- I just want to point out this is a roof plan. And you'll see kind of where I 'm going around the perimeter. That's the well in the center of the building that we're showing, and the diagonal lines are sort of the internal slope of the -- what I 'll call the flatter portion of the roof to do that.

Just a comment on security. The building has closed-circuit TV throughout. All the corridor walls have windows, so it's very visible. And there's cameras. There are cameras inside and outside the building, including in the playground.

The playground is accessible from the MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
first floor by several ways. One, the main corridor will take you to it and, two, several of the classrooms will also have doorways that take you to it.

So we run a fence around the perimeter of the building, and that fence is 4 feet high, and there's a sidewalk where teachers and students can walk to the playground. The fence around the playground is \(\mathbf{6}\) feet high. It's a solid fence. We like to have a solid fence and the 6-foot fence for safety. One, we don't want the children looking out and being distracted and, two, we don't want anyone looking at them. 6 feet is a very appropriate height because no one can reach over and pull a child out.

All the doors in the building are alarmed. And the teachers have codes that turn those alarms off so they can enter and exit.

There is -- the surfacing in the playground, there's a combination of turf and what I'll call a rubberized servicing material. It's actually pervious, so water flows through it. I think our engineer has taken that into his calculations. What you see in the drawing are -that I'm pointing to are play structures. The
dotted lines around them are the fall zones. There's actually a playground safety code that it has to be designed to. And directly adjacent to the building are two areas where there are concrete patios. They get picnic tables. They have awnings over them. The awnings provide shade protection because they're allowed to -- or they're required by the state rules to have shade protection.

The playground -- our proposed playground is 3,810 square feet. Typically, there'd be two classrooms out there at a time, usually no more than 40 children. However, based on its size, the State would allow us to have 108 children out there. Obviously, it's used when weather permits. It's only used during the day. So this time of year, it might be -- we might get a warmer day or a dry day where the children can go outside. With the sun setting at 4:30, so they won't be out there past sunset, similarly in the morning time. And they rotate them in and out.

With that statement, I have completed my architectural and operational testimony, and I would be pleased to take any questions that the Board has of me. Oh, I 'm sorry. Let me just digress one moment.

> MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

I saw -- I know there was a question in the planner's report about overflow parking needs for special events. The answer to that is there are no special events. It's not a school where there's an open house, and there's not, you know, plays or rehearsals. There's no auditorium in here. It's a childcare center. There is curriculum, but it's not -- it's not really designed where there's big family functions.

Now, what I will say is The Learning
Experience's policy is that if the operator chooses to do something like that, they're encouraged to rent space off the site. This site, obviously, wouldn't allow for all the parents of all the children to show up here at one time. It just wouldn't -- it would be a safety concern.

One other thing I'Il mention about safety: Similar to a school, it is required -- the center is required to have ongoing fire drills. They will contact your local first responders, your fire department and will speak to them about procedures for how they evacuate the building, where the children should go.

And in addition to not just where they go if they have to evacuate the building and stay
on-site; they also have to have provisions in place to have an emergency, say, location to take the children to if, for whatever reason, the building has to be evacuated and they can't enter it -- fire -- God forbid -- gas leak, power failure. So they have to -- and they have to show the State that they have this in place. They have to hire buses or vans to take them. And usually they work that out with a synagogue, a church, a public school, the Y, a hotel. They have an emergency evacuation plan where they can take children to.

With that, I 've completed my testimony. Thank you.

MR. HEHL: Thank you, Mr. J armel.
I have no further questions at this
time.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I do have a couple of questions.

First question, why this particular
site?
THE WITNESS: So --
MR. BUTLER: I didn't hear that question.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Why this particular site location.

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THE WITNESS: So, basically, childcare in New Jersey is in great demand. I find that interesting. I've designed childcare centers for about 16 years. The Municipal Land Use Law designates childcare as an inherently beneficial use. My understanding is it's one of the only uses that's actually defined and has criteria in the Municipal Land Use Law.

And, basically, "Why here?" is "Why everywhere?" You need childcare centers everywhere within New J ersey. This particular operator likes the -- we'll say both the population density in the area and, candidly, the incomes of the area. It's a visible site. It's on a main transportation arteries(sic).

By the way, one of the things I didn't say -- I 'm not really here to give traffic testimony, but I think our traffic engineer will talk about how many of the trips to this site are what we call pass by. We find that people that -will utilize a childcare center that's either close to home or close to work, not in between. And it's nice to locate them in areas where there's a traffic -- where people are passing by. I call it the -sort of the coffee analogy. You put a coffee place,

Dunkin' or Starbucks, almost everywhere because people -- everyone stops for coffee, but they don't go out of their way to stop for coffee. People will go a little bit out of their way for high-quality childcare, but they look for convenience because they need to work it into their commute to and from work.

So this is a -- you know, this is an area where The Learning Experience has studied population densities of the area. They've looked at how many childcare centers are operated. And I don't have these numbers, but they do this on every site. They look at how many children are under the age of 5. They look for -- actually look for about 5,000 children in a 5 -mile radius under 5, and they look at the license capacity for those children and determine -- you know, usually, it's like they need to take one percent or two percent of the population to fill a center.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Well, with that being said, on this specific site, you know there's a quarry across the street?

THE WITNESS: I do.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Has there been
any air quality tests done?
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THE WITNESS: There have been no air quality tests done, to my knowledge.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Because I'II be
honest, standing --
THE WITNESS: I would think that the quarry does that.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Standing there
and seeing the dust, I 'm just thinking of these
children breathing in this dust and whatever else
the elements are from that quarry. Trucks coming down from the quarry merging onto New Providence Road, any safety features of them coming into the building or trying to stop any accidents. It's a very busy corner. Have you looked into that?

THE WITNESS: Those issues have been looked into, and I will defer those to the traffic engineer who's better -- more of an expert to testify on those.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And my final question is, you're saying, "Drop-off." They're staggered?

THE WITNESS: Yes. So the center opens at 6:30. It doesn't -- and parents can drop their children off whenever they want. So there's no assigned schedule. So it's not -- everybody
doesn't show up at once. They show up at what's convenient to you. And typically, what we find is you'll see six parents, max maybe eight parents, there at the same time, and it really works that way. I visualize -- see it every day for the last 16 years because my office is attached to the Livingston Learning Experience. And it's just most of the -- most childcare centers operate that way, and very few of them have a set start time and a set end time.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: But the traffic
-- and I know this is probably going to be for the
traffic expert, but if there's only allowed ten spots, eight spots, whatever, to park, and now people are trying to leave and making -- wanting to make a left-hand turn, and they're waiting for the traffic to be able to make it, and now they're backing up any of the parents coming in to drop off the children, what happens to that backed up traffic?

THE WITNESS: So I would -- I would argue or say I've never seen backups at any of these operating centers, and our traffic engineer will talk about that. And the reason you don't see it is because both the children come over an extended

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period of time, and the staff comes over an extended period of time. And the staff members will be encouraged to carpool. Not all of them drive to the site, and some of them will use public transportation, which is available in the area. A lot of them are students that are student teaching that come in because it's not necessarily full-time work.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And the area being a flood area...

THE WITNESS: So where the site is -portions of the site are certainly in a flood hazard zone, first thing when someone calls up and says to me, "Does this site work for childcare?" the first thing \(I\) do is \(I\) go to the FEMA maps. So my colleague testified that schools in New Jersey are considered critical buildings, and critical buildings are not allowed in the flood hazard zone. We're not in the flood hazard zone.

You know, we have located the site. Of course large portions of the site are, but where the building's located and where the exit driveway is located are not within the flood hazard zone and do comply with the DEP regulations.

We don't have DEP approval as of yet,

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but we are doing approvals, as the law allows us to, in parallel. We've had preliminary meetings with the DEP, and what you see is based on feedback we've gotten from the DEP.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: But if the area were to flood, which is a great possibility, what happens to the children? What do you do?

THE WITNESS: So neither the building, nor the exit, and large portions of the parking lot are in the flood hazard zone. So the building can be safely evacuated without having to go through the flood area. We wouldn't be allowed to build the building by the DEP if that wasn't the case.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: A couple questions from the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission. Will there be a refrigerator to store medication?

THE WITNESS: So I apologize. I meant to go through their letter.

There is -- there are refrigerators throughout the facility. There's also a pantry, which I failed to mention -- I apologize -- that has commercial refrigerators. There are procedures put in place that follow state guidelines for giving medication to children if they need to have it.

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There is not a nurse. There is an isolation room that they did ask about.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So how do they administer medication if there's not a registered nurse?

THE WITNESS: Well, the school is not licensed to take care of children with special needs, so they cannot -- there are -- there are certain types of medication that they would be allowed to give, but certainly wouldn't be able to give injections and more, what I 'll say, complex medications.

And typically, if they feel a child has a condition that they can't care for or that they're not licensed to take care of, they won't, obviously, take that child.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So is there a
specific nurse's office?
THE WITNESS: There's not a nurse's
office. There is an isolation room.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And where is
that?
THE WITNESS: That's -- I pointed that out earlier.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm sorry.

\section*{it has the proper number of sinks. It has a}

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three-bay sink. It'll have a grease trap. It'll have a hand sink, a vegetable sink. And it'll have a commercial freezer and commercial refrigerator. And usually deliveries are maybe once a week.

One thing I failed to say is there are very few deliveries to the facility. When there are deliveries, it's more like a UPS- or FedEx-type truck. And usually deliveries are scheduled to happen midday. One of the things you'll notice about a childcare center is they are busy in the morning. They are busy in the afternoon. But their parking lots sit mostly empty throughout the course of the day because it's just staff there.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So their question is, if there is a lunch program, you would need to provide --

THE WITNESS: They will provide a menu, and they will go through the food-training course and get the appropriate license.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And then there would be refrigerators provided for any student who wants to bring their own lunch?

THE WITNESS: There are.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. The
babies. How many staff for babies?

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THE WITNESS: So this proposed design has two infant rooms. The ratio -- and they're both designed for eight children each, and the ratio is 1 to 4, so you have two full-time staff in the room with eight children.

And I mentioned earlier about how we put the bathrooms in the classrooms. Obviously, infants don't use bathrooms, but we put a staff bathroom in between the infant rooms so that they have coverage if one of the caregivers has to use the facilities.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. That's all I have.

Anybody else? Questions? We'll start at the end and work our way.

MS. PENNETT: You're going to be very close to a quarry. A quarry makes a lot of noise, a lot of booms, and sometimes there's some vibration, and so forth. Are you going to inform the parents of, you know, children that there's a quarry there and this may be happening, or is that -- you know, as people come to, you know --

THE WITNESS: Generally, I don't know the answer to that. It hasn't been discussed. I would -- I would think anybody that drives by here

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knows there's a quarry there. There's --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Not necessarily.
MS. PENNETT: Not necessarily. You
have some people who are kind of --
THE WITNESS: But --
MS. PENNETT: -- blind, and they're going to where they go and...

THE WITNESS: Yeah. I mean, I'm sure
it will come up, and I ' \(m\) sure that the parents would be notified if they ask about it. And I 'm sure that the operator will learn more about the quarry's operation to share that information.

As far as noise, buildings will be very well insulated, both windows, walls, and ceilings, and roofs.

MS. PENNETT: Oh, no. I'm sure they're -- but, you know, I 'm sure the homes might -- children might hear the boom. Even when they're outside playing on the playground, you know, there could be a boom or two.

THE WITNESS: I'm sure. And there was -- we have centers that are in New York City, you know, as well. So they hear sirens, and crowds, and cars, and trains, as well.

MS. PENNETT: And then where are

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deliveries made to? Like, you know, food and --
THE WITNESS: They go -- they go
through the front door.
MS. PENNETT: They go through the front door?

THE WITNESS: And as I -- as I said a moment ago, they typically come in small, like, FedEx, UPS-type vans. Really, their only delivery is food because parents bring all the supplies, diapers, you know, things for the children.
They're --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: But they don't bring the toilet paper, or the paper towels, or --

THE WITNESS: No.
MS. PENNETT: Soap.
THE WITNESS: No.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: So there's that kind of delivery, as well.

THE WITNESS: So there's that kind of stuff. A lot of times the operator will buy and stock the facility. You know, they'll go to Costco or a big-box type of place and buy those types of supplies that they need to refill.

J anitorial services clean the center, sometimes daily, you know, sometimes several times a

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week. They come after hours to do that when there's no one in the way. And the deliveries are scheduled, and even trash collection can be scheduled either before -- before the center opens, or after, or midday when there's very little activity in the parking lot.

MS. PENNETT: And with the parking lot, you know, 31 spaces, will the staff have assigned parking spaces?

THE WITNESS: The staff is told to park as far away from the front door as possible.

MS. PENNETT: Okay.
THE WITNESS: Parents are encouraged to park by the front door.

MS. PENNETT: Thank you. That's all I have.

\section*{CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Don?}

MR. SPEENEY: Yeah. Just continuing
on parking, the ten spaces in the front of the building, which you said are used for pick up/ drop-off, and then there's three more spaces further north, and it just looked like to me that some of these parking spots don't work.

THE WITNESS: So circulation of the parking lot, I can certainly talk about it. I can

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-- I know my colleague, Mr. Gesario, testified. All the parking aisles are 24 feet wide, which meet industry standards. All the parking spaces are 9-by-18. So they're appropriately sized and, you know, it looks like, to me, to be--

MR. SPEENEY: You got some -- you got some that are perpendicular to each other that make it difficult, at least from my perspective, about effectively utilizing, certainly the last two, actually, the last one and the first one of the northerly group of three.

THE WITNESS: You just have to look when you're backing up. I mean, it's not -- that -that's --

MR. SPEENEY: Well, no.
THE WITNESS: Every --
MR. SPEENEY: No. That's --
THE WITNESS: Every parking lot --
MR. SPEENEY: We've got kids here.
THE WITNESS: -- in the world has
that.
MR. SPEENEY: No. We have children here.

THE WITNESS: Sir, I -- sir, I
understand, but this design -- and perhaps those are
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better questions for the traffic engineer who will speak later, but this design, all the dimensions, meet industry standards.

MR. SPEENEY: Okay. I look at this, and I say you got something that doesn't work. And I worry about the safety of that, that they don't work. And if you're going to stand there and say they will work, that's your prerogative.

THE WITNESS: I believe they will work. I think, if it was the Board's desire for those spots that are perpendicular -- if you wanted to -- for us to sign them that they're for staff so that someone parks there all day long, the applicant would certainly be open to that.

MR. SPEENEY: Have you done any noise abatement in the architecture here?

THE WITNESS: Specifically my -personally, as a designer, my experience in noise abatement or for this specific site?

MR. SPEENEY: The building that --
THE WITNESS: We haven't done any -we haven't done any ambient noise studies for the site, but the site -- the building will be designed with sound attenuating insulation and thermal insulation.

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go, going back to safety, there's, God forbid, a

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fire, what is the protocol in getting -- where do you bring the children? How do you remove them from the building?

THE WITNESS: So it's a good question, and the answer is typically -- I sort of touched on this a littler earlier -- is that the school will work with your fire department and first responders. Those are the experts. They know how to fight the fire. They know how to evacuate the building. One of the nice things about this site -- and it's been pointed out many times tonight -- is we're only using about 25 to 30 percent of it. So there's -and a lot of it is going to be landscaped and falls into what we'll call riparian buffers or wetlands buffers. So they're buffers, but they're not -they're environmental protection zones, but they're not unsafe or flood hazard zones to be in. There's plenty of room to gather the children.

And what the operator will do -- and they have to write this into their operation plans, and they have to be submitted to the State. But they'll most likely meet with your local fire department and ask them where they want to put the children on-site during the evacuation. And they do fire drills, and take them -- including having
special cribs that can hold up to three children in them, to push them out. That's one of the reasons that the younger children have to be on the first floor, for ease and speed of egress.

So they work those plans out. It's part of the -- its part of the operation license to do that. And then -- and they even go further that if they can't re-enter the building, they have to have an evacuation plan to take the children to an off-site facility, and they have to have that facility identified.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And then if there were a fire, you have a small -- in my opinion, a small area. How would the fire trucks get in and around?

THE WITNESS: And I think our civil engineer will talk about this. I know he's looked at that, and I believe your fire department's looked at it. Fire trucks can pull onto the site and have access -- access to fight the fire. They can pull into -- you know, they can pull right into the drive aisles to do that. It's unlikely that a fire truck can kind of circumnavigate the entire site, but, if they pull straight in, they can back out during it. The building, by the way, is fully

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sprinklered, as well.
So we'll be locating standpipes for
fire protection, fire department connections so they can pump additional water into the building, if need be, connect their hoses, and so on. And we'll locate all those -- although, as the architect, I tend to know where they want it. We meet with them and we get their opinion as to where they want all those connections.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You meet with the fire and --

THE WITNESS: With the fire
department. It's part of the -- it's part of the building permit review process.

MR. POTE: Several questions. One was talking about the fire. The way that your building is designed, if you have engines coming in on one side, you know exactly where the kids are supposed to be as to not get in the way of fire equipment or --

THE WITNESS: I don't know that standing here today, but what will happen is there will be operational procedures set up that the staff will know and the fire department will know, and they'll have a coordinated plan. There will be fire
drills at this facility similar to a public school where they're doing a fire drill, weather permitting, probably once a month, and they will evacuate the entire building, and they'll take the children somewhere on-site to a predetermined location that they've already discussed.

MR. POTE: Okay. It's not uncommon to have the ratios that you have of \(\mathbf{1 5 4}\) kids to the 22 professionals helping out? Is there enough hands?

THE WITNESS: You're asking me if
that -- these -- all these licensing, I don't set these. These are set by the State of New Jersey.

MR. POTE: Okay.
THE WITNESS: So the number of children is based on the square footages of the rooms they go in. The number of staff is based on the number of children that are in the room, and they have, like, for example -- I don't want to state something without -- from memory. But, for example, there are group sizes. So the -- there's a reason there's only eight infants in a room, as an example.

MR. POTE: And not just number of children but obviously the ages because that's --

THE WITNESS: Correct.
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MR. POTE: -- going to require --
THE WITNESS: You have to separate -MR. POTE: -- two hands versus one.
THE WITNESS: -- them based on age.
MR. POTE: Right. So you mentioned
that there were no special events so that it doesn't
-- we don't need to be talking about overflow
parking, then, right? Because --
THE WITNESS: Not for special events.
MR. POTE: So there should be no -- no
discussion about that, then, going forward -- right? -- if we have --

THE WITNESS: Correct.
MR. POTE: -- enough spaces?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Can I just touch on that for --

MR. POTE: Sure.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- a second?
So, like, there's no Halloween party?

\section*{They don't do --}

THE WITNESS: Certainly the children are allowed and encouraged to dress up for Halloween, but they don't -- they don't do -- they don't do a Halloween party.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: But that would

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lead me to believe, if they're dressing up, parents are going to want to be there to see this. Now we're -- the issue with parking.

THE WITNESS: As I 've testified, my understanding of their operation -- I've been doing this with them for a long time -- is that they -- if they're going to have a party, they will -- they will rent an off-space facility to do it. I have never seen a party, being a neighbor of one for 16 years.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you.
MR. POTE: Okay. For most of your discussion, you had another picture up that showed the classrooms. If we can get a copy of that, that would be great.

THE WITNESS: If you're referring to this drawing --

MR. POTE: Yeah.
THE WITNESS: -- this is in your packet.

MR. POTE: So my question is, does a fine line that's around the perimeter of that -yeah. Is that the sidewalk?

THE WITNESS: No. Well, there is a sidewalk there, but there's also a fence there.

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MR. POTE: Okay.
THE WITNESS: So that is -- fence is
there. Each one of those rooms has an emergency egress and a sidewalk. So the sidewalk will lead the children to the playground. So it serves two purposes, one, emergency egress. We have a fence there so if a child happens to open the door -which, by the way, has an alarm -- they can't run out into the street or into the yard.

MR. POTE: Okay.
THE WITNESS: And then, two, it's used to bring children to and --

MR. POTE: So --
THE WITNESS: -- from the playground.
MR. POTE: So that fence is there, and
that allows the student to go into the playground area totally protected from the time he gets out of the door to the time he gets to the playground?

THE WITNESS: That's correct.
You know, one of the things I probably should have said is the way the center is operated -- and this is very common for all brands -- is the facility will take responsibility for the child once the parent brings them into the site. Okay? So I went through and explained how

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the drop-off/ pick up works where the parents actually have to walk them in. That's a requirement of the operator. And of course, it's really a physical requirement because you can't pull up to a curb and let a 1-year-old out. You know, it's -they have to be brought into the facility.

So once they're in the environment, they keep them in the environment until the parents come for them. So you'll notice, and specifically for this brand and many of the bigger providers, the playground will always be directly adjacent to the building and always directly accessible. Sometimes -- not on any of the learning centers I 've designed, but, you know, a mom-and-pop or not -- somewhere less formal might have a playground on the other side of the parking lot. We would never do that.

The other thing that they don't do that sometimes you see -- they don't have those buggies where they take them and they're pushing them through the parking lot. I saw that once -- I couldn't believe it -- by a no-name-brand-type thing.

So once the child's in the environment, they stay in the environment. They can go outside, but they're still in the secured environment.

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MR. POTE: Okay. Thank you.
J ust a couple other real quick
questions. One is, you showed the front look, you know, in the very first slide you showed. Is there any location nearby that you could point to that has a similar look that we could go and visit?

THE WITNESS: There's several. There's a two-story building in Roseland that has a similar look, and there's a two-story building although -- in Bound Brook on Route 22. However, I will tell you that the materials being used here are nicer than Bound Brook.

MR. POTE: Okay. You had mentioned the South Orange location and having 21 spaces, parking spaces.

THE WITNESS: That's what I -- my recollection.

MR. POTE: But I assume the number of children is also lower?

THE WITNESS: No. Actually, it's
probably more because that building's a little bit larger.

MR. POTE: Okay. And then my last question was -- probably we have a traffic person coming to talk to us --

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THE WITNESS: We have a traffic engineer.

MR. POTE: I'Il deal with that question later.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Back to the fencing, what is the fencing made out of?

THE WITNESS: So it's a PVC-fencing material. The fence around the playground is a solid, white PVC material.

I don't know if you can make it out. I 've put up Exhibit A-3, and I'm pointing to the right side. You can kind of see the material. It's a high quality. It's -- I think we specify CertainTeed as a brand, but it could be any brand. It's a very durable fence. It doesn't fade in color because it's PVC.

And then the fence around -- the 4-foot
fence is the same material. It's just a lower fence.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And solid?
THE WITNESS: And it's solid, yeah.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Questions from
this end?
MS. SPI NGLER: I have a question.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
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MS. SPI NGLER: Did you say that you had a kindergarten contained in this or not?

THE WITNESS: There are
kindergarten-aged children.
MS. SPI NGLER: But they're not in kindergarten? There's not a kindergarten program?

THE WITNESS: There is not
specifically a kindergarten program, but there is a curriculum for all the children that are in here. Okay? This particular Learning Experience prides itself on a curriculum that they've developed themselves, and it's very interesting.

MS. SPI NGLER: When you talked a
little bit about evacuation and fire drill -- tell
me a little bit about the training and the credentials of the persons who are in charge.

THE WITNESS: Okay. So, first of all, from a safety standpoint, all employees, under state law, that work in a childcare center have to have criminal background checks. They have to be fingerprinted and go, you know, through a sex offender database. They are trained in first -some of them are first -- and I don't know the exact number, but there are people that will be on staff that are CPR/ first aid certified, and there will be

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a teacher on staff that is, we'll say, a licensed teacher that is licensed by the State of New Jersey.

MS. SPI NGLER: And what about the people who are taking care of the children?

THE WITNESS: Some of them may or may not have licenses. They're not required to. But they do go through training by the operator and, of course, all the background checks that they have to go through. They get first-aid certified.

The entire building is under constant surveillance. So all the corridor walls are glass. So anybody that walks down can look in and see full view of the classroom. And there are cameras everywhere. There's also -- if there are any, what I 'Il say, blind corners, which I don't think we have in this building, there's mirrors, as well. But you'll notice, for the most part, all the rooms are somewhat rectangular in sight. This particular room has a corner, so there'll be a camera in that corner so that nobody could hide in there. No child could hide in there.

This building being a two-story building, stairwells will have cameras, and the doors will have alarms on them, as well.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Any other MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA 120
questions?
Yes.
MR. DESNOYERS: You referenced the study that you did of demand for the facility. Was that more of like a big picture kind of a study, or was it more granular like the radius around this particular property, or do you know more about...

THE WITNESS: What I can tell you is they look at -- they put a pinhole in the map where the site is, and they go out 1-mile, 3-mile, and 5-mile rings from that site, and then they study within that area. They identify all the licensed childcare centers in that area and they may, you know -- and they identify the capacity of each one of those centers. And they actually call them to find out if they have waiting lists, if they're full, for example.

First they do research on what the competition charges. But in addition to that, then they look at census data, demographic data to see how many children there are under a certain -under -- really under the age of 5 is what they focus on.

MR. DESNOYERS: And they are -- they -- you say, "They," referring to...

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THE WITNESS: The Learning Experience. MR. DESNOYERS: Okay. They have like a corporate office --

THE WITNESS: They have a corporate -MR. DESNOYERS: -- where they research data?

THE WITNESS: Yeah.
MR. DESNOYERS: All right. So -- and
you anticipate that there aren't enough childcare centers in this area as opposed to sort of taking them from other, you know -- taking business from other centers that exist now or...

THE WITNESS: Well, there's certainly a possibility that a parent may change centers -right? -- because we all have a choice. But they are -- when they're doing their analysis, they're doing it on the analysis that there's a need and not enough supply. So there's -- they're doing an analysis that says there are a lot of kids here, and there aren't enough childcare centers.

And as I said earlier -- you know, I've been doing this a long of time with childcare -- the State Municipal Land Use Law says this is inherently beneficial, and say that because we need childcare. And they said that -- that law came out --

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When, Steve? In 1974? '76?
So it's been around a long time. It's
an issue. And we're fortunate that we live in a great state -- highly educated, densely populated -and there's just a lot of need.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Other questions?
MS. PENNETT: One question. In case,
you know, God forbid, there is a fire and the fire
trucks come, can the fire trucks come in and circle around this -- I want to say this little triangle?

Is there enough space for the trucks to get in and get around?

THE WITNESS: We can bring Mr. --
because there's been a few questions about that. We can bring Mr. Gesario back up to just answer that --

MR. HEHL: It's up to --
THE WITNESS: -- when I'm done.
MR. HEHL: We have had communication with the fire department on it.

MS. PENNETT: Okay. But --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. But the answer is...

MS. PENNETT: So has the fire
department approved --
MR. HEHL: Yeah. There was --
MR. HEHL: It's up to --
THE WITNESS: -- when I 'm done.
MR. HEHL: We have had communication
with the fire department on it.
MS. PENNETT: Okay. But --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. But the
answer is...
MS. PENNETT: So has the fire
department approved --
MR. HEHL: Yeah. There was --

MS. PENNETT: Has the fire department inspected and approved this layout?

MR. HEHL: Yeah. There's an e-mail --
and I can have Gerry qualify this -- but
November 18, 2019 from your chief of the department saying, "I 've reviewed the exhibit, and I 'm satisfied that our vehicles will be able to enter the site."

MS. PENNETT: Okay.
MR. HEHL: I don't know if -- I know Tom didn't see this, but we can certainly mark this as an exhibit.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: We don't have a copy of that.

MR. HEHL: That was in response to the fire department's original memorandum and --

MR. HERITS: Did the fire department originally ask for a -- I'm currently looking at it, the chief's letter. He was looking for an exhibit to see that the trucks could fit in, and then this is a response to him reviewing that exhibit.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: We never saw
that.
MR. HEHL: We'll supply both of those.
MR. LI NNUS: Do you want to identify
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that, please. Because we don't have it.
MR. HEHL: Sure. Let me just --
THE WITNESS: A-4?
MR. HEHL: -- briefly call -- Gerry,
it came to you. So if I could just briefly recall him and have you identify this.

MR. GESARIO: Sure. This e-mail date is, as Steve said -- as counsel said, dated November 18, 2019, was a result of my back and forth with him, showing him our turning exhibit and his response. I had asked for something on his letterhead that I could submit, but I -- this is what I got back from him, and I haven't had communication since. But I can certainly ask either him to directly copy the town or provide something more efficient.

MR. LINNUS: Let's mark that P-1 for the Planning Board, PB-1.

MR. HEHL: Sure.
(Exhibit PB-1, November 18, 2019 email
from Fire Chief, is marked.)
MR. LI NNUS: You'll make copies of that, please.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: And e-mail it to all of us.

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MR. LI NNUS: And in addition to that, Mr. Gesario, you should get a formal response from the fire department, and tell them to copy the Board, please.

MR. GESARIO: Okay. I will. The exhibit is the one that was submitted with the drawings. It's part of the -- I think it's the last sheet. There's turning exhibits, but I will follow-up with him and ask for something on official letterhead.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
MR. HEHL: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Mr. Butler, you had questions --

MR. BUTLER: Yes, I --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- I'm sure.
MR. BUTLER: Yes, I do.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Oh, I'm sorry. One second.

Peter?
MR. SOPKO: This is for Mr. J armel.
Thank you for testifying.
You said that commonly you would update
the prototype of the --
THE WITNESS: Learning Experience.
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MR. SOPKO: -- the Learning
Experience.
Okay. So in the last three to five
designs, does this one have anything that's
significantly different?
THE WITNESS: It does not. And, presuming this board acts favorably on the application and we move to the next step where we submit for a building permit -- we haven't prepared construction drawings for the building -- they will be done in accordance with the latest prototype.

MR. SOPKO: Okay. Can you talk to me a little bit more about the play area?

THE WITNESS: Sure.
MR. SOPKO: Would it be just open?
THE WITNESS: Okay. So this particular play area is sized \(\mathbf{3 , 8 1 0}\) square feet. Okay? Now, I 'm not sure I said this earlier, it's divided in two. And the reason it's divided in two is so that there are age-appropriate playground equipment, so based on different ages.

The different symbols I 'm pointing to are playground structures. Okay? And they're made of durable, resilient plastic. They have shade protections in them. The dotted lines around them

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represent fall protection zones, so you can't, for example, locate another piece of equipment in that zone or allow the fall protection zones to overlap so that if you have two kids falling from different things.

The surfacing is either turf, which is artificial turf, or it's a playground-surfacing material. It's expensive and it's very durable. Water can flow through it. It does slow it down a little bit, it's designed to flow through. There's a sand and gravel base underneath it, as well. So if children fall on this, it's cushy. It provides padding.

Each side has a picnic area. That picnic area has a concrete patio, tables where children can sit, do arts and crafts. Both of those picnic areas are covered by a canvas awning, which provides shade protection for the children. There's also drinking fountains on either side.

Fence around the playground, solid, 6-feet high. Children can't look out; people can't look in at them. No one can reach over and grab a child because of the height. The fence in between is chain-link fence so that the caregivers from one side to the other can take a look at them.

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The only way into the playground is from the building. There is an emergency egress gate out of the playground. It has a lock that only an adult would be able to open, but it has what we call panic hardware on it, as well. So there's no reason to open that unless there was an emergency to egress the building. And not used after hours, only used on -- weather permitting.

MR. SOPKO: Okay. But it is open air?
THE WITNESS: Oh, yes, it's open air.
MR. SOPKO: Okay. And that is typical
of the prototype, that it's an open air --
THE WITNESS: More often than not, yes. I mean, there are urban centers that have inside -- indoor playgrounds, obviously, and/ or playgrounds that have walls that are open with a roof. But for a suburban location like this, an open-air playground is difficult. It's a requirement for the State for licensing. The size of the playground is also a requirement. MR. SOPKO: My concern with this site is that there's a lot of water around it. There's Zone A floodplain on three sides, significant wetlands. You know, I'm worried about the level of mosquitoes and the potential diseases that they'll

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be carrying that -- what's the age range?
THE WITNESS: As young as six weeks to about five or six years of age.

MR. SOPKO: Okay. So is there any other way of mitigating or protecting the kids from mosquitoes -- possible higher level of mosquitoes, you know --

THE WITNESS: So I think it's a great concern. Candidly, it's not my area of expertise. It's -- I know that there are various ways to control mosquitoes, you know, and treat areas where they're more prominent because of moisture, and I think that's certainly something that, if it's a problem, they could do here.

MR. SOPKO: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: What is a
twaddler? I just noticed it on here.
THE WITNESS: So these are -- to some degree, these names are associated with licensing. To some degree, they're associated with brand.

But, you know, if I -- we have what we call infants that are \(\mathbf{6}\) weeks to \(\mathbf{1 2}\) months of age. We have toddlers, and we have two rooms for toddlers. The toddlers are \(\mathbf{1 8}\) months to \(\mathbf{2 4}\) months. And then we have a twaddler that's 24 months to 30

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months. So it's just a way of designating the different age groups. We have preppers that are 30 months to 36 months. And then we come to what we call preschool. We have two preschools that are age group -- one is \(\mathbf{3}\) to 5 , and one is \(\mathbf{4}\) to 5 . And then we have a pre-K which is 5 to 6 year olds.

So the names are just kind of aligned with the various age groups that we put to better identify them.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Going back to --
thank you. It just caught me when I saw,
"Twaddlers." I thought, "What?"
On the gates, the exterior gates, if there is an emergency, is there any access from the outside to open one of those gates, or is it only from the inside?

THE WITNESS: I'm hesitating because I
don't recall. Typically, it's from the inside out.
You don't want anyone to be able to open a gate and create an --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Unless it's an emergency.

THE WITNESS: -- unsafe condition.
I will tell you that if a firefighter has to get through that gate, it won't be a problem

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with their equipment.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Any other questions before we allow Mr. Butler to question?

Mr. Butler.
Because what's going to happen is we'll
allow Mr. Butler to ask his questions. We'll open
it up to the audience, if anyone has any questions,
and then we're going to end with this witness, and
we're going to end the evening. Okay?
We're going to take a five-minute -- if
anybody wants to go.
MR. BUTLER: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You're welcome.
(A recess is taken at 9:52 p.m.)
(The record resumes at 9:57 p.m.)
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. Back on.
Theresa, roll call, please.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Desnoyers?
MR. DESNOYERS: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Ellis?
MR. ELLIS: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Councilman Sopko?
MR. SOPKO: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Ms. Pennett?
MS. PENNETT: Yes.
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MS. SNYDER: Mayor Balla?
MAYOR BALLA: Yes.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Speeney?
MR. SPEENEY: Yes.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Pote?
MR. POTE: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Ms. Spingler?
MS. SPI NGLER: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Fiorilla?
MR. FIORI LLA: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Madam Chair?
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Linnus?
MR. LI NNUS: Here.
MS. SNYDER: Mr. Herits?
MR. HERITS: Here.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you.
Okay. Mr. Butler.
MR. BUTLER: I'll be brief.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you. You got three minutes.

MR. BUTLER: Oh, jeez. I was going to say who you --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Don't talk. You only have three. Now we're down to two and a half.


MR. BUTLER: I'm going to tell you a joke after this is over.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You're down to
one.

\section*{CROSS-EXAMI NATI ON BY MR. BUTLER:}
Q. I might have missed it, but on your parking spaces -- I think you have 31 spaces -- I
didn't seem to find a loading space?
A. There is no loading space.
Q. But you testified that you're going to
take -- you're going to take deliveries of food and
other things like that; did you not?
A. I did.
Q. Why isn't there a loading space?
A. We don't need one.
Q. Our ordinance requires a loading space.
A. The operation doesn't need one. At
midday there will be very few parking -- cars utilizing parking spaces. Most of the deliveries will be in a UPS van size that can fit into a standard parking space.
Q. Well, even the UPS -- UPS has to park someplace, don't they?
A. Yes.

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Q. Where they going to park?
A. I just said, sir. If you'd like me to
repeat myself, I can.
Q. Well, I want to know why a truck that comes to your site doesn't know where to park?
A. Why --

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Can you show us
on your map where --
THE WITNESS: Sure.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: -- in the
parking area, where they would go, please.
THE WITNESS: So if you recall, the
way I testified is that midday there's very little
activity in the parking lot. The activity is in the mornings and the afternoons when people -- parents are picking up and dropping off. The spaces in front of the building are designated in the mornings and the evenings for drop off and pick up. The other spaces will be utilized for staff.

So if I come at noon or 1 o'clock, UPS
or FedEx, all these spaces are going to be empty.
That's where they're going to park.
MR. BUTLER: Okay.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Thank you.
BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. So you don't really care what our ordinance says about designated loading or unloading spaces. You say that they'll find a way, and that's sufficient; that's your testimony, isn't it?
A. That is my testimony.
Q. Okay. Now, do you know much about the area of this site?
A. I'm fairly familiar with it, yes.
Q. Are you familiar with Route 22?
A. Yes.
Q. Would it be a fair statement to say
that many of the parents or guardians that take or bring children to and from the site are going to use Route 22?
A. So I'm answering that as an architect, not as a traffic engineer. We do have one here that will probably be better to answer that. But I think that's a fair statement, yes.
Q. Okay. Did you or anybody on behalf of this applicant do a study regarding the closing of Route 22 because of flooding?
A. I did not, and I can't comment if anybody else did. I'm not aware of any.
Q. If they did, you don't know about it?
A. Correct.

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Q. Okay. Did you or anybody else on behalf of the applicant do a study regarding traffic accidents at either the Union Avenue, or New
Providence Road, or New Providence Road and Bonnie Burn intersections?
A. I did not.
Q. Do you know of any other person on behalf of this applicant who did such a study?
A. I'm not -- I do not.
Q. Okay. Now, in your testimony, you
think 31 spaces is enough, don't you?
A. I do.
Q. Okay. Suppose you're wrong. You're an expert. You qualified as an expert?
A. I did.
Q. There's no parking on Union Avenue, is there?
A. Not to my knowledge, no.
Q. There's no parking on New Providence Road, is there?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. The only place that kids can be brought to or picked up at the site are on the site; is that a fair statement?
A. Yes.





Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned -- did you mention South Avenue that has 21 parking spaces?
A. I mentioned a site in South Orange.
Q. South Orange?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And --
A. And I said, to my recollection, it had
21. It could be one or two --
Q. Oh, I don't care if it's got 19 or 24.
A. Right.
Q. Okay? You familiar with that site?
A. I designed it. Yes.
Q. You designed it --
A. Yes.
Q. -- right?

Is there on-street parking in -- on or about that area?
A. Yes, there is.
Q. There is? On-street parking.

And there's also public parking within
that facility; is there not?
A. Not within the facility, but certainly within South Orange, yes.
Q. Within walking distance of the site there's public parking; is that right?

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A. Yes.
Q. All right. There's no such public parking associated with this site, is there?
A. Not that I'm aware of.
Q. Now, let me ask you a hypothetical question. From a 1 to \(10--10\) being the best site possible for a day care center and 1 being the worst -- how would you average this particular site in all honesty and under oath?
A. I think you have to clarify your question because there's different ways to rate it. And I'm sure that if I asked the operator how they rated this on a 1 to 10 , they might say a 12 because from an economic and income-producing standpoint and the need for children, it's needed.
Q. How do you rate it? I asked you. I
don't care about anybody else. You're the one
that's under oath. You're the one I'm
cross-examining.

\section*{How would you rate it, from a 1 to a}

10?
A. I'd give it an 8 and a half.
Q. You'd give this site an 8 and a half?
A. I would.

MR. BUTLER: I don't have to ask him
any more questions about that one. MR. DESNOYERS: While you're -MR. BUTLER: Now --
MR. DESNOYERS: Oh, I'm sorry. MR. BUTLER: Excuse me.

\section*{BY MR. BUTLER:}
Q. Now, you're open till 6:30 in the morning to 6:30 at night, right?
A. We open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 6:30 p.m.; that's correct.
Q. About 12 hours?
A. Correct.
Q. Now, either in your website or testimony that you gave, older kids come to this site, too, don't they, after school?
A. They may.
Q. Well, your website indicates it, doesn't it?
A. So if there is a community need and if there's room in the facility, they would offer aftercare.
Q. Okay. And how do they get there?
A. Typically, there's an arrangement made with the School Board to run one of the short buses to the site from the public schools.

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Q. Has any such arrangement been made with the local Board of Education here in Watchung or Warren?
A. Not that I'm aware of.
Q. Now, you mentioned that sometimes sites are operated by owners or franchisees; did you not?
A. I did.
Q. This site, it's going to be operated by an owner or a franchisee?
A. I don't know the answer to that.
Q. You don't know?
A. I do not.
Q. Okay. But there's going to be a landlord, isn't there?
A. There will be, yes.
Q. Well, in other words --
A. What I -- what I can tell you is that every lease -- and this just my own personal experience because I've developed these. And I'm answering a question you didn't ask, so I hope appreciate that --
Q. I --
A. -- is that corporate signs every lease, but they have the right to assign the lease to a franchisee or an operator. I do not know what
their plans are for here.
Q. Now, I think you testified that you, personally, own and operate day care centers; is that correct?
A. Not exactly. I didn't testify that I operate them. I don't operate them. I own them as a landlord.
Q. Oh, you own them as a landlord?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. But you have no interest in this one?
A. I do not.
Q. Okay.
A. Other than being paid for my services.
Q. I hope so.
A. I hope so, too, but...
Q. Okay. Are you the landlord or owner of any sites in New Jersey?
A. I am.
Q. And did you testify on behalf of those applications that permitted the development of those sites?
A. I didn't.
Q. Okay. Now, maybe you can't answer this. Maybe it's the wrong guy. But in your plans

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you show a template of a garbage truck going around the site, don't you?
A. That wouldn't be an appropriate question for me.
Q. For you?
A. It would be for Mr. Gesario.
Q. For who?
A. Gerry Gesario, civil engineer.
Q. Okay. I'm going to be -- I have one or two, at the most.

Now, your engineer, on
cross-examination, agreed that there were seven parking spaces in your main ingress and egress was in the flood hazard area. You heard him testify to that tonight; did you not?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Excuse --
A. Yes, I did.
Q. You did.

Does that bother you?
A. No.
Q. That doesn't affect the safety of the children?
A. No. As I testified, the building, and the bulk of the parking, and the emergency egress
are all above the flood hazard zone, and it's currently being reviewed by the DEP. The design reflects comments from the DEP, and we're very confident they're going to approve it. And certainly if this board would act favorably, they would, I would assume, make that a condition of approval.
Q. Wait a minute. You just made a statement that there's an emergency access to this site; did you say that?
A. I believe -- I said, "Emergency egress." It's an egress, but, because it's above the flood hazard, it would count as an emergency egress.
Q. In other words, you can go in and out of it?
A. "Egress" means exit.
Q. You could go in it, and you could go out of it; is that what you're saying?
A. No. Well, you certainly could go in it and out of it, but "egress" means exit; it doesn't mean enter.
Q. Okay. Are you talking about the curb cut that's closest to New Providence Road?
A. Yes.

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Q. Okay. That curb cut is on an angle towards New Providence Road; is it not?
A. It is.
Q. Are you saying that you would advise a parent to go up to that, which is an exit, and go into the site and use that?
A. I think you're putting words in my mouth. I didn't say that at all.
Q. Well, wait a minute. I'm talking about a flood hazard situation, and I'm wondering about getting those kids out of there. And you said it's an emergency way to get in and out; that's your testimony.

\section*{MR. HEHL: That's not what he said. CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: No. MR. HEHL: He said it was an egress; \\ MR. BUTLER: He said you can get out. MR. HEHL: Egress. That's exactly}
that's what he testified to.

\section*{right. Not ingress.}

BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. All right. All right. How does a parent go into a site, when we have a flood hazard situation, to get his little 6-month-old baby?
A. First of all, floods don't happen


\section*{MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA}
Q. You don't know and you don't have any idea?
A. I'm not the civil engineer. Although he works for me, I didn't police his efforts. He's very capable.
Q. Okay. Is there any mechanism that you're aware of at this site that parents or guardians could be notified that their kids have to be taken out of that site because there's going to be a flood?
A. Is there a mechanism?
Q. Yeah.
A. I'm not aware of a mechanism, but
there are certainly call systems similar to how you might cancel the school on a snow day. You can identify and call the parents.
Q. A flood hazard event, this is something that isn't like a snow event. When it snows, it's snowing. Flood hazard event takes time; does it not?
A. That's the benefit of it.
Q. Excuse me?
A. Yes, it does, and that's the benefit of \(i t\).
Q. Yeah. Isn't it also the danger of it?
A. No, I don't think so.
Q. How about children that are going to your day care center, and there's a little drizzle, and it's 6:30 in the morning, and by 11:30 we've had 3 inches of rain -- that's different than a snow event, isn't it?
A. Sure.
Q. Parents could be caught off guard, couldn't they?
A. I don't think parents will be caught off guard for a flood. But in the event they are, the building is safe. Emergency egress to the building is safe. So they don't have to leave the building in a flood because it's safe. And if the emergency patrols or first responders had to get there, there's a driveway above the flood hazard zone.
Q. Is the driveway to leave the site above the flood hazard zone?
A. There is. But in an emergency certainly the police, fire department could drive in that driveway.
Q. Oh, okay. Now we're talking about something that's not within your control as operating the site. You're talking about public

\section*{MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA}

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emergency vehicles helping you out; is that what you're saying?
A. Well, if there's an emergency, I believe that's what they're there for.
Q. Absolutely. And I agree with you. And how does the cop car -- how does the police car get in a cut that goes to the right and is for an exit? You asking him to go in it -- into the site which is built as an exit only?
A. They could.
Q. Well, sure they could. Anything could happen. They could fly a helicopter in, too, couldn't they?
A. Unlikely, but they could.
Q. In your opinion, when kids and their guardians or parents leave the site, which way are they most apt to go on Union Avenue -- to the left or to the right?
A. I don't think I have an informed opinion on that. They're either going to go in the direction that is either towards their home, or they're going to go in the direction that is towards their work, depending on what time of day it is.
Q. Okay. So in other words, you can't answer that question, right? train. site?
\(\square\)
A. I cannot.
Q. You're not --
A. Perhaps our traffic engineer might be better qualified to make an assumption on that, but
I don't think until the center is occupied that anybody can answer that question.

One of the beauties of this site that I
rated high is because it has egress and ability to go in multiple directions.
Q. Oh, your testimony is that this is a great site?
A. I did say that. I said --
Q. You said --
A. \(\quad-\quad 8.5\).
Q. -- you gave it an eight and a half?
A. I did, yeah. It's got very good access and --
Q. And what was the other site you mentioned, in South Orange?
A. I did mention a site in --
Q. Yeah.
A. -- South Orange.
Q. How would you rate that from 1 to 10 ?
A. Probably give that one a 10.
Q. That's a real good one. That's the one

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that's got parking all over the place, right?
A. No. I rate it a 10 because of the
Q. Do you have any sites that you would rate under 8 ?
A. No, I don't.
Q. All your sites are top-notch?
A. The goal is for the sites to be
economically viable. You don't pick a bad site.
Q. And of course, in your opinion, this isn't a bad site?
A. No. This is a very good site.
Q. Notwithstanding all the environmental restraints we've been talking about?
A. Well, I think we've prepared a design that not only address -- well, addresses them.
Q. By building on only 25 percent of the
A. It's a very large site.
Q. Excuse me?
A. It's a very large site.
Q. It's a 2-acre site.
A. It's pretty large for a childcare
center. I've had sites that are less than half an 66 sheets
Q. By bulding on 25 parcent of the

41 of 66 sheets

\section*{questions from board members?}

Okay. I 'm going to open it up to public. Does public --

MR. BUTLER: One second.

RECROSS-EXAMI NATI ON BY MR. BUTLER:
Q. How about the bus? Where's the bus going to park?
A. There is no bus. I just said there's no bus.
Q. Okay. So how are the kids going to go?

A van? How are the kids going to get from the Watchung Hills High School to your day care center?
A. Sir, forgive me for being a little impatient, but I've answered this question maybe three times this evening, but I will answer it again for you.
Q. Thank you.
A. If there is a community need, and the operator has room in their center, they may -they're not going to guarantee -- they may offer an aftercare program. They will not take responsibility for getting the child from the public school or the private school to the center. The parent has to make those arrangements by themselves,

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and frequently a parent will make arrangement with the school's busing company, if the school board owns their own buses or they hire it, to drop their child. Sometimes there's a fee. It will never be a full school bus. If anything, it's a handful of children, and they would come in a -- what we call a short bus.
Q. And that kid -- let's say a ninth grader from the local school -- what would he do at the site?
A. It couldn't be a ninth grader. A ninth grader would be too old.
Q. Okay.
A. The site is only licensed to 12 .
Q. That would be -- what? -- eighth grade?

Seventh grade?
A. A ninth grader would be -- at 12 would probably be sixth or seventh grade.
Q. All right. What would a seventh grader do at the site after his school got out?
A. Probably -- someone said, Do his homework. Probably do his homework. I don't know.
Q. Okay.
A. I don't operator the program. And again, I haven't -- I haven't said that the program

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
is there. You asked a question if it might happen. I said it could.
Q. Okay. Who would supervise that child?
A. One of the staff, right? So there --

MR. BUTLER: I have no further
questions.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: I'm going to open it up. Anyone from the public have questions of this, if you could please come up, say who you are and address, please.

\section*{EXAMI NATI ON BY THE PUBLIC:}

MS. ROBI NSON: Wendy Robinson, Hill Hollow Road.

I don't -- I didn't have the
opportunity to see where the playground was located
in respect to the streets. Is it -- where is Union and where is New Providence with respect to the playground.

THE WITNESS: So I 'm referring to Drawing 5 of 17 in the site plan. The street that I ' \(m\) kind of running \(m y\) hand over is Union. The street that goes off on a diagonal --

MS. ROBI NSON: Is New Providence.
MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

THE WITNESS: -- is New Providence, and the playground is located all the way over here. It's very far away from either street.

MS. ROBI NSON: Okay. But across the street from the quarry.

So the dust that may come from the quarry could easily fall into the playground area, and the emissions from New Providence traffic, which can be mind-boggling at times, as well as on 22.

The chair asked about whether there's been any study about the air quality in the area. Does the Department of Health or the Department of Children \& Families -- do they have any regulations about air quality for childcare facilities, playgrounds?

THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge. MS. ROBI NSON: So there would be no attempt to study what the air quality would be or any ongoing monitoring for children who might suffer respiratory conditions as a result of playing on the playground there with all of -- what would likely be pretty significant emissions and dust?

THE WITNESS: Ma'am, if you just allow me one minute, I 'll do my best to answer your question. I just want to check something.

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA

MS. ROBI NSON: Sure.
THE WITNESS: So just -- you didn't ask, but I measured. The playground is over 100 feet away from the edge of the road so -- and, of course, you'd have to cross the road. Would you just mind -- because I was kind of looking at the scale -- repeating your question so I can make sure I heard it correctly?

MS. ROBI NSON: I 'm concerned about the -- well, I asked whether the Department of Health or the Department of Children \& Families have regulations related to childcare facilities, the air quality on playgrounds --

THE WITNESS: So -- so my response is, I'm not aware of that. But it is my understanding that the quarry is required to monitor their own air.

MS. ROBI NSON: Okay. And so, then, there wouldn't be -- I guess your testimony is that it wouldn't -- there wouldn't be any continuing -not only initial nor continuing monitoring so that if children develop respiratory conditions, you wouldn't know about it, have any responsibility, or anything like that, and The Learning Experiencing wouldn't either, I gather?

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA 158

THE WITNESS: I 'm not -- that's somewhat of a legal question about liability. I'm not sure I'm qualified to answer that. But there is no -- there has been no air testing. Okay? And to the best of my knowledge, there would be no ongoing air testing that would be a requirement by licensing for the childcare center. But I do believe that the quarry is required to do their own air testing, and monitoring, and report, and comply.

MS. ROBI NSON: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Any other questions from the public?

Okay. Mayor?
MAYOR BALLA: Yeah. One other question. You did say that you're required to have soil testing?

THE WITNESS: Yes.
MAYOR BALLA: And has that been done
yet?
THE WITNESS: I do not know the answer to that, but it certainly would need to be done before the license can be issued.

Now, if there was a problem found, it
can be -- it would be -- it doesn't preclude them
from getting a license. They just have to remediate

MATTHEW JARMEL, AIA
things that we asked for. Perfect.
MR. BUTLER: Madam Chairman, just so I can get straightened out with my witnesses --

Steve, could you tell us what witnesses
you're going to call on the 21st?
MR. HEHL: Yeah. We'll have your traffic engineer and our planner. We may recall either Mr. J armel or Mr. Gesario, depending upon the exhibits that are produced.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you very much.
MR. HEHL: And if I may --
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: The exhibits are
going to remain here?
MR. HEHL: Yeah. We'll leave the
exhibits here. And perhaps -- I know you
have Mr. Simoff. You have Mr. Steck. Are those the two witnesses you expect to put on?

MR. BUTLER: And I might have another wetlands hydrologist.

MR. HEHL: Okay.
MR. BUTLER: And just to clarify, Hal
Simoff, having gone to Ridgewood, I think, tonight, he did get here at 9:00.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay.
MR. BUTLER: Steck's standing on his
162
feet in Hackensack.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay. So this
will resume -- there will be no further notice.
This will be resumed at our J anuary 21st meeting immediately following our reorg. which starts at 7:00.

MR. HEHL: Thank you.
CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: Okay?
MR. HEHL: Thank you-all again. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

CHAI RWOMAN SCHAEFER: You, too.
MR. HEHL: Appreciate your time this evening.
(Application adjourned at 10:30 p.m.)



I, ANGELA C. BUONANTUONO, a Notary Public and Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that prior to the commencement, the witnesses were duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

I DO FURTHER CERTI FY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the hearing as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I DO FURTHER CERTI FY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

Angela C. Buonantuono, CCR, RPR, CLR
License No. 30XI 00233100
Dated: J anuary 17, 2020


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\end{gathered}
\]} \\
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\]} \\
\hline & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{gathered}
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\end{gathered}
\]} & \multirow[t]{2}{*}{\[
\begin{aligned}
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\]} & \\
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\] & \[
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\]} \\
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