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4	CITY OF MEDINA HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
5	SPECIAL MEETING
6	CASE H20-06
7	133 NORTH COURT STREET
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11	Transcript of Proceedings held on Thursday,
12	the 10th day of November, 2021, before the
13	City of Medina Historic Preservation Board,
14	commencing at approximately 7:30 p.m., as taken by
15	Makenzie J. Sabo, RPR, Notary Public within and for
16	the State of Ohio, and held in Medina City Hall,
17	132 North Elmwood Avenue, Medina, Ohio 44256.
18	
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25	

1	APPEARANCES:
2	Leslie Traves, Chairwoman,
3	Elizabeth Biggens-Ramer, Member, Rebekah Knaggs, Member, Paul Wood, Member.
4	Paul Wood, Member.
5	City of Medina Planning and Community Development Department,
6	Andrew Dutton, Community Development Director.
7	Gregory A. Huber, City of Medina Law Director,
8	on behalf of the City of Medina.
9	Walter Haverfield, Attorneys at Law,
10	by R. Todd Hunt, Esq. on behalf of the City of Medina Historic
11	Preservation Board.
12	Witschey, Witschey & Firestine Co., LPA,
13	by Frank J. Witschey, Esq. on behalf of the Applicant.
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1	PROCEEDINGS
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3	CHAIRWOMAN: Good evening,
4	everyone. We have a special session this
5	evening for Case Number H20-06 for 133 North
6	Court Street, the demolition application.
7	I move for the Board to go into executive
8	session to obtain legal advice from our
9	attorney assigned to the Board regarding
10	hearing procedural matters.
11	Do I have a second?
12	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: I'll second.
13	MR. DUTTON: Biggens-Ramer?
14	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Yes.
15	MR. DUTTON: Knaggs?
16	MS. KNAGGS: Yes.
17	MR. DUTTON: Traves?
18	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes.
19	MR. DUTTON: Wood?
20	MR. WOOD: Yes.
21	(Whereupon, at 7:33 p.m., the Board
22	and Attorney Hunt entered executive session
23	until 7:50 p.m., at which time the further
24	following proceedings were had and placed upon
25	the record.)

CHAIRWOMAN:

Historic Preservation Board.

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Okay. Good

evening. We'd like to resume the meeting of the Historic Preservation Board for

Case H20-06, 133 North Court. I'm going to read the demolition guidelines for the

"With respect to demolition, it is in the interest of the Board that landmark buildings, buildings with historic -- within the Historic District be preserved and renovated for economically productive uses. The Board encourages the saving and adaptive reuse of buildings significant to the character of the Historic District and the history of the city. Consistent with this intent, the Board also realizes that the Historic District is not a static environment, but an ever-changing and developing entity. Applications for demolition shall be reviewed based on the overall impact the demolition will have on adjacent historic landmarks, historic districts, and the community. In reviewing an application, the Board will also consider the impact of the proposed use of the site on the Historic District. Demolition of existing

buildings which are not a significant loss to the Historic District to allow for the construction of new development which enhances the Historic District may be acceptable."

MR. HUNT:

Just to introduce myself, my name is Todd Hunt. I am an attorney who's been engaged by the City to advise the Board this evening in this case. I was also engaged to advise the Board of Zoning Appeals on an appeal of this case quite some time ago where it was remanded back to the Historic Preservation Board, and I'd just like to say that obviously what had just been read by the Chair is the important standards for this case. So that everybody knows that, that is the demolition criteria that they will judge this case upon.

And there was a resolution that came out of the Board of Zoning Appeals on this case back in early 2021, earlier this year, and there were three things that the Board of Zoning Appeals asked that this Board look at and make written findings on, one of which is specifically whether the subject property has some historic significance to the City of

Medina, and that was meant to comport with the language that was just written with respect to the code provision of 145.07 of the codified ordinances.

The second thing was whether the reasonable estimated minimum cost to repair the existing structure to a safe and useable condition within the C-2 zoning code permitted uses outweighs the fair market value of the property.

And the third thing is whether there's an economically viable use of the property without regard to the future use of the property, and there was a word left out here, if demolition is not approved.

So all of that, I believe, fits within 145.07 of the codified ordinances, and the board's mission tonight is that, of course, there's a balancing in these criteria between the property rights of the owner and the significant interest the City has in preserving and enhancing its Historic District.

So with that said --

CHAIRWOMAN: So we would like to ask the Applicant and anyone else that would

be speaking to the Board to stand up for an 1 2 oath of truthfulness to all witnesses for the 3 court reporter. 4 (Whereupon, Andrew Dutton and all members in attendance were then placed under 5 oath by the Notary.) 6 7 MR. HUNT: It would also be important, when you're up to testify, to give 8 9 your full name and address for the court 10 reporter. 11 CHAIRWOMAN: So at this time, 12 we would ask the Applicant to please present his case. 13 14 MR. WITSCHEY: Thank you. МУ name is Frank Witschey, and I'm an attorney in 15 16 Akron, Ohio, and I represent Twin Pines, which 17 is a limited liability company that is the 18 owner of the property and an Applicant along with Loren Raymond -- Dr. Loren Raymond, who is 19 20 the owner of Twin Pines. 21 And what I thought -- I have some -- we 22 have some witnesses that we would like to 23 present this evening, and I would just kind of 24 briefly go through what it is we're going to 25 present and kind of outline some important

points that we would like for you to listen to -- or listen for in the testimony.

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So the first witness that we will call -you should have had a report that was written
by him. There's already a report, I believe,
in the record from previous hearings, but
Mr. Ian Jones from MPG has updated -- provided
an updated report, and in that he will talk
about that first resolution that came from the
Board of Zoning Appeals, and that was whether
there was some historic significance to the
property.

And the one thing that I wanted to do at the outset, and Mr. Hunt alluded to, that it is this demolition section that we're to look at, but that particular language, "some historic significance," the word "some" I don't see in the statute, and I think the important language that would really help, and that we want to hone in on, is in this last sentence where it says, "Demolition of existing buildings which are not a significant loss to the Historic District to allow for the construction of new development which enhances the Historic District may be acceptable."

So we will have -- Mr. Jones will testify about whether the demolition of this building would be any kind of a significant loss to the Historic District that the property is in or is adjacent to.

We will also hear testimony this evening from Dan Kendel. Dan Kendel reviewed the building, inspected the building. He is a construction contractor and he has provided an estimate. He did so at previous hearings and has some updated information that we'll present.

And then finally Michael Marquard will testify, and those -- his testimony as well as Mr. Kendel's testimony will concentrate on the dollar cost to get this property -- if it is to be usable in its present state, what would need to be done from a construction standpoint, from a cost standpoint to get it up and functional to be able to be used, and is it worth -- is there economic viability to this property if it's not demolished.

And so with that, I'll ask Ian to go ahead and give his presentation, and then I might have some questions for him as follow-up as

1	well as anyone else that might want to ask him
2	questions.
3	Ian? Thank you.
4	MR. HUBER: Frank, before we
5	get started, would it be possible to put into
6	the record who the owner is, when the property
7	was purchased, and what the purchase price was.
8	MR. WITSCHEY: Yeah. And I
9	think as I recall, I believe that there was
10	evidence presented. I believe it was two
11	hundred and fifteen thousand dollars on the
12	purchase price.
13	MR. HUBER: Two hundred and
14	fifty?
15	MR. WITSCHEY: Fifteen.
16	MR. HUBER: Two hundred and
17	fifteen?
18	MR. WITSCHEY: Yes.
19	MR. HUBER: And Dr. Raymond
20	is the landowner. Is that correct?
21	MR. WITSCHEY: Right now, the
22	property and I'm not sure whether when he
23	acquired the property, it was acquired in his
24	individual name, but I know that he eventually
25	transferred it into Twin Pines. So it was

1	either acquired initially by Twin Pines or was
2	later transferred to Twin Pines.
3	MR. HUBER: And when was
4	that?
5	MR. WITSCHEY: 2017.
6	MR. HUBER: And I apologize
7	for interrupting you.
8	MR. WITSCHEY: No problem.
9	MR. JONES: Hi, my name is
10	Ian Jones. I am from Mann Parsons Gray
11	Architects. Our address is 3660 Embassy
12	Parkway in Fairlawn.
13	So in regards to Item A for the written
14	findings, I thought, you know, it would make
15	sense to try to look at this building in an
16	objective manner on determining its historical
17	significance, so the place that that led me to
18	was the National Register of Historic Places
19	which has criterion for how to establish
20	whether something has significance or not, and
21	there's a few criterion that I thought, you
22	know, most fit this property and that were
23	discussed to a point in previous meetings.
24	The first criterion was person and whether
25	there's somebody historically relevant to the

city or, you know, had some type of career or life that was kind of valuable to the history of the city, and what was discussed in previous meetings was someone named Abner Bishop.

Now, the National Register has a few, you know, qualitative points that it uses to establish whether that significance is true or whether, you know, this is kind of a tertiary property to that person's life, and so the length of association is an important factor, so how long that important person lived at the building or worked at the building, properties that illustrate that person's important achievements or properties that were, you know, maybe their home during that productive life, and what we learned was Abner Bishop built this building five years prior to his death, so the building was built in 1909, and he died in 1914.

And 1909 is an estimate, so I don't have a confirmed date of 1909, but that's, I think, what the Board previously established so, you know, that length of association is very narrow.

His historical significance to the city was

that he was a carriage builder that rose to prominence in the 1870s, had some patents under his name, and displayed his carriages at the Chicago World Fair. That productive period of his life predates his time in this home which was -- you know, kind of seems, as far as his life was concerned, kind of almost like a retirement period of his life, a period where he was no longer active in carriage building.

And lastly, you know, it wasn't the property where he built the carriages. That was a church that he converted to build his carriages.

So in those three regards, you know, no significance in terms of how it's rated objectively by the National Register is established for this building in that regard.

Likewise, there's a separate criterion about the design and construction of the home and whether that in itself has significance, and the period that this home was built was a period when the late Victorian style was waning in popularity while the Craftsman style was beginning to gain popularity, and this home was built in a time where it doesn't really embody,

you know, the signature features of either of those typologies, so it doesn't have the ornate details of a Victorian or the asymmetrical kind of corner turret or, you know, some of those signature features that even other homes in Medina have.

And it doesn't have the kind of signature Craftsman elements that are -- you know, to a point, they're often in smaller scale or they're kind of -- they are more symmetrical, and some of these features, you know, just aren't present in this home.

And secondly, this home was also built in a period where railroad -- that came to Medina, I think, in the 1870s. It brought building components that were pre-manufactured from other places. So this isn't really a home that was built by a Craftsman per se, but most likely a home that was built from components that were brought in from somewhere else and assembled, more like homes today almost.

So those two criteria really are an objective way to establish significance in evaluating the building, and that way really didn't return those results as far as

establishing significance for the National Register.

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Even if it was to establish significance, the next question that the National Register would ask is, does the building have integrity? So does the building kind of display that significance that it once had still to this And I think -- you know, we all know the day? building doesn't look quite like it did when it was originally built as far as the type of siding, the size of the windows which have been changed, the addition to the porch, kind of closing in the porch, and masking what details might remain. So in terms of integrity, even if it were to meet the criteria for significance, that integrity is also missing. And so that was one method to kind of determine if this established significance.

A second thing that we looked into was the actual original establishment of the Historic District for the Medina Square, and so that was submitted to the National Register in 1975, and when it was created, a boundary had to be established for the assemblage of architecture that kind of embodied the

significant characteristics of the Square in that kind of 1870 to 1900 period. This building and property was left out of that boundary, and the report notes specifically that the architecture outside of that boundary changes erratically and immediately.

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Now, that would be language that applies to kind of every building outside of that boundary, but I think, you know, when we consider whether or not this building was significant to them at that time, I think, you know, the conclusion would have been -- would be no. And I would think if it was kind of integral to the Square and that assemblage of architecture, it would have been included in that boundary.

Otherwise, you know, I've also reviewed the report that the architect commissioned by the City - Kevin Robinette - drafted and shared with the City and, I think, you know, some excerpts of that are important and kind of establish similar thoughts that we had in that it is a residential structure within an area that has evolved into a commercial district with multilevel storefronts and, also, that as

a standalone structure, its historic 1 2 significance is very limited. 3 So, you know, we thought some of that report kind of affirmed what we considered to 4 be the case, and then, you know, looking at the 5 6 National Register from 1975 and looking at the 7 kind of criterion it must meet today, we've 8 come to the conclusion that this is not 9 significant and not a significant loss to the City of Medina and not significant to the 10 11 history of the town. MR. WITSCHEY: 12 If I could ask a 13 follow-up. 14 Mr. Jones, did you review the cost estimates that Mr. Robinette provided and 15 16 Mr. Dan Kendel? 17 MR. JONES: Yes. 18 MR. WITSCHEY: For that type of 19 construction that would be needed to bring the 2.0 property up to code, would there typically need 21 to be costs that would be expended for 22 engineering or architecture before construction 23 like that could occur? 24 MR. JONES: Yeah. We would, 25 you know, be engaged -- or an architect would

be engaged to, you know, design the accessibility requirements to meet the building code today, or at least meet Chapter 34 of the Ohio Building Code to bring an existing building up to some semblance of the code.

MR. WITSCHEY: What would be an estimate of engineering or architectural costs to do a project to get the property up to code and functioning?

MR. JONES:

I would say the fees would be around six to eight percent of the construction costs. So I know the construction cost was just under three hundred thousand, so doing some quick math, that would be, I don't know, twenty-five thousand or so.

Okay. And I want

MR. WITSCHEY:

to read this pertinent section and then ask a question about this. Where it says in the code, "Demolition of existing buildings which are not a significant loss to the Historic District to allow for the construction of new development which enhances the Historic District may be acceptable," have you done any work regarding what kind of proposal Dr. Raymond and

Twin Pines might have for this particular project?

MR. JONES: Yes. So I've created kind of an idea of what that would be.

And so this was an image that was created to give an idea of what we would want to -- at least kind of what could be put in place at this building. You know, I think there's a certain level of icing or decorative materials that could always be adjusted, but they would always have to fall in the spirit of the Medina City design guidelines.

But the idea would be to be a mixed-use, multistory, you know, two-story kind of commercial zero-setback building with a retail or service business kind of bottom use with a residential multifamily use above on the second floor. So similar to what Dr. Raymond has done at the parcel next door but, you know, obviously this property is a lot smaller, so that kind of envelope would be reduced, but it would utilize the property lines as much as possible to give it that -- the zero setback kind of characteristic that is throughout the rest of the commercial district in the City.

1	MR. WITSCHEY: And with that,
2	we'll open up questioning that anyone might
3	have.
4	CHAIRWOMAN: Can I ask the
5	City's lawyer to ask questions that you might
6	have at this time.
7	MR. HUBER: I don't have any
8	questions.
9	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. I have a
10	question. So the presentation that you have
11	before the Board here of the drawings of the
12	proposed potential new structure, so on the
13	Auditor's website, you refer to the subject
14	property as 028-19A-21-072 as the parcel number
15	for Twin Pines, the owner's property at
16	133 North Court Street. So you're suggesting
17	that that drawing there will fit on that
18	parcel?
19	MR. JONES: That is correct.
20	So that drawing those same exterior walls in
21	that drawing are also in those representations.
22	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
23	MR. HUNT: Just for the
24	Board's information then, this proposed
25	building, will it meet the zoning setbacks for

1	that zoning district?
2	MR. JONES: Yes. This
3	district has a zero setback.
4	MR. HUNT: Not just front,
5	but I'm talking about side.
6	CHAIRWOMAN: Side and back.
7	MR. JONES: Oh, got you.
8	Yes. I know of no setback requirements in
9	the Historic District, so I believe a zero
10	setback is applicable on all sides of the
11	property.
12	CHAIRWOMAN: Can anybody with
13	the City confirm that, either law or Andrew?
14	MR. DUTTON: Andrew Dutton;
15	1035 Brookpoint Drive, Medina.
16	If you give me a minute, I can look that
17	up. I don't know that offhand.
18	CHAIRWOMAN: Does the Board
19	have any questions they'd like to submit to the
20	Applicant at this time?
21	(No verbal response.)
22	MR. HUNT: And, again, this
23	is for clarification for the Board. I did the
24	actual math of the professional costs that were
25	testified to with respect to engineering and

1	architectural, and it's not really twenty-five
2	thousand. Six percent would be about
3	because the cost that I saw was two hundred and
4	eighty-eight thousand, I believe
5	Mr. Robinette's report. Six percent would be
6	\$17,280; and at eight percent, it would be
7	\$23,040. So it doesn't quite meet twenty-five
8	thousand.
9	MR. JONES: Thank you. Sorry
10	about that.
11	MR. HUNT: That's fine.
12	MR. DUTTON: If I could
13	respond to the setback question. That is
14	correct, it would be a zero setback on all
15	sides as it's not adjacent to any residential
16	district.
17	CHAIRWOMAN: Does the subject
18	property have to have a certain amount of
19	parking associated with it?
20	MR. DUTTON: It is in our
21	parking-exempt district, so it would not need
22	to provide any on-site parking.
23	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Do we have
24	any other statements to be made from the
25	Applicant's attorney or any other questions

from our Board? 1 2 (No verbal response.) 3 CHAIRWOMAN: No? 4 MR. WITSCHEY: So we do have more statements from the Applicant, yes. 5 CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. 6 7 MR. WITSCHEY: So I assume Mr. Jones is done. If we could have Dan Kendel 8 9 please come up. So, Mr. Kendel, if you can just kind of 10 11 give us a little bit of an introduction of 12 yourself, what it is you do, and your history 13 with the property. 14 MR. KENDEL: My name is Dan Kendel, 799 Fowler Avenue, Akron, Ohio, 15 and I work for Dr. Raymond. I was the 16 17 construction manager on the Raymond Building at 139 North Court, and I prepared this estimate 18 in September of '20 of \$287,400 to bring the 19 20 133 North Court up to code standards, and since that time, due to rising construction costs, 21 22 it's probably about twenty percent higher now 23 to do the same amount of work as it was a year 24 ago -- a year ago plus. 25 MR. WITSCHEY: Have you done any

work on the property to, you know, attempt to 1 2 preserve at least the condition that it was in 3 when Twin Pines acquired it? 4 MR. KENDEL: Yes. We've maintained the property, mowing and mulching 5 and maintaining the mechanicals of the 6 7 building. We were going to redo the back portion of the building last year about 8 9 this time, and we were advised by then Jonathan Mendel that we could not do anything 10 11 to the building because of the ongoing 12 litigation of the project. MR. WITSCHEY: Was there any 13 14 time before being stopped by Mr. Mendel that you made any repairs or did anything to the 15 16 premises to keep it dry or anything of that 17 nature? 18 MR. KENDEL: Yes. We had a 19 couple leaks in the older windows which were 20 repaired and a repair to the roof -- the front 21 Court Street side, the bow of the lower roof 22 was leaking also, so we repaired that, but we 23 kept everything -- you know, we maintained it. 24 MR. WITSCHEY: Okay. Your 25 estimate about a year ago was at two hundred

1	and eighty-seven thousand dollars, and you
2	mentioned that there would be inflation or
3	increases of about twenty percent, so the
4	project would be now over three hundred
5	thousand dollars?
6	MR. KENDEL: Yes.
7	MR. WITSCHEY: As a construction
8	expert, as somebody who well, first of all,
9	how long have you been involved in this kind of
10	construction?
11	MR. KENDEL: Thirty years.
12	MR. WITSCHEY: With your
13	education and experience involving
14	construction, would you have an opinion on
15	whether it would be worth putting three hundred
16	thousand dollars into this building?
17	MR. JONES: No. That would
18	be no. That would bring the building up to
19	code.
20	MR. WITSCHEY: Okay.
21	MR. KENDEL: And then you have
22	your tenant build-outs, which depends on
23	whether it's commercial or residential or a
24	mixed use, and then you have to add your
25	additional costs on to that, and that would not

1	be feasible, not economically feasible at all.
2	MR. WITSCHEY: All right. Would
3	there be any risks from the standpoint of
4	doing putting this kind of money into a
5	building that sits on that the foundation of
6	this over one-hundred-year-old building?
7	MR. KENDEL: No. I would be
8	very hesitant to do so without that structural
9	engineering and testing.
10	MR. WITSCHEY: And that would be
11	additional costs?
12	MR. KENDEL: Yes.
13	MR. WITSCHEY: With that, my
14	examination is concluded, so if anyone has
15	questions, they're welcome to ask Mr. Kendel.
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Does anybody on
17	the Board have any questions oh, sorry. Go
18	ahead.
19	MR. HUBER: Mr. Kendel, did
20	you have an opportunity to look at the report
21	prepared by Mr. Marquard who's a REALTOR?
22	MR. KENDEL: No, I did not.
23	MR. HUBER: Well, he's going
24	to testify to his report, but just assume that
25	his estimate is that the property could be

rented at eight to ten dollars per square foot 1 and that the square footage of rental value 2 there is about thirteen to fourteen hundred 3 4 square foot and that roughly translates to rent about a thousand dollars a month. Would that 5 seem to line up with your own experience in 6 7 terms of what your expectation would be? MR. KENDEL: Yes. He's the 8 9 expert in, you know, rental costs in the area 10 and he's very well-respected, and I agree with 11 him that that's, you know, probably about what 12 you can get out of it. MR. HUBER: 13 So that's roughly fourteen thousand a year that you could hope to 14 earn in rental value if you rented that out? 15 16 MR. KENDEL: Yes. 17 MR. HUBER: And that's what 18 the building was prior to Dr. Raymond buying it, right? 19 20 MR. KENDEL: Yes. It was sparsely rented out, different offices, and the 21 22 first and second floor, it was -- it was just 23 kind of shoddily run. We weren't quite sure, 24 you know, what we were getting into when we got 25 the building as far as tenants and --

1	MR. HUBER: So if you bought
2	the building for two hundred and fifteen
3	thousand dollars and put three hundred thousand
4	more into it, I guess the reasonable
5	expectation would be that you would be earning
6	back roughly fourteen, fifteen thousand dollars
7	a year. There's a second floor to this
8	property, correct?
9	MR. KENDEL: Yes. Yes, sir.
10	MR. HUBER: So your
11	expectation in terms of the economic aspect
12	would be to put this money in and then hope to
13	get that money back through the rental of the
14	property, correct?
15	MR. KENDEL: Yes, sir.
16	MR. HUBER: You would agree
17	with me that that is assuming that's what
18	you wanted to do, that is an economically
19	viable use, correct?
20	MR. KENDEL: Well, that's
21	you know, you would have an additional cost,
22	and if it's residential, you know, you've got
23	your kitchen and utilities and appliances and
24	any type of a tenant build-out would be at an
25	additional cost added to that, so you would

1	have that also Co way know way no looking
1	have that also. So, you know, you're looking
2	at over and above what bringing it up to code
3	is. That would be, you know, at today's
4	cost, and probably plus an additional fifty
5	thousand onto this cost, and then you add in
6	your cost of tenant build-outs, basically is
7	what it would be.
8	MR. HUBER: So I don't really
9	understand what you just talked about because
10	you're kind of hard to hear and
11	CHAIRWOMAN: Is your mic on,
12	sir?
13	MR. KENDEL: Yeah.
14	CHAIRWOMAN: Do you have a
15	green light lit?
16	MR. KENDEL: Yes.
17	MR. HUNT: Could you move
18	closer?
19	MR. KENDEL: Better?
20	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes.
21	MR. HUBER: So what are
22	you now, in response to my questions, adding
23	thousands of dollars to this project
24	MR. KENDEL: No, no.
25	MR. HUBER: that we hadn't

talked about prior to your testimony? What are 1 2 you doing? MR. KENDEL: No. We're -- the 3 original estimate was to bring the building to 4 code to the requirements of the building codes 5 of the City of Medina. That's it. 6 7 Now, when you do a tenant build-out, that's over and above. 8 9 MR. HUBER: What do you mean "a tenant build-out"? 10 11 MR. KENDEL: Well, whoever would rent the space, you know, they would have 12 requirements as to what they want within the 13 building for what their use is, and if it was 14 15 residential, you know, then you're -- you have 16 to build -- treat it as a residential 17 build-out, which adds to the cost. 18 MR. HUBER: Well, I mean, I 19 was in this building. There's spaces for 20 offices. It doesn't appear that -- if you 21 brought it up to code and made it in accordance 22 with what you as a builder would do, how do you 23 know that you're going to have a tenant 24 build-out? Because most people want offices 25 and want a place to put their coffeepot and

1	want a place to put their printer. I don't
2	know what you're trying to say then. Because
3	it's been used as office space previously just
4	the way it is.
5	MR. KENDEL: Hm-hm.
6	MR. HUBER: You fix it to
7	code. Why wouldn't it be rented just the way
8	it is? It could be, couldn't it?
9	MR. KENDEL: Well, he was
10	renting office spaces that I believe I don't
11	know if Mike knows this or not, but they were
12	approximately like three hundred dollars a
13	month, so you're not going to gain anything
14	back.
15	MR. HUBER: We already
16	established through what Mr. Marquard who
17	hasn't testified yet. We're a little out of
18	order here, but we're looking at roughly
19	fourteen, fifteen thousand a year would be a
20	reasonable expectation, right?
21	MR. KENDEL: Yes.
22	MR. HUBER: And we could get
23	that without a whole lot of money in tenant
24	build-out. Wouldn't you agree?
25	MR. KENDEL: It just depends

1	on who is in there, if it's residential or
2	commercial or
3	MR. HUBER: Well, if you're
4	going to bring it up to code, then what money
5	are you talking about with respect to tenant
6	build-out over and above the three hundred
7	thousand you already testified to?
8	MR. KENDEL: If you have to
9	install any kitchen appliances, if it's
10	residential, you know, new bathrooms.
11	MR. HUBER: Well, we know
12	it's not residential. This is commercial.
13	MR. KENDEL: Well, right, yes.
14	MR. HUBER: Okay.
15	MR. KENDEL: It just depends
16	on what you know.
17	MR. HUBER: So you really
18	don't know whether there's going to be any
19	money on a tenant build-out, right?
20	MR. KENDEL: Well
21	MR. HUBER: And you don't
22	know what that amount might be?
23	MR. KENDEL: No, I don't know
24	what the amount might be, but there will be an
25	additional cost onto that, that I do know.

1	MR. HUBER: So your testimony
2	is that to fix this building up, you're looking
3	at three hundred thousand plus some uncertain
4	additional expense; the expectation, on the
5	other end, is that you'd be able to lease
6	this or reasonably rent the space for
7	fourteen, fifteen thousand dollars a year.
8	That's the summary?
9	MR. KENDEL: Yes.
10	MR. HUBER: Okay. Thank you.
11	CHAIRWOMAN: Could we have the
12	real estate agent go ahead and give his
13	testimony.
14	MR. MARQUARD: Hi.
15	CHAIRWOMAN: Hi. You need a
16	microphone.
17	MR. MARQUARD: You ready?
18	MR. WITSCHEY: Yes.
19	MR. MARQUARD: Can everyone hear
20	me?
21	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes.
22	MR. MARQUARD: My name is
23	Michael Marquard. I've been a real estate
24	broker for forty years. I own a company called
25	M.C. Real Estate.

I am the property manager of Twin Pines. I was asked to manage this building when Dr. Raymond of Twin Pines bought it. I can give you the lowdown of what I did when we went in there from the beginning, the type of tenants that were there, what it was leased for, whether there was any leasehold improvements or not, so I guess I'll back up to answer some of the questions that were coming up so that I can give you the lowdown.

When Dr. Raymond bought the building, I wasn't involved in the purchase of it. He bought it directly from an owner that was there. He asked me to manage the building. I went in, met the tenants. There was an attorney there, it was a psychologist, and a gentleman who owned Dan's Dogs that was on the third floor. The building was pretty much trashed on the top two levels. Will maintained the top level very well because he had a nice library up there, who I happen to know. I know all these people.

CHAIRWOMAN: Can I just

interrupt you?

MR. MARQUARD: You can interrupt

2.0

\_\_\_

1 me all you want. 2 CHAIRWOMAN: Could you tell us 3 what year that was? 2017 or '18. 4 MR. MAROUARD: don't know for sure. It was right after he 5 6 bought the building. About six months in he 7 realized that he needed a property manager to 8 take over, so I went in. 9 The first thing I did is I asked the third floor tenant to leave because it was a wreck, 10 11 it wasn't inhabitable to be up there, and he 12 did so, and he did leave. The second floor tenant - Will - who 13 14 happens to be my next-door neighbor, said he 15 wanted to leave anyway, so he was going to leave, too. 16 The gal on the first floor, I tried to 17 18 satisfy and keep her there because the first 19 floor is what is rentable in this building. 2.0 It's nonfunctional, but it's rentable to rent a 21 section of it, if you have the entryway it's 22 in. There's more square footage than the 23 fourteen hundred square feet. There's about

sixteen hundred and eight square feet without

bathrooms and without entry. The problem with

24

the building being not functional is you have a staircase at the back of the building of a house and you can't divide things up properly to make it in today's world and you have to have baths, handicap-accessible baths, and different things.

Leasehold improvements are something -- as an example, on the Raymond Building, when I leased Firestorm Gear, Heart and Soul their property, even though the building was built out, there were particular leasehold improvements that were made, and in that building, each tenant had about fifty to eighty thousand dollars of leasehold improvements up above.

I own a building, 403 East Washington

Street, where my office is. It was built in

1900. It's in the historic society. I'm very

proud of it. It's on the corner.

I own a building, 129 Broadway. We manage about two hundred and fifty properties, my property management company.

The reason why I bring that up is, certain buildings are functional, certain buildings are not. This building is not functional to make

it worthwhile for the dollars you have to put in to get a return on your investment. It's always a shame, but it's the way it is.

I laid in the back of the building on the casket elevator. It was as dangerous as can be. You know, it was there. There were things there that just should not have been there. They were safety issues.

I think when you open up a building, you open up more than just three hundred thousand. You open up more to it than that once you get those walls open. You're going to find a lot more than what's there. I found in both of the buildings that I have and both of the buildings I have in Wadsworth the same thing.

I think the building is nonfunctional. I checked with a colleague; my colleague said nonfunctional. The last time this building was renovated I found out was 1990. Since then, he hasn't done -- the previous owner did not do a thing to it.

I don't know what else you want from me.

kind of went -- it's not what I was going to

say when I came up here, but I'm trying to

answer some of the other questions at the same

1	time.
2	CHAIRWOMAN: Does anyone from
3	the Board have a question for the real estate
4	agent?
5	(No verbal response.)
6	CHAIRWOMAN: Does this
7	building have a back stairway or just one
8	MR. MARQUARD: He has a back
9	stairway that's not usable.
10	CHAIRWOMAN: So there's two
11	stairways?
12	MR. MARQUARD: There's two
13	stairways. The one in the back was the old
14	probably an old maid's quarter upstairs.
15	CHAIRWOMAN: Sure.
16	MR. MARQUARD: It's
17	CHAIRWOMAN: Real narrow?
18	MR. MARQUARD: You can't
19	yeah, it's real narrow.
20	CHAIRWOMAN: So when you
21	testified that you did have renters in there
22	MR. MARQUARD: Yes.
23	CHAIRWOMAN: did they have
24	no bathroom to use and no kitchen?
25	MR. MARQUARD: They had one

1	bathroom downstairs
2	CHAIRWOMAN: And it was a
3	functioning bathroom?
4	MR. MARQUARD: and they had a
5	sink.
6	It's still functioning right now, if you
7	can call it functioning.
8	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
9	MR. MARQUARD: But it works
10	and it is there and it works, and they were
11	using it, yes.
12	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. But no
13	kitchen?
14	MR. MARQUARD: It does have a
15	sink, but there's no appliances in it, nothing
16	else in it. It has an old sink.
17	CHAIRWOMAN: No refrigerator
18	or anything like that?
19	MR. MARQUARD: No refrigerator
20	was in there.
21	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
22	MR. WOOD: Is it
23	nonfunctional because of the way
24	MR. MARQUARD: The layout.
25	MR. WOOD: It is?

MR. MARQUARD:

go upstairs.

Absolutely it's

the layout. That's a part of it. It's nonfunctional because you can't get enough rent out of it because of the way it functions. You come in, you lose all the square footage having a central area where then you divide it off into office here, office here, office upstairs (indicating). Nobody wants to go upstairs and have to walk through somebody else's office to

I had a title company. I tried to lease it and, also, my colleague tried to lease it. He was unsuccessful, too, my colleague. And so I called on him because I wanted to make sure my numbers were right. I wanted to make sure I had the right numbers -- of an opinion of numbers, and those are -- eight to ten is the ask rate. You get what you get. It's like anything. That's an ask rate that's there.

But the point I'm making is, it doesn't function well. Nobody wants to walk upstairs today. I had a -- I was saying I had a title company laid out. By the time we got to the costs, they couldn't afford the leasehold improvements. We didn't want to do it at that

1	point; it didn't make sense. He ended up going
2	out to Medina Township renting a new one for
3	the same price he could have rented from me.
4	That's the problem.
5	So you can't just get a return. And if you
6	get a return for it, great. Or if somebody
7	wants to give us a grant, great. A grant would
8	be great. It would be wonderful, like they do
9	in Wadsworth.
10	CHAIRWOMAN: So the two
11	hundred and eighty-eight thousand dollars that
12	they would have to invest in it, would that
13	restructure the inside of it so that it would
14	be more functional?
15	MR. MARQUARD: No. I think
16	that's just to bring it up to code.
17	CHAIRWOMAN: Oh, okay.
18	MR. MARQUARD: That was my
19	understanding, the two hundred and eighty-eight
20	thousand dollars was to bring it up to where it
21	was inhabitable for tenants.
22	CHAIRWOMAN: So handicap
23	bathrooms and things like that?
24	MR. MARQUARD: Yeah.
25	CHAIRWOMAN: Locking doors?

1	MR. MARQUARD: Yeah. And I
2	can't you can hardly get in that bathroom
3	downstairs.
4	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
5	MR. MARQUARD: And the one
6	upstairs doesn't work. So that's why I had the
7	tenants move. The heat doesn't work in all the
8	different areas of the building.
9	CHAIRWOMAN: Right. But after
10	the investment, the heat would be working?
11	MR. MARQUARD: Well, it would
12	have to. Either that or you can't rent it.
13	Nobody wants to lease without heat.
14	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.
15	MR. MARQUARD: So any other
16	questions of me?
17	MR. HUBER: Yes, I have some
18	questions.
19	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.
20	MR. HUBER: Mr. Marquard,
21	this property was rented continuously right up
22	until 2017, correct?
23	MR. MARQUARD: I don't know what
24	the vacancy rate was, but he did have people
25	in he was in there himself, yes.

1	MR. HUBER: And after 2017,
2	because of the mechanicals and all the problems
3	with it, that in and of itself was going to
4	make a problem for somebody to come and look at
5	it now, correct?
6	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.
7	MR. HUBER: You prepared a
8	report at my request. You are a REALTOR in
9	Medina for a long period of time. Is that
10	correct?
11	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.
12	MR. HUBER: And your business
13	is known as M.C. Real Estate?
14	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.
15	MR. HUBER: I've got what I
16	marked as Exhibit C, which is your report
17	concerning average rental value in the City of
18	Medina. Is that correct?
19	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir. That's
20	an asking range for properties that are like
21	similar like that one redone.
22	MR. HUBER: And your report
23	is indicating that the rental rate asking range
24	would be eight to ten dollars per square foot?
25	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.

1	MR. HUBER: And you estimate
2	the square footage as being thirteen to
3	fourteen hundred dollars or thirteen to
4	fourteen hundred square feet, correct?
5	MR. MARQUARD: Yes, sir.
6	MR. HUBER: So that
7	translates roughly to fourteen thousand a year?
8	MR. MARQUARD: If you take the
9	ten dollars a square foot, that's fourteen
10	thousand times that, yes.
11	MR. HUBER: Okay.
12	MR. MARQUARD: That is an asking
13	price, but yes, that would be that would be
14	max.
15	MR. HUBER: So that would be
16	roughly a thousand dollars
17	MR. MARQUARD: Fourteen thousand
18	divided by twelve, yes.
19	MR. HUBER: About eleven
20	hundred dollars a month?
21	MR. MARQUARD: Yes. Just about
22	covers the taxes and water, sewer, you know,
23	for the rental costs there, but it doesn't
24	cover anything else.
25	MR. HUBER: You would agree

1	with me I mean, you've seen where I rent as
2	an attorney. Basically I need space for a
3	secretary to put her desk, I need a copier, I
4	need some room for a computer, I need a desk
5	and a room for myself. This property would
6	ostensibly because it's downtown, it could
7	work along those lines. Isn't that true?
8	MR. MARQUARD: Yes.
9	MR. HUBER: But it needs to
10	have mechanicals if that were to happen, it
11	would need to be up to code?
12	MR. MARQUARD: It would need to
13	be up to code and it would need to be renovated
14	inside to make it liveable for someone, yes.
15	MR. HUBER: Does anybody have
16	any objection to me introducing into the record
16 17	any objection to me introducing into the record
17	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?
17 18	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.
17 18 19	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.  CHAIRWOMAN: No objection.
17 18 19 20	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.  CHAIRWOMAN: No objection.  MR. HUBER: Thank you very
17 18 19 20 21	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.  CHAIRWOMAN: No objection.  MR. HUBER: Thank you very  much.
17 18 19 20 21 22	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.  CHAIRWOMAN: No objection.  MR. HUBER: Thank you very  much.  MR. MARQUARD: Thank you, sir.
17 18 19 20 21 22	Mr. Marquard's report as Exhibit C?  MR. WITSCHEY: No objection.  CHAIRWOMAN: No objection.  MR. HUBER: Thank you very  much.  MR. MARQUARD: Thank you, sir.  MR. WITSCHEY: Greg, there's an

1	you to review that. I don't think he wants the
2	communication with the colleague
3	MR. MARQUARD: Right.
4	MR. WITSCHEY: to be a part
5	of the public exhibit, so if we could redact
6	that or pull it off.
7	MR. HUBER: That's fine.
8	MR. WITSCHEY: Is that okay?
9	MR. HUBER: Sure.
10	MR. MARQUARD: Thank you.
11	MR. HUBER: I've got to see
12	what he's talking about.
13	MR. MARQUARD: There's a flier
14	in there. There's an e-mail and flier. I just
15	don't want it part of the record.
16	MR. HUBER: Just take that
17	off?
18	MR. MARQUARD: Yes. I would
19	have to get permission from him to make that a
20	part of the public record.
21	MR. HUBER: I just gave him
22	what you gave me, Mike.
23	MR. MARQUARD: That's fine. I
24	don't think he would object, but I don't want
25	to take that professional liberty.

1 MR. WITSCHEY: So I have maybe a 2 follow-up question and that is, have you had occasion to consider the fair market value of 3 4 this property as it presently exists and have an opinion on that? 5 MR. MARQUARD: The property was 6 7 purchased for two hundred and fifteen thousand. It's probably worth the lot value. It's 8 9 probably a fifty-thousand-dollar demolition if I was to guess on that, and that is a guess, 10 11 forty to fifty thousand in today's world. I'm not sure now what demolition is for that kind 12 of a building downtown, but I would think the 13 building would be worth a hundred and 14 seventy-five thousand. I just bought one 15 16 around the corner for a hundred and fifty. 17 was less square footage. 129 Broadway is the 18 address that I paid one-fifty for. It was less square footage and in good shape, mechanical 19 20 shape, which is also next door. 21 MR. WITSCHEY: So is that 22 essentially the cost, two hundred and fifteen 23 thousand less demolition cost? 24 MR. MARQUARD: Yeah, that's --25 it's worth about a hundred and seventy-five

1	thousand dollars roughly. Yes, one-sixty-five,
2	one-seventy.
3	MR. WITSCHEY: Thank you.
4	Unless anyone else has questions
5	CHAIRWOMAN: I guess I'm kind
6	of confused. If they put twenty-three thousand
7	dollars into it, where does that get us?
8	MR. MARQUARD: Twenty-three
9	thousand what?
10	CHAIRWOMAN: To make it
11	functional, was the statement, to make it
12	functional.
13	MR. MARQUARD: To make it
14	functional is two hundred and eighty-eight
15	thousand dollars, was the estimate.
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Well, there was a
17	statement made that a minimum would be
18	twenty-three thousand.
19	MR. MARQUARD: I don't know
20	whether that came from me.
21	CHAIRWOMAN: I believe that
22	came from the architect.
23	MR. MARQUARD: I don't know what
24	twenty-three thousand dollars
25	MR. JONES: Oh, that was the

architect's fee for the drawings. 1 2 CHAIRWOMAN: Oh, a fee. MR. HUNT: Professional 3 fees. 4 Got you. 5 CHAIRWOMAN: Could you clarify MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: 6 7 for me, a hundred and seventy-five thousand market value price, that is if you put it on 8 9 the market for sale right now, or you're suggesting that is -- you know, could you 10 11 explain that again, please? 12 MR. MARQUARD: If I did an actual analysis of it, we'd have to get it --13 at least get the heat running. We'd have to do 14 some investing in it to even put it on the 15 market and make a determination on what market 16 17 value -- he asked me to give a value off my 18 head and I just did. We would have to analyze -- you know, I don't know whether the 19 20 heat is working in there anymore. I don't know whether the hot water tank is working in there 21 22 anymore, so all those are for just showing the property. You may get an offer, a hundred and 23 24 twenty-five, you know. I don't know that. 25 I think a fair market value of that

1	property would be in the value of
2	one-seventy-five based on a property I just
3	bought.
4	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Can you give your
5	professional estimate as, you know, what is
6	the you just bought a property. What did
7	the square footage for that cost?
8	MR. MARQUARD: I don't recall.
9	Well, I mean, if you divide it out, it's
10	between it's about eighteen hundred square
11	feet divided by a hundred and fifty thousand.
12	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Okay. Thank you.
13	MS. KNAGGS: If I could ask a
14	question as well. So just in a lot of
15	these, like, full calculations of costs to
16	bring the building to code, was any
17	consideration considered in, like, historic tax
18	credits and things like that for a project to
19	bring the building to code, or that's just off
20	of current calculation?
21	MR. MARQUARD: That's off of
22	current I don't know that. I can't answer
23	that question. I'm not the one who did that.
24	MR. JONES: I could jump in
25	and say, I think your number (indicating)

didn't have anything to make it kind of 1 historically accurate, it was only to bring it 2 3 up to --4 MR. KENDEL: Yes. MR. JONES: So if you applied 5 for tax credits, they would expect that to be 6 7 invested, and you have a period to correct the windows or, you know, detailing that would --8 9 it would be a whole separate cost that would be to make it look as if it was originally built 10 11 for during the period of significance and --12 yeah. And that would have to go through a process where it gets submitted to the State to 13 see if it's eligible. It's kind of like a 14 15 lottery system to a point, you know, where they 16 might pick five properties, and if that's not 17 one, you can just keep reapplying. 18 MS. KNAGGS: Thank you. 19 MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: I have another question, and I guess to the construction 20 21 individual. 22 You mentioned -- could you specify what was 23 completed in regards to the mechanics? You mentioned that there was work done on the 24 25 mechanics. Could you specify what was done and

when that was done? 1 2 MR. KENDEL: Everything was 3 working properly, you know, when Dr. Raymond bought the building. It never had hot water in 4 the building. The hot water tank has been 5 disintegrated years and years ago, so these 6 7 people were in there with no hot water, just 8 cold water. But everything else has been 9 maintained and we've had, you know, your typical maintenance repairs to it and that's 10 11 about it. 12 MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Can you elaborate on that, please? 13 14 MR. KENDEL: We had the boiler repaired a couple times, had some minor 15 16 electrical work done on the panel, because a lot of it is the old knob-and-tube wiring, 17 18 which is kind of dangerous. But we had to 19 reroute in a few areas some updated wiring to 20 the panel, which the panel was replaced 21 obviously long -- the panel is probably thirty, 22 forty years old, but it's functioning. 23 MR. WOOD: But there's still 24 no hot water? 25 MR. KENDEL: There was No.

1	no
2	CHAIRWOMAN: Is there some
3	reason why you can't put a hot water tank in?
4	MR. KENDEL: You can, yes, but
5	it would
6	MR. WOOD: Maybe that's why
7	it was never rented.
8	MR. MARQUARD: No. It was
9	rented and the tenants didn't care whether they
10	had hot water or not. Those are the tenants
11	that I thought needed to be either fix
12	things safety-wise and fix the
13	MR. WOOD: But if you're
14	trying to rent out more units in the building
15	and there's no hot water
16	MR. MARQUARD: Absolutely.
17	MR. WOOD: then other
18	people are not going to want it.
19	MR. MARQUARD: Absolutely.
20	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: This goes back
21	also can you elaborate on the repairs that
22	you did to the roof?
23	MR. KENDEL: The valley on the
24	lower section where the that originally was
25	a porch area on the original structure and that

1	was turned into, you know, space heated
2	space, there was a leak there and, also, one of
3	the windows up above which was repaired.
4	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Meaning what?
5	MR. KENDEL: We had to take
6	out all the old caulking and reseal it and
7	reglaze the old window that was in there, and
8	then we had repairs to the ceiling from where
9	the water was leaking so it wouldn't
10	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Is that the
11	extent of renovations since 2017 that have been
12	done at the building?
13	MR. KENDEL: We've put in
14	vinyl plank flooring in the entry area where
15	the offices are and that was about it.
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Does the
17	Applicant have anything else they'd like to
18	present to the Board?
19	MR. WITSCHEY: No.
20	CHAIRWOMAN: Does the
21	City Administration have anything else they'd
22	like to present?
23	MR. HUBER: We have
24	Kevin Robinette here. He presented us with a
25	report that I would like to submit to the panel

1	as Exhibit B, and before we do that, I'll
2	question Mr. Robinette as to what he was doing
3	and what his opinions are.
4	CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.
5	MR. HUBER: Kevin, can you,
6	for the record, tell us your full name.
7	MR. ROBINETTE: Kevin Charles
8	Robinette. I out of Kevin C. Robinette
9	Architect, LLC.
10	MR. HUBER: How long have you
11	been an architect?
12	MR. ROBINETTE: It would be
13	almost forty-three years.
14	MR. HUBER: You've done work
15	in the City of Medina before?
16	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes.
17	MR. HUBER: Can you talk a
18	little bit about that?
19	MR. ROBINETTE: I most recently
20	renovated this atrium space for the City
21	(indicating). I also redesigned and renovated
22	the Visitor's Center and restaurants off the
23	Square. I'm currently working on a residential
24	redevelopment of a historic home, 524 East
25	Washington Street. Over the past I've done

1	quite a bit of work here. My first job was in
2	Medina in the late '70s, '80s. I worked for
3	Ron Kohanski who designed this building at
4	about that time. I've also done other work in
5	the area, the Human Services building just
6	north of town as part of the County Complex.
7	MR. HUBER: And your business
8	is located up in South Euclid, Ohio?
9	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, sir.
10	MR. HUBER: You're familiar
11	with renovation of historical buildings?
12	MR. ROBINETTE: I am.
13	MR. HUBER: You were asked to
14	take a look at the building owned by
15	Dr. Raymond. Is that correct?
15 16	Dr. Raymond. Is that correct?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.
16	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.
16 17	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?
16 17 18	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.
16 17 18 19	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.  MR. HUBER: Can you tell us
16 17 18 19 20	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.  MR. HUBER: Can you tell us  when?
16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.  MR. HUBER: Can you tell us  when?  MR. ROBINETTE: I believe we
16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.  MR. HUBER: Can you tell us  when?  MR. ROBINETTE: I believe we  started in the middle of the summertime when we
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is.  MR. HUBER: Did you do that?  MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did.  MR. HUBER: Can you tell us  when?  MR. ROBINETTE: I believe we  started in the middle of the summertime when we looked at the building. The date of my report

then I produced the report follow-up. 1 2 The first sentence on the report was the goal that I was asked to provide for. "We have 3 4 been asked to conduct a survey of existing building at 133 North Court for the purpose of 5 providing an outline of recommended work scope 6 7 in order to achieve current code compliance standards allowing for a functional and generic 8 9 'Business' occupancy." MR. HUBER: And you did that? 10 11 MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, I did. 12 MR. HUBER: Your report dated August 27th is the end work product of your 13 efforts? 14 15 MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it is. MR. HUBER: 16 Can you summarize 17 what you've looked at and summarize what you 18 found and then tell us your opinions as to the cost of the repair that's required? 19 20 MR. ROBINETTE: The charge that I 21 had was essentially to evaluate the existing 22 building, its envelope, its systems, and what 23 it would cost to bring it back to a point where 24 it could be reasonably used going forward into 25 the future, meeting current code standards.

And subsequently I walked through the building thoroughly. I have a series of photos as exhibits that demonstrate the different components to the building.

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I looked at the site. From a code standpoint, the building lacks accessibility. It's a typical traditional home where it's, if I remember correctly, approximately four to five steps above grade in the back, seven to eight steps from the front -- from the sidewalk. None of the interior spaces themselves are accessible at this time.

Although it was zoned commercial business, it was essentially more of a residential structure from the standpoint of its layout.

Mr. Marquard mentioned you walk into a large room on the first floor and there were a number of smaller spaces off of that large room. The stair going upstairs came off of that large space in the back of the house, and then it brought people up to the second and the third floor, similar to a center hall colonial would be.

But the upper floors were essentially residential in nature with a series of what

used to be bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor. Although some of the spaces had been used just prior to that as commercial office spaces, the house is still -- it's still a house for all intents and purposes.

The systems were all at the end of their useful life and would have to be replaced. The envelope requires repairs. The windows are inconsistent. The windows have been replaced on the second and third floors, if I recall correctly. I believe the original windows are still on the first floor.

In my summary I indicated that the structure of the house is sound. I was able to get into a couple of attic spaces off the second floor and the structure is sound.

There was a fire in the basement at one point in time. Some of the floor joists and the decking is charred. It's hard to see exactly how much damage was done there based upon the fact that it's now covered up with a tin or a metal interior.

The head height in the basement is substandard. It's a very low ceiling height. As was mentioned, there's a boiler that

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provides for heat to keep the structure warm.

There's no air conditioning, there's no

ventilation at this time.

And from the summary of looking at the different components of the building, I was asked to put together a cost estimate, and the estimate that I came up with was \$288,700 to bring it up to a bear standard. And as we've had some discussion about what that cost really means, I did include a very moderate cost for some interior improvements, basically paint and floor finishes. The interior plaster work drywall is in fairly decent shape, but just to put it in perspective, the first floor was eighteen thousand, the second floor was thirteen thousand, the third floor was eight thousand. It's unknown how far that would go, but I was just asked to bring it for an estimate that brings it up to a place where it's reasonable and usable.

CHAIRWOMAN: What was what

total number again?

MR. ROBINETTE: Pardon me?

24 CHAIRWOMAN: What was the

total number?

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1	MR. ROBINETTE: \$288,700.
2	MR. HUBER: Does that figure
3	take into consideration the inflation that's
4	taken place in the last couple years with
5	respect to billing costs?
6	MR. ROBINETTE: No, it really
7	hasn't. I'm an architect, I'm not a
8	contractor. When I'm asked to put together an
9	estimate, what I'll generally do is refer to
10	similar relevant projects that I've worked on
11	reasonably within reasonable proximity and
12	reasonable time frame to this one.
13	For example, the systems costs, I did
14	receive a proposal for new mechanical,
15	electrical, and plumbing systems on the home
16	I'm working on at 524 East Washington, and that
17	came up to about ninety thousand dollars. I
18	used eighty-five-five on this study.
19	CHAIRWOMAN: So does your
20	estimate include handicap bathroom with hot and
21	cold water and
22	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, it does.
23	CHAIRWOMAN: a kitchen of
24	some sort?
25	MR. ROBINETTE: Just a

1	kitchenette, not a full kitchen.
2	CHAIRWOMAN: Right. But
3	something with a refrigerator?
4	MR. ROBINETTE: Yeah. You know,
5	the improvements that I had on the first floor
6	was eighteen thousand dollars. You know, I
7	didn't try to I wasn't asked to redesign the
8	building and assign specific costs.
9	CHAIRWOMAN: Right, or make it
10	elaborate or anything.
11	MR. ROBINETTE: Yeah.
12	CHAIRWOMAN: Got you. I
13	understand.
14	MR. HUBER: You indicated in
15	your report that you thought the historic
16	significance of this house is very limited. Is
17	that correct?
18	MR. ROBINETTE: It is correct.
19	MR. HUBER: Why do you say
20	that?
21	MR. ROBINETTE: Well, I
22	wouldn't I've worked on a lot of historic
23	structures. I wouldn't consider myself to be a
24	historicist at the same level that some are,
25	but just looking at the home, I really don't

believe there's anything distinctive about it from a historical standpoint.

It's got a traditional form and traditional roof lines. At one time it had a traditional porch, but that porch has been bastardized, it's been enclosed. It's got a very unusual front porch entry. The balusters, the piers, the columns, they're made out of poured-in-place concrete, which I had never seen before, and over the years they've shifted, they moved, they're coming apart. I'm not sure how you'd repair something like that, in all candor. And you can see places where the concrete is split and separated and you'll see the little reinforcing wires they put inside.

The only original openings of value are the first floor windows. You know, to really make those usable again, bring those back to life, it would be a fairly significant expense to keep those. You have the four windows that have been replaced. There is some articulation in the framing of the eaves and the soffits where there's some exposed wood members that are somewhat decorative. Some of that's been

covered up at this point with siding and soffits.

In my opinion, there just isn't that much that contributes historically. If you look at some of the homes in Medina that are really nice and really have a period presence to them, in my opinion, when you see it, you know it. When I look at this house, personally I just don't see it.

CHAIRWOMAN: Does anybody know what the structure -- what we would call this house? We haven't -- nobody has actually named it, like it's not a Craftsman or --

MR. ROBINETTE: I really don't -I mean, it was expressed by this young man
(indicating) that it was somewhere between
Victorian and Craftsman style, but I really
believe that was more of a reference to the
time that it was built.

CHAIRWOMAN: Right.

MR. ROBINETTE: I mean, in all candor, if you go into a typical subdivision and look at the form of the home that's built today, I think it's more in keeping with that than it is with anything that has a period

style to it. I think in its day when it was first built, the wraparound porch would have offered some aspect to it that would have been appealing and attractive. In its current state with it being enclosed, I don't think it really does.

MR. HUBER: Does it make more sense to you, Mr. Robinette, if this house were to be returned to use as a house as opposed to trying to call it a commercial building?

MR. ROBINETTE: Well, there really hasn't been anything done to it that would turn it into a commercial building. It's got an old set of cabinets, it's got a residential sink, the restrooms on the first floor are still residential in nature, the bathroom on the second floor is still residential in nature. None of the spaces are segregated like you might expect in a modern-day office building.

As I was sitting here listening to the conversation, the thing that came into my mind, it would make a good frat house. You've got a nice big space -- and I'm not trying to be cute. You've got a nice big space on the first

floor where people can kind of gather and then 1 you've got a bunch of bedrooms upstairs. 2 MR. HUBER: In your opinion, 3 the commercial zoning that has been attached to 4 this property doesn't necessarily fit what it 5 actually is? 6 7 MR. ROBINETTE: I don't believe 8 so, no. 9 MR. HUBER: Okay. We heard testimony from Mr. Marquard that he finds the 10 11 building to be nonfunctional. Do you have any 12 opinion on that? MR. ROBINETTE: 13 From a commercial standpoint, I would concur for the most part. 14 If you were able to find a number of 15 single-person tenants that are interested in an 16 17 office space where they can put a desk and a 18 chair and file cabinets you described and lock the door, it would be functional; that could 19 20 work for them. You'd still have to pass through other people's offices to get there, to 21 22 get to the stair unless you were to make --23 renovate the first floor to create access off 24 the back, segregate the stair so that you 25 separate it from the first-floor tenants, and

that would be very awkward.

And the analogy that you used of the law office and the secretary, you know, theoretically you'd want a conference room, which I don't believe any of the spaces in the building as they are now, with the exception of the large space on the first floor, would be conducive to that. And if you have an assistant or somebody you work with on a conjoint basis, instead of having a door between your office and their space, as it's built now, you'd have to walk outside of your office through the common area and then into their space.

MR. HUBER: So we essentially asked you to look at this as objectively as you can in terms of "Here's where we're at. We have a demolition request." In your opinion, does it make sense for a property owner to put two hundred and eighty-eight thousand dollars into this building to make it functional as a commercial building?

MR. ROBINETTE: I'm not a real estate guy. I can't imagine how it could be.

MR. HUBER: Okay. Well,

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1	that's what we asked you to do, give an
2	objective opinion. I think we're getting down
3	to the truth of this case.
4	CHAIRWOMAN: Yep.
5	MR. HUBER: Thank you, sir.
6	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes.
7	CHAIRWOMAN: Does anyone from
8	the Board have any more questions for them?
9	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: I have a
10	question.
11	MR. ROBINETTE: Yes, ma'am.
12	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: In looking at the
13	property, it was mentioned prior that there was
14	a back stairwell. Does that go to just the
15	second floor or the third floor as well?
16	MR. ROBINETTE: They had some
17	sort of contraption on the back previously that
18	lifted caskets, and that was taken down at the
19	time I observed it, so I have no idea what that
20	was like.
21	And I can try to find the photograph of the
22	back. I believe there were two doors on the
23	back of the property. One goes there were
24	two stairs. One was it was described as a
25	main stair, which was substandard in size, and

1	it was directly adjoining the main stair of the
2	house, what we call the center home stair, as I
3	would refer to it, but there was a door to the
4	porch off the back on the north end and sort of
5	in the middle of the house where the I
6	believe the main stair is. There's a door that
7	comes in on the landing, and then you go up to
8	the first floor and down into the basement, and
9	somehow as part of what I believe was I
10	don't know if it raised the caskets or not, but
11	there's a door that comes out of the second
12	floor and I'm not sure what that ever did or
13	how it functioned, and then there's a door that
14	came off of the porch that's been enclosed.
15	CHAIRWOMAN: So up on the
16	screen there's a photograph of the back of the
17	house.
18	MR. ROBINETTE: There it is,
19	yeah.
20	CHAIRWOMAN: Is that large
21	window is that actually a door and was there
22	a fire escape there?
23	MR. ROBINETTE: There might have
24	been. Fire escape is as good a guess as any.
25	CHAIRWOMAN: Because that

1	looks like a door to me on the second story.
2	MR. ROBINETTE: Yeah, it's the
3	second story.
4	DR. RAYMOND: That was the
5	embalming room.
6	MR. ROBINETTE: That was the
7	embalming room?
8	MR. KENDEL: Yes. There was a
9	two-car garage attached to it and then the
10	embalming room was on top of it, and that door
11	went into it from the second floor and the
12	casket elevator was there on just on the
13	outside of it, and they were able to lower the
14	caskets down into the hearse within the garage
15	area. And we got permission to demolish that
16	when we were
17	CHAIRWOMAN: Taking the shed
18	off?
19	MR. KENDEL: Yes, yes.
20	Because it was in very bad disrepair.
21	CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah.
22	MR. KENDEL: And that's where
23	that
24	CHAIRWOMAN: I remember that.
25	MR. KENDEL: It was bad.

1 MR. ROBINETTE: I'm grateful to 2 say I've never needed an embalming room. CHAIRWOMAN: I was just going 3 4 to ask, did anybody have any problems renting a former funeral home? 5 MR. KENDEL: A lot of people 6 7 expressed concern over that. MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: I have a 8 9 question. You mentioned that the home currently resides in a state that still 10 resembles a residential structure and that the 11 12 estimate you provided was to bring it to code as a commercial structure. Can you provide any 13 insight on what the estimate would be to return 14 it to a residential structure? 15 MR. ROBINETTE: 16 You know, I'd 17 really be hesitant to hazard a guess, because 18 whenever a client or an entity asks about a cost estimate, there has to be some knowledge 19 20 to give an intelligent answer of what you're really going to achieve. If you want to take 21 22 the house back to what it was, you're now 23 taking the porch back to what it was, you're 24 now finding a way to replace or repair the 25 concrete assembly that makes up the front

porch.

I think in the interior it wouldn't necessarily be that much. The home hasn't been -- I use the term "bastardized" for historic homes that have been ill-treated on the interior, and I don't think this house has been subjected to that. To put a modern kitchen in it -- I mean, people expect big kitchens today. This was built in a time where it was built for a maid to do the cooking in a very small kitchen. It didn't have what most people would be looking for, a modern kitchen, today.

Again, bathrooms. The one bathroom on the second floor is a modest, typical five-by-eight bathroom. The restroom on the lower floor is substandard at this point.

To do to it what you would need to do to it residentially, your systems costs are going to be the same. I think your envelope cost would go up based upon trying to do something of value for purchase and I think -- I'm talking myself into this now. I think your kitchen and bathroom costs would go up to provide something that's going to be appealing for somebody to

1	actually buy it, so I think you usually put
2	yourself into a range of this didn't take
3	into account inflation. I'm not a contractor,
4	but I would push it into the range of close to
5	four hundred thousand by the time you put a
6	real kitchen that somebody's going to find
7	desirable, bathrooms that somebody's going to
8	find desirable, try to do something with the
9	porch.
10	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: And what is the
11	total square footage of the house?
12	MR. ROBINETTE: That I cannot
13	tell you, ma'am. I never computed that.
14	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Can someone
15	please tell me what the total square footage of
16	the home is?
17	MR. MARQUARD: The first floor
18	has seventeen hundred and twenty square feet.
19	The second floor has eleven hundred and ten
20	square feet.
21	MR. ROBINETTE: If I could just
22	ask, does that first floor include the porches?
23	MR. MARQUARD: It includes the
24	two hundred and fifty square feet and one porch
25	that's not really shouldn't be included in

1	the square feet.
2	MR. ROBINETTE: Right.
3	MR. MARQUARD: But that's from
4	Kovack's site.
5	Ma'am, that's from Kovack's site that the
6	City has.
7	CHAIRWOMAN: Yeah, this is the
8	Auditor's website. Yeah, we're looking at it.
9	MR. DUTTON: If I could add on
10	the zoning side of things, it's on C-2, which
11	would not allow the entire structure to be used
12	residentially. You could have commercial on
13	the first floor, residential on the upper
14	floors, but the whole house could not be
15	residential.
16	CHAIRWOMAN: So they would
17	have to go to a zoning Board and have it
18	reverted back to housing?
19	MR. DUTTON: It would either
20	need to be rezoned or a use variance would be
21	necessary. Both of them are a somewhat complex
22	process with pretty high criteria for approval.
23	CHAIRWOMAN: It's really a
24	particular street since the houses since
25	there are homes behind it but commercial on

1	either side of it.					
2	MR. HUBER: Only in Medina.					
3	CHAIRWOMAN: Why did they do					
4	this to us.					
5	So we've had the administration present its					
6	case, questioning of the City witnesses by the					
7	Applicant's attorney and Board members, we've					
8	done the testimony of the third party who have					
9	special interests in the case.					
10	MR. HUNT: I just thought					
11	maybe there would be somebody who would be					
12	attending this evening that would have an					
13	interest in the case who would be testifying,					
14	but it appears that everybody here has already					
15	testified.					
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay.					
17	Questioning of the third-party witnesses by					
18	the Applicant's attorney					
19	MR. HUNT: No third-party					
20	witnesses.					
21	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Do we have					
22	a rebuttal of evidence by the Applicant?					
23	MR. WITSCHEY: No.					
24	MR. HUBER: We would like to					
25	introduce formally Mr. Robinette's report as					

Exhibit B for the record.

CHAIRWOMAN:

Thank you.

Do we have any closing statements by the Applicant and the City attorney?

# CLOSING ARGUMENTS

MR. WITSCHEY: Yeah. So I would just like to point out a couple of things I think that were evident here tonight, and that is that this property may have had a small amount of historical significance with some adaption of perhaps Victorian-style features that have all for -- I think virtually all, because we can't even identify -- the experts can't even identify what type of property it is, and I think it's because there's been a lot of adaptions, a lot of work on the property throughout a hundred years that have -- that has taken it, you know, to a point where it really has no historical significance.

And then that one question about if it's demolished, would it be a significant blow to the Historic District, and I think the answer to that is a resounding no. Especially then when you add onto what could be put there to enhance, you know, the Victorian style or what

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is the Town Square, so I think that element has definitely not been -- and that was Letter A in the Board of Zoning Appeals Resolution, so I think that that particular answer is that we just don't have historical significance here and we don't have something that the loss of would deal a blow to the Historic District.

Then we also have costs and expenses that just don't make this an economically viable property to rent in a commercial context. We have costs that even exceed what the numbers were when we -- say that we have to add some engineering to it. In the instance of Mr. Kendel's report, there's been inflation so, you know, to -- we have limited zoning where we can't just alter the property to become entirely residential. So the economic viability, as the experts have said, is just simply not there.

So we believe that on all three of those questions posed by the Board of Zoning Appeals, the answer here is that the application for demolition, we would respectfully request, be granted.

Thank you.

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CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.

MR. HUBER: The Board of

Zoning Appeals sent this case back with some specific questions, and in order to answer those questions, we took the step of hiring Mr. Robinette to really bear down on an objective assessment.

The question you have to weigh essentially is the kind of balancing of economic costs versus benefit, and in this case, with respect to fair market value, it seems to be from the evidence in the range of at least two hundred and fifteen thousand, a hundred and seventy-five thousand, in that area, in terms of what the value of that property is.

Currently it seems to be agreed that the cost to bring the building up to usability is in the area of two hundred and eighty-eight thousand to three-hundred-and-some thousand, dependent upon what number you want to pick for added costs for a renter, so maybe say three hundred to three hundred and twenty-five. I'm not sure exactly, but that seemed to be what I was getting out of the testimony.

And you could reasonably, I think, expect

to be able to rent the property in its current form - and it does seem to be somewhat awkward because it was a house - and it seems that you could expect to get a return of roughly eleven hundred dollars a month or in that range.

You're going to have to decide to balance this out as to whether or not you think that makes sense because you make your decision and it's not what those folks want, this is going to go up to the BZA again.

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If those folks don't like what the BZA says, ultimately this goes to a Common Pleas judge, and I can guarantee you that he's going to look at this and ask himself what makes sense given this situation.

We now have a pretty specific -- I think more specific than we had previously on costs. That's what the Board of Zoning Appeals asked us to get. You'll collectively have to arrive at your own conclusion as to what makes sense, and I think from our end -- side of the aisle, we've done the best we could to try to bring as truthful a picture of the situation as we can.

CHAIRWOMAN: Can I ask the real estate agent one more question?

1	MR. ROBINETTE: Sure.
2	CHAIRWOMAN: So if the
3	house if they invested the two hundred and
4	eighty-eight thousand into the house, what
5	could you sell it for?
6	MR. MARQUARD: If they do it
7	commercially?
8	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes. Because
9	that's what it's zoned.
10	MR. MARQUARD: I would have to
11	do an analysis on it. I can't give a fair
12	answer without doing an analysis on it. Just
13	add the numbers what you need and then you take
14	a look at what you're going to get in rent and
15	you have to make a decision. So I don't know
16	many investors are going to come in and
17	unless it's something they own, like I do with
18	my building.
19	CHAIRWOMAN: Right.
20	MR. MARQUARD: I own the
21	building, my company operates out of it. I way
22	overpaid to get it the way it is. I'm very
23	proud of it and I hope you come down to see it,
24	because I'm very proud of the building. I have
25	plenty of parking.

1	But I can't answer that honestly without
2	doing an analysis and seeing what is done. It
3	is too big of a hypothetical. Sorry.
4	CHAIRWOMAN: I would like to
5	move that the Board go into executive session
6	to deliberate on the case and to attain further
7	legal advice from our attorney.
8	Do I have a motion to approve?
9	MS. KNAGGS: I'll motion.
10	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: I second.
11	MR. DUTTON: Biggens-Ramer?
12	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Yes.
13	MR. DUTTON: Knaggs?
14	MS. KNAGGS: Yes.
15	MR. DUTTON: Traves?
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes.
17	MR. DUTTON: Wood?
18	MR. WOOD: Yes.
19	(Whereupon, at 9:25 p.m., the Board
20	and Attorney Hunt entered executive session
21	until 9:56 p.m., at which time the further
22	following proceedings were had and placed upon
23	the record.)
24	CHAIRWOMAN: So I will take a
25	motion to continue the deliberations and

1	setting a new date as of the second Thursday of
2	December.
3	Do I have a second?
4	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Second.
5	MR. DUTTON: Biggens-Ramer?
6	MS. BIGGENS-RAMER: Yes.
7	MR. DUTTON: Knaggs?
8	MS. KNAGGS: Yes.
9	MR. DUTTON: Traves?
10	CHAIRWOMAN: Yes.
11	MR. DUTTON: Wood?
12	MR. WOOD: Yes.
13	CHAIRWOMAN: Do we have any
14	further business to attend to?
15	MR. DUTTON: No.
16	CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. Meeting
17	adjourned.
18	(Proceedings adjourned.)
19	
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STATE OF OHIO ss: COUNTY OF MEDINA. CERTIFICATE I, Makenzie J. Sabo, RPR, Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, hereby certify that before the giving of their testimony, all persons were first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and 

I further certify that this is a full and complete transcription of the above-entitled cause.

nothing but the truth in this case aforesaid and

that the testimony was taken by me by means of

stenotype in the presence of said persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Medina, Ohio this 29th day of November, 2021.

Makenzie J. Sabo, RPR
and Notary Public within and for
the State of Ohio.

My commission expires 09/19/23.

\$	4	81:13	<b>anyway</b> [1] - 36:15	assembled [1] - 15:21
		added [2] - 29:25,	apart [1] - 64:11	assembly [1] - 72:25
<b>\$17,280</b> [1] - 23:6	<b>403</b> [1] - 37:16	79:21	<b>apologize</b> [1] - 12:6	assessment [1] - 79:7
<b>\$23,040</b> [1] - 23:7	<b>44</b> [1] - 2:16	adding [1] - 30:22	appeal [1] - 6:10	<b>assign</b> [1] - 63:8
<b>\$287,400</b> [1] - 24:19	<b>44256</b> [2] - 1:17, 1:23	addition [1] - 16:12	appealing [2] - 66:4,	assigned [1] - 4:9
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