January 20, 2021 / Calendar No. 10

C 180496 ZMK

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by 1600/20 Realty Corp., pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter for an amendment of the Zoning Map, Section No. 22c, by changing from an existing R6A District to an R7D District property bounded by Cortelyou Road, East 17th Street, a line 100 feet southeasterly of Cortelyou Road, and East 16th Street, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 14, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated March 2, 2020, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-564.

This application for a zoning map amendment was filed by 1600/20 Realty Corp. on June 18, 2018 to change an R6A zoning district to an R7D zoning district. This application, in conjunction with the related action, would facilitate a mixed-use development with 85 residential units and approximately 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space at 1620 Cortelyou Road in the Ditmas Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, Community District 14.

RELATED ACTION

In addition to the zoning map amendment (C 180496 ZMK) that is the subject of this report, the proposed development also requires action by the City Planning Commission on the following application, which is being considered concurrently with this application:

N 180497 ZRK Zoning text amendment to designate a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) area.

BACKGROUND

The applicant seeks a zoning map amendment to change an R6A/C2-4 zoning district to an R7D/C2-4 zoning district and a zoning text amendment to establish a MIH area coterminous with the area to be rezoned. The project area consists of six tax lots (Block 5159, Lot 8, p/o Lots 1, 9, 10, 13, 61) located on the northern end of Block 5159 bounded by East 16th Street to the west, Cortelyou Road to the north, and East 17th Street to the east. The project area is currently developed with a mix of one- to three-story buildings containing residential and commercial

uses. The proposed development site (Block 5159, Lot 1) has a lot area of 14,815 square feet and is currently improved with a one-story grocery store and laundromat.

The project area is mapped with an R6A zoning district with a C2-4 commercial overlay. R6A districts are medium-density residential zoning districts that have a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 3.0 for residential and community facility uses, and have a maximum base height of 65 feet and maximum total height of 75 feet. Off-street parking is generally required for 50 percent of market-rate dwelling units. C2-4 commercial overlay districts permit a maximum FAR of 2.0 for commercial uses when mapped with an R6A district, and have low parking and loading requirements.

The surrounding area consists primarily of residential uses, with a mix of commercial and community facility uses along Cortelyou Road, and is mapped with R1-2, R3X, R4A, R6A, R7A, and C2-4 zoning districts put in place by the 2009 Flatbush Rezoning (C 090336 ZMK and N 090335 ZRK). Prior to the Flatbush Rezoning, the project area was zoned R6. In 2009, at the request of Brooklyn Community Board 14, the Department of City Planning proposed zoning map changes and zoning text amendments for 180 blocks located in the Flatbush neighborhood. The goals of the Flatbush Rezoning were to preserve the built character of detached homes in the neighborhood while supporting modest housing growth in specific areas, including along the Flatbush Avenue corridor and between Cortelyou and Dorchester Roads. As part of the rezoning, Voluntary Inclusionary Housing (VIH) areas were mapped over portions of the neighborhood's R7A districts, which allow an FAR of up to 4.6 for sites participating in the affordable housing program.

The area surrounding the project area contains primarily residential and mixed-use buildings. Cortelyou Road is an 80-foot-wide local commercial corridor containing a mix of one-story commercial buildings and three- to four-story mixed-use buildings with ground floor commercial uses. Cortelyou Road and the areas directly to the south and east of the project area contain fourto eight-story apartment buildings. Further north and south of the project area are lower-density residential areas. North of Cortelyou Road is characterized by one- and two-family detached homes. The project area is well served by public transit. The Cortelyou Road-Dorchester station, providing service to the Q subway line, is located 150 feet west of the project area, and the B103, BM1, BM2, BM3, and BM4 bus lines run along Cortelyou Road, providing service between Canarsie and downtown Brooklyn; Mill Basin and Midtown; Canarsie and Midtown; Sheepshead Bay and Midtown; and Gerritsen Beach and Midtown respectively.

The proposed actions would facilitate the development of a nine-story, mixed-use building totaling 82,962 square feet of floor area (5.6 FAR) with 85 residential units and 9,560 square feet of ground floor commercial space, of which 6,473 square feet would be occupied by a supermarket. Twenty-one of the dwelling units would be designated as permanently affordable pursuant to the MIH program. The proposed development would rise to a maximum height of 102 feet. Forty-four below-grade parking spaces are proposed for the development.

To facilitate the proposed development, the applicant is seeking a zoning map amendment and a zoning text amendment. The applicant proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning within the project area from an R6A/C2-4 district to an R7D/C2-4 zoning district. R7D is a medium-density residential zoning district intended for commercial and transit corridors, which allows a maximum FAR of 5.6 for residential uses when mapped within an Inclusionary Housing area, a maximum base height of 95 feet, and an overall maximum building height of 115 feet. Residential buildings and portions of buildings must comply with Quality Housing regulations. Off-street parking is generally required for 50 percent of market-rate dwelling units and is optional for income-restricted units within the Transit Zone.

C2-4 is a commercial overlay that permits a maximum FAR of 2.0 for commercial uses and permits a range of local retail and service-related uses, such as grocery stores, restaurants, beauty salons, and laundromats. When an R7D district is paired with a C2-4 commercial overlay, the ground floor is required to contain non-residential uses to a depth of at least 30 feet, excluding residential lobbies and off-street accessory parking entrances.

The applicant also proposes a zoning text amendment to designate an MIH area coterminous with the project area. The proposed text amendment would Map MIH Options 1 and 2. Option 1 requires that at least 25 percent of the residential floor area be provided as housing permanently affordable to households with incomes at an average of 60 percent of the Area Median Income

(AMI). Within that 25 percent, at least 10 percent of the square footage must be used for units affordable to residents with household incomes at an average of 40 percent of the AMI, with no unit targeted to households with incomes exceeding 130 percent of the AMI. Option 2 requires that 30 percent of residential floor area be set aside for affordable housing units for residents with incomes averaging 80 percent of the AMI. No more than three income bands can be used to average out to 80 percent, and no income band can exceed 130 percent of the AMI.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (C 180496 ZMK), in conjunction with the application for the related action (N 180497 ZRK), was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 et seq. and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedure of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The lead is the City Planning Commission. The designated CEQR number is 20DCP101K.

After a study of the potential environmental impact of the proposed actions, a Negative Declaration was issued on March 2, 2020. The Negative Declaration includes an (E) designation to avoid the potential for significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials and noise (E-564).

UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor issued Emergency Executive Order No. 100 on March 16, 2020 that suspended certain time requirements relating to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) and other land use processes as of March 12, 2020. The suspension included portions of sections 195, 197-c and 197-d of the New York City Charter, as well as sections of the Administrative Code and the Rules of the City of New York, pertaining to time limitations. The CPC ceased meeting immediately after issuance of the Executive Order until August 3, 2020, when the regular schedule of meetings was resumed. The ULURP time

requirements suspended by Emergency Executive Order No. 100 began running on September 14, 2020.

This application (C 180496 ZMK) was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on March 2, 2020, and was duly referred to Brooklyn Community Board 14 and the Brooklyn Borough President in accordance with Title 62 of the rules of the City of New York, Section 2-02(b), along with the related action (N 180497 ZRK), which was duly referred in accordance with the procedures for non-ULURP matters.

Community Board Public Hearing

Brooklyn Community Board 14 held a public hearing on this application (C 180496 ZMK) on October 21, 2020. On November 9, 2020, by a vote of 24 in favor, five opposed, and four abstaining, the Community Board voted to recommend approval of the application with the following conditions:

- "Add significantly to the number of affordable units which will be offered at 40% AMI and commit to an equivalent distribution of affordable versus market-rate studio, 1 bedroom, and 2-3 bedroom units. Maintain Option 1 for the originally proposed 21 affordable units.
- Enter a binding agreement to fund and contract with CB14's local CBO's FDC and CAMBA, to engage in outreach and assist current CB14 residents with application readiness for the HPD-required 50% local lottery preference.
- Configure the building so that there is a setback that benefits the Cortelyou Road streetscape and decreases the visual imposition on neighboring residential units. The renderings presented are not final plans and the applicant must demonstrate an effort to decrease the visual imposition of the building. One recommended way to accomplish this is to utilize a sky exposure plane consistent with the preexisting R6A/C2-4 zoning district to minimize the bulk of the building.
- Expand the shadow study to address incremental shadowing on Cortelyou Road, which in the aftermath of the pandemic has become a de facto sunlight sensitive public asset, given the sidewalk cafes and expanded outdoor use.
- Given that this project anticipates the installation of solar panels, it is imperative that the shadowing study demonstrates that the building will not limit the solar revenue of neighboring buildings.
- Conduct the shadowing study with all potential setback plans, including the version of the building with the recommended sky exposure plane.
- Demonstrate that the site has no environmental concerns related to past dry-cleaning use on the property. (While it is entirely possible that this would be code mandated, we wish to have the result highlighted for community review.)

- Commit to exceeding the City's 2020 Energy Code requirements; advancing resiliency, sustainable energy, waste and wastewater management.
- Conduct a traffic study that demonstrates a non-disruptive delivery window for the retail components of the building. Provide trip generation data and a Level of Service analysis of the impact of 44 parked vehicles anticipated by the garage design on Cortelyou Road, East 16th Street, and the residential blocks to the south of East 16th Street (i.e. the traffic ingress and egress patterns), during anticipated peak hours (i.e., morning and evening weekday rush, and Saturday peak). Also, provide a parking study of anticipated increase in on-street parked vehicles in light of new residents and users of new commercial space, as well as taking into account loss of on-street spaces during and after construction. Further, provide anticipated truck traffic and road closures during construction period.
- Ensure the provision of bike storage for residents and exterior bike racks for public use.
- Commit to supporting CB 14's efforts to convince MTA to restore the B23 bus route. Commit to support CB14's request to MTA-NYCT to conduct a station capacity study at the Cortelyou Road Brighton Line station.
- Commit to a greener streetscape plan and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to ensure maintenance of plantings and street cleanliness along the proposed building line.
- CD14 ranks near the bottom of all 59 community boards in terms of the percentage of residents who live more than a quarter of a mile away from a park. Furthermore, the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot on Cortelyou Road would serve as an amenity to residents of 1620 Cortelyou Road. Therefore, an additional condition is to underwrite, through the New York City Comptroller's Office a fiduciary account, where upfront funding could only be withdrawn by NYC DPR toward maintenance and programming support for the Cortelyou Road Tot Lot.
- Demonstrate a long-term commitment to maintain the grocery store on site and ensure an effort to hire locally to staff the store."

Borough President Recommendation

The Brooklyn Borough President held a public hearing on this application (C 180496 ZMK) on November 30, 2020, and on December 14, 2020 issued a recommendation of approval of the application with the following conditions:

- 1. "That CPC and/or the City Council mandate Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) Option 1
- 2. That in order to receive approval for an upzoning from R6A to R7A MIH, the applicant, 1600/20 Realty Corp., provide evidence of the following to City Council, prior to its consideration of this application:
 - 1. A legally binding mechanism stipulating that:
 - i. The proposed development's New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) new building plans restrict roof height to no more than 85 feet and Schedule A filing indicates a ground floor supermarket in order to ensure the return of supermarket operation

- ii. The new supermarket will be consistent with the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program, and provide affordable pricing on par with the current operation
- The applicant will make a binding agreement to contract with one or more locally-based affordable housing organizations to serve as an administering agent, and provide funding to support financial literacy and marketing efforts, in order to ensure administering agents achieve 50 percent or greater lottery preference for residents of Community District 14 (CD 14)
- 2. Written commitments concerning the following:
 - i. Engagement with car-sharing companies in consultation with Brooklyn Community Board 14 (CB 14), New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), and local officials to lease multiple spaces within the garage, and obtain designated curbside signage
 - ii. Integration of resiliency and sustainability measures, such as blue roofs, passive house design, solar facades, and/or wind turbines
 - iii. Coordination with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), DOT, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) regarding the installation of DEP rain gardens, as part of the required Builders Pavement Plan along Cortelyou Road and/or

East 16th Street fronting the development, in consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials

iv. Coordination of Connecting Residents on Safer Streets (CROSS) Brooklyn implementation with DEP, DOT, and NYC Parks for the installation of a curb extension at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street, either as part of a Puilders Payament Plan, or as a

and East 16th Street, either as part of a Builders Pavement Plan, or as a treated roadbed sidewalk extension, in consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials

- v. A standard DOT maintenance agreement for that intersection and coordination among DEP and DOT should there be agency implementation for the provision of protected painted areas at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street, with the understanding that such improvements would not proceed prior to consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials
- vi. Retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those who are designated local business enterprises (LBEs) consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code, and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency
- 3. That in order to receive approval for an upzoning from R6A to R7D MIH, the applicant, 1600/20 Realty Corp., produce a legally-binding mechanism mandating the following conditions, in addition to those listed above:

- 1. For the additional FAR increment in excess of an R7A MIH district, provision of affordable housing floor area at a rate of 50 percent in lieu of the standard MIH Option 1 of 25 percent floor area requirement, with permanent affordability
- 2. Adequate demonstration that the building's massing has been redesigned to mitigate potential shading impacts on Cortelyou Road outdoor dining facilities and rooftop solar assemblies of abutting cooperatives, in consultation with local merchants and building representatives
- 3. For the required MIH floor area and additional committed floor area, an affordable housing mix with at least 50 percent two- and/or three-bedroom units, and at least 75 percent one-bedroom units
- 4. Reasonable efforts to relocate the existing laundromat, including assistance with relocation expenses, to ensure continuity of its operations, and minimize inconvenience for residents who rely on external laundry services
- 5. Legal commitment of adequate funds to a fiduciary account underwritten via the New York City Comptroller's Office to ensure the upkeep of the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot, within 60 days of the effective date of the rezoning"

Be it further resolved:

- 1. That DOT conduct a traffic study along this section of Cortelyou Road between Coney Island and Flatbush avenues to determine appropriate mitigation measures for congestion exacerbated by the replacement of the existing supermarket, including, but not limited to, restrictive curbside signage for designated loading zones.
- 2. That DOT support expansion of Citi Bike stations into this section of CD 14
- 3. That the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) allocate funding for community transit improvements as follows:
 - **a.** Restoration of the eliminated B23 bus route on Cortelyou Road
 - **b.** Undertake a study to determine the feasibility of mitigating stairwell capacity constraints at the Cortelyou Road Q train subway station through the provision of elevator access and/or splitting the upper level stairwell into a second lower level stairwell to the platform."

City Planning Commission Public Hearing

On December 2, 2020, (Calendar No. 1), the City Planning Commission scheduled December 16, 2020 for a public hearing on this application (C 180496 ZMK), in conjunction with the related application (N 180497 ZRK). The hearing was duly held on December 16, 2020 (Calendar No. 16). Four speakers testified in favor of the application and 28 in opposition.

Speakers testifying in favor of the application included three members of the project team. The applicant's representative presented an overview of the application and the land use rationale for the proposed zoning district, and described the proposed development. The applicant's

representative addressed questions about the 2009 Flatbush Rezoning and the Borough President's and Community Board's recommendations.

The owner of the existing supermarket spoke in favor, stating that the proposed development would allow his family to update the existing supermarket and provide housing on the site. He explained that the team was exploring options to construct in phases, so as to maintain operations within the supermarket during construction of the proposed development.

The project architect spoke in favor of the application. He described the proposed building, site plan, and unit mix.

The District Manager of Community Board 14 testified to clarify the Community Board's position, recommendations, and conditions, and explained how the Community Board assessed the impacts of the proposed zoning.

Twenty-eight speakers testified in opposition to the project, many of them stating that the proposed building was out of scale with the neighborhood, expressing concerns over the displacement of the existing supermarket, and citing concerns regarding gentrification. Some speakers expressed concerns regarding neighborhood infrastructure and transit needs, and the disruption in operations of the supermarket during construction, stating that the supermarket is a valuable asset to the neighborhood and is one of the few sources of affordable, fresh food in the immediate area. Further, speakers cited concerns regarding the displacement of the existing laundromat on the site.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The City Planning Commission believes that this application for a zoning map amendment (C 180496 ZMK), in conjunction with the related application for a zoning text amendment (C 180497 ZMK), is appropriate.

The proposed zoning map amendment will map an R7D zoning district across the northern portion of the block where there is currently a one-story commercial building. The rezoning would facilitate the development of a nine-story mixed use building containing 73,042 square feet of residential use and 9,560 square feet of ground floor commercial use, consistent with the surrounding uses. While the rezoning boundary will extend over non-applicant owned lots (Block 5159, Lots 8, 9, 10), no development or other changes on those sites are anticipated as a result of this action.

Regarding the proposed density and height, the Commission notes that the property is part of a stretch of dense multi-family apartment buildings that were developed between the 1920s and 1960s between Cortelyou and Dorchester roads. These apartment buildings are built up to eight stories tall and have similar densities to the proposed development. Cortelyou Road is also an 80-foot-wide street that serves as an active commercial corridor in Ditmas Park. Further, the Commission notes the project area's proximity to public transit, located 150 feet from the Cortelyou Road Station on the Q subway line, bringing commuters to the Downtown Brooklyn Central Business District in less than 20 minutes, aligning the proposed development with the City's policy of developing affordable housing accessible to transit.

Though this area has excellent access to jobs, services, and open space, it has provided few opportunities for new housing construction and has not kept pace with the overall population growth of the city. The project area is within the 180 blocks that were rezoned in 2009 as a part of the Flatbush Rezoning (C 090336 ZMK and N 090335 ZRK). Since the rezoning, there have been few new developments in the surrounding area, with no sites providing affordable housing pursuant to the VIH program. The blocks closest to the project area, north and west of Cortelyou Road, were mostly downzoned in 2009 to protect the character of the existing one- and two-family Victorian-style homes, and now regularly sell for between two- and three-million dollars each. The high cost of these homes coupled with limited new apartment construction restricts the access to opportunities that this neighborhood provides. In contrast to New York City as a whole, which has seen a population increase of nearly five percent, the seven Census Tracts that are proximate to the project area and were rezoned in 2009 have seen a slight decrease in population

during the same time period.¹ So while the R7D zoning district would allow a slightly higher residential FAR than the nearby existing residential zoning districts nearby mapped as part of the 2009 Flatbush Rezoning, the Commission believes that this is appropriate, given that the need for housing, and in particular affordable rental housing, has intensified since the adoption of the Flatbush Rezoning. The Commission further notes that the site's location along a wide corridor, with strong access to public transit and local amenities, represents a key location for accommodating mixed-income housing growth. R7D zoning districts are common along other neighborhood retail and transit corridors throughout Brooklyn, and have been mapped in diverse areas including Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, and Brownsville.

The Commission further notes the appropriateness of the R7D/C2-4 zoning district in complementing the mixed-use character of the Cortelyou Road corridor. R7D districts, when paired with a C2-4 overlay, trigger a non-residential ground floor requirement to a depth of 30 feet. R7D districts were intended for wide commercial and transit corridors. The ground floor non-residential requirement would ensure active ground floor uses and helps ensure that the existing grocery store remains in operation at the site.

The proposed zoning text amendment (N 180497 ZRK) is appropriate. The proposed development is expected to provide approximately 21 permanently affordable apartments under MIH Option 1. Although there have been three previous MIH areas mapped in CD 14, there are no MIH areas in the immediate area. Ditmas Park is an economically-diverse neighborhood and the creation of affordable housing in this neighborhood reinforces this diversity by providing additional housing for a wide range of household incomes.

Regarding the conditions contained in the Community Board's and the Borough President's recommendations concerning the proposed building's accessibility and sustainable design, these matters are outside the scope of the requested actions, but the Commission is pleased that the applicant has committed to exploring opportunities to enhance both.

¹ Change Over Time, ACS 2006-2010 to 2014-2018. Census Tracts include Brooklyn 514, 506, 518, 520, 526, 512, 1522.

Regarding the condition of the Community Board and Borough President concerning an endowment to the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot, this matter is outside the scope of the requested actions, but the Commission notes that the applicant has stated commitment to provide an endowment to the Tot Lot or other local green space.

Regarding the condition contained in the Community Board's and Borough President's recommendations concerning the provision of additional MIH units, this matter is outside the scope of the requested actions, but the Commission notes that the applicant representative stated in a letter dated November 9, 2020 that the applicant will continue to review the feasibility of providing additional affordable housing units.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that having considered the Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS), for which a Negative Declaration was issued on March 2, 2020 with respect to this application (CEQR No. 20DCP101K), the City Planning Commission finds that the action described herein will have no significant impact on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the City Planning Commission, pursuant to Sections 197-c and 200 of the New York City Charter that based on the environmental determination and the consideration described in this report, the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York, effective as of December 15, 1961, and as subsequently amended, is further amended by changing the Zoning Map, Section 22c, by changing from an existing R6A District to an R7D District property bounded by Cortelyou Road, East 17th Street, a line 100 feet southeasterly of Cortelyou Road, and East 16th Street, Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 14, as shown on a diagram (for illustrative purposes only) dated March 2, 2020, and subject to the conditions of CEQR Declaration E-564.

The above resolution (C 180496 ZMK), duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on January 20, 2021 (Calendar No. 10), is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President, in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

MARISA LAGO, Chair KENNETH J. KNUCKES, Esq., Vice Chairman DAVID BURNEY, ALLEN P. CAPPELLI, Esq., ALFRED C. CERULLO, III, MICHELLE DE LA UZ, RICHARD W. EADDY, HOPE KNIGHT, ORLANDO MARÍN, LARISA ORTIZ, RAJ RAMPERSHAD, Commissioners

ANNA HAYES LEVIN, Commissioner, Voting No





C.D. 14

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NOTE: THIS DIAGRAM IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.



COMMUNITY/BOROUGH BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Project Name: 1620 Cortelyou Road Rezoning					
Applicant:	1600/20 Realty Corp.	Applicant's Primary Contact:	Richard Lobel		
Application #	180497ZRK	Borough:			
CEQR Number:	20DCP101K	Validated Community Districts:	K14		

Docket Description:

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

RECOMMENDATION:	Conditional Favorable		
# In Favor: 24	# Against: 5	# Abstaining: 4	Total members appointed to the board: 50
Date of Vote: 11/9/2020	12:00 AM	Vote Location: Webex	

Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets as necessary

Date of Public Hearing: 10/21/2020 6:30 PM				
Was a quorum present? Yes	A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board but in no event fewer than seven such members			
Public Hearing Location:	Webex			

CONSIDERATION:		
Recommendation submitted by	BK CB14	Date: 11/11/2020 10:13 AM

1620 Cortelyou Road – CB 14 Recommends Approval with the following conditions:

Affordability:

Add significantly to the number of affordable units which will be offered at 40% AMI and commit to an equivalent distribution of affordable versus market-rate studio, 1 bedroom, and 2-3 bedroom units. Maintain Option 1 for the originally proposed 21 affordable units.

Enter a binding agreement to fund and contract with CB14's local CBO's – FDC and CAMBA, to engage in outreach and assist current CB14 residents with application readiness for the HPD-required 50% local lottery preference.

Setback:

Configure the building so that there is a setback that benefits the Cortelyou Road streetscape and decreases the visual imposition on neighboring residential units. The renderings presented are not final plans and the applicant must demonstrate an effort to decrease the visual imposition of the building. One recommended way to accomplish this is to utilize a sky exposure plane consistent with the preexisting R6A/C2-4 zoning district to minimize the bulk of the building.

Shadow study:

Expand the shadow study to address incremental shadowing on Cortelyou Road, which in the aftermath of the pandemic has become a de facto sunlight sensitive public asset, given the sidewalk cafes and expanded outdoor use.

Given that this project anticipates the installation of solar panels, it is imperative that the shadowing study demonstrates that the building will not limit the solar revenue of neighboring buildings.

Conduct the shadowing study with all potential setback plans, including the version of the building with the recommended sky exposure plane.

Expanded environmental study:

Demonstrate that the site has no environmental concerns related to past dry-cleaning use on the property. (While it is entirely possible that this would be code mandated, we wish to have the result highlighted for community review.)

Commit to exceeding the City's 2020 Energy Code requirements; advancing resiliency, sustainable energy, waste and wastewater management.

Expand traffic study and support community public transit needs:

Conduct a traffic study that demonstrates a non-disruptive delivery window for the retail components of the building. Provide trip generation data and a Level of Service analysis of the impact of 44 parked vehicles anticipated by the garage design on Cortelyou Road, East 16th

Street, and the residential blocks to the south of East 16th Street (i.e. the traffic ingress and egress patterns), during anticipated peak hours (i.e., morning and evening weekday rush, and Saturday peak). Also, provide a parking study of anticipated increase in on-street parked vehicles in light of new residents and users of new commercial space, as well as taking into account loss of on-street spaces during and after construction. Further, provide anticipated truck traffic and road closures during construction period.

Ensure the provision of bike storage for residents and exterior bike racks for public use.

Commit to supporting CB 14's efforts to convince MTA to restore the B22 bus route. Commit to support CB14's request to MTA-NYCT to conduct a station capacity study at the Cortelyou Road Brighton Line station.

Community Amenities:

Commit to a greener streetscape plan and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to ensure maintenance of plantings and street cleanliness along the proposed building line.

CD14 ranks near the bottom of all 59 community boards in terms of the percentage of residents who live more than a quarter of a mile away from a park. Furthermore, the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot on Cortelyou Road would serve as an amenity to residents of 1620 Cortelyou Road. Therefore, an additional condition is to underwrite, through the New York City Comptroller's Office a fiduciary account, where upfront funding could only be withdrawn by NYC DPR toward maintenance and programming support for the Cortelyou Road Tot Lot.

Demonstrate a long-term commitment to maintain the grocery store on site and ensure an effort to hire locally to staff the store.

Brooklyn Borough President Recommendation

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION 120 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10271 <u>CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov</u>



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Return this completed form with any attachments to the Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E at the above address.

2. Send one copy with any attachments to the applicant's representatives as indicated on the Notice of Certification.

APPLICATION #: 1620 CORTELYOU ROAD REZONING – 180496 ZMK, 180497 ZRK

Applications submitted by 1600/20 Realty Corp., pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter, for a zoning map amendment to change the south side of Cortelyou Road between East 16th and East 17th streets from R6A/C2-4 to R7D/C2-4, and a zoning text amendment to designate the rezoning area a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) area. Such actions are requested to facilitate a nine-story 82,962 square-foot (sq. ft.) mixed-use development with 85 dwelling units and 9,500 sq. ft. of commercial space, intended for a 6,500 sq. ft. supermarket and local retail, in Brooklyn Community District 14 (CD 14). The building's cellar would contain 44 accessory parking spaces accessible via a ramp on East 16th Street.

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY DISTRICT NO. 14

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

RECOMMENDATION

□ APPROVE ☑ APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS DISAPPROVE
DISAPPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITION

SEE ATTACHED

Ehi I Adams

December 14, 2020

BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

DATE

RECOMMENDATION FOR: 1620 CORTELYOU ROAD REZONING – 180496 ZMK, 180497 ZRK

Applications were submitted by 1600/20 Realty Corp., pursuant to Sections 197-c and 201 of the New York City Charter, for a zoning map amendment to change the south side of Cortelyou Road between East 16th and East 17th streets from R6A/C2-4 to R7D/C2-4, and a zoning text amendment to designate the rezoning area a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) area. Such actions are requested to facilitate a nine-story mixed-use development with 85 dwelling units and 9,500 square feet (sq. ft.) of commercial space, intended for a 6,500 sq. ft. supermarket and local retail, in Brooklyn Community District 14 (CD 14). The building's cellar would contain 44 accessory parking spaces accessible via a ramp on East 16th Street.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams held a remote public hearing on this application on November 30, 2020. There were 35 speakers in opposition, including board members of the adjacent buildings, who questioned the proposal's contextual appropriateness and benefit to the community, while noting potential for gentrification and displacement. The speakers cited specific issues such as:

- The low number of affordable units at Area Median Incomes (AMI) that meet community need, in contrast to 1921 Cortelyou Road, a project that provides affordable housing at 30 percent AMI
- The high number of studios and one-bedroom units, and low number of family-sized apartments in the development
- Establishing a precedent for future high-rise development, which would permanently alter highly-valued neighborhood character
- The potential loss of the Key Food and the difficulty of keeping the supermarket open during phased construction, particularly cellar excavation for the parking garage
- The loss of a laundromat in an area where many buildings do not provide laundry on-site
- Deficient drainage and sewage infrastructure on Cortelyou Road
- Ongoing parking problems and traffic concerns with delivery trucks
- Insufficient capacity at local public schools
- The building's extreme height, which would block sunlight for abutting buildings, and potentially interfere with their solar installations
- Extreme crowding on the Cortelyou Road subway station platform and limited opportunities for improvement
- The questionable accuracy and completeness of drawings shown to the community
- The history of dry-cleaning operations and chemical storage at the site, and limited analysis in the Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS)
- The proposal's inconsistency with the 2009 Flatbush rezoning
- Lack of per-capita green space in CD 14
- The lack of guarantees regarding expressed community benefits, absent a legal mechanism to bind developer commitments to the property

The speakers also noted a lack of public information about the project and widespread community opposition to the proposed development.

There was one speaker in support who argued that the project would add 21 affordable housing units to the neighborhood and increase business activity along Cortelyou Road. The speaker also noted that approval would ensure that the property would be retained by a member of the community.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to why the applicant elected to pursue a rezoning to R7D rather than a lower-density district such as the adjacent R7A, the applicant's representative stated that an R7A district would offer market-rate floor area similar to what is permitted as-of-right. The representative argued that such bulk would not support the maintenance of the existing supermarket and

provision of affordable units. The representative also noted that the development would rise to 102 feet and would not substantially exceed the R7A MIH 95-foot height limit.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry regarding the qualifying income range for prospective households based on household size, the anticipated rents based on the number of bedrooms, and the distribution of units by bedroom size, the representative stated that the development would contain seven studios, 52 one-bedrooms and 26 two-bedrooms. Under MIH Option 1, average rents would be targeted to 60 percent AMI, with \$909 for a studio, \$1,143 for a one-bedroom unit, and \$1,366 for a two-bedroom unit. At the required 40 percent AMI band, studios would rent at \$567, one-bedrooms at \$717, and two-bedrooms at \$854. Though the affordable unit mix was not disclosed, the representative noted that qualifying income for a two-bedroom affordable unit would range from \$47,760 to \$68,220, based on household size.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to whether one of the community's affordable housing administering agents would be used in the tenant selection process in order to ensure the highest level of participation from CD 14 residents, and whether the applicant's marketing strategy would include a financial literacy campaign to assist local residents in becoming lottery-eligible, the representative noted that the applicant has begun discussions with CAMBA, a local affordable housing operator that also conducts financial literacy training.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to what mechanisms guarantee that a supermarket would be provided within the development, and that such new store would be consistent with the pricing and merchandising of the current operation, the representative stated that the applicant is committed to rebuilding the Key Food with an additional 1,500 sq. ft., and will work with the architect to ensure the supermarket remains open during construction.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry as to what consideration has been given to setting aside a portion of the commercial ground floor as affordable spaces for arts and cultural uses, and/or local retail, the representative stated that the applicant would seek local businesses to complement the supermarket.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry regarding the incorporation of sustainable features such as passive house design, blue/green/white roof covering, and/or New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rain gardens, the representative stated that applicant has committed to installing solar panels on the roof, in order to meet the 2020 Energy Conservation Code. The representative noted that the developer is exploring stormwater management strategies.

In response to Borough President Adams' inquiry regarding the inclusion and participation of locally-owned business enterprises (LBEs) and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) in the construction process, the representative noted that nearly all of the Key Food employees are local residents, and that the owner would seek to hire from that pool as the supermarket grows.

Prior to the hearing, Borough President Adams received written testimony in opposition, from 40 local residents expressing concerns that were later elaborated at the hearing.

Subsequently, Borough President Adams received letters from 15 local residents, in opposition, reiterating comments made at the hearing.

On November 20, 2020, Borough President Adams received a letter from the applicant's representative, summarizing how the developer would achieve affordable housing units, financial literacy/application readiness, streetscape improvements, sustainability, bicycle storage, and environmental remediation. The letter also expressed intent to support open space and transit improvements in the neighborhood.

Consideration

Community Board 14 (CB 14) voted to approve this application, with conditions, on November 9, 2020. The board requested that the applicant:

- Maintain Option 1 for the originally proposed 21 affordable units
- Substantially increase the number of affordable units that would be offered at 40 percent AMI
- Commit to an equivalent distribution of affordable versus market-rate studio, one-bedroom, and two- to three-bedroom units
- Enter a binding agreement with community-based organizations (CBOs) Flatbush Development Corporation (FDC) and CAMBA to help Community District 14 (CD 14) residents attain readiness for the required 50 percent local lottery preference, and fund such marketing and outreach efforts
- Configure the building with a setback along Cortelyou Road to minimize visual imposition on the streetscape and neighboring residential units.
- Conduct a shadow study for all potential setback options, including an R6A sky exposure plane scenario
- Expand the shadow study to address incremental shading on Cortelyou Road, where outdoor uses now encompass sidewalk cafes
- Demonstrate that the development will not limit the solar revenue of neighboring buildings
- Demonstrate that the site has no environmental concerns stemming from past dry-cleaning operations on the property
- Commit to exceeding the City's 2020 Energy Code requirements, while advancing resiliency, sustainable energy, and waste and wastewater management
- Conduct a traffic study that shows a non-disruptive delivery window for the building's retail stores
- Provide trip generation data and a Level of Service (LOS) analysis of the impact of 44 additional vehicles on Cortelyou Road, East 16th Street, and the residential blocks to the south of East 16th Street during anticipated peak hours
- Provide a study analyzing additional parking demand from the building's residents and users of its commercial space.
- Account for loss of street parking during and after construction, as well as anticipated truck traffic and road closures.
- Ensure provision of bike storage for residents and exterior bike racks for public use
- Support CB 14's requests to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), including restoration of the B23 bus, and a capacity study of Cortelyou Road subway station.
- Commit to a greener streetscape plan and demonstrate ensured, ongoing maintenance of plantings and cleanliness along the building line
- Provide funding to support New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) maintenance and programming at Cortelyou Road Tot Lot, via a fiduciary account underwritten by the New York City Comptroller's Office
- Demonstrate a long-term commitment to maintain the supermarket onsite and ensure local hiring for staff positions

The proposed actions concern a 14,815 sq. ft. irregular lot that extends approximately 150 feet along the south side of Cortelyou Road and 90 feet on the east side of East 16th Street. The development site is occupied by a one-story, with a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.88, approximately 16-foot tall commercial building. 1620 Cortelyou Road contains a Key Food supermarket, a dry cleaner, a laundromat, a nail salon, and a restaurant. The rezoning area covers three additional lots fronting Cortelyou Road and parts of two others. 1622, 1624, and 1626 Cortelyou Road are three-story buildings with ground-floor retail and

apartments above. 385 East 16th Street and 400 East 17th Street are six and seven-story apartment buildings typical of the area.

Much of the development site and project area is located in an R6A district, with a C2-4 commercial overlay mapped to a depth of 100 feet, though a small southern portion falls within an R7A district. Prior to 2009, the majority of Cortelyou Road, including the project area was zoned R6. This non-contextual district permits 3.0 FAR for residential use on wide streets, 2.2 FAR governed by narrow street regulations and 2.43 for height-factor regulated taller structures of at least 12-stories, and 4.8 FAR for community facilities. For height factor and community facility use, massing and zoning envelope are governed by the sky exposure plane. The pervasiveness of such allowable FAR in CD 14 had contributed to the demolition of older, low-rise properties.

In 2009, the Department of City Planning (DCP) rezoned CD 14 to preserve neighborhood character and promote development of affordable housing. The Flatbush Rezoning replaced large swaths of R6 with medium-density R6A, R6B, R7A, and R7A Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) districts, as well as incorporated some sections into the adjoining lower density districts. For this intended rezoning area, this action did not alter the permitted residential FAR, though, it decreased its community facility FAR, and mandated height limits for subsequent development. The commercial overlay on this block was also changed from C2-3 to C2-4, and reduced in depth from 150 to 100 feet.

This application would establish R7D zoning in the area in order to realize 5.6 FAR of development rights. When paired with a C2-4 overlay, R7D districts require provision of ground-floor commercial use. The resulting mixed-use development would contain 85 dwelling units in a nine-story, with the ground floor intended for occupancy by a 6,475 sq. ft. supermarket and 3,085 sq. ft. of other retail. The represented height would be 102 feet excluding rooftop mechanicals. An existing curb cut on East 16th Street would facilitate access to a parking facility in the cellar for 44 vehicles.

The surrounding area contains a diversity of residential districts and housing typologies. The blocks south of Cortelyou Road are defined by four- to eight-story apartment buildings, while single and two-family detached homes dominate the blocks to the north. Cortelyou Road between Coney Island Avenue and East 17th Street forms the neighborhood's retail corridor, with small ground-floor restaurants, retail, and services. Notable community facilities include P.S. 139 and the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) Cortelyou Road branch, located west of the project site.

Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate to zone for increased density in proximity to public transportation. The development site is accessible Second Avenue/Broadway Express Q trains at Cortelyou Road subway station half a block west, as well as the B103 and BM2 buses, which make stops along Cortelyou Road.

Borough President Adams supports the development of underutilized land for productive uses that address the City's need for additional affordable housing. The proposed development would be consistent with Mayor Bill de Blasio's goal of achieving 300,000 affordable housing units over the next decade according to "Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten-Year Plan," as modified in 2017.

The MIH program targets affordable housing units to a broad range of incomes, consistent with Borough President Adams' objective to extend such opportunities to households at various AMI tiers. Borough President Adams supports developments that allow low-, moderate-, and middle-income households to qualify for the City's affordable housing lottery. The proposed development would gear apartments to households at multiple income tiers, which would remain permanently affordable, according to MIH. The affordability program at 1620 Cortelyou Road would be pursuant to MIH Option 1, which stipulates that 25 percent of the residential floor area be affordable, to households earning an average of 60 percent AMI. According to the applicant, the project would include studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. However, the bedroom mix of the anticipated MIH units has not been disclosed.

It is Borough President Adams' policy to support the development of affordable housing and to seek that such housing remain "affordable forever," wherever feasible. Development adhering to the MIH program is consistent with his policy for new residential developments to produce housing that remains affordable in perpetuity. According to the application, the development rights generated on the site would yield approximately 21 permanently affordable units.

Borough President Adams is generally supportive of encouraging development at 1620 Cortelyou Road. However, he is concerned that the rezoning would enable excessive height in a mediumdensity area, without a sufficient degree of public benefit. He believes that additional commitments are needed to rationalize upzoning the existing R6A district. Specifically, he seeks assurance of a new supermarket, a robust marketing campaign for the MIH units, and more contextual height for any upzoning. Though to the extent of the zoning designation requested, Borough President Adams believes the extent of affordable floor area would be inadequate, that building massing lacks sensitivity to neighboring uses and building infrastructure, that it does not address the need for family-oriented affordable housing, it displaces neighborhood laundry services, and it does not advance community partnerships. As with any rezoning, consistent with his policies, he also seeks opportunities for car-share, resiliency and sustainability measures (including rain gardens), and Vision Zero safety enhancements, as well as significant local hiring and procurement. Finally, Borough President Adams calls on transportation agencies to address community needs by conducting traffic studies, supporting bikeshare expansion, and advancing vital service improvements in the area.

Ensuring an MIH Option that Provides for Very Low-Income Households

The ZR specifies four options for new construction subject to MIH regulations. As represented at Borough President Adams' hearing, 1620 Cortelyou Road would provide affordable housing pursuant to MIH Option 1, which requires setting aside 25 percent of the floor area for households earning an average of 60 percent AMI, with 10 percent (40 percent of the affordable housing units) reserved for households at 40 percent AMI. However, the proposed text amendment to designate the site as an MIH area does not require commitment to a particular MIH Option. Post-approval, the applicant could elect to pursue MIH Option 2, which would yield 30 percent affordable floor area, but at an average of 80 percent AMI. Borough President Adams believes that such action would represent a missed opportunity to provide deeply affordable housing to those most in need, including low- and moderate-income households in CD 14, who are more likely to be rent-burdened and are thus at greater risk of displacement.

Furthermore, targeting apartments to very low-income households allows seniors, especially those living alone to qualify for affordable housing lotteries. As local preference for the affordable housing lottery provides an opportunity to award 50 percent of the units to CD 14 residents, Borough President Adams concurs that providing affordable housing opportunities for very low-income constituents would serve a reasonable public purpose and maximize the development's benefit to the community. He seeks assurance that the development at 1620 Cortelyou Road would contain affordable housing floor area consistent with MIH Option 1, without regard to what zoning district would be adopted. Therefore, prior to considering the application, the CPC and/or City Council should obtain written commitments from the developer, 1600/20 Realty Corp to provide permanently affordable housing according to MIH Option 1.

Consideration for Rezoning to R7A Pursuant to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)

Borough President Adams acknowledges that many local residents have expressed concern that this proposal would bring excessive height and density to the neighborhood without commensurate benefits to the community. Though some would like the site to remain unchanged, Borough President Adams is aware that the owner can demolish the existing building without discretionary approvals, and replace all existing uses with an exclusively residential building, with a parking ground-floor exempt from zoning floor area. Such a development would be permitted an FAR of up to 3.0. It would have a maximum base height of 65 feet, with a required setback for half the street wall, and a final height of 75 feet with a qualifying 13-foot tall ground floor.

The result would be a fully market-rate building without a grocery store, and entirely optional provision of ground-floor commercial use. Though such development would be consistent with existing apartment buildings on the block, it would lack the known benefit of a supermarket and other non-residential uses, which would be detrimental to the commercial corridor and local residents. A less likely, though permitted scenario would be an R6A development with Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors (AIRS). This incentive program allows developers to increase the scale of their buildings if they dedicate floor area to senior apartments. AIRS are incomerestricted units for individuals aged 62 and older, with an upper limit of 80 percent AMI. The New York City Zoning resolution (ZR) allows an FAR of 3.9 for AIRS developments in R6A districts, and caps the roof height of such buildings at 85 feet.

As the site is adjacent to an existing R7A district, which permits 4.0 residential FAR, development is subject to a maximum base height of 65 feet and could rise to 85 feet or eight stories. When paired with MIH, R7A zoning permits 4.6 FAR, and a maximum height of 95 feet. For an additional 0.7 FAR increase in excess of an AIRS development, development would provide 25 percent permanently affordable floor area, pursuant to MIH Option 1. Borough President Adams believes it is important to lend consideration to rezoning applications that result in permanent affordable units with average rents targeted to 60 percent AMI.

However, where such proposals include large grocery store operations, it is his policy to seek for redevelopment to be inclusive of a ZR Food Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) equivalent supermarket. Borough President Adams believes that in order for Brooklyn to flourish, all neighborhoods must have enough grocery stores and supermarkets to provide residents affordable, fresh foods. As the proposed development's location makes it eligible for FRESH discretionary tax incentives, the applicant should pursue such designation for such future supermarket, to ensure healthy merchandising and affordable pricing.

Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate to restrict allowable height for new buildings in order to ensure contextual development in older, low-rise neighborhoods. Given the applicant's expressed intent to build below the maximum 115 feet permitted by R7D MIH zoning (to a height of 102 feet) an 85-foot height limit for an R7A MIH building with 1.0 less FAR seems readily achievable.

Finally, it is essential that the developer take adequate steps to achieve 50 percent community preference for affordable units pursuant to MIH. This can be achieved by contracting with an affordable housing non-profit that would conduct extensive community outreach and offer financial literacy trainings across the community district. Such training and outreach should be coordinated as part of the development's marketing campaign. Borough President Adams calls on the developer to seek out organizations with proven track records of marketing affordable housing units and promoting housing lottery readiness, in consultation with his office, CB 14, and/or local elected officials.

In sum, Borough President Adams could support an R7A MIH restrict at this location, provided that it results in a building of up to 85 feet in height, inclusive of a FRESH equivalent affordable supermarket,

and the developer works with a community non-profit housing provider. Meeting of the above conditions provides an appropriate basis for a limited upzoning to an R7A district, as opposed to the applicant's requested R7D. As a condition of his support for R7A MIH, Borough President Adams seeks a legal provision that plans filed with the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) would not exceed a roof height of 85 feet and that its corresponding Schedule A should delineate supermarket use in compliance with the ZR FRESH designation. Such guarantee should be presented to City Council, prior to its consideration of the application, and go into effect on the date that the R7A MIH district is approved. In addition, such binding mechanism should reference a contractual agreement with an affordable housing non-profit that would conduct extensive community outreach and offer financial literacy training to qualify CD 14 residents for the 1620 Cortelyou Road MIH lottery, based on the provision of adequate funding for such efforts.

Consideration for Rezoning to R7D with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)

Borough President Adams does not agree with the applicant's assertion that an R7D district is necessary to realize both a larger supermarket and affordable housing units. Moreover, as stated in the previous section, such public purpose does not, in itself, justify the grant of additional zoning rights. While an R7A MIH district provides a small increase in market-rate floor area over R6A, based on MIH Option 1, an R7D district represents a significant jump with 4.2 base FAR, and an additional 1.4 bonus with MIH, and a maximum height of 115 feet. While the site's proximity to Cortelyou Road subway station makes R7D density a reasonable consideration, such bulk and height is invalidated by the built and zoned context, which does not exceed seven stories. As noted in the previous section, Borough President Adams recommends that adoption of a R7A be predicated on a binding height restriction of 85 feet. Merely restoring supermarket operations and adhering to MIH requirements would not achieve sufficient public benefit to justify exceeding such height. Additionally, allowing R7D zoning would establish a precedent for future applications to upzone smaller Cortelyou Road blockfronts with underbuilt properties of three or fewer stories. Therefore, such requests should be subject to a much higher threshold of achieved public benefit.

At Borough President Adams' hearing it was expressed that the development would not provide enough affordable housing to justify the adoption of such non-contextual zoning. It was also represented that only 26 of the building's 85 units would be two-bedrooms, which means that only a few such apartments would be affordable pursuant to MIH. Such unit distribution is inconsistent with Borough President Adams' policy to promote construction of family-oriented affordable housing. It is furthermore unacceptable for consideration of R7D zoning at this location.

Borough President Adams has heard strong concerns about the scale of the proposed development and potential adverse impacts on its immediate surroundings. Beyond neighborhood character, the represented R7D massing would cast shadows on Cortelyou Road, where it would shade outdoor dining facilities, and block sunlight for the adjacent apartment buildings where it would interfere with rooftop solar energy generation. Another issue would be the loss of laundry services, as this area has already lost one laundromat and many apartment households rely on such facilities to clean their clothing in reasonable proximity to where they live. Finally, there is a concern that the capital upgrade at the nearby Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot, will not have the resources in the budget of NYC Parks to be adequately maintained as a smaller property.

Borough President Adams believes that in order to justify an R7D district at this site, the applicant would have to substantially increase the development's benefit to the community. At the building level, the developer should have to commit greater and more deeply affordable floor area in lieu of the standard MIH Option 1 of 25 percent of residential floor area requirement. Borough President Adams seeks to set aside 50 percent of the 1.0 FAR increment between R7A MIH (4.6) and R7D MIH (5.6) for permanent affordable housing. These units would be offered at similar AMIs and rents, so

that 40 percent of such floor area would be targeted to households earning 40 percent of AMI, and made affordable in perpetuity.

Such affordable housing floor area – inclusive of the standard MIH requirement and additional area noted above -- should be represented by a substantial increase of two- and three-bedroom units to provide a family-oriented bedroom mix. Borough President Adams believes that right-sizing the bedroom distribution within the MIH floor area is more important than maximizing the number of affordable housing units. It is less important that the additional floor area results in more or less than the 21 units proposed. Rather, for this building, it is important to mandate that the developer provide affordable housing pursuant to ZR Section 23- 96(c)(1)(ii). This would require at least 50 percent of the units to be two- or three-bedrooms and that at least 75 percent of the units to contain one or more bedrooms.

The zoning envelope offers opportunities to achieve lower height of 75 to 85 feet along selected portions of the façade by shifting the bulk and bulkhead to/from the rear of the building and onto East 16th Street. Borough President Adams believes that it is appropriate to allow the maximum height of 115 feet in collaborative derived locations in order to reduce the building's visual imposition, both on Cortelyou Road and to adjacent solar generating rooftop spaces. Massing should be redesigned to redistribute the bulk and height within the allowable height envelop of 115 feet with height placement shifted with consideration given to minimize shading on participating Cortelyou Road Open Streets establishments and sidewalk cafes, as well as neighboring buildings where the utility of solar roof infrastructure might be compromised. This can be achieved through ongoing community consultation during the ULURP process.

Community members have expressed that the existing laundromat is an important asset in the neighborhood, as many apartment buildings lack on-site laundry facilities. The proposed development could permanently displace this business by demolishing the existing structure. Moreover, while the applicant has expressed interest in tenanting the new commercial space with complementary uses, there is no guarantee that it would include a laundromat and even if it did, would cause an interruption of such service for at least two years. Therefore, in order to provide for residents who rely on external laundry services, the applicant should make a reasonable effort to help relocate the business to a vacant storefront on or near Cortelyou Road. The applicant should further provide assistance with moving expenses to ensure continuity of operations.

In its conditions, CB 14 notes that CD 14 has a very low percentage of residents who live more than a quarter mile a from a park. The only green space in the vicinity of the proposed development is the 0.12 acre Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot, on Cortelyou and Argyle roads. NYC Parks lacks sufficient funds to maintain all of its open spaces in New York City. Parklets and playgrounds in the outer boroughs face particular disparities in maintenance services. Establishing a separate funding stream for the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot through a New York City Comptroller's Office fiduciary account, where upfront funding could only be withdrawn by NYC Parks toward enhanced maintenance and/or programmatic activities would help sustain this resource for current and future residents. Borough President Adams believes that the developer should be asked to finance its upkeep by contributing to a fiduciary account underwritten via the New York City Comptroller's Office, within 60 days of the effective date of the rezoning.

Therefore, in order to meet the threshold of public benefit necessary for the approval of R7D zoning, any FAR increment in excess of R7A MIH should require provision of affordable housing floor area at a rate of 50 percent in lieu of the standard MIH Option 1 of 25 percent floor area requirement, with permanent affordability. Moreover, the required MIH floor area and additional committed floor area should be subject to an affordable housing mix with at least 50 percent two- and/or three-bedroom units, and at least 75 percent one-bedroom units. Furthermore, drawings filed with DOB

should reflect a final design that mitigates its shadows on adjacent buildings and streetscapes. Such changes should involve consultation with local merchants and affected building representatives. Finally, City Council should attach binding provisions to ensure the seamless relocation of the existing laundromat (including associated expenses), and dedicated funding through a Comptroller Fiduciary Account for the upkeep of the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot.

Borough President Adams understands that even with increased public purpose and binding commitments, the requested R7D district may not be accepted by the community. However, he is cognizant that the applicant may choose to pursue development as-of-right, or convey the property to another entity, in which case the City would lack leverage to impose such conditions. While this scenario would result in a scaled-down project, it would be a missed opportunity to realize much-needed gains for the neighborhood.

With any upzoning that would be adopted, Borough President Adams seeks to advance his policies regarding car share, storm and energy resilience and sustainability, Vision Zero, and jobs. Whether or not a rezoning is adopted, there are opportunities to evaluate traffic, transit, and roadway safety.

Promoting Access to Car-Share Vehicles

Another way to address parking capacity is to take advantage of the growing trend of users who rely on access to car-sharing vehicles for their driving needs. A rental car can provide mobility in certain use cases, though it is not as flexible as having direct access to a car for a set amount of time and can be expensive for longer trips. Car rental requires, at minimum, a full day reservation as well as time and effort to access such facilities. However, there can be times when affordable access to automobiles would be considered a quality-of-life enhancement, even for households with higher discretionary income. Furthermore, research suggests that car-share availability reduces automobile use for individuals who already own cars, creating environmental benefits and reducing congestion.

According to ZR Section 36-46(a)(1), a car-sharing entity is permitted to occupy up to five parking spaces, though no more than 20 percent of all spaces in group parking facilities. Borough President Adams believes that the proposed development could accommodate rentals by car-share operators within its parking facility based on reasonable pricing. Borough President Adams believes that a portion of the 1620 Cortelyou Road garage should be set aside for a limited number of car-share vehicles, through dialogue with car-sharing companies.

The incorporation of car-sharing vehicles within the building's garage would require the developer to provide visible signage, per ZR Section 36-523, and to state the total number of parking spaces, as well as the maximum number of car-sharing vehicles.

Therefore, prior to considering this application, the City Council should obtain commitments, in writing, from the developer, 1600/20 Realty Corp, clarifying how it would engage car-sharing companies to lease multiple spaces within the garages.

Advancing Resilient and Sustainable Energy and Stormwater Management Policies

It is Borough President Adams' policy to advocate for the use of environmentally sustainable development that integrates blue/green/white roofs, solar panels, and/or wind turbines, as well as passive house construction. Such measures tend to increase energy efficiency and reduce a building's carbon footprint.

In the fall of 2019, the City Council passed Local Laws 92 and 94, which require that newlyconstructed roofs, as well as existing roofs undergoing renovation (with some exceptions), incorporate a green roof and/or a solar installation. The laws further stipulate 100 percent roof coverage for such systems and the expansion of the City's highly reflective (white) roof mandate. Borough President Adams believes that developers should seek to exceed this mandate by integrating blue roofs with green roof systems.

With regard to solar panels, there are now options beyond traditional roof installation. Multiple companies are manufacturing solar cladding from tempered glass that resembles traditional building materials, with energy output approximating that of mass-market photovoltaic systems. For taller buildings, and those in proximity to the waterfront, micro-wind turbines can provide effective sustainable energy generation. Finally, passive house design achieves energy efficiency while promoting locally-based construction and procurement.

Borough President Adams believes it is appropriate for 1600/20 Realty Corp. to engage the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and/or NYPA, and consider government grants and programs that might offset costs associated with enhancing the resiliency and sustainability of this development site. One such program is the City's Green Roof Tax Abatement (GRTA), which provides a reduction of City property taxes by \$4.50 per square foot of green roof, up to \$100,000. The DEP Office of Green Infrastructure advises property owners and their design professionals through the GRTA application process. Borough President Adams' Office is available to facilitate dialogue between the applicant and aforementioned agencies, and for further coordination on this matter.

As part of his flood resiliency policy, Borough President Adams encourages developers to introduce best practices to manage stormwater runoff, such as incorporating permeable pavers and/or establishing rain gardens that advance DEP's green infrastructure strategy. He believes that sidewalks with nominal landscaping and/or adjacent roadway surfaces can be transformed through the incorporation of rain gardens, which provide environmental benefits such as improved air quality and streetscape beautification through efficient rainwater collection. Moreover, tree plantings can be consolidated with rain gardens as part of a comprehensive green infrastructure strategy. Where it is not advisable to remove existing street trees, street tree pit enhancements can realize enhanced stormwater retention benefits while making a site more pleasant for pedestrians. The incorporation of blue/green roofs, permeable pavers, and rain gardens (including street tree pit enhancements) would also help divert stormwater from the City's water pollution control plants.

The required Builders Pavement Plan provides an opportunity to install DEP rain gardens along the proposed Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street frontages. The ZR requirement to plant street trees results in the provision of shade on days of excessive heat, as well as other aesthetic, air quality, and enhanced stormwater retention benefits. It should be noted that a rain garden would require a maintenance commitment and attention from the landlord. Maintenance includes cleaning out debris and litter that can clog the inlet/outlet and prevent proper water collection, regular inspection to prevent soil erosion, watering during dry and hot periods, and weeding to keep the plants healthy and uncongested for proper water absorption. However, the implementation of rain gardens could help advance DEP green water/stormwater strategies, enhancing the operation of the Coney Island Wastewater Treatment Plant during wet weather. Such rain gardens have the added benefit of serving as a streetscape improvement.

Therefore, prior to considering the application, the City Council should obtain commitments, in writing, from the developer, 1600/20 Realty Corp., clarifying how it would memorialize integrating resiliency and sustainability features at 1620 Cortelyou Road.

Advancing Vision Zero Policies

Borough President Adams supports Vision Zero policies, including practices that extend sidewalks into the roadway as a means of shortening the path where pedestrians cross in front of traffic lanes.

These sidewalk extensions, also known as bulbouts or neckdowns, make drivers more aware of pedestrian crossings and encourage them to slow down.

In 2015, Borough President Adams also launched his own initiative, Connecting Residents on Safer Streets (CROSS) Brooklyn. This program supports the creation of bulbouts or curb extensions at dangerous intersections in Brooklyn. During the program's first year, \$1 million was allocated to fund five dangerous intersections in Brooklyn. The installation of curb extensions benefits seniors by providing more sidewalk space for their commutes, particularly at major intersections. At the same time, all roadway users benefit from calmer and safer streets.

The proposed development at 1620 Cortelyou Road would bring a significant number of new residents to the area, while also attracting users to its retail spaces. Given the foot traffic stemming from the Cortelyou Road subway station and what would be generated by the new development, it is important to enhance pedestrian safety at this intersection. Per his CROSS Brooklyn initiative, Borough President Adams believes there is an opportunity to provide a curb extension and/or a painted protected sidewalk at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street. Such enhancements would facilitate safer pedestrian crossings to and from 1620 Cortelyou Road.

Borough President Adams recognizes that the costs associated with the construction of sidewalk extensions can be exacerbated by the need to modify infrastructure and/or utilities. Therefore, where such consideration might compromise feasibility, Borough President Adams would urge the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to explore the implementation of either protected painted sidewalk extensions, defined by a roadbed surface treatment or sidewalk extensions as part of a Builders Pavement Plan. If the implementation meets DOT's criteria, the agency should enable 1600/20 Realty Corp. to undertake such improvements after consultation with CB 14, as well as local elected officials, as part of its Builders Pavement Plan. The implementation of a sidewalk extension through roadbed treatment requires a maintenance agreement that indemnifies the City from liability, contains a requirement for insurance, and details the responsibilities of the maintenance partner. Borough President Adams would expect 1600/20 Realty Corp. to commit to such maintenance as an ongoing obligation.

Borough President Adams believes that prior to considering the application, the City Council should obtain commitments, in writing, from 1600/20 Realty Corp. to coordinate CROSS Brooklyn implementation with DEPand DOT, in consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials, for the installation of a curb extension at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street, either as part of a Builders Pavement Plan or as a treated roadbed sidewalk extension. The City Council should further seek demonstration of 1600/20 Realty Corp.'s commitment to enter into a standard DOT maintenance agreement for this intersection. Finally, DOT should confirm that implementation of such improvements would not proceed prior to consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials.

Promoting Local Hiring and MWBE Participation for Construction and Procurement Jobs Borough President Adams is concerned that too many Brooklyn residents are currently unemployed or underemployed. It is his policy to promote economic development that creates more employment opportunities. According to the Furman Center's "State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2017," double-digit unemployment remains a pervasive reality for several of Brooklyn's neighborhoods, with more than half of the borough's community districts experiencing poverty rates of nearly 20 percent or greater. Prioritizing local hiring would assist in addressing this employment crisis. Additionally, promoting Brooklyn-based businesses, including those that qualify as LBEs and MWBEs, is central to Borough President Adams' economic development agenda. This site provides opportunities for the developer to retain a Brooklyn-based contractor and subcontractor, especially those who are designated LBEs, consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the

City's Administrative Code, and MWBEs that meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation). Borough President Adams believes that prior to considering the application, the City Council should obtain commitments in writing from the applicant, 1600/20 Realty Corp., to memorialize retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those who are designated LBEs consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code and MWBE as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency.

DOT Traffic Study

According to the CD 14 Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 21) needs statement, east/west streets such as Cortelyou Road are constantly backed up with vehicles. CB 14 is concerned that the proposed development would generate additional truck traffic and exacerbate congestion in the area. Borough President Adams believes that it would be appropriate for DOT to take an updated look at this corridor to determine if there might be appropriate mitigation measures including, but not limited to, restrictive curbside signage for designated loading zones that can be introduced. Therefore, he calls on DOT to undertake a traffic study of Cortelyou Road between Coney Island and Flatbush avenues.

Bikeshare Expansion

Though the City's bikeshare program has grown dramatically in recent years, many outer-borough neighborhoods remain underserved. In Brooklyn, there are many Citi Bike stations along the waterfront in Community Districts (CDs 1 and 2) and none in areas south of Prospect Park, which are more densely populated. Given the paucity of transit options in Ditmas Park, the provision of Citi Bike bicycles and docking stations could be a real quality of life enhancement for local residents. Therefore, Borough President Adams calls on DOT and Citi Bike to take a proactive approach and expand bikeshare to CD 14 to this neighborhood and consider establishing a bike docking station as part of the recommended sidewalk extension at Cortelyou road and East 16th Street.

MTA Improvements

The Ditmas Park community has expressed concerns about transportation infrastructure in the area, specifically inadequate bus service and insufficient egress/ingress at Cortelyou Road subway station. In 2009, the MTA eliminated the B23 bus, which ran along Cortelyou Road and Flatbush Avenue. The route provided convenient access to multiple subway stations in CD 14, and served over 1,500 riders, including many school students lacking other options. Borough President Adams believes that the MTA should allocate funding toward the restoration of this vital bus link, for which the community has advocated for many years.

Conditions at Cortelyou Road station have become a pressing safety issue for local residents. Its restricted access to Cortelyou Road and narrow platforms promote crowding, while limiting opportunities to add needed capacity. However, some enhancements may be possible, pending further study. For example, the station entry turnstile building appears to provide an angular yard space on both sides of the building that might permit installation of elevators for Coney-Island and Manhattan-bound commuters. To facilitate safe movement between the stairwell and the platform, the MTA would have to provide a protective barrier for elevator users while maintaining space for trains. The existing stair from the turnstile level to the platform starts out wider than the stair section to the platform. It would not be feasible to widen the lower section given space needs at the platform level. However, it might be feasible to split the wider stair run at a point above the tracks with a new passageway extending over the train and onto the canopy above the platform. After sufficient clearance from the existing stair run to the platform, a second set of stairs might then be feasible. However, this would also require a barrier at the platform edge to ensure safe passage along the remaining narrow section. Such track edge barrier would need to be spaced between the doors of trains.

Borough President Adams believes that the scenarios outlined above have the potential to improve circulation and egress/ingress at Cortelyou Road subway station. He calls on the MTA to undertake a feasibility study of providing elevator access and/or splitting the upper level stairwell into a second lower level stairwell to the platform, as a means to mitigate stairwell capacity constraints.

Recommendation

Be it resolved that the Brooklyn borough president, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, recommends that the City Planning Commission (CPC) and City Council <u>approve this application with the following conditions</u>:

- 1. That CPC and/or the City Council mandate Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) Option 1
- 2. That in order to receive approval for an upzoning from R6A to R7A MIH, the applicant, 1600/20 Realty Corp., provide evidence of the following to City Council, prior to its consideration of this application:
 - a. A legally binding mechanism stipulating that:
 - i. The proposed development's New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) new building plans restrict roof height to no more than 85 feet and Schedule A filing indicates a ground floor supermarket in order to ensure the return of supermarket operation
 - ii. The new supermarket will be consistent with the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program, and provide affordable pricing on par with the current operation
 - iii. The applicant will make a binding agreement to contract with one or more locally-based affordable housing organizations to serve as an administering agent, and provide funding to support financial literacy and marketing efforts, in order to ensure administering agents achieve 50 percent or greater lottery preference for residents of Community District 14 (CD 14)
 - b. Written commitments concerning the following:
 - i. Engagement with car-sharing companies in consultation with Brooklyn Community Board 14 (CB 14), New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), and local officials to lease multiple spaces within the garage, and obtain designated curbside signage
 - ii. Integration of resiliency and sustainability measures, such as blue roofs, passive house design, solar facades, and/or wind turbines
 - iii. Coordination with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), DOT, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) regarding the installation of DEP rain gardens, as part of the required Builders Pavement Plan along Cortelyou Road and/or East 16th Street fronting the development, in consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials

- iv. Coordination of Connecting Residents on Safer Streets (CROSS) Brooklyn implementation with DEP, DOT, and NYC Parks for the installation of a curb extension at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street, either as part of a Builders Pavement Plan, or as a treated roadbed sidewalk extension, in consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials
- v. A standard DOT maintenance agreement for that intersection and coordination among DEP and DOT should there be agency implementation for the provision of protected painted areas at the southeast corner of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street, with the understanding that such improvements would not proceed prior to consultation with CB 14 and local elected officials
- vi. Retention of Brooklyn-based contractors and subcontractors, especially those who are designated local business enterprises (LBEs) consistent with Section 6-108.1 of the City's Administrative Code, and minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) as a means to meet or exceed standards per Local Law 1 (no less than 20 percent participation), as well as coordinate the oversight of such participation by an appropriate monitoring agency
- 3. That in order to receive approval for an upzoning from R6A to R7D MIH, the applicant, 1600/20 Realty Corp., produce a legally-binding mechanism mandating the following conditions, in addition to those listed above:
 - a. For the additional FAR increment in excess of an R7A MIH district, provision of affordable housing floor area at a rate of 50 percent in lieu of the standard MIH Option 1 of 25 percent floor area requirement, with permanent affordability
 - b. Adequate demonstration that the building's massing has been redesigned to mitigate potential shading impacts on Cortelyou Road outdoor dining facilities and rooftop solar assemblies of abutting cooperatives, in consultation with local merchants and building representatives
 - c. For the required MIH floor area and additional committed floor area, an affordable housing mix with at least 50 percent two- and/or three-bedroom units, and at least 75 percent one-bedroom units
 - d. Reasonable efforts to relocate the existing laundromat, including assistance with relocation expenses, to ensure continuity of its operations, and minimize inconvenience for residents who rely on external laundry services
 - e. Legal commitment of adequate funds to a fiduciary account underwritten via the New York City Comptroller's Office to ensure the upkeep of the Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot, within 60 days of the effective date of the rezoning

Be it further resolved:

1. That DOT conduct a traffic study along this section of Cortelyou Road between Coney Island and Flatbush avenues to determine appropriate mitigation measures for congestion exacerbated by

the replacement of the existing supermarket, including, but not limited to, restrictive curbside signage for designated loading zones.

- 2. That DOT support expansion of Citi Bike stations into this section of CD 14
- 3. That the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) allocate funding for community transit improvements as follows:
 - a. Restoration of the eliminated B23 bus route on Cortelyou Road
 - b. Undertake a study to determine the feasibility of mitigating stairwell capacity constraints at the Cortelyou Road Q train subway station through the provision of elevator access and/or splitting the upper level stairwell into a second lower level stairwell to the platform.



Sheldon Lobel &

18 East 41st Street, 5th Floor New York, New York 10017 212-725-2727 FAX 212-725-3910 info@sheldonlobelpc.com www.sheldonlobelpc.com

November 24, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams 209 Joralemon Street Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: 1620 Cortelyou Road Rezoning

Brooklyn, New York (the "Premises")

Dear Hon. Eric Adams,

We submit this letter on behalf of the applicant for the 1620 Cortelyou Road Rezoning application (the "Rezoning") in response to comments, questions and suggestions which arose at the public hearing held on November 10, 2020.

The Rezoning seeks to (1) rezone the Cortelyou Road frontage of Block 5159 from an R6A/C2-4 zoning district to an R7D/C2-4 zoning district, and (2) map a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Designated Area. The Rezoning will facilitate the construction of a new nine-story, mixed-use building with cellar parking, ground floor commercial use and approximately 85 dwelling units at 1620 Cortelyou Road.

We note that the proposed height of 102'-0" is only 7'-0" taller than the maximum permitted height within the R7A zoning district located directly adjacent to (and covering a portion of) the Premises. Importantly, the Rezoning will facilitate the provision of approximately 21 permanently affordable housing units. Further, the Rezoning will enable the maintenance and expansion of the existing Key Food grocery store, which has been at the site for over 26 years, employs over 30 employees and provides the community with affordable, fresh food.

The applicant has considered the comments, questions and suggestions which arose at the public hearing. In response to these comments, the applicant notes the following:

- 1. **MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY UNITS.** The applicant will continue to review the feasibility of providing additional affordable housing units. The applicant will request Option 1 for all 21 currently proposed inclusionary units.
- 2. **FINANCIAL LITERACY/APPLICATION READINESS.** The applicant has already reached out to CAMBA to discuss application readiness for Community Board 14 residents with a preference for 50% of the inclusionary units.
- 3. **STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS.** The applicant will review the potential for improvements to the streetscape and sidewalk with the project architect.
- 4. **SUSTAINABILITY.** The applicant has committed to the provision of solar panels on the roof of the building, and will consider additional green building improvements, including stormwater collection.
- 5. **OPEN SPACE.** The applicant commits to provide an endowment to the tot lot or other local green space.
- 6. **BIKE STORAGE.** The applicant will provide approximately 43 on-site bike parking spaces.
- 7. **MTA.** The applicant commits to supporting Community Board 14's efforts regarding discussions with the MTA about the B23 bus route and issues related to the subway station.
- 8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. We note that the proposed rezoning has undergone thorough environmental review with the Department of City Planning's Environmental and Assessment Review Division ("EARD"). We further note that EARD issued a Negative Declaration on March 2, 2020. Regardless, the applicant will work with its environmental consultants to provide further assurances to the community with regard to shadows, traffic, and the impacts of the former dry-cleaning use at the Premises.

The applicant looks forward to continuing to work with the Community Board, Borough President, City Planning Commission and Council Member to develop a building at 1620 Cortelyou Road which is a benefit to the community.

Very truly yours,

AM M

Richard Lobel RL/ai




Area Map 1620 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn Block 5159, Lot 1





400

600 Feet

200

North

Prepared by Urban Cartographics August 2017

Zoning Change Map



Current Zoning Map (22c)

Proposed Zoning Map (22c) - Area being rezoned is outlined with dotted lines Rezoning from R6A/C2-4 to R7D/C2-4

C1-1

1620 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn

Zoning Comparison Table

		Permi	tted/Required	
	Existing	J Zoning	Propose	d Zoning
			(Under MI	H Zoning)
	ZR Section #	R6A/C2-4	ZR Section #	R7D/C2-4 (
USE GROUPS	22-10, 32-10	1-9, 14	22-10, 32-10	1-9, 14
Residential	23-153	3	23-154*	5.6
Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors	23-155	3.9	23-155	5.6
Community Facility	33-121	3.0	33-121	4.2
Commercial	33-121	2.0	33-121	2.0
Commercial and Community Facility	33-121	3.0	33-121	4.2
Manufacturing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
YARDS				
Minimum Front Yard	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Minimum Side Yard	23-462/35-52	None or 8 feet	23-462/35-52	None or 8 feet
Minimum Rear Yard	23-47/33-26	30', 20' (Commercial)	23-47/33-26	30', 20' (Commer
HEIGHT AND SETBACKS				
Minimum Base Height	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	40'	34-22/35-65/35-654/23-664*	60'
Maximum Base Height	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	65'	34-22/35-65/35-654/23-664*	95'
Maximum Building Height	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	75'**	34-22/35-65/35-654/23-664*	115'**
Maximum Number of Stories	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	7-Stories	34-22/35-65/35-654/23-664*	11-Stories
Maximum Height of Front Wall	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	65'	34-22/35-65/35-654/23-664*	95'
Sky Exposure Plane	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Setbacks from Narrow Streets	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	15'	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	15'
Setbacks from Wide Streets	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	10'	34-22/35-65/35-652/23-662	10'
OPEN SPACE				
Minimum Open Space Ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
LOT COVERAGE				
Corner Lot	23-153/35-32	65%	23-153/35-32	65%
Max Interior/Through Lot	23-153/35-32	100%	23-153/35-32	100%
DENSITY				
Dwelling Units	23-22/35-40	680 sf/DU	23-22/35-40	680 sf/DU
Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors	23-23/35-40	325 sf/DU	23-23/35-40	325 sf/DU
PARKING				
Residential	25-23/36-33	50%	25-23/36-33	50%
Commercial	36-21	By Use	36-21	By Use
Income-Restricted Housing Units	12-10/25-251/36-33	None (Transit Zone)	12-10/25-251/36-33	None (Transit Zo
Affordable Independent Residences for Seniors	12-10/25-252/36-33	None (Transit Zone)	12-10/25-252/36-33	None (Transit Zo
Government Assisted Parking	12-10/25-253/36-33	35%	12-10/25-253/36-33	25%
LOADING				
Commercial	36-62	By Use	36-62	By Use
L			e Mandatory Inclusionary Housing	,

*When providing affordable housing units pursuant to the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Program **With Qualifying Ground Floor





1. View of the Development Site facing southeast from the intersection of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street.



3. View of East 16th Street facing north (Development Site at right).





2. View of Cortelyou Road facing northeast from East 16th Street (Development Site at right).



4. View of the Development Site facing northeast from East 16th Street.



6. View of East 16th Street facing south from Cortelyou Road (Development Site at left).





5. View of the Development Site facing east from East 16th Street.



7. View of the Development Site facing south from Cortelyou Road.



9. View of the Project Area facing south from Cortelyou Road.



8. View of the Development Site facing southwest from Cortelyou Road.





10. View of Cortelyou Road facing southwest (Development Site at left).



12. View of the Project Area facing southwest from the intersection of Cortelyou Road and East 17th Street.



11. View of East 17th Street facing south from Cortelyou Road (Project Area at right).





13. View of Cortelyou Road facing southwest from East 17th Street (Project Area at left).



15. View of the Project Area facing northwest from East 17th Street.



14. View of the Project Area facing west from East 17th Street.





16. View of East 17th Street facing north (Project Area at left).



18. View of the sidewalk along the west side of East 17th Street facing north (Project Area at left).





17. View of the east side of East 17th Street facing southeast from the Project Area.



19. View of the sidewalk along the west side of East 17th Street facing south from Cortelyou Road (Project Area at right).



21. View of the sidewalk along the south side of Cortelyou Road facing southwest from East 17th Street (Project Area at left).



20. View of the intersection of Cortelyou Road and East 17th Street facing northeast from the Project Area.





22. View of the sidewalk along the south side of Cortelyou Road facing southwest (Development Site at left).



24. View of the north side of Cortelyou Road facing northwest from the Development Site.



23. View of the north side of Cortelyou Road facing northeast from the Development Site.





25. View of the sidewalk along the south side of Cortelyou Road facing northeast from East 16th Street (Development Site at right).



27. View of the sidewalk along the east side of East 16th Street facing south from Cortelyou Road (Development Site at left).



26. View of the intersection of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street facing northwest from the Development Site.





28. View of the sidewalk along the east side of East 16th Street facing north (Development Site at right).





29. View of the west side of East 16th Street facing southwest from the Development Site.

Sheldon Lobel & ATTORNEYS AT LAW 18 East 41st Street, 5th Floor New York, New York 10017 212-725-2727 FAX 212-725-3910 info@sheldonlobelpc.com www.sheldonlobelpc.com

January 4, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Hon. Marisa Lago, Chair City Planning Commission 120 Broadway, 31st Floor New York, New York 10271

Re: 1620 Cortelyou Road Rezoning Brooklyn, New York (the "Premises")

Dear Chair Lago and Commissioners:

We submit this letter on behalf of the applicant for the 1620 Cortelyou Road Rezoning application (the "Rezoning") in response to comments, questions and suggestions which arose at the public hearing held on December 16, 2020.

The Rezoning seeks to (1) rezone the Cortelyou Road frontage of Block 5159 from an R6A/C2-4 zoning district to an R7D/C2-4 zoning district, and (2) map a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Designated Area. The Rezoning will facilitate the construction of a new nine-story, mixed-use commercial and residential building at 1620 Cortelyou Road. We note that the proposed height of 102'-0" is only 7'-0" taller than the maximum permitted height within the R7A zoning district located directly adjacent to (and covering a portion of) the Premises. Importantly, the Rezoning will facilitate the provision of permanently affordable housing units. Further, the Rezoning will enable the maintenance and expansion of the existing Key Food grocery store, which has been at the site for over 26 years, employs over 20 employees and provides the community with affordable, fresh food.

The applicant has considered the comments, questions and suggestions which arose at the public hearing. In response to these comments, the applicant notes the following:

1. UNIT BREAKDOWN & FAMILY UNITS. The proposal has been revised to reduce the number of studio and one-bedroom units and increase the number of two-bedroom units. The prior proposal had a total of 85 dwelling units consisting of seven studios, 52 one-bedrooms and 26 two-bedrooms. The enclosed revised proposed plans now show a total of 80 dwelling units consisting of two studios, 47 one-bedrooms and 31 two-bedrooms.

- **2. MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY UNITS.** The applicant will request Option 1 for all 20 currently proposed inclusionary units. The applicant will continue to review the feasibility of providing additional affordable housing units.
- **3. PROPOSED MASSING.** The applicant has reviewed the massing of the proposed building with the project architect and has eliminated the dormer which was formerly at the corner of the building, at the intersection of Cortelyou Road and East 16th Street. The elimination of this dormer is shown on the enclosed revised proposed plans and greatly reduces the visual impact of the proposed building at this intersection.
- 4. MAINTENANCE OF SUPERMARKET. The applicant is committed to maintaining the existing supermarket, in some form, during construction. The enclosed revised proposed plans include a construction phasing diagram to illustrate the feasibility of maintaining the supermarket.
- **5. FRESH.** The applicant has been communicating with the FRESH Director at the NYC Economic Development Corporation and is currently reviewing the applicability of the discretionary tax incentives that may apply to the Premises.
- 6. EMPLOYEES. There are currently 21 employees at the supermarket and 3 employees at the laundromat. As stated above, the applicant seeks to keep the supermarket open, even in a reduced capacity, during construction. In addition, the applicant remains committed to the supermarket returning to the expanded commercial space within the proposed building. Further, the applicant has also agreed to assist the laundromat in relocating to another location within the surrounding area so that it may continue to serve the residents of the neighborhood. The enclosed letter from the operator of the laundromat attests to this agreement.
- **7. OPEN SPACE.** The applicant commits to provide an endowment to the "tot lot" or other local green space.
- **8. SUSTAINABILITY.** The applicant has committed to the provision of solar panels on the roof of the building, and will consider additional green building improvements, including stormwater collection.

The applicant looks forward to continuing to work with the Community Board, Borough President, City Planning Commission and Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene to develop a building at 1620 Cortelyou Road which will be a benefit to the local community.

Very truly yours,

M MA

Richard Lobel

RL/ai

1620 CORTELYOU ROAD

PROJECT NUMBER: 1595NJ DOB JOB NUMBER:

CLIENT

TONY DOLEH 1610 CORTELYOU ROAD BROOKLYN, NY 11226

DRAWING LIST

A-001.00	TITLE SHEET
A-002.00	SITE SURVEY, TAX & ZONING MAP
A-003.00	ZONING ANALYSIS
A-004.00	SITE PLAN & UNIT MATRIX
A-005.00	CONSTRUCTION PHASING
A-006.00	CELLAR FLOOR PLAN
A-007.00	FIRST FLOOR PLAN
A-008.00	TYP. 2ND – 3RD FLOOR PLANS
A-009.00	TYP. 4TH – 8TH FLOOR PLANS
A-010.00	9TH FLOOR PLAN
A-011.00	BUILDING SECTIONS/HEIGHT DIAGRAMS
A-012.00	BUILDING ELEVATIONS





T.F. CUSANELLI & FILLETTI A R C H I T E C T S , P . C . 143 TERRACE STREET HAWORTH N.J. 07641 201-384-9555 N.Y. R.A. LIC # 029297

PROPOSED :

1620 CORTELYOU REZONING

1620 CORTELYOU ROAD BROOKLYN NY 11226

јов NO. 1595NJ date: 12.15.20 DRAWN BY: N.P. CHECKED BY: V.F.

TITLE SHEET

A-1.0

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PREMISE	Ξ:								HEIGHT	AND SETBACK REGULATIONS:
	1620 CO	RTELYOU ROAD			BLOCK:	5159	MAP:	22C	Z.R. 23-664	MIN. BASE HEIGHT (FT)
	BROOKI	LYN, NY			LOT:	1			Z.R. 23-664	MAX. BASE HEIGHT (FT) (WITH QUALIFYING GROUND FLOOR,
					EXI	STING	PROP	OSED	Z.R. 23-664	MAX. BUILDING HEIGHT (FT./ STORIES)
ZONING	DISTR	RICT:					1		Z.R. 23-663	SETBACK REGULATIONS
					R6A/C2	-4 & R7A	R7D/C2-4 W/	INCL. HOUSING	7	AT A HEIGHT NOT LOWER THAN THE MINIMUM BASE HEIGHT OR HIGHER THAN THE MAX. BASE HEIGHT, A SETBACK WITH A DEPTH OF AT LEAST 15'-0" SHALL BE
JSE REG	ULAT	IONS:					1			PROVIDED FROM ANY STREET WALL FRONTING A NARROW STREET. 10'-0" FROM A
Z.R. 22-00	PERMIT	TED USE GROUPS	3		1-4,	5-9, 14	(2) RESIDENTI	AL, (6) RETAIL	1	WDE STREET.
OT ARE	A:				R6A	R7A	ALLOWED	PROPOSED	Z.R. 23-621	DORMERS AS PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS
			SF	PER ZONE	14,061.75 SF	753 SF	14.014	75.05	1	MAX. OF 60% OF THE LENGTH OF THE STREET WALL AT THE FLOOR ENTIRELY BELOW THE MAXIMUM BASE HEIGHT
			1	COMBINED	14,81	4.75 SF	- 14,814	./O SF	BALCON	IY REGULATIONS:
A.R. R	EGUL	ATIONS:							Z.R. 23-132	BALCONIES
Z.R. 23-154	RESIDE	NTIAL W/ INCL HO	USING		2.7(BASE) 37,966.73	3.45(BASE) 2,597.85	4.2(BASE)62,221.9 SF		1	1. PROJECT NO MORE THAN 7' FROM THE WALL ITS PROJECTING FROM
					3.6(MAX) 50,622.3	4.6 (MAX) 3,463.8	5.6(MAX)82,962.8 SF	4.95/ 73,402.0 SF		 BE UNENCLOSED IF PROJECTING OUTWARD. EXCEPT FOR PARAPET WALL NOT EXCEEDING 3'-8" IF RECESSED BE AT LEAST 33% OPEN
										3. LOCATED @ THE 3RD STORY OR 20' ABOVE CURB LEVEL 4. HAVE AN AGGREGATE WIDTH OF NO MORE THAN 50% OF THE WIDTH OF THE
Z.R. 35-311	COMME	ERCIAL			2.0 (28,123.5 SF)	2.0 (1,506 SF)	2.0 (29629.5 SF)	0.65/9,560.0 SF		BUILDING AT THE LEVEL IT PROJECTS FROM
			MAX. BUII	DING F.A.R.	3.6 (50,622.3 SF)	4.6/ 3,463.8 SF			1	1
							5.6/ 82,962.82 SF	5.6/ 82,962.82 SF	ACCESC	DRY OFF STREET PARKING CALCULA
	I		FLO	OR ARE	A BREAKD	0 W N	1	I	Z.R. 25-23	RESIDENTIAL PARKING REQUIREMENT
		ACT. AREA					AL TOTAL Z.F	UNITS PER	Z.R. 25-251	
			DEDUCTIONS	COMMERC				<u>FLOOR</u>	Z.R. 36-21	COMMERCIAL (FOOD STORE W/ MORE THAN
CELLA		13052.50	13052.50	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	2	2.10. 30-21	2,000 SF (PRC-A)
1ST FL		13,052.50	2,570.50	9,560.		922.00			Z.R. 36-21	COMMERCIAL SERVICE USE (PRC-A OR B)
2ND FL 3RD FL		10,075.00	840.00 840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00	,		Z.R. 36-232	
4TH FL		10,075.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00	,		Z.R. 30-232	PARKING IN DISTRICTS WITH LOW PARKING REQ. PARKING REQUIREMENTS OF SEC. 36-21 SHALL NOT APPLY TO COMMERCIAL
5TH FL		10,075.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00				USES IN PRC-A OR B IF THE TOTAL # OF REQ. SPACES IS LESS THAN 40
6TH FL		10,075.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00			BICYCL	E PARKING CALCULATIONS:
7TH FL		10,075.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00	,			RESIDENTIAL
8TH FL	OOR	10,075.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	9,235.00	9,235.00	D 10		
9TH FL	OOR	8,436.00	840.00	0.0	0.0	7,596.00	,			COMMERCIAL (GEN RETAIL)
		105,066.00	22,343.00	9,560.0	0.00	73,163.0	0 82,723.0	0 80		Y HOUSING PROGRAM:
	<u></u>		00 707 00	00.000	0.0	0.70.0			Z.R. 28-21	MINIMUM SIZE OF DWELLING UNIT
IOTAL ZO	ONING	FLOOR AREA	82,723.00	82,962.		239.8			Z.R. 28-25	DENSITY AND DAYLIGHT IN CORRIDORS 100% OF CORRIDOR CAN BE DEDUCTED IF WE PROVIDE BOTH:
				MAX ALLOW	ABLE	AVAILABL	E			 WINDOWS WITH 20% GLAZING.
от соv	1									NO MORE THEN 11 UNITS SERVED PER CORRIDOR. (R7 ZONE)
Z.R. 23-153	RESIDE	NTIAL							Z.R. 28-25	STANDARDS FOR RECREATION SPACE MIN DIMENSION OF 15'-0" (225 S.F. OUTDOOR) (300 S.F. INDOOR)
	PORTIC	ON WITHIN 100' OF CO	RNER		100%/ 1	4,416.22 SF	67%/ 9	,691 SF		MIN DIMENSION OF 15-0 (225 S.F. 001000R) (300 S.F. INDOUR)
	PORTIC	ON BEYOND 100' OF C	ORNER		70%/2	87.90 SF	69%/ 2	201 SF		
DENSITY	REG	ULATIONS:							INCLUS	IONARY HOUSING:
-		AREA PER DWELL			68	0 SF				DWELLING UNITS
	MAX. #	OF DWELLING UNI	T (73,402/ 680 =	= 107.9)		108	8	0		25% OF STANDARD D.U. TO BE SET ASIDE FOR AS I.H. UNITS
YARD RE	EGULA	TIONS:								80 x 25% = 20
Z.R. 23-47	REAR Y	′ARD				0'	30' WHERE LIGHT	& VENT ARE REQ.		PARKING REQUIREMENTS
Z.R. 23-462	SIDE Y	ARD			0'	OR 8'	()'		25% OF THE REQUIRED PARKING FOR STANDARD D.U. TO BE
Z.R. 35-651	STREE	T WALL LOCATION				0'	0' ALONG COI	NRTELYOU RD.		SET ASIDE FOR AS I.H. UNITS $80 \times 50\% = 40$
	THE ENTIRE	STREET FRONTAGE OF THE	ZONING LOT UP TO AT LE	AST THE MINIMUM			0' ALONG EAST	T 16TH STREET		$40 \times 25\% = 10$
		HT SPECIFIED IN SECTION 35- WHICHEVER IS LESS.	-652 AND 23-662,OR THE	E HEIGHT OF THE						
							PROPOSED :			
		Τ.Ε			LI & FIL TS, P.C					
4										
1				43 TERRAC		•	<u>1620</u> (<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>REZONING</u>
Ţ			1		E STREET J. 07641		1620 (REZONING

T		
	60'	
	95'	90'
	115'/ 12 STORIES	102'/ 9 STORIES
	15' ALONG E. 16TH STREET 10' ALONG CORTELYOU RD.	15' ALONG E. 16TH STREET 10' ALONG CORTELYOU RD.
	55'–2" ALONG E. 16TH STREET 90'–10" ALONG CORTELYOU RD.	31'–9" ALONG E. 16TH STREET 70'–3" ALONG CORTELYOU RD.
	7'-0" MAX PROJECTION 75' MAX. WIDTH (CORTELYOU RD.) 32' MAX. WIDTH (E. 16TH ST.)	30" MAX PROJECTION 75' MAX. WIDTH (CORTELYOU RD.) 32' MAX. WIDTH (E. 16TH ST.)
	REQUIRED/ MAX.	PROPOSED
I	ONS:	
	50% OF STANDARD D.U. (60 UNITS/2=30)	44 ATTENDED SPACES
	0 WITHIN A TRANSIT ZONE	0
	1 PER 1,000 SF (7 SPACES)	
	1 PER 1,000 SF (3 SPACES)	
	10 REQ. < 40 = 0	0
T	1 PER 2 DWELL. UNITS (80/2=40 SPACES)	40 SPACES
┥	1 PER 10,000 (1 SPACES)	1 SPACE
	400 SF	492 (SMALLEST UNIT)
	3.3% OF TOTAL RES. F.A. (2,422.23)	8,675 SF (ROOFTOP)
-+		
	25% (20 UNITS)	25% (20 UNITS)
	10 TOTAL ALLOTTED FOR I.H. BUT NONE REQ. IN A TRANSIT ZONE	0
	JOB NO. 1595NJ DATE: 12.15.20 DRAWN BY: N.P. CHECKED BY: V.F.	NALYSIS A-3.0

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COMMUNITY	FACILITY		
SPACE	SQ. FT.		USE GROUF
SPACE	3,087		6C
ET	6,473		6A
-'	0,170		04
SPACE	SQ. FT.	# OF BDRM'S	USE GROUP
1	873	2	2
2	795	1	2
3	1,026	2	2
4	781	1	2
5	959	1	2
6	773	1	2
7	776		
	587	1	2
8 9			
9 10	492 600	STUDIO	2
		1	2
11	1,120	2	2
2	873	2	2
	795	1	2
3	1,026	2	2
1	781	1	2
5	959	1	2
3	773	1	2
7	776	1	2
3	587	1	2
	1,092	2	2
0	1,120	2	2
	958	2	2
) -	821	2	2
3	954	1	2
ŧ	805	1	2
5	792	1	2
5	1,003	2	2
7	1,089	2	2
3	1,145	2	2
OF UNITS	STUDIOS	1 BDRM'S	2 BDRM'S
	1	7	3
	1	7	3
	0	6	4
	0	6	4
	0	6	4
	0	6	4
	0	6	4
	0	3	5
80	2	47	31
JOB NO. 1595NJ date: 12.15.20 drawn by: N.P. checked by:	SITE PLAN, U		∖-4.(

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CONSTRUCTION PHASE I SCALE: N.T.S.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE I: BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED AROUND EXISTING CORTELYOU MARKET. MARKET REMAINS OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION.

SUPERMARKET SPACE CONSTRUCTION AREA



CONSTRUCTION PHASE II SCALE: N.T.S.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE II: CORTELYOU MARKET IS MOVED TO TEMPORARY SPACE WITHIN COMPLETED PORTION OF NEW BUILDING. EXISTING MARKET IS DEMOLISHED AND CONSTRUCTION OF UNCOMPLETED AREAS CONTINUES.



COMPLETED PROJECT SCALE: N.T.S.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE III: BUILDING IS COMPLETED AND CORTELYOU MARKET IS MOVED FROM TEMPORARY LOCATION TO FINAL LOCATION WITHIN COMPLETED BUILDING.



PROPOSED :

1620 CORTELYOU REZONING

1620 CORTELYOU ROAD BROOKLYN NY 11226

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јов NO. 1595NJ date: 12.15.20 DRAWN BY: N.P. CHECKED BY: V.F.

CONSTRUCTION PHASING



















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December 28, 2020

City Planning Commission 120 Broadway, 31st Floor New York, New York 10271

Dear Commissioners,

I operate E 16 laundromat LLC located within the existing building located at 1600 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, which has been at this location for 8 years. I have spoken with the owner of the building, Tony Doleh, and understand the development Tony is undertaking. We have also had a conversation regarding relocation of the laundromat. Tony has agreed to help relocate the laundromat to another location within the surrounding area so we may continue to serve the residents of this community.

Sincerely, Ehrlad Julii Khaled Yafai