

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

Special Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2014

—MINUTES—

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Rusak called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Bridgewater Raritan High School Auditorium, 600 Garretson Road, Bridgewater, New Jersey.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Adequate notice of this special meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. On February 11, 2014 proper notice was sent to the Courier News and the Star-Ledger and filed with the Clerk at the Township of Bridgewater and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. Please be aware of the Planning Board policy for public hearings: no new applications will be heard after 10:00 pm and no new testimony will be taken after 10:15 pm. Hearing Assistance is available upon request.

3. SALUTE TO FLAG:

There was salute to colors

4. ROLL CALL:

Stephen Rodzinak – present

Ron Charles – present

James Franco – present

Barbara Kane – present

Walter Rusak – present

Mayor Dan Hayes – present

Councilman Matthew Moench – present

Tricia Casamento, Alt. #1 – present

Others present: Board Attorney Thomas Collins, Board Engineer Robert C. Bogart, Board Planner Scarlett Doyle, Recording Secretary Marianna Voorhees

5. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

January 28, 2014 Special Meeting – Motion by Mrs. Kane, second by Mr. Franco, the foregoing minutes were adopted on the following roll call vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Rodzinak, Mr. Charles, Mr. Franco, Councilman Moench, Chairman Rusak, Mayor Hayes, Mrs. Kane, Mrs. Casamento

January 29, 2014 Special Meeting – Motion by Mr. Rodzinak, second by Mrs. Kane, the foregoing minutes were adopted on the following roll call vote:

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Rodzinak, Mr. Charles, Mr. Franco, Councilman Moench, Mayor Hayes, Mrs. Kane, Mrs. Casamento

NOT ELIGIBLE: Chairman Rusak

6. MEMORIALIZATION OF RESOLUTIONS:

None pending

7. LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

AlFalah Center – 1475 Mountain Top Road

Block 653 Lots 36 & 37

#01-11-PB, PRELIMINARY Major Site Plan and Conditional Use

Time: 3/31/14 per extension

See attached Transcription dated February 24, 2014. Prepared by: Diane M. Holmes, C.C.R. of Rizman Rappaport Dillon & Rose, 66 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039

8. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Board on any matter not listed on the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianna Voorhees,
Secretary to Engineering/
Planning Division

In The Matter Of:
In Re: Al Falah Center

Transcript of Proceedings
February 24, 2014

Rizman Rappaport Dillon & Rose
66 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Livingston, N.J. 07039
(973) 992-7650

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1</p> <p>1 BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP 2 PLANNING BOARD</p> <p>3 ----- 4 IN THE MATTER OF: TRANSCRIPT 5 ALFALAH CENTER OF 6 ----- PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>7 Applicant.</p> <p>8 -----</p> <p>9 Bridgewater Raritan High School 600 Garretson Road Bridgewater, New Jersey Monday, February 24, 2014 Commencing at 7 p.m.</p> <p>10 B E F O R E:</p> <p>11 BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>12 PATRICIA CASAMENTO 13 RON CHARLES 14 JAMES V. FRANCO 15 DANIEL J. HAYES, JR., Mayor 16 BARBARA KANE 17 MATTHEW MOENCH, Councilman 18 STEPHEN RODZINAK 19 WALTER RUSAK, Chairman</p> <p>20 ROBERT BOGART, PE, Township Engineer 21 THOMAS COLLINS, ESQ., Board Attorney 22 SCARLETT DOYLE, Planner 23 MARIANNA VORHEES, Asst. Board Secretary</p> <p>24 A P P E A R A N C E S:</p> <p>25 ARCHER & GREINER, P.C. Attorneys for the Plaintiffs 1 State Route 12 Flemington, New Jersey 08822 BY: LLOYD H. TUBMAN, ESQ.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 (Exhibit A-2, Activity and parking 2 chart, is marked for Identification.) 3 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Okay. We'd like to 4 continue tonight with the applicant for the Alfalah 5 Center on our meeting. We'll continue with the 6 testimony. 7 I remind the public that all questions 8 should be addressed and relevant to the professional 9 who makes a presentation. General comments will be 10 accepted at the end of the application. We ask that 11 the audience refrain from applause, cheers or 12 extraneous comments. 13 Anyone wishing to ask a question, we'd 14 ask you to come to the front row so we can move it 15 along. Please state your name clearly, spell your 16 name and give us your address. We now would like to 17 continue with our next witness. 18 MS. TUBMAN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. 19 For the record, I'm Lloyd Tubman with Archer & 20 Greiner. I'm here on behalf of Alfalah Center, and 21 as the chairman stated, this is a continuation as it 22 is a third public hearing on a conditional use and 23 site plan application. My witness this evening -- 24 two witnesses this evening are representatives of 25 Alfalah and the person who prepared our landscaping</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 I N D E X</p> <p>2 WITNESS PAGE</p> <p>3 YASSER ABDELKADER 6</p> <p>4 E X H I B I T S</p> <p>5 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE</p> <p>6 A-2 Activity and parking chart 3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 plans. 2 I am aware, though, that at previous 3 meetings on the 28th Mr. Franco asked whether or not 4 the parking lot could be redesigned to eliminate the 5 center island and provide more distance from our 6 neighbor. 7 At the end of the meeting on the 29th, 8 Mr. Charles gave a very good summary of questions 9 and issues that arose. Those are could we lower or 10 eliminate the minaret, change the color of the dome 11 on the mosque, eliminate the basketball stripe out 12 in the parking lot? 13 Would we provide a comparison, I take 14 it to be an overlay of the mosque on the Redwood Inn 15 so that the visibility difference is apparent? 16 Would we provide an exhibit that shows 17 the maximum increase in size relative to the 18 ordinance which allows one square foot of building 19 per 20 square feet of land area? 20 And the witnesses who will answer those 21 questions or produce those exhibits are not here 22 this evening, but we are aware of them. We are 23 keeping a running tally. 24 There was also a question asked on the 25 29th about adding a Stormceptor for pollutant</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 runoff. I believe that in Mr. Charles' summary was 2 an error that our engineer answered that question at 3 the meeting of the 28th that that would not address 4 hydrocarbon runoff, but we can look to the 5 transcript for that, and there was one omitted 6 question at which we were very much aware, and that 7 is the owner of Lot 15 was concerned about 8 headlights aimed at her house as people exited the 9 parking lot. We will address that question as well, 10 but those witnesses are not here this evening. 11 I'm keeping a tally. We will answer 12 those questions. 13 That said, Yasser, would you come 14 forward please, state your name and spell your last 15 name and be sworn. 16 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. Good 17 evening. My name is Yasser Abdelkader. A, as in 18 apple, B, as in boy, D-E-L-K-A-D-E-R, Barrington 19 Drive, Bridgewater. 20 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right 21 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the 22 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you 23 God? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: I do. Thank you. 25 MS. TUBMAN: Would you start by telling</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 public, thank you very much for giving me the chance 2 to speak today -- tonight before you and to 3 basically discuss our application with you. This is 4 obviously a process that we're all aware started 5 roughly three years ago, maybe a little longer than 6 that. Obviously, the search predates me even moving 7 to Bridgewater. 8 I'd like to start just by briefly 9 explaining our religion in Islam. We have five 10 prayers a day, and in our religion, prayer is pretty 11 much the most sacred pillar of our faith and our 12 religion. I can sit here and probably, you know, 13 cite hundreds of verses that talk about the 14 importance of prayer and the importance of building 15 houses of worship to establish prayer because it's a 16 very, very crucial and critical part of our 17 existence and our believe. 18 When people move to a certain area, 19 essentially, one of the primary things is to first 20 establish a mosque, to build a mosque, because 21 that's where prayer is held. That's the spiritual 22 home for the community. This is the place where 23 people congregate, get together and worship. 24 Let's see. We've been pretty much 25 representing space since we -- since we've been here</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 the board and the audience your position with the 2 Alfalah Center? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. I'm the 4 president of the board of Alfalah Center. I've been 5 the president since -- actually, if you don't mind, 6 I'm going to turn this a little bit this way so I'm 7 facing everybody. 8 I've been the president since Alfalah 9 board has been established a little over three years 10 ago. 11 MS. TUBMAN: And you're charged this 12 evening by me to testify about the intended use of 13 the mosque? 14 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 15 MS. TUBMAN: And would you just go into 16 your narrative? 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. Thank you. 18 MS. TUBMAN: And at the conclusion of 19 your testimony, you will be available for questions. 20 MR. ABDELKADER: Absolutely. Please 21 don't mind my voice. It's going to be coming in and 22 out because I've had like one week of like a sore 23 throat and the flu. So sorry about that. 24 Let's see. Mr. Chairman, board 25 members, Mr. Mayor, prospective members of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 in Bridgewater to basically have our prayers. Out 2 of the five prayers of the day, the midday prayer 3 which is roughly somewhere -- sometime between 1 4 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., and I'm saying roughly between 5 that time because we go by the lunar calendar and 6 the position of the sun in the sky and that shifts 7 during -- like depends on what time of the year, 8 what time of the year you're in or what period of 9 the year. So the midday prayer on Friday is pretty 10 much what the Friday prayer is where we actually 11 have a service and a sermon. 12 Excuse me if I jump back and forth 13 between things. I'm just going to go through a few 14 things here. Okay. I'll just explain. Our morning 15 prayer is basically one hour before sunrise. That's 16 the first prayer of the day. The midday prayer is 17 one hour after high noon. That's basically the 18 midday prayer. The third prayer which is called 19 Asar is halfway between high noon and sunset. The 20 fourth prayer is at sunset, and the last prayer, the 21 fifth prayer of the day is two hours after sunset. 22 Currently, we pray -- we perform these 23 prayers -- one very kind and generous member of the 24 community actually have donated an area in his place 25 of business for these prayers to be conducted, and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 very roughly right now the morning prayer is roughly 2 five people, and the reason for that is obviously 3 the timing and because many people actually need to 4 be outside their house going to work when it's time 5 for that prayer. That's why the number is low, and 6 it's been that way for the last three years. 7 MIDDAY prayer which is one hour after 8 high noon, it's prayed around roughly 1:15 or 1:30 9 p.m. About 10 to 15 people show up for that prayer, 10 and that's because this prayer comes at a time where 11 people are at their job working. So, basically, 12 whatever place is closest to your business, that's 13 the place where you go to to conduct your prayer. 14 You're not necessarily tied or they're not a member 15 or married to a specific location that they have to 16 go to, just what the nearest location is. 17 The next prayer, the third prayer, 18 probably even less than that, about seven people. 19 The sunset prayer is about five people. The last 20 prayer of the day, Isha, which is two hours after 21 sunset, roughly no more than 10 people, somewhere 22 between five and 10 people, and these have been the 23 numbers consistently for the last three years. They 24 have not changed. 25 Friday prayer, this is pretty much the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 first sermon and prayer was roughly 40 people, and 2 then over a period of five to six weeks it pretty 3 much like ramped up steadily until we hit 80, 85, 4 and that's where we've been for the last three 5 years, like somewhere between 85 and it spikes up to 6 maybe 110 depending on when Friday falls. 7 If Friday falls on a holiday or a day 8 that, you know, like most people have off, then you 9 see a little bit more higher turnout because the 10 family comes because the kids have off from school 11 and like the family comes to the prayer together. 12 So that's pretty much the numbers, and 13 I understand -- I have here the sheet from the -- 14 from our application where it has the numbers, the 15 estimated numbers for the attendees, and I know the 16 Friday prayer says 250, and I just need to explain 17 that. 18 MS. TUBMAN: May I interrupt for just a 19 second? 20 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. 21 MS. TUBMAN: That document to which 22 Yasser is referring is in the application package, 23 but because it is buried in that package, I've had 24 it pre-marked as A-2, given a copy to your secretary 25 and the two attorneys here representing objectors.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 most show up or turn out in a prayer, and that's 2 weekly on Friday, and it's -- it starts at 1 o'clock 3 and it ends about 1:45. It's roughly 45 minutes. 4 It's a sermon given by the Imam or someone who 5 actually gives the sermon followed by a prayer, and, 6 typically, people start arriving starting maybe 10 7 minutes to one, 10 to 1 p.m., and it's basically a 8 trickle. People start arriving over a period of 9 like about 35 minutes, and the prayer itself is 10 roughly 1:35, lasts about 10 minutes, and then 11 people start also leaving like in a trickle fashion, 12 because, you know, like people sometimes hang out 13 and talk for 10, 15 minutes. Some people perform 14 some extra prayers. So it's not everyone to the 15 door in one shot. 16 We have been basically renting the 17 Green Knoll Firehouse hall next to the fire station 18 in Bridgewater for roughly two and a half, maybe -- 19 actually close to three years. We just changed our 20 location from that to the Days Inn on Route 22 about 21 two and a half months ago, I would say maybe three 22 months ago. 23 At the Green Knoll, just to give you an 24 idea when we started, obviously, because it's a new 25 location and not many people knew about it, our</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 Now you could continue. 2 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you very much. 3 Now just address that particular point. I know that 4 that sheet has the attendees estimate and it is 5 called an estimate. We have 250 people. If you 6 would indulge me, I'm known for analogies. So I'm 7 going to use the analogy very, very quickly. 8 Let's assume that the closing costs on 9 buying a house is a hundred thousand dollars. It's 10 a very, very significant initial investment when you 11 actually buy a house. That's the equivalent of 12 building a project like this one and building a 13 building like this one. There is a very, very 14 significant initial investment. When you're buying 15 a house, you don't buy a single bedroom house 16 knowing that you are going to get married and have 17 two kids in the next few years, and when you get 18 married, then you get two bedroom. You have one 19 child. You sell that and upgrade to the next three 20 bedroom and so forth. That would be, you know, like 21 completely insufficient and unrealistic. 22 So the number of 250, this is 23 accounting for many, many, many years down the road. 24 This is an estimate for where we see our 25 congregation and our community growing to the next</p>

1 50 years. It doesn't mean that we have 250 showing
2 up today for the Friday prayer right now. We're
3 about somewhere between 90 and 100, and we haven't
4 been not much change for the last three years. Of
5 those attendees, typically, you would find 90
6 percent men and 10 percent women. There's a reason
7 for that.

8 The reason is that women are not
9 required to attend the Friday sermon and prayer.
10 They're not required, you know, religiously to be
11 there. Obviously, there's a wisdom behind this.
12 There are young children that need to be taken care
13 of. There are many other matters that they attend
14 to. Actually, I consider I have it easy. I have a
15 job, I go to work and I just do my work and come
16 back home. You know, mothers and wives, they have a
17 tougher job. God bless them. So that's why they
18 are not required to go to prayer, and that's why the
19 numbers are low attendance for the Friday prayer,
20 and that's why also later on when I go through some
21 of our building you will notice that the area for
22 women is smaller, because from practice, from
23 experience, from life, we just know that the
24 attendance is 10 percent women, and that area
25 there's no hard wall.

1 It's just simply an area that's
2 designated for women, and I mean, if the number is
3 higher, they just simply move forward. It's an open
4 area and it's dynamic. Also, while up here, the
5 reason why the women's area is in the back, we don't
6 have commingling and mixing during service and
7 during worship between women and men. That's why
8 women sit separately, and the reason they sit in the
9 back, I'm not sure how many people are familiar with
10 the prayer like in Islam, but we bow and we kneel
11 and we prostrate and we're completely down on our
12 hands and knees on the floor, obviously, you know,
13 to god.

14 Just common sense, I don't think any
15 women is going to want to be in the front doing that
16 and men behind her. That's why women are in the
17 back, out of respect, out of respect to their
18 integrity and out of like privacy.

19 Okay. Moving forward, if you don't
20 mind, just a question, do you want me to pause for
21 any questions about the Friday prayer or keep the
22 questions at the end?

23 MS. TUBMAN: Keep your testimony and
24 leave the questions to the end because some of them
25 may be answered in the course of your testimony.

1 MR. ABDELKADER: Okay. Sure. Thanks a
2 lot. So that's the Friday prayer, and that's pretty
3 much the highest number you'll see with the
4 exception of two days, two days more out of year
5 that I'm going to explain shortly.

6 Ramadhan, and that's R-A-M-A-D-H-A-N,
7 this is our one month, one holy month in the year
8 where we do our fasting and we do extra worship and
9 extra prayers, and we have actually additional
10 prayers that we do in the evening, and that's again
11 one month -- 29 or 30 days out of the year, and
12 it -- there's no set -- it shifts.

13 The Islamic calendar is a lunar
14 calendar. So the lunar year is 11 days shorter than
15 a standard Georgian year. So that month pretty much
16 comes 11 days earlier every single year. Actually,
17 30 years ago or roughly 24 years ago. It's the same
18 time it's going to come this year. It's just pretty
19 much circled around. It took about 25 or 30 years
20 to circle around. Like sometimes it comes in
21 January. Sometimes it comes in February and so
22 forth. You understand.

23 So during that month, we fast, and our
24 fasting basically means refraining from any food or
25 drink from sunrise, from dawn to sunset. No eating,

1 no drinking, no smoking for smokers. We're not
2 supposed to be smoking period anyway, and in the
3 evening, after the last prayer in the day which
4 comes two hours after sunset, we go back to the
5 mosque, and we perform what's called Tarawweh
6 prayer, T-A-R-A-W-W-E-H, prayers, and, basically,
7 those are extra prayers that people perform during
8 Ramadhan following the teaching of our prophet
9 Muhammad, and, basically, the best way to describe
10 it and the easiest way to describe it, when I
11 describe people, it's extra credit pretty much.

12 So you basically getting extra credit,
13 extra points. You're doing extra worship, and among
14 many, many other things, I'm not about obviously to
15 give any crash course about our religion and our
16 practices, but there are many other things that we
17 do as part of, you know, the worship and the fasting
18 that we do during Ramadhan. So that prayer, again,
19 like I said, it starts after the last prayer of the
20 day. It starts two hours after sunset and, again,
21 the sheet that Ms. Lloyd Tubman referred to with the
22 numbers and the estimates that we -- that we have in
23 our application states that there's about 150 people
24 show up for that prayer which is roughly between
25 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., give or take, and it

1 shifts a little bit because of the lunar as I
 2 explained. That's 150 in the application, but the
 3 numbers we have seen consistently over the last
 4 three years is -- it starts -- and I explained this.
 5 It's kind of funny.
 6 It starts with about 60, 60 to 70
 7 people, and then midway, because there are
 8 options -- you know, I mean some people perform
 9 eight prayers. Some people would like to perform
 10 16. Some people perform 20. So it just dwindles
 11 down. By the middle of the duration of the prayer,
 12 which is like after the first hour, we're pretty
 13 much down to 20 people, from 70 to about 20 people,
 14 you know, halfway through the evening, and all it is
 15 is simply, you know, like an Imam leading the
 16 prayer, reciting verses from our holy book, the
 17 Quran, and people are standing in rows behind them
 18 and just perform prayer, one prayer after another.
 19 We obviously take many breaks in the
 20 middle. Breaks for people to rest, to have a drink
 21 of water. We might have a small five- to 10-minute
 22 what we call like a mini lecture, religiously --
 23 obviously, religiously inclined. That's the
 24 Tarawweh prayer which we perform in Ramadhan, and,
 25 typically, this is a family -- this is all about

1 family being together and family worshipping
 2 together and people gathering together.
 3 So those -- the number of people that
 4 are there actually account for much more number of
 5 cars. We can come to that later.
 6 Next that I wanted to explain is our
 7 Eid, E-I-D, prayer. We have two major holidays or
 8 major holy days in the year. One of them is Eid
 9 al-Fitr. If you want me to spell it,
 10 E-I-D-A-L-F-I-T-R. That celebration or that
 11 occasion comes at the end of Ramadhan, after the
 12 last day of Ramadhan. Basically, it's a way to
 13 celebrate, to, you know, end the month of fasting.
 14 It's kind of actually mixed emotions, because, you
 15 know, we love that month and we love that. It's
 16 here and we enjoy it, and it is -- you know, it's a
 17 celebration, but at the same time, we hate to see
 18 the month end, but in any case, Eid prayers is
 19 typically performed 9 or 9:30 a.m.
 20 Sometimes I mean people can actually
 21 perform it or hold it earlier than that, but because
 22 of business and work and work hours and traffic and
 23 so forth, we always opt to hold it at 9:30, 9:30 in
 24 the morning, and it lasts roughly 45 minutes similar
 25 to the Friday prayer. The only difference is that

1 we perform the prayer first and then we have the
 2 sermon. That's the only difference.
 3 I mean the Friday prayer you have the
 4 sermon first and then the prayer at the end. You
 5 pray first and then you have the sermon, and it's
 6 roughly 45 minutes, but it's typically longer than
 7 that in terms of, after the prayer, people start
 8 talking, and like most people -- I don't want to
 9 quote percentages or make a guess, but my guess
 10 would be like 70 percent of the people, if not more,
 11 it would be 80 percent of people take off that day,
 12 take the day off from work. They come with their
 13 family and they just socialize.
 14 It's an occasion that you see friends.
 15 Sometimes you see people that you pretty much see
 16 once a year on that occasion that may be visiting
 17 their family from a far distance and so forth. So
 18 people gather and they socialize, usually have like
 19 muffins and bagels and orange juice and coffee and
 20 so forth, and that lasts maybe for an hour, hour and
 21 a half, and during that hour, again, people just
 22 simply leave in a trickle manner.
 23 You know, like maybe after the sermon
 24 is done, the few who have to go to work didn't take
 25 the day off, but the vast majority, 85 percent of

1 people will be there for a good hour, hour and a
 2 half, and they'll just trickle out, you know, very
 3 slowly. That's Eid al-Fitr.
 4 The second major religious holiday of
 5 the year is Eid al-Adha, A-D-H-A, I believe. Okay.
 6 And that comes -- that actually comes at like
 7 towards the end of the timing of our pilgrimage,
 8 the holy pilgrimage that people go to Mecca. You
 9 know, towards like the last few days, that's the
 10 timing of where that holiday is, and it is typically
 11 roughly two months and 10 days after the first
 12 holiday.
 13 Those are pretty much the only two
 14 major holidays that we have period, and I
 15 understand, again, in the application document where
 16 we have the attendance estimate, we have 500. So
 17 far we have probably not exceeded 300, and that's
 18 been consistent also in the last three years.
 19 Similar to Friday prayers, we need to
 20 find space to rent to perform, to have that done,
 21 and we've rented various, you know, different,
 22 different places, the Days Inn, schools like the
 23 auditorium -- not auditorium, the gymnasium of
 24 schools. We've actually rented Redwood Inn itself
 25 about four or five times when it was still in

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 operation. We rented that location. 2 Let's see. So, actually, just to put 3 things in perspective, the number of cars that show 4 up for the Eid prayer, even though it's 300 people, 5 is typically much less than the Friday prayer 6 because you have families. You have four or five 7 people per car. 8 Okay. So this covers all the prayers, 9 worship, that, you know, area of the document that 10 I'm looking at, and I'm just trying to cover 11 everything as much as I can. 12 Okay. Aside from the five prayers and 13 the Friday prayer and the Eid prayer, the rest of 14 the services that we hope to provide is basically 15 Saturday and Sunday Islamic classes or Islamic 16 school. These are basically no different than 17 Sunday classes, you know, at the church or at the 18 synagogue where, you know, families would like their 19 children to learn their heritage and to learn their 20 religion and basically take the children on the 21 weekend to learn from mostly volunteers. Most of 22 the teachers would be volunteers. Some are paid. 23 It doesn't really matter. Whatever the need is, we 24 provide that. 25 Right now we have our Sunday school at</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 call tafsir, the meanings of the versus. That's in 2 a separate location, and that's the same location 3 we're actually performing now five daily prayers. 4 Hopefully, that's also going to continue to be 5 provided, and that is about 10, 12 children and two 6 of them actually occasionally show up. So it's 7 about 10 to 12 children. 8 Youth activities, that's something else 9 that we would like and hope to provide. Youth 10 activities could be anything from a bunch of high 11 school children, maybe, I don't know, half a dozen 12 to a dozen, getting together and tutoring each 13 other, helping each other in classes, playing chess, 14 playing ping pong, having extra curricular 15 activities, small projects, community services, you 16 know, provide community service to the community, 17 organizing different -- different activities among 18 themselves. 19 Senior citizen services, and that's 20 basically, again, providing service to the elderly, 21 whatever the need is, anybody who needs company, 22 needs someone to do their shopping, needs someone to 23 accompany them to certain locations whether for 24 translation or for carrying things. It's that kind 25 of services. I mean, just to simplify it, no</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 the William Annin School in Basking Ridge. It's a 2 public school in Basking Ridge, and we have roughly 3 60 children, about eight classrooms that we rent 4 from the school. I believe that's been the extent 5 of it, and, typically, the ages range from five 6 years old to 12, maybe 14, and any higher than that, 7 the number dwindles significantly and becomes just 8 like a work group for the youth or the more adult 9 kids. 10 So that's the Sunday -- Sunday class, 11 and, typically, it's a drop off and pick up. It 12 starts about 10 or 10:30 in the morning until 2:30 13 in the afternoon. Most parents -- a few parents 14 hang out and wait, you know, while -- they bring the 15 laptop. They bring their read -- you know, favorite 16 reading. They hang out together and socialize, but 17 the vast majority, I'll say 90 percent of parents 18 will drop off their kids and pick them up at the end 19 of the classes. 20 Let's see. We also -- right now we 21 have also a separate much smaller class, 10 22 students, that actually work primarily mostly on 23 memorization, memorizing the Quran, our holy book, 24 and not just memorizing, obviously, learning the 25 meanings, learning all the background and what we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 different than what any church or any synagogue 2 would provide, the community service that you would 3 provide to your community. 4 Funeral and burial services, right now 5 we don't have that. Obviously, we'd like it. We 6 rely on other established mosques or Islamic centers 7 to provide it for us, and it is -- it's typically 8 just like, you know -- it's typically an emergency 9 situation because we don't have services. So you 10 have to rely on other people and other locations to 11 provide the service. We try to do the best we can. 12 Sister activity program, that's one of 13 the services also that's listed. That's just simply 14 the adult version of the youth program. It's 15 basically ladies getting together to discuss family 16 matters, raising children, school activities, school 17 homework, cooking, you name it, basically in small 18 groups, and right now, unfortunately, it doesn't 19 exist or it's very, very limited or it's out of 20 someone's house, very small groups. It doesn't -- 21 it's not going to be anything more than that, and, 22 typically, these things are provided by people 23 volunteering their time. 24 For example, we have a wonderful, you 25 know, pediatrician in the community. She would</p>

1 maybe provide a -- you know, offer a session to
 2 counsel mothers or to answer any questions about
 3 children. We have a nutritionist in the community.
 4 She would probably like announce and hold a session
 5 to help people on how to lead a healthy life and a
 6 healthy diet and so forth. Same thing would go, you
 7 know, like if there's like a lawyer in the
 8 community. He might hold a session to educate
 9 people about estate and legal matters and taxes and
 10 so forth.

11 Matrimonial services, that's
 12 basically -- there are two aspects to that,
 13 basically, actually providing a safe and religiously
 14 approved environment for prospective young men and
 15 women who are at the age of getting married to meet,
 16 to get to know each other and to talk, to discuss --
 17 to be basically introduced, and the other thing also
 18 is that, when we have an Imam, like a resident Imam
 19 at a mosque, then he would provide guidance and
 20 classes to teach the prospective husband and wife
 21 what are the rights and duties of a husband and wife
 22 and so forth and what the nature of marriage life is
 23 and what is the religiously correct way of leading
 24 your life and so forth. Counseling services, that's
 25 counseling services.

1 Community service program is like a
 2 medical clinic. I think I pretty much touched on
 3 that before where I mean like a physician in the
 4 community would volunteer its time to hold -- to
 5 hold sessions where anybody -- by the way, I
 6 apologize. I need to step back and correct
 7 everything that I said.

8 Whoever is providing the session is
 9 going to provide it based on the need of whoever
 10 attends. I don't want to make it sound that these
 11 services are provided for our community only and for
 12 Muslims only. This is open for anybody and
 13 everybody, and when I say that, you know, the Imam
 14 would counsel the prospective, you know, husband and
 15 wife how to lead their life religiously, that's when
 16 they are Muslim, but the same exact service and all
 17 of these services, it's a community center. It's
 18 open for anybody and everybody in the community
 19 similar to the daycare.

20 The daycare, in which I'm going to talk
 21 about there, it is open for the public, for anybody,
 22 and we always welcome -- I have been to dozens of
 23 churches and for various occasions for various
 24 events, and I expect -- and I've been to synagogues
 25 as well, and I expect fully that any member of the

1 community are more than welcome to always come. If
 2 they have questions, they want to learn more, if
 3 they want anything, any of these services are
 4 available for everybody.

5 So back to the medical clinic. So,
 6 basically, a physician from the community would
 7 basically hold a clinic to educate people on
 8 whatever it is that they need to learn about.
 9 Whether it's, you know, they have a question about
 10 their high cholesterol, high blood pressure, their
 11 posture when they're sitting. I wake up and my back
 12 hurts. That's me talking. So, basically, that's
 13 basically the type of services that it would be.

14 Let's see. Let's do the paper shuffle.
 15 I'm just trying to look through to see if I covered
 16 most of the things that are in the services that we
 17 provide list and that I'd like to cover.

18 Okay. I'm going to move on to the
 19 daycare. Basically, again, nothing different than
 20 what any daycare and any of the churches or the
 21 synagogues that are in Bridgewater. We plan to
 22 provide, you know, a daycare service for the public,
 23 for anybody, and I believe we have, my apologies, 40
 24 children. That's, you know, the number that we have
 25 to state or foresee, and it's going to be a range,

1 obviously, from infants to six years old. I guess
 2 the time when they actually start going to public
 3 school. That would be my guess. There might be
 4 some provided aftercare or additional help, whatever
 5 is needed, and it's going to be provided in the
 6 classrooms or the rooms that you see to the -- well,
 7 maybe this is a good time to go through this.

8 Okay. This is the layout of the -- you
 9 know, hopefully, the proposed layout of the Alfalah
 10 Center, the current Redwood Inn as it right now.
 11 I'm sure many of you are familiar with the building
 12 and familiar with how it is laid out.

13 Basically, you have Mountaintop Road
 14 running right here. So this is the front of the
 15 building. Obviously, Mountaintop Road is about 50,
 16 maybe 70 feet from this point. This is the main
 17 entrance to the building, and there's going to be a
 18 second entrance here with a ramp obviously for
 19 disabled.

20 Right here, this is the primary or the
 21 main prayer area. This is where we will basically
 22 conduct our prayers whether it's the five prayers or
 23 the Friday prayer or the Eid prayer. I would say
 24 probably for Eid we might need to remove these
 25 dividers and have this space just for the Eid

1 prayer. This area is about 50 feet by 50 feet which
 2 is gigantic for us. This is, you know, more than
 3 what we need for probably -- I don't want to
 4 speculate how many years, until my son is my age,
 5 and, basically, this is the primary prayer area
 6 right here.
 7 This is the area that's designated for
 8 women, but, again, if there is more, basically,
 9 they'll start going forward and like occupy however
 10 much space that they need to occupy, and, you know,
 11 we'll probably have very simple wooden, soft
 12 dividers just for privacy, obviously, because when
 13 we are in the -- in our worship, we don't have
 14 chairs. We do have, obviously, a few chairs for the
 15 elderly, for someone with a bad back or a bad knee
 16 or so forth, but for the most part, people sit on
 17 the floor to listen to a sermon or to listen to a
 18 lecture. So for privacy and since it's sitting on
 19 the floor, we would have dividers here for the
 20 women's area.
 21 I mean I'm not sure how much in details
 22 you want me to go into. This is the main entrance.
 23 This would be the lobby. You have the restrooms
 24 here and another restroom here. So this would be
 25 primarily for the ladies to perform ablution which

1 is like a ritual cleansing or washing before the
 2 prayer. Most people would do that at home before
 3 they even come in, but some people -- like if you're
 4 coming from work or you're coming, you know, like
 5 from a long drive, then you would need to do it
 6 here.
 7 Right here, this is the entrance for
 8 another long hallway that you see here and that way
 9 as well. These are basically the classrooms. This
 10 is a library, but these are all classrooms where we
 11 would have our different activities, classrooms for
 12 the daycare during the times that they're operating
 13 or classes for breakout where we have youth
 14 activity, a group of kids, you know, tutoring each
 15 other, a group of women having like a lady's session
 16 and so forth.
 17 This is -- I believe this is just an
 18 office with its own private bathroom. These are
 19 multi-purpose room, and also from the hallway here,
 20 there are two multi-purpose room and a third one.
 21 Again, these can be for larger classes or for larger
 22 groups. This is the electric room, and that's
 23 pretty much it, and I'll leave the rest for
 24 questions, I guess, if you have any questions about
 25 any of that after I'm done which is going to be very

1 soon.
 2 I think I'm done. Thank you very much.
 3 I appreciate your patience, and thank you.
 4 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. Are there
 5 any questions from the board?
 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Absolutely, of course.
 7 MR. MOENCH: Good evening, sir. I have
 8 a few questions that I want to go back over some of
 9 your testimony.
 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes.
 11 MR. MOENCH: The first, if I make sure
 12 I understand, you mentioned numbers of attendees for
 13 prayer sessions. You mentioned one prayer session
 14 is held currently at somebody's home, if I
 15 understood, but then you also mentioned Green Knoll
 16 Fire Department.
 17 So I just wanted to understand what
 18 locations you were talking about or is there
 19 multiple locations? How is that currently working
 20 now with your congregation?
 21 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. It's not so
 22 much home.
 23 MR. MOENCH: I'm sorry. The business I
 24 think you said.
 25 MR. ABDELKADER: At this business, this

1 is a small room where we actually perform the five
 2 daily prayers, the five prayers that I explained
 3 which is at dawn and then roughly midday and then a
 4 couple hours later and then at sunset and then two
 5 hours after sunset. Those daily prayers are
 6 required on a daily basis every single day. There's
 7 a special -- you know, a special prayer. What
 8 happens is that that midday prayer on Fridays only,
 9 that's where we have the Friday prayer that's going
 10 to be a larger number. That's roughly between 1 and
 11 1:45 or 1:10 and five minutes to two in the
 12 afternoon. That is what we rented the Green Knoll
 13 for. That's for the Friday prayer. That's where
 14 the number is roughly like around 90 or so.
 15 MR. MOENCH: Okay. You mentioned a
 16 number before that was you said roughly 10 percent
 17 of attendees on a Friday mass are women and then the
 18 other 90 percent are the males.
 19 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct.
 20 MR. MOENCH: One of my concerns or
 21 questions when I look at the activity sheet that
 22 we've gone over and the estimated attendees and the
 23 estimated parking, and then, of course, the
 24 estimated spaces, required spaces, first of all, I
 25 understand that your numbers right now are all lower

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 than what's projected here. I also appreciate the 2 fact that, of course, you hope to grow by having a 3 location and you hope to grow it which I fully 4 understand, but looking at these numbers that you 5 provided, looking at the Friday prayer where it has 6 estimated attendees of 250 and estimated parking of 7 150 cars -- 8 MR. ABDELKADER: Right. 9 MR. MOENCH: -- when I do my rough math 10 that I scribble down here, if 10 percent of the 11 attendees were women, and I'm assuming that if those 12 women are coming as couples with their husband, I 13 get a total parking of roughly 225 spots. By doing 14 that, I'm assuming that every male is coming on his 15 own and then the women are coming with a couple. I 16 understand that that's -- we're estimating here that 17 some of the women may come on their own. Likewise, 18 some of the men may come together. 19 So my concern is that the parking, 20 especially for the Friday prayers, is not matching 21 up. The ordinance that we have or the requirements, 22 one to three ratio is what we're using. The 23 estimates we have on this sheet are going to be 24 underestimating the actual number of cars that will 25 be there especially based on the 10 percent women</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 for about two years I went to the service with three 2 other guys. So there was four of us in the car. 3 I've seen many, many cars come in with two and three 4 males because they're at the same workplace 5 together. 6 The 10 percent women that I'm talking 7 about, 95 percent, you do the math, of them are 8 coming with their husbands as a family. So you have 9 a family of four and five coming in a minivan where 10 you have the husband and two teenagers and the wife 11 and so forth. So of those women, my estimate is the 12 majority of them are coming already in a car with 13 somebody else, and there are a lot of people that do 14 car pool because they're coming from the same place 15 of business. 16 I mean, like I said, I used to go with 17 three other guys in one car, and I know four other 18 guys that also come together in one car, and I would 19 say half the cars -- I mean, I'm sorry, half the 20 cars that come there and come with more than one 21 person, not one person per car. 22 What I can also tell you is, when we 23 were at the Green Knoll Fire Station, you know, 24 rental space, and I'm saying that we are roughly 90 25 people, the space parking in the Green Knoll and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 versus 90 percent men. So if you could respond to 2 that comment or question? 3 MS. TUBMAN: I cannot see who is 4 speaking. I apologize. 5 MR. MOENCH: I'm sorry. It's Matthew 6 Moench. 7 MS. TUBMAN: Mr. Moench, this chart was 8 prepared by a group of laymen making guesses in 9 2010, 2011. The ITE manual has since come out with 10 some more on parking. We also have a parking expert 11 that can address your question as this witness is 12 unable to do. 13 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Sir, based on just 14 your observations, I'm not asking you about any kind 15 of expert opinion on parking, but based on your 16 observations of who attends Friday mass, you gave 17 the estimate of 10 percent women. 18 Can you give any estimate with regard 19 to how many folks are coming, you know, car pooling 20 or coming as couples or coming as groups to the 21 Friday prayer as opposed to people who I assume are 22 coming from work, going back to work or coming from 23 home, going back to home? Do you have any visual 24 estimate on that? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: What I can tell you is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 the adjacent fire squad is no more than 50 cars, and 2 that was plenty for us. We never lose the street 3 parking except very, very rarely, again, on Fridays 4 that fall on a holiday or there's a major event or 5 so forth. 6 MR. MOENCH: Okay. With regard to the 7 daycare center, you estimated 40 children. How many 8 staff members would you expect to be serving those 9 40 children in the daycare center? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Whatever the ratio by 11 law that is required to serve them. My -- I don't 12 know. Ten. 13 MS. TUBMAN: Don't guess. 14 MR. ABDELKADER: That's completely 15 guess on my part. My apology, but whatever the 16 ratio that's required by law for the ratio of 17 students to caregivers, that's what we'll be 18 servicing. 19 MR. MOENCH: And same question for the 20 religious class you have. You estimated about 20 21 students on Saturday afternoon classes and 120 22 students on the Sunday classes. 23 How are those classes proposed to be 24 broken up in terms of grade level or how many staff 25 come with that?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 I'm assuming that's volunteers when I 2 say staff, teachers. Do you have any estimate of 3 how that would propose to work? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: It is primarily -- 5 it's an assessment at the beginning of each school 6 year, and we basically grade the students based on 7 like a reasonable mix or not mix -- a reasonable 8 ratio of their ability and their, you know, strength 9 in whatever area that they're learning as well as 10 their age. We have to also consider, you know, 11 their age. 12 So if they're broken in that manner, I 13 can't tell you how many, you know, classes or 14 sessions we will have, but it probably would be no 15 more than eight -- eight or nine classes. That's 16 the amount of classes that we rent today for our 17 Sunday school. 18 MR. MOENCH: Sure. On the sheet that 19 we were talking about that I have in front of me 20 that's been marked as an exhibit, it estimates for 21 the Sunday classes 120 students. It says 12 cars. 22 Do you know where the 12 cars came 23 from? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: That would pretty much 25 account for the staff and probably the principal and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 Ramadhan falls in the summertime, I guess it would 2 be 10:30 evening prayer, and then after that would 3 occur, the evening Ramadhan prayers? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct, and just to, 5 you know, explain a little bit more about that, for 6 the last three years we also have been, you know, 7 renting space. Our extremely, extremely generous 8 and good friends at the Presbyterian church which is 9 on the corner of Crim Road and Washington Valley 10 Road, we've been using -- they were beyond generous 11 and beyond supportive and they've hosted us to have 12 our Tarawweh prayers during Ramadhan at their 13 church. 14 We've been there for three years, the 15 last three years. I don't think a single anybody or 16 even knows that we exist or that we use that space 17 because, again, you need to understand that it's a 18 very, very slow trickle. It's -- you know, it's 19 not -- it's not a lecture that starts on that time. 20 People show up a little bit earlier to socialize. 21 People show up a little bit earlier to do extra 22 prayers and people show up late into the prayer 23 itself. They arrive late because there are a lot of 24 prayers that happen. You need to catch let's say 10 25 prayers. You can catch them later on. You'll still</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 a couple of administrators. 2 MR. MOENCH: Okay. 3 MR. ABDELKADER: And that's what we see 4 again today. 5 MR. MOENCH: Okay. With regard to the 6 after sunset prayer -- 7 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes, sir. 8 MR. MOENCH: -- that occurs two hours 9 after sunset. This may be a dumb question, but I 10 want to make sure I understand. So in the summer 11 times when sunset is at 8:30, does that mean the 12 prayer is at 10:30 at night? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. Actually, I 14 apologize. Most -- the latest that it can be is 15 probably like 10:20 roughly. 16 MR. MOENCH: So then in the summer 17 months it's later and in the winter months it's 8 18 o'clock? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 20 MR. MOENCH: Can you please remind me, 21 for the Ramadhan prayers, that's after -- that is 22 after the evening? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: Immediately after it. 24 It follows immediately after it, yes. 25 MR. MOENCH: So in which case, when</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 perform what you would like to perform. So there's 2 no big rush in and big rush out. It's a trickle 3 down. 4 Again, I mean I wish that -- you know, 5 that you would have joined us for any of our 6 services. It's all public knowledge. It's all 7 known and you can see what it is like. We've been 8 there for three years, not a complaint. 9 MR. MOENCH: For wedding ceremonies 10 that you would host at the center, can you give me 11 an understanding as to when those ceremonies 12 typically take place, Saturday afternoon? Is it a 13 Friday or Saturday evening? How long do those 14 ceremonies typically go? 15 MR. ABDELKADER: It can be any time. 16 There is no particular set time for it that it need 17 to happen, but most people prefer to do it on a 18 Thursday evening or a Friday evening. Some will 19 hold it obviously -- when I say Thursday evening and 20 Friday evening, I need to explain a little bit that. 21 Back home -- well, my other home, because this is 22 home too. In the Middle East, our weekend is Friday 23 and Saturday. So Friday is a day off back in the 24 Middle East. So that's why Thursday evening and 25 Friday evening are convenient.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 Here people will probably do it on 2 Saturday and Sunday, and, typically, the ceremony 3 itself, the religious ceremony part of the marriage 4 is conducted where close -- very close, immediate 5 family and maybe a very few friends are present 6 before the Imam, and he does the, you know, do you 7 take that man, do you take that woman and so forth, 8 and that's pretty much the extent of it. 9 MR. MOENCH: How many children do you 10 typically get on the Friday prayer, Friday midday 11 prayer? I assume not many because it's in the 12 middle of the school day. 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. When school is 14 in session, you can probably count them on one hand. 15 When it's summertime, maybe a dozen, maybe between 16 like I would say a dozen or so, but most people are 17 mindful that this is a sermon and a service. So you 18 don't see many like infants or toddlers or kids 19 running around the place. Usually, you know, the 20 youngest you would see is probably five or six who 21 are mature enough to sit down and actually sit 22 through a sermon. 23 MR. MOENCH: There were questions at 24 one of the previous meetings about concerns about 25 how the outdoor space is going to be used,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 slides, couple of swings for the children, and I 2 haven't seen any place that take out all their kids 3 at once. Usually, you take them out in batches, in 4 classes, in groups, in controlled groups with the 5 children. You're not going to bring everybody out 6 in one shot. That would be unrealistic, unsafe. 7 MR. MOENCH: Do you have any intention 8 or opinion about putting up some sort of fence 9 around the back of the property or barriers in order 10 to keep either folks from walking in, from going off 11 the property into neighbors' property or also to 12 keep folks from being able to walk onto the property 13 while there's daycare students there? 14 Do you know if that's being proposed or 15 have an opinion about doing something like that? 16 MS. TUBMAN: I believe our architect 17 testified that there would be a fence around that 18 play area in the back, and I believe it's shown on 19 the architectural drawings. 20 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Thank you. Sir, 21 just a few more questions, and I'm sure you'll get 22 asked them from the public. 23 MR. ABDELKADER: As many as you want. 24 MR. MOENCH: So I will ask the first. 25 When you give your numbers about your current</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 especially if there's a playground in the back or 2 basketball court or some other outdoor facilities 3 for the children. 4 Can you talk a little bit about what 5 the vision is right now for how the outdoor parts of 6 the property would be used? 7 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. In terms of -- 8 in terms of religious services or what we need to do 9 for religious activities, we don't have anything 10 that's conducted outdoors. Our prayer space is 11 indoors and we perform our prayers indoors. There 12 is no prayers performed outdoors. For the most 13 part, you'll find a few people like standing and 14 chatting after the service, and that's the extent of 15 it. 16 Obviously, for daycare, we'll have the 17 standard typical type playground, and it's -- I 18 believe it is going to be placed somewhere around 19 here behind the building. So this is the road. 20 This will be the playground area, and that's 21 basically going to be -- again, like I drive by 22 every day a couple of times in front of the church 23 on Van Holten Road. It's typical of what you see 24 there or the church on Church Road in Bridgewater. 25 It's a small playground, couple of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 attendees with the 80 to 85 currently being the peak 2 on the Friday prayers and you -- and we have the 3 numbers here about the growth or what you expect to 4 see, where do you anticipate those -- those 5 attendees coming from in terms of serving the 6 Bridgewater -- Bridgewater residents you anticipate 7 or what kind of area do you expect that the center 8 is going to be serving? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: I don't anticipate to 10 see anything different than what we see now and what 11 we've seen in the last three years that we've been 12 around. Basically, I mean you see -- you start 13 seeing -- you know all the faces. You know all the 14 people who come in, and you know pretty much who 15 lives around here and who works around here. We 16 have not -- we have not grown that much, if any, 17 like in the last three years. 18 So, basically, if you work from home or 19 if you work in the area and happen to also live in 20 Bridgewater, you'll come and do your prayer then, 21 and for folks who work in the area but live far, 22 this is the most convenient place and the most 23 realistic place for them to pray. I don't see it 24 changing a whole lot. I mean I don't want to 25 speculate.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 MR. MOENCH: One of the other questions 2 I'm sure you would get asked is where is the 3 nearest -- the next nearest mosque such as if you 4 didn't have this proposal and didn't build anything 5 in Bridgewater but wanted to attend a formal mosque, 6 rather than going to the Days Inn or Green Knoll 7 Grill -- Green Knoll Fire Department, where is that? 8 Where is the next center? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: One of them is it's 10 called MC, MC which is Muslim Center of Somerset 11 County. I'm sorry. That's about 35 minutes -- 30 12 to 35 minutes southeast, but that's if they clear 13 the roads for you, if the roads are empty, 14 typically, you're talking about an hour. 15 The other one that I can think of is 16 the Boonton Islamic Center North. Again, that's 17 probably 40 minutes when they clear the highway for 18 you and you're driving by yourself. I mean it takes 19 a lot longer, you know, and it's completely 20 unrealistic for the daily prayers or even for the 21 Friday prayers. 22 MR. MOENCH: Sir, there was also 23 testimony at one of the previous meetings actually 24 in some depth about the size of the prayer mats. 25 Can you please provide some comment about -- and it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 will have expert testimony on that. 2 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Thank you. Sir, I 3 think that's all my questions for now. I may have 4 more if I think of them, but for now that's it for 5 me. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: I'll stay here until 7 they kick me out of the building. I'll stay as long 8 as you want me and I'll answer any question. 9 MR. MOENCH: Thank you. I'm sure there 10 will be other folks that have questions for you. 11 MR. ABDELKADER: Absolutely, sure. 12 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Anyone else? 13 MR. CHARLES: Just a quick question. 14 Just what would your plans be if the lot fills, just 15 on a particular event you fill up? What's your plan 16 B operationally? 17 MR. ABDELKADER: For like for whatever 18 service? 19 MR. CHARLES: Pick whatever service. 20 For some reason, the lot fills up. Is there 21 thinking from the board as to how to handle that? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: Well, there are two 23 solutions for this. The first one is basically ask 24 to turn people away. Unfortunately, it has happened 25 and it does happen with our mosques.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 came up in the context of trying to calculate the 2 full occupancy of the room. 3 Can you give some testimony about the 4 size of a prayer mat or what the regulations are 5 typical? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: I had a mental note to 7 actually measure one at home before coming, but I 8 forgot. Two feet wide by two and a half -- I don't 9 want to guess. 10 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Is it possible 11 or -- I'll ask your attorney. I know that came up 12 previously. If that's something that we could get 13 an answer on in terms of -- it came up in the 14 question of what's doctrine and what's not doctrine, 15 and the previous folks had said -- actually, I think 16 two of your experts may have actually had a 17 difference of opinion. Is that something we're able 18 to find out about? 19 MS. TUBMAN: I think only one expert, 20 our architect, said he went on the Internet to find 21 a standard size, and you'll find that in the 22 transcript, and our engineer did not. He testified 23 that he took the 500 maximum that was given to him 24 on this chart, applied your ordinance assuming three 25 persons per vehicle, which is not the case, and we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 We know what our capacity is. We know 2 what the maximum occupancy is and we will adhere to 3 that. We know -- we follow the rules and we 4 basically will turn people away. 5 The other option is to provide a second 6 service very exactly the same way on Christmas or 7 Easter or any of your major holidays in a church. 8 They provide a second and a third service, and that 9 completely alleviates and eliminates the problem. 10 So you provide a second service. You space them out 11 plenty enough to allow people to come in and go out. 12 You know, it's -- again, it's all in a trickle 13 manner, and it's all very, very slow, and that's the 14 solution. That would be two days a year. 15 MR. CHARLES: And just one other 16 question. When you went through the diagram here, 17 one thing that we've seen are a lot of religious 18 institutions that have schools in the past few years 19 have been segregating the space where the students 20 are during the day and where, I don't want to use 21 the word transient the wrong way, people who are 22 coming and going over the five prayers. You'll have 23 people coming and going. 24 Is there -- you know, is there a sense 25 there as to how to secure the area? Is that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 something that the board has on its plate to work 2 through or what's the plans right now? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: I don't want to start 4 guessing, but, basically, I mean it's a daycare. So 5 it's going to have whatever security entrances and 6 needs that are needed to -- you know, similar to 7 what you would see in any other daycare facility to 8 secure the area where the children are, and there 9 are really no transients. It's all people either 10 from the community or work or that are familiar. 11 MR. CHARLES: That's why I didn't want 12 to use that term, per se, but I know at one of the 13 churches I've been to, many events that take place, 14 they actually won't allow any adult activities to 15 take place at the same time as the children events 16 and small things like that just to secure the safety 17 and go above and beyond. It's just something that I 18 think probably your board should think about. 19 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. We'll 20 definitely keep that in mind, absolutely. 21 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Any other questions 22 from the board? 23 MS. DOYLE: Yes, sir. Question on 24 either the religious preference or the cultural 25 preference for walking to worship. Is there a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 it projects enough for everyone in the room to hear 2 it. If there is a use of a microphone, the 3 microphone is only announcing inside -- inside the 4 prayer area itself. 5 As you mentioned and as, you know, this 6 was discussed a lot during the previous hearings, 7 the minaret is merely an Islamic iconic, 8 architectural symbol in a mosque, and we're -- we 9 completely understand and are considerate of, you 10 know, the culture and the location and the 11 neighborhood. We have no plans to announce any 12 prayers outside whether using a microphone or 13 without a microphone. 14 MS. DOYLE: Okay. Thank you. That's 15 clear. Different religions have different 16 assistance or prophets or priests or clergy, and 17 some of those live on the property individually and 18 some religions have several priests or guiders for 19 the religion. 20 What -- how many priests or clergy 21 serve in one particular mosque and do they live on 22 the property, and if so, is it -- if it's more than 23 one, is it in the congregational format or 24 individual houses? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: Okay. We -- in our</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 preference or an inclination for your members to 2 walk to worship? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: No, not really. It's 4 not a requirement by any means. If it makes sense 5 to you, if you live or work within a reasonable 6 distance and it's nice out and you prefer to walk, 7 so be it, but there is no specific requirement 8 whether to walk or drive or anything. 9 MS. DOYLE: So there is no requirement. 10 Is there a preference, a religious preference? 11 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 12 MS. DOYLE: No. Okay. The last 13 question I have is there's a prayer -- a call to 14 worship, call to prayer. 15 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 16 MS. DOYLE: And that in other countries 17 may be done through a minaret either with or without 18 amplification, and you already stated there will be 19 no amplification of the human voice. How is the 20 call to prayer accomplished? 21 MR. ABDELKADER: Basically, it's 22 literally like the person doing the call to the 23 prayer will stand up to the front of the prayer area 24 and literally makes the call to prayers without -- 25 most of the times without even a microphone. I mean</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 religion and beliefs and practices, we don't have 2 any particular clergy. It's not a group of people. 3 It's not multiple people. Typically, you have an 4 Imam. An Imam means like a religious leader who 5 would lead the prayer and give the sermon. Maybe 6 you will have another, you know, Imam as a backup. 7 They live in their homes. I mean, in this event, 8 there is no place -- there is no place for them to 9 actually live or reside. So nobody is going to live 10 on the premises, and that's pretty much the extent 11 of it. 12 Other than that, cleaning will be done 13 either by like a cleaning service or volunteers from 14 the community. It's an honor that you would 15 actually keep a mosque clean. I mean I vacuum the 16 prayer space myself, and that's about it. Anything 17 else is typically done like, you know, the entire 18 community just simply -- they just simply go and 19 everyone does what he does in terms of whether it's 20 cleanup or setup or so forth. 21 MS. DOYLE: Thank you, sir. 22 MR. ABDELKADER: You're welcome. 23 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Any other questions? 24 Now, I'd like to turn it over to the 25 members of the audience. If you'd like to come up,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 please come, state your name. 2 MS. TUBMAN: Steve, the microphone is 3 yours. 4 MR. EISDORFER: My name is Stephen 5 Eisdorfer of the firm of Hill Wallack, LLP, and I'm 6 here on behalf of the Running Brook Homeowners 7 Association and the Manors at Running Brook Property 8 Owners Association. 9 Let me start by where we ended, on the 10 subject of employees. Now, you indicated that there 11 will be employees employed by the daycare program. 12 Is that correct? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 14 MR. EISDORFER: The court reporter can 15 only get things I say and you say verbally. I got 16 the nod of the head. The audience got the nod of 17 the head, but the court reporter didn't get the nod 18 of the head. 19 MR. ABDELKADER: I didn't have the 20 mike. That's correct. 21 MR. EISDORFER: You don't know how many 22 employees that might be? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 24 MR. EISDORFER: Someone has to clean 25 the toilets for the daycare program.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 Who will the office be occupied by? 2 MR. ABDELKADER: Just for the Imam or 3 board members if they need to go in and take care of 4 bills or like clerical matters and so forth. 5 MR. EISDORFER: No secretary office, 6 administrator? 7 MR. ABDELKADER: One of the board 8 members is a secretary. He's the secretary. 9 MR. EISDORFER: I mean on site, an 10 employee, a secretary, a clerical person, someone 11 who keeps the files? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: Right now we're doing 13 everything with our own like volunteers and board 14 members or community members who volunteer their 15 time. So there might not necessarily be an employed 16 secretary. 17 MR. EISDORFER: Right now you're 18 operating catch us if you can. Once you have a 19 building, you're going to have actual files in a 20 location rather than people's homes, membership 21 files, attendance records for your students. 22 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 23 MR. EISDORFER: So someone has to 24 handle that. Someone has to pay the bills. 25 MS. TUBMAN: Please let him finish his</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 2 MR. EISDORFER: Who will do that? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: One of the employees 4 or one of the people that actually work there. 5 MS. TUBMAN: Cleaning service. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Either a cleaning 7 service or one of the teachers if there is any spill 8 or any immediate cleanup that's needed. 9 MR. EISDORFER: Overnight the toilets 10 need to be cleaned, the places have to be swept. 11 MR. ABDELKADER: Cleaning service. 12 MR. EISDORFER: So you'll have a 13 cleaning service and they will come in every day? 14 MR. ABDELKADER: I can't guess. 15 MR. EISDORFER: A professional 16 custodian. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: What do you mean by a 18 professional custodian? 19 MR. EISDORFER: A janitor, somebody 20 who's employed comes every day. 21 MR. ABDELKADER: That's one option. 22 MR. EISDORFER: You don't know how many 23 janitorial staff you'll need? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: No, I don't. 25 MR. EISDORFER: You have an office.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 question and let him answer. Steve, please finish 2 the question. 3 MR. EISDORFER: My question is 4 finished. 5 MR. ABDELKADER: The students' records 6 would be maintained by the staff who are actually 7 running the daycare naturally. 8 MR. EISDORFER: Do you charge dues? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: We haven't even 10 thought about that. We don't have a building yet. 11 MR. EISDORFER: You'll have a mortgage 12 and expenses to pay. We're going to get testimony 13 on landscaping. 14 Are you going to have employees that 15 deal with external maintenance, mowing the lawn, 16 trimming the trees, policing the grounds -- 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 18 MR. EISDORFER: -- doing external 19 maintenance? 20 MR. ABDELKADER: That's no different 21 than what I hire for my own home, someone to cut the 22 lawn, or for any company or establishment to hire a 23 service to actually come and maintain the grounds. 24 MR. EISDORFER: So there will be a 25 service that comes on and does that kind of stuff?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Well, if we want to 2 keep it clean and trimmed, yes. 3 MR. EISDORFER: A handyman, a handy 4 man? 5 MR. ABDELKADER: As needed. 6 MR. EISDORFER: You're going to have a 7 heating service, heating system in this building and 8 hot water? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 10 MR. EISDORFER: Someone who mains the 11 hot water? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 13 MR. EISDORFER: Someone with a boiler 14 license or something like that? 15 MR. ABDELKADER: They won't be 16 employees. They'll be just like any business and 17 any church or synagogue or home. When you need 18 those services, you hire them and they come do their 19 job. 20 MR. EISDORFER: Well, homes are mostly 21 owned, but I've never been to a church or synagogue 22 that didn't have a custodial staff, but we'll see I 23 guess. 24 MR. ABDELKADER: Okay. 25 MR. EISDORFER: Now, I gather you've</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 correct? 2 MR. ABDELKADER: That's over the first 3 five weeks only. This was our initial time that we 4 actually started services in this area because we 5 saw a need for it. 6 MR. EISDORFER: But you don't 7 envision -- once you have your own permanent 8 building, highly visible with a dome and a minaret, 9 visible from the street and in a place that you can 10 advertise and tell people you have services, you're 11 not anticipating any further growth, are you? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: Anybody who has a 13 mosque or a center that's within, I don't know, 10, 14 15 minutes of them, they're not going to leave it 15 and travel, not to the final destination that people 16 need to come to. 17 People simply go to their neighborhood, 18 around the corner church or synagogue or mosque to 19 be with their family and friends to worship. It's 20 that simple. 21 MR. EISDORFER: Do you have experience 22 with other mosques in New Jersey, what their 23 experience is once they got their own building? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: No, not in particular. 25 MR. EISDORFER: You don't know what</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 had a number of different locations. You've been in 2 the Days Inn. You've been at the Green Knoll 3 Firehouse. You've been at the Presbyterian church, 4 and I gather that for various reasons you've found 5 that unsatisfactory. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: It's not a permanent 7 home. It's basically rented place. I don't mean 8 that we found it necessarily unsatisfactory. It's 9 basically a rented space. It's not a permanent 10 home. We can get terminated any minute. 11 MR. EISDORFER: It's unstable. It's 12 temporary. People don't always know where you 13 are -- 14 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 15 MR. EISDORFER: -- because you 16 sometimes move on short notice. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 18 MR. EISDORFER: Does that inhibit your 19 attendance? 20 MR. ABDELKADER: For the duration that 21 we need to relocate until the same people would be 22 aware of our new location. 23 MR. EISDORFER: You indicated when you 24 moved to Green Knoll Firehouse your attendance 25 shrank to 40 and then rose over time. Is that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 effect having your own building has on attendance? 2 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 3 MR. EISDORFER: Now, you described the 4 Friday midday service. I believe you used the word 5 Jumu'ah. Is that correct? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 7 MR. EISDORFER: I'm going to proceed to 8 mispronounce the whole series of words, and if I do, 9 correct me, and I apologize. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Not at all. 11 MR. EISDORFER: So the Jumu'ah 12 commences an hour after midday. Is that right? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 14 MR. EISDORFER: And how long does the 15 service last? 16 MR. ABDELKADER: Roughly 45 minutes. 17 MR. EISDORFER: And it begins with a 18 sermon, correct? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 20 MR. EISDORFER: People really want to 21 be there for the beginning. 22 MR. ABDELKADER: Not everyone is able 23 to be there for the beginning because of work, 24 because of their lunch hour, because of other 25 limitations. They simply keep arriving up until the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 time of the prayer -- people actually arrive for 2 prayer -- people are actually coming in in the 3 middle of prayer to catch it. 4 MR. EISDORFER: Over what period of 5 time do they come? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Over the period of the 7 45 minutes. 8 MR. EISDORFER: Well, so are most there 9 by the beginning of the sermon? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 11 MR. EISDORFER: How early can they 12 begin to come in? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm sorry? 14 MR. EISDORFER: How early do they begin 15 to come in? 16 MR. ABDELKADER: They begin to come in 17 10 minutes to one or like maybe I would say 15 18 minutes before the sermon starts to help with the 19 setup and, you know, putting out the prayer rugs and 20 so forth. 21 MR. EISDORFER: And by what time do you 22 reach the peak? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: By the time we pray. 24 MR. EISDORFER: And are people still 25 coming in during the prayer?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 there is a lot of people who are retired or not 2 working and they're not necessarily coming from 3 work. They're coming from their homes. 4 MR. EISDORFER: What percentage, what 5 percentage of people are coming from work? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: I can't estimate that. 7 MR. EISDORFER: No idea. Can't even 8 give an approximation? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: No, I can't. 10 MR. EISDORFER: So you can't tell us 11 how many people are coming from places of work? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: No. We don't keep 13 track. 14 MR. EISDORFER: And people -- I take 15 it, those who come from work also return to work? 16 MR. ABDELKADER: I would assume. 17 Sometimes people come on Friday or have half the day 18 off and leave from work. I can't tell that. I 19 don't know where they go from after. 20 MR. EISDORFER: What you're telling 21 me -- us, you really don't know where they come from 22 or where they go to? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: No. I mean no. 24 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. After the end of 25 the Eid salah, how fast do they disburse?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Yeah. 2 MR. EISDORFER: What percentage of your 3 attendance is still coming in during the prayer? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm usually praying. 5 So I'm not sure, but at times I'm also all the way 6 in the back sitting in the lobby, and you can 7 literally have five, 10 people walk in while the 8 prayer is taking place. 9 MR. EISDORFER: So 5 percent? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Five to 10 percent. 11 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. So the 90 12 percent of your people are there by the time -- by 13 the time the prayer begins? 14 MR. ABDELKADER: By the time the prayer 15 begins, yes. Yes. 16 MR. EISDORFER: And, typically, of the 17 45 minutes, how much is the sermon and how much is 18 the prayer? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: The sermon is 30 to 35 20 minutes, and the prayer is the last 10 minutes. 21 MR. EISDORFER: Now, once -- once the 22 prayer is over, how fast do people leave? I take it 23 they're all going -- by and large, on Friday, people 24 are coming from work. Is that correct? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: The majority, yes, but</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Usually, you have 10 2 people, maybe five people who get up right away 3 because they need to leave, and then the rest are 4 very, very slow trickle. 5 MR. EISDORFER: Slow trickle meaning 6 over 20 minutes? 7 MR. ABDELKADER: No, longer than that, 8 over half an hour. 9 MR. EISDORFER: Half an hour? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 11 MR. EISDORFER: Now, when women pray, 12 do they prostrate themselves? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 14 MR. EISDORFER: So you need the same 15 kind of area for women as to men to provide prayer 16 space? 17 MR. ABDELKADER: The same area per 18 person, yes, absolutely. 19 MR. EISDORFER: Now, currently, you're 20 operating on Saturdays and Sundays. You're 21 operating eight or nine classes? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: I apologize. 23 Operating what? 24 MR. EISDORFER: Eight or nine classes 25 for children.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: On Sundays. 2 MR. EISDORFER: On Sundays, and 3 approximately it's approximately 60 children. 4 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 5 MR. EISDORFER: So approximately seven 6 or eight per class. 7 MR. ABDELKADER: Give or take. 8 MR. EISDORFER: And there's at least 9 one adult in each class? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: That's right. 11 MR. EISDORFER: Sometimes two. You 12 have two for younger children. 13 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm not sure, but not 14 necessarily. No. 15 MR. EISDORFER: And if you had more 16 classes, you would have more adults. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Not necessarily, 18 because if the class is seven children, it has the 19 capacity to grow significantly without necessarily 20 needing more adults to serve them. 21 MR. EISDORFER: I guess I'm not 22 understanding. I guess when you said every year you 23 look at your -- at your classes, you look at your 24 children and you divide them up into an appropriate 25 number of classes based on their ages and skills,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Not a clue. 2 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. Are you going to 3 get public money for this? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: What do you mean by 5 public money? 6 MR. EISDORFER: From DYFS, public money 7 to operate the program. 8 MR. ABDELKADER: We still don't have a 9 building. We haven't thought about that, and I'm 10 not sure. 11 MR. EISDORFER: Is there going to be 12 fee for service? People are going to pay a fee? 13 MS. TUBMAN: You asked that question, 14 and the answer was he does not know. 15 MR. EISDORFER: We have to assume that 16 all these are possibilities. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 18 MR. EISDORFER: Okay. Have you done 19 any analysis of what the demand is for daycare in 20 this area? 21 MR. ABDELKADER: No, we haven't. 22 MR. EISDORFER: Who are you competing 23 with? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: We haven't started 25 anything. We have not done any analysis, and, you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 and so if you thought it needed fewer, fewer 2 classes, you'd have fewer classes. 3 MR. ABDELKADER: What I mean by 4 evaluate the students based on their abilities, 5 proficiency and we divide them according to that. 6 Chances are, if there's any growth, then the 7 additional people would be disbursed to the same -- 8 those same classes. Having one adult per seven 9 children is plenty capacity for more as needed. 10 MR. EISDORFER: Now, the daycare 11 program, what proportion of the daycare program -- I 12 take it, the daycare program or sector, would that 13 include religious instruction? 14 Let me ask that as a question. Will 15 the daycare program include religious instruction? 16 MR. ABDELKADER: That's far in the 17 future. We haven't even started. So I'm not going 18 to start speculating, but if the entire class 19 happens to be Muslim, I mean there may be religious 20 instructions, but not necessarily depending on the 21 need, and they can break out according to the needs 22 and the instructions would be done accordingly. 23 MR. EISDORFER: What proportion of the 24 children do you anticipate coming from within the 25 congregation?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 know, we're not going to be competing. We're just 2 providing a service. 3 MR. EISDORFER: I'm on the board of a 4 nonprofit that's about to expand its daycare 5 program, and we're doing a whole market analysis to 6 see if we can fill the spots. 7 Now, after Ramadhan, you hold a prayer 8 service. Can you give me the name which I wrote 9 down and now can't find, Tarawweh? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: That's during 11 Ramadhan, yes. 12 MR. EISDORFER: After the evening. 13 MR. ABDELKADER: After the prayer of 14 the day, yes. 15 MR. EISDORFER: After that, is there a 16 break fast? 17 MR. ABDELKADER: No. The break fast is 18 at sunset, and break fast is usually you do it at 19 home, and usually there's another good hour and a 20 half before the last prayer of the day which is 21 followed by the Tarawweh prayer. 22 MR. EISDORFER: Now, do you envision 23 that food will be served for weddings? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm sorry. What do 25 you mean by weddings?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 MR. EISDORFER: Weddings. 2 MS. TUBMAN: Will there be a wedding 3 dinner? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: We haven't thought 5 about that. We haven't really thought about that, 6 but even if there is, it would be probably just like 7 snacks or, you know, for whoever is there. 8 MR. EISDORFER: But this is something 9 you haven't thought about yet. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: No. We're still in 11 the process of trying to get the permits to 12 establish the building. 13 MR. EISDORFER: All these questions 14 which you haven't thought about goes to what the 15 capacity of the building is and what the usage of 16 the building will be. I'm sort of dismayed that 17 none of these things have been thought about. 18 MS. TUBMAN: That's not a question. 19 MR. EISDORFER: Fair enough. Fair 20 enough. 21 Now, you mentioned youth activities. 22 What time of the day would the youth activities take 23 place? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: When the children are 25 not in school.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 hear the sermon outside the mosque. Is that true? 2 MR. ABDELKADER: That's in the Middle 3 East. 4 MR. EISDORFER: There's no religious 5 prohibition on that? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 7 MR. EISDORFER: Is there any religious 8 requirement as to the proper height of a minaret 9 when there is no Imam doing the call? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 11 MR. EISDORFER: I have no further 12 questions. 13 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. 15 Okay. What we'd like to do know, you 16 know, is take a short recess. The restrooms are 17 both out in both ends of the hallway, and we'll 18 resume in approximately 10 minutes. Thank you. 19 (Recess taken.) 20 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Okay. We'd like to 21 continue with the questions from the public. 22 Mr. Mc Namara. 23 MR. MC NAMARA: Thank you, Mr. 24 Chairman. For the record, Patrick Mc Namara from 25 the law of firm of Scarinci & Hollenbeck on behalf</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 MR. EISDORFER: Afternoons, evenings. 2 MR. ABDELKADER: They don't take place 3 right now. So I cannot really tell you when they 4 would take place. I would imagine evenings after 5 the children go back home, have dinner, finish their 6 homework or any work that they need to do. So it 7 would be in the evening, most likely, and weekends. 8 MR. EISDORFER: Now, is there -- is 9 there any religious prohibition -- would there be 10 any religious prohibition on streaming the prayer 11 service into the other rooms in the building? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: No, no religious 13 prohibition for that. 14 MR. EISDORFER: Would there be any 15 religious prohibition to streaming the prayer 16 service into the covered walkway around the 17 building? 18 MR. ABDELKADER: It wouldn't make sense 19 because nobody would be sitting outside. 20 MR. EISDORFER: Would there be a 21 religious prohibition? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 23 MR. EISDORFER: I'm familiar that in 24 countries in the Middle East often salah is 25 broadcast outside the mosque and all prayer and you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 of Mr. and Mrs. Rinaldi. 2 Good evening, sir. 3 MR. ABDELKADER: Good evening. 4 MR. MC NAMARA: First couple of 5 questions I want to ask you are regarding services 6 you provide to your adults in your congregation. 7 In the site plans -- and I can't read 8 that one even with my bifocals. So I have to read 9 one in front of me. So I apologize for the paper 10 rattling. 11 You have several rooms to the left of 12 that central corridor that are labeled religious 13 education, community services, two of them just past 14 the library and another one religious education 15 office. 16 What do you envision in any type of 17 adult courses of study or programs where people can 18 come and join other members of your congregation in 19 studying the Quran or other religious documents who 20 are engaging in discussions? 21 MR. ABDELKADER: We actually have had, 22 unfortunately, limited number of interfaith meetings 23 with our friends at the Presbyterian church where we 24 sat down and we discussed various views of the 25 difference to religion and their perspective to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 certain things. 2 I've attended several meetings where 3 one of them was -- you know, I don't want to start 4 taking too much time, but, basically, we had 5 interfaith meetings at their church. We have 6 invited other members of the community to come to 7 the small, modest place that we perform our daily 8 prayers to, you know, educate them about Islam or 9 tell them what we are about. 10 There might be other classes that may 11 go into the explanation of the meaning of the Quran 12 and certain verses, maybe try to explain or 13 demystify certain aspects that might seem strange to 14 other culture or other religions, these type of 15 classes and services. 16 MR. MC NAMARA: Do you have any idea of 17 how many classes of this nature you would offer in a 18 given week on the calendar? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: I wouldn't even start 20 to guess. We're barely starting. You know, we have 21 not even started. So I couldn't tell you, and it 22 would most probably be as demands require and as 23 needed. 24 MR. MC NAMARA: There are a couple of 25 rooms around the corner past the stairwell that are</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 programs and these classes, but we have not even 2 ventured into their numbers or their demand or 3 anything to that nature. 4 MR. MC NAMARA: Do you envision ever 5 conducting any outdoor services for your 6 parishioners? 7 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 8 MR. MC NAMARA: Is that something 9 that's normally not done at Islamic centers of this 10 nature? 11 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. Typically, all 12 your services and everything that you do is inside 13 the building. Outside is just simply parking. 14 There is no room really to do a whole lot. 15 MR. MC NAMARA: The reason I ask, you 16 understand at my parish they offer sunrise services 17 outdoors in a small park next to our church on 18 Easter morning and Christmas morning. I'm not 19 familiar enough. So that's the reason I'm asking. 20 MR. ABDELKADER: I understand. 21 MR. MC NAMARA: Do you intend to have 22 any type of summer camp program from the youth of 23 your congregation and to other youth here in the 24 community? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: I can't guess or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 marked seniors lounge, community services. 2 Do you anticipate providing services or 3 programming that is tailored to retirees or other 4 senior citizens who might be members of your 5 congregation and what would they be? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: That is our hope. 7 That's one of the things that I described in my 8 testimony that we would provide, you know, different 9 classes and services tailored to the age group and 10 the need. 11 I couldn't tell you what they are now 12 because, again, we -- I mean right now we are seven 13 board members and we do everything. We have not -- 14 we haven't even started to think about what -- you 15 know, what these classes will be and how many of 16 them or what we're going to offer. That's a ways 17 from now. 18 MR. MC NAMARA: Have any of your board 19 members looked at other centers of this nature that 20 are located here in Central New Jersey to look at 21 the types of programs they're offering their 22 congregants and the frequency and the type of 23 programs that are being made available or that are 24 being demanded by congregants? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: We are aware of these</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 answer that. I mean, when that bridge comes, we'll 2 cross it I guess. 3 MR. MC NAMARA: Do you envision renting 4 out the facilities not only to congregants but to 5 other people who might want to conduct certain 6 activities here, meetings here, whether it's boy 7 scouts or cub scout group or other type of local, 8 civic, nonprofit or secular religious organization 9 that needs a place to meet? 10 MS. TUBMAN: That's about six 11 questions, Pat. 12 MR. MC NAMARA: Okay. I'll start one 13 at a time. Do you envision renting out the facility 14 for other groups to use what's laid out in the plan 15 here? 16 MR. ABDELKADER: What I can tell you is 17 everything is within reason and within the capacity 18 and within, you know, what we -- what we can allow. 19 If it's renting the space out for prayers for 20 another religious group similar to how the Christ 21 Presbyterian Church, our friends, were so generous 22 to allow us to pray at our space, absolutely. 23 It's not going to be rented for 24 weddings or major events or anything near that. 25 It's not going to be -- it's going to be just</p>

<p>Page 77</p> <p>1 simple, modest events like church, so forth. 2 MR. MC NAMARA: I have no further 3 questions of the witness, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. 5 We now open the floor to the public. 6 If anyone from the public would like to come up, you 7 can take seats in the front row and then we can go 8 down through. Again, please state your name, spell 9 it and your address in Bridgewater. Thank you. 10 Mr. ARORA: Hello. Thank you. My name 11 is Moneesh Arora, M-O-N-E-E-S-H A-R-O-R-A. I live 12 on 42 Fuller Court in Bridgewater which is located 13 roughly three to four blocks from the site. 14 I have a few questions. I'll start 15 with the daycare center. 16 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right 17 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the 18 whole truth or nothing but the truth so help you 19 God? 20 MR. ARORA: Yes, I do. 21 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. 22 MR. ARORA: You mentioned that you'll 23 be operating a daycare center. Just given that the 24 property is adjacent -- directly adjacent to a 25 residential neighborhood, have you done any sort of</p>	<p>Page 79</p> <p>1 MR. ARORA: So the answer is you have 2 not done an assessment of the noise impact to the 3 neighborhood? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: No, we have not. No, 5 I have not. 6 MR. ARORA: Thank you. 7 The footings for the pillars appear to 8 be permanent structures which I would imagine would 9 allow to expand in the future if you chose to do so 10 and have proper permits. Is that something that 11 you've contemplated? 12 MS. TUBMAN: That's not a question he 13 can answer, but it is a question whose answer is 14 dictated by the ordinance. We have virtually maxed 15 out the amount of square footage of building that 16 can be put on the property, and if those were 17 enclosed, we would be in violation. We would need 18 to come back to a different board for a variance. 19 MR. ARORA: Thank you. 20 I understand that several adjacent 21 homes have wells, well water for their drinking and 22 household use. Have you done an analysis as far as 23 environmental impact on those neighboring properties 24 for potential water runoff from your parking lot 25 that you plan to pave and expand on the premises?</p>
<p>Page 78</p> <p>1 noise assessment or any type of impact analysis what 2 30 to 50 children -- what type of noise it might 3 generate when they're outdoors, whether it be in the 4 evening or daytime, on the neighboring properties? 5 MR. ABDELKADER: Our landscaping 6 engineer is going to actually -- is going to be the 7 next witness, and he is going to talk about 8 landscaping and trees and buffers and so forth. So 9 I'm not going to be able to assess that or cover 10 that. 11 What I mentioned earlier is that in any 12 daycare -- actually, I don't want to guess, but I 13 believe all except one or two of the houses of 14 worship in Bridgewater are surrounded by houses in 15 all four directions. They are in the center and in 16 the middle of residential areas. We will be no 17 different, and like I said, it's unfeasible and 18 unrealistic to allow all 40 kids out at the same 19 time. It doesn't happen. 20 When we took our kids to daycare, we 21 know that they were out, you know, in a certain 22 hour, and they alternate all the classes. So, most 23 likely, you won't have, again, I don't want to 24 guess, 15 percent of the kids out all the time. 25 You're not going to allow all 40.</p>	<p>Page 80</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: That's more than one 2 question. Were you hear when our engineer was here, 3 sir? 4 MR. ARORA: No, I'm not. I'm sorry. 5 MS. TUBMAN: We are reducing the amount 6 of pavement on the property. 7 MR. ARORA: The answer is you have not 8 done an analysis to the potential environmental 9 impact to the homes that have well water? 10 MS. TUBMAN: I can't make an assumption 11 that adjacent homes have wells. I don't know the 12 answer. 13 MR. ARORA: I'm asking a question if 14 you've done an analysis on the impact of the 15 adjacent properties that may have wells? 16 MS. TUBMAN: The answer is no. 17 MR. ARORA: That's a yes or no 18 question. 19 MR. ABDELKADER: We have not, but it 20 isn't going to be any different than the property 21 existed now or operated for the last 70 years. 22 There won't be any change. 23 MR. ARORA: You also stated you don't 24 know how many people will be coming because you 25 don't know where they're coming from. You don't</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 know -- a lot of the estimates that you provided, 2 you're unclear on how you come up with it because, 3 I'm paraphrasing, you have not thought about it yet. 4 So you can't, you know, with confidence 5 or I haven't heard any testimony that would lead me 6 to believe that you could state that with any 7 certainty. So that's a statement more than a 8 question. 9 So do you have any certainty that you 10 could provide given you haven't been able to provide 11 an analysis that would substantiate your estimates? 12 MR. ABDELKADER: The certainty or what 13 I can testify to is that we have pretty much -- we 14 pretty much are static in our numbers for the last 15 three years. What I can tell you is that two days 16 of the year we will be doing what the previous 17 facility probably did on a weekly basis. I can tell 18 you that during the week the numbers are going to be 19 minimal compared to the -- to what the current 20 facility -- you know, the way it operated before. 21 So all in all, it's going to be a 22 reduced -- significantly reduced use in comparison. 23 That's what I can tell you. 24 MR. ARORA: Okay. I'm just trying to 25 understand how it would be significantly less if you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: He has, and it's in the 2 transcript of the first hearing which is on file in 3 the municipal building. 4 MR. ARORA: Thank you. 5 And then my last question is, relative 6 to statements that you made that I'm just trying to 7 reconcile, because I've made notes and I'm not able 8 to reconcile the numbers, you made statements that 9 the application has 250 occupants, 45 children 10 potentially in the daycare, but at the same time, 11 you minimized those estimates when asked about the 12 potential use at any one time. 13 In addition, you've stated that you 14 don't know where people are going to be coming from. 15 You don't know how many kids are going to be coming. 16 You don't have a plan around the daycare to 17 understand what the attendance, enrollment or 18 participation will look like. You don't know how 19 many employees you will have, handyman, janitor. 20 How have you made an assessment around 21 the use of the property and estimates if you stated 22 all the things that you don't know as opposed to 23 what you know? 24 I apologize. I do have one more 25 question after that.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 haven't done an analysis to compare what the prior 2 use was compared to your projected use. 3 So are there any other statistics or 4 studies that you have done to substantiate your 5 claim? 6 MR. ABDELKADER: No. 7 MR. ARORA: Okay. Thank you. Will 8 there be lights in the parking lot? 9 MR. ABDELKADER: That's something that 10 I should probably leave for our lighting engineer 11 when he testifies, but there will be lights. 12 MS. TUBMAN: I'm sorry you weren't here 13 for the first hearing. There was testimony about 14 lighting in the parking lot. 15 MR. ARORA: Thank you. I'm sorry I was 16 not here, and I didn't do my homework. So I do have 17 follow-up questions. I can look at the records if 18 this was answered already. 19 Has there been an assessment done -- 20 based upon what I'm hearing, there's going to be 21 access day and night for volunteers and potential 22 employees to access the property. So are those 23 lights -- is the intention for those to be on 24 overnight and do you -- has the engineer done an 25 assessment on the impact to the nearby properties?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: No, no, not a problem. 2 I'm just trying to remember all the things you 3 asked. 4 MR. ARORA: I wrote them down, but I'm 5 happy to remind you. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: No. I'm trying to 7 remember that last series of questions. Okay. The 8 numbers on the application, for example, the 250 for 9 the Friday prayer, as I indicated, this is a best 10 guess estimate on our part. Right now, our number 11 is roughly around 90, nine zero. That's where we've 12 been for the last three years. 13 In terms of growth, I don't have a 14 crystal ball and nobody does. I cannot tell you 15 what the growth is going to be. 16 In terms of not knowing where people 17 are coming from or going to, that's just simply 18 meaning I don't know if they're coming from their 19 work or from their home. It's not that I mean -- 20 the faces that I see on a weekly basis are the same. 21 They have not changed. It's all the same faces. I 22 know them practically one-by-one, not by name. I'm 23 bad at remembering names. I know the faces. 24 They're the same people. Every once in a while you 25 see a new face, but he's probably coming visiting or</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 on a business trip or so forth and he looks us up. 2 What else? I apologize. What else did 3 you ask? 4 MR. ARORA: I think that's sufficient. 5 I appreciate it. Just one last question. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. 7 MR. ARORA: So you mentioned that, if 8 this facility was at capacity, you would turn people 9 away which is common in other commercial 10 institutions, houses of worship. 11 Given this is a two-lane road, one lane 12 going each way directly in front of the property, 13 what is your plan for traffic management and your 14 ability to forecast when you're going to have to 15 turn people away and how to have them actually exit 16 the area under normal conditions and when there's 17 snow around? 18 MR. ABDELKADER: Well, in other mosques 19 and in other services that I've attended and even at 20 our own service, when we had the Friday prayer fall 21 on a major holiday or a day off or anything to 22 that -- anything similar to that, we've had up to 23 five and six people of the community outside at 24 various locations directing traffic and helping 25 people and letting them know we're full, you know,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 who will testify at a future hearing. 2 MR. ARORA: Okay. Thank you. I 3 appreciate you answering the questions, and I 4 apologize for not reading the transcripts of the 5 prior meetings. Thank you. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Not at all. Thank 7 you. 8 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. Next. 9 MS. AVENOSO: My name is Kelly, 10 K-E-L-L-Y, Avenoso, A-V-E-N-O-S-O, and I live at 11 1111 Crim Road. 12 MR. COLLINS: Do you swear or affirm to 13 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the 14 truth so help you God? 15 MS. AVENOSO: Yes, I do. 16 In your schedule, understanding you 17 follow a lunar calendar and the services are 18 dictated by that, what is the earliest time in any 19 12-month period that people would be arriving at the 20 mosque? 21 MR. ABDELKADER: I would say 5:45 and 22 you're talking about two to five people. 23 MS. AVENOSO: I understand. Similarly, 24 what is the latest in any 12-month period? 25 And let's assume that your holidays or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 like, for example, at the Green Knoll Firehouse. 2 There is the main parking, and there is 3 the rescue squad parking next door. They would tell 4 them this is full. There's additional parking here. 5 So we had people stand out to direct people and to 6 help them out. 7 In terms of turning people away and how 8 that's going to happen, they're not going to need to 9 make a U-turn on the road. There's a drive-through 10 and there's a big area where they can enter the 11 parking lot and exit again safely and without any 12 incident. 13 It's not that we're going to literally 14 make a K-turn or a U-turn on the road itself. We're 15 not going to like close a gate and not allow them to 16 come into the building. In terms of snow, we'll 17 just manage just like any other institution, any 18 church, any synagogue. 19 MR. ARORA: So given it's a one-lane 20 road and cars would be waiting to enter, determine 21 if it was full and then exit, there's a potential 22 that cars will be lined up on the road because there 23 is no ability to pass on a road which has a double 24 line down the center of it. 25 MS. TUBMAN: We have a traffic engineer</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 holy days are falling during a season when the sun 2 sets latest in our -- on our clock. What is the 3 latest then that people would be leaving the mosque? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: Eleven months out of 5 the year -- 6 MS. AVENOSO: No, on a worst case 7 scenario. 8 MR. ABDELKADER: Eleven months out of 9 the year it would be at 10:30 p.m. after the last 10 prayer of the day. During the month of Ramadhan and 11 only that month, it would be 11:30. It could go to 12 midnight. 13 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. Thank you. In 14 your religion, you have your services in which the 15 couple is married -- 16 MR. ABDELKADER: My apologies. When I 17 say 11:30 to midnight, again, you're talking about 18 the last -- I'm giving you the worst case scenario 19 the last person leaving. I don't mean that you're 20 talking about five or six people leaving at that 21 time. 22 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. Thank you. 23 In your religion there's the religious 24 services affiliated with getting married. Is there 25 a reception anywhere whether at the facility or at a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 second facility?</p> <p>2 MR. ABDELKADER: Absolutely, if they</p> <p>3 chose to have a reception, but, typically, it's</p> <p>4 really their religious ceremony that's performed at</p> <p>5 the mosque, not the reception.</p> <p>6 The reception I mean from after that</p> <p>7 religious ceremony to actually, you know, do you</p> <p>8 take her, do you take him and so forth, and then the</p> <p>9 husband and wife typically would have hired a hall</p> <p>10 for the reception similar to any wedding, any</p> <p>11 typical wedding that you know of.</p> <p>12 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. So I'm Catholic</p> <p>13 and we have a similar pattern. Although, I've been</p> <p>14 at weddings where they've had -- they've brought in</p> <p>15 caterers and they've had receptions there at the</p> <p>16 church. That would be within the realm of</p> <p>17 possibility at the mosque.</p> <p>18 MR. ABDELKADER: I really can't answer.</p> <p>19 We haven't decided whether we would allow this or</p> <p>20 not. I don't know.</p> <p>21 MS. AVENOSO: So it would be in the</p> <p>22 realm of possibilities since you haven't decided, it</p> <p>23 might not, depending on what the board decides or</p> <p>24 whoever your governing body is.</p> <p>25 MR. ABDELKADER: It would be tough. We</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 functions that you were talking about?</p> <p>2 Could that be provided as well as</p> <p>3 monthly or a year calendar on what your -- what it</p> <p>4 would look like? Is that a possibility?</p> <p>5 MS. TUBMAN: You can answer that.</p> <p>6 MR. ABDELKADER: I try as much as</p> <p>7 possible to go through all the services that we hope</p> <p>8 to provide and to describe what they are. I don't</p> <p>9 see 12 things happening at a time. I'm not sure --</p> <p>10 I'm not sure how we can see that.</p> <p>11 MS. AVENOSO: Do you want me to go</p> <p>12 through my list?</p> <p>13 MR. ABDELKADER: No, no need.</p> <p>14 MS. TUBMAN: The specific question was</p> <p>15 have you or will you develop a calendar typical</p> <p>16 services, typical activities and will you project</p> <p>17 that over a year?</p> <p>18 MR. ABDELKADER: That's going to be</p> <p>19 tough to manage with seven board members dealing</p> <p>20 with everything we're dealing with. We have not</p> <p>21 have that kind of calendar yet.</p> <p>22 MS. AVENOSO: Well, for instance,</p> <p>23 there's the morning prayer. Then you have daycare</p> <p>24 drop off. If it's Sunday school, you're going to</p> <p>25 have a drop off. You have midday prayer. You</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 don't have a kitchen. We don't have a cooking</p> <p>2 kitchen. We have a meeting kitchen, and I don't see</p> <p>3 how that's going to be managed to have a reception</p> <p>4 similar to the one that you're describing.</p> <p>5 MS. AVENOSO: Your community now is</p> <p>6 certainly staggered in a variety of locations for</p> <p>7 both religious purposes and the various community</p> <p>8 functions that you provide to them, and it was a</p> <p>9 very impressive list of the breadth and depth of</p> <p>10 what you provide.</p> <p>11 Trusting that, once this facility is</p> <p>12 built, all of those services and various functions</p> <p>13 are going to be in the mosque, I started mapping out</p> <p>14 what a typical day would look like, and it looks</p> <p>15 like at any given time there could be up to 12</p> <p>16 different things between the services and the kids</p> <p>17 coming and the kids going and whatever. That's a</p> <p>18 much more intense description than five people I</p> <p>19 think at morning services and so on.</p> <p>20 Would you be able to give us some</p> <p>21 calendars of activity on a typical day versus during</p> <p>22 one of your holy seasons so we can get a true sense</p> <p>23 of even just a regular what is predictable, not even</p> <p>24 the 10 or 12 additional community services that you</p> <p>25 talked about, just your regular run of the mill</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 talked about youth services.</p> <p>2 By the way, will they be bussed? How</p> <p>3 will kids get from school to the youth services</p> <p>4 after school or is that to be determined? Maybe</p> <p>5 that's to be determined.</p> <p>6 MR. ABDELKADER: That's going to be</p> <p>7 parents dropping off their kids.</p> <p>8 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. So you have that</p> <p>9 function. Then you have the third prayer of the</p> <p>10 day. Then you have daycare pick up. Then you have</p> <p>11 the sunset service. Then you talked about more</p> <p>12 kids' activities after they go home and have dinner</p> <p>13 and get their homework done. Then there's the</p> <p>14 two-hour or after sunset service. Then there's the</p> <p>15 cleaning service and then there's 10 or 12 other</p> <p>16 things, and I didn't even include what you call the</p> <p>17 extra credit prayers during Ramadhan, and that's</p> <p>18 just based on what I heard. So that's pretty active</p> <p>19 for any given day.</p> <p>20 So is that a pretty good start of what</p> <p>21 breadth and depth and on any given day at your</p> <p>22 facility?</p> <p>23 MR. ABDELKADER: Can I go through one</p> <p>24 of my analogies?</p> <p>25 MS. TUBMAN: Sure.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: My father went to 2 engineering school for his first day after high 3 school and he entered one class and he walked out 4 and said absolutely not, and he simply went to a 5 different school altogether. What he realized 6 later, the teacher was actually going through the 7 syllabus for the entire year explaining what they're 8 going to learn. 9 You're basically going through the 10 entire list reading it one-by-one, and it sounds 11 extremely huge and impressive. This is not going to 12 happen all at once. It's not going to happen near 13 as you make it sound. It's going to be a handful of 14 people. It's going to be completely staggered and 15 not all of them at once. 16 MS. AVENOSO: I didn't say at once. I 17 said you were the one who had said in your testimony 18 that you have prayer before sunrise, daycare. My 19 kids went to daycare. I know that's a drop off in 20 the morning. Then there's the midday prayer. Then 21 you talked about having a place for the kids to go 22 after school. Then you talked about a third prayer, 23 and then there's daycare pick up. I know that 24 because I used to do that too. Then you talked 25 about more kids' activities after they get done with</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 to also use that facility for religious or community 2 services? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: Just similar to how 4 you can go to the Catholic church in Basking Ridge 5 or Bridgewater or Martinsville, they are free to go 6 wherever they want to go. 7 MS. AVENOSO: Then we'll have -- 8 essentially, we have two being proposed within 10 9 minutes. Okay. I'm sorry. That was inappropriate. 10 I was supposed to ask questions. 11 Okay. You had talked about situations 12 where there would typically be one person per car, 13 sometimes three people per car and sometimes, 14 particularly, if it's during your holiday that falls 15 on a school holiday, you're going to have families 16 coming. You're going to have four to six people per 17 car, and that's great, and you had talked about you 18 would not let more people in the building than the 19 occupancy rating that it has. 20 It may be a bizarre question, but I am 21 an engineer. So I do ask bizarre questions. If 22 it's a reverse situation where you don't have four 23 to six people per car but you actually tap out the 24 number of available parking spaces before you meet 25 the building occupancy within the building, what's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 their homework. Then there were the services two 2 hours after sunset. Then there was some kind of 3 cleaning that was going to come in on a regular 4 basis. Then there were 10 or 12 other community 5 related services that you said would be done on an 6 as-needed basis. That's 10 not even getting to the 7 as-needed basis, and that's just regular. 8 That's a regular day, right? 9 MS. TUBMAN: She can't read a nod. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 11 MS. AVENOSO: Thank you. 12 MR. ABDELKADER: I will do my best when 13 we have time with the board members, the seven of 14 them, dealing with all the duties we do to probably 15 get a feel from other mosques and other churches and 16 other synagogues how they run their day, and I 17 can -- it's not going to be any different than any 18 of them. 19 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. Thank you. And, 20 again, I know it -- I know it as Catholic. I can go 21 to the Catholic church in Martinsville, the Catholic 22 church in Basking Ridge. As I understand it, there 23 is also a mosque being proposed in Basking Ridge 24 which is probably 10 minutes away. 25 Are the members of your community able</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 your backup plan when you -- let's say you have 300 2 people in the building, but you don't have any more 3 parking spaces left. What happens to the other 4 cars? 5 MR. ABDELKADER: Originally, I'm an 6 engineer too. So I'm familiar with these kinds of 7 questions. We have two limitations, either parking 8 or occupancy of the building. Whichever is reached 9 first, that's where it ends, and that's where we 10 turn people away. It's that simple. 11 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. So no parking on 12 streets? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: No. There is no place 14 to park on the streets. 15 MS. AVENOSO: I agree. Okay. The 16 other question has to do with you had talked about 17 what the usage of the facility and we keep going 18 back to this eight-foot canopy. I know what the 19 architect had said about the use of the eight-foot 20 canopy, that it's for people to congregate and chat 21 after services. 22 Based on your projection of services of 23 people attending, why do you need an eight-foot 24 canopy around the entire perimeter of the building? 25 MS. TUBMAN: The architect testified</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 that he found that an attractive design feature. It 2 is not a need. 3 MS. AVENOSO: Okay. All right. Good. 4 That's good to know. Okay. Thank you very much. 5 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. 6 MR. LU: My name is William Lu from 7 Bridgewater. 8 MR. COLLINS: Sir, you were previously 9 sworn. Is that correct? 10 MR. LU: Yes. 11 MR. COLLINS: Do you understand you're 12 still under oath? 13 MR. LU: Yes. 14 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. 15 MR. LU: I came in half an hour late. 16 So I missed your name. Can you spell it for me 17 please? 18 MR. ABDELKADER: Yasser first name. 19 Last name A-B -- 20 MR. LU: How do you spell? 21 MR. ABDELKADER: Y-A-S-S-E-R. Last 22 name A-B-D-E-L-K-A-D-E-R. 23 MR. LU: And what's your capacity? 24 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm sorry. What do 25 you mean by capacity?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 MR. LU: -- opposition on you building 2 a mosque on that site. However, according to the 3 public record, you went ahead and purchased and 4 closed on that property on April 24, 2012. Can you 5 explain to me why? 6 MS. TUBMAN: That is not a question for 7 this forum. We are a conditionally permitted use 8 for purposes of this application. 9 MR. LU: Okay. How many members are in 10 your organization? 11 MR. ABDELKADER: We don't have an 12 actual membership or sign up. I'm not -- I'm not 13 going to be able to tell you exact numbers. What I 14 gave probably in the half hour that you missed are 15 the numbers that we see currently today in our 16 services. Whether it's the five daily prayers or 17 the Friday sermon and prayer or the Eid prayer, I 18 gave those numbers earlier. 19 MR. LU: How many? 20 MR. ABDELKADER: About 19 people for 21 Friday prayer midday. Around 300 for Eid prayer 22 which is two times a year, and for the daily 23 prayers, anywhere between two people and 12. 24 MR. LU: How many of these people are 25 resident of Bridgewater?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: What is your position? 2 MR. LU: What's your position? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: I am the president of 4 the board of Alfalah Center. 5 MR. LU: Thank you. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: You're welcome. 7 MR. LU: Can you refresh my mind? When 8 was last planning board hearing? Was it 2010 or 9 2011? 10 MS. TUBMAN: 2011 other than the two 11 that were last month. 12 MR. LU: Right. Okay. Can you tell me 13 why did you pick the Redwood Inn site for your -- 14 MS. TUBMAN: That's not an appropriate 15 question. A mosque or any house of worship is a 16 conditionally permitted use on that property. 17 MR. LU: Can you tell me, based on the 18 last hearing, there were a lot of oppositions on you 19 building the mosque in that site and -- 20 MS. TUBMAN: I'm sorry. I didn't 21 understand the first part of that question. 22 MR. LU: The question was in last 23 planning board hearing there were a lot 24 opposition -- 25 MS. TUBMAN: Opposition.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: That's not a relevant 2 question, nor does he know the answer. There will 3 be a transcript of the testimony that you missed 4 available in the municipal building. 5 MR. LU: Are you a resident of 6 Bridgewater? 7 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes, I am. 8 MR. LU: For how long? 9 MS. TUBMAN: Don't answer that 10 question. That's not an appropriate question. The 11 use is permitted by ordinance. 12 MR. LU: On the public record, your 13 mailing address is Pluckemin, not Bridgewater. 14 MS. TUBMAN: I'm sorry, sir. You asked 15 that question at the last meeting, and the answer 16 was that Alfalah has a post office box in Pluckemin. 17 MR. LU: That's correct. Why? 18 MS. TUBMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is not 19 a line of questions that addresses the ordinance. 20 MR. COLLINS: Sir, you should move on 21 and focus on questions that are relevant to this 22 proceeding. 23 MR. LU: Okay. My next question I 24 would need to use the -- I have a PDF file, and can 25 I use the laptop up there?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: This is the period for 2 questions. If you have a presentation -- 3 MR. LU: No, it's not. It's related to 4 the question I'm going to ask. 5 MR. COLLINS: Sir, you can only use 6 exhibits in the case. You can ask a question based 7 upon the exhibits that are already in the case and 8 you can ask a question that is based upon the 9 statement that you make but -- 10 MR. LU: This question is related to 11 the statement he made. 12 MR. COLLINS: That's fine, but you 13 can't use exhibits that are your own exhibits. 14 That's for later on when you testify in the case. 15 MR. LU: Okay. 16 MR. COLLINS: And in the objector's 17 portion of the case. Okay. Thank you. 18 MR. LU: According to the list here, on 19 Wikipedia, the mosque in New Jersey, you testified 20 if your capacity -- fill to capacity you have to 21 turn people away and the next closest mosque is 22 about an hour away. 23 According to this list, I have 24 Plainfield, I have South Plainfield, Somerset, 25 Piscataway, New Brunswick, and why did you testify</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 MS. TUBMAN: Or split the services. 2 MR. ABDELKADER: Or split the services. 3 Thank you. 4 MR. LU: And I went to the Google map, 5 and visualized each mosque, their map location. 6 It's all in here. There's none similar to this 7 narrow route location like the one you are 8 purchasing -- you already purchased. 9 And my question for you is why did you 10 select this location? 11 MS. TUBMAN: A house of worship is 12 conditionally permitted on this site. 13 MR. LU: Okay. I'm going to -- I'm 14 going to read you this from your own website. The 15 legal effort is currently underway to win back our 16 right to build a house of worship like every other 17 faith community here in Bridgewater. Many, many 18 thanks -- many, many thanks to our devoted legal 19 team who have been working tirelessly pro bono and 20 at no charge for our cause. 21 Has Bridgewater denied you from 22 building any kind of mosque? 23 MS. TUBMAN: That is not relevant in 24 these proceedings. 25 However, yes, the ordinance was changed</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 they have to drive another hour to go to that 2 mosque? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: I didn't testify that 4 they have to drive one hour. I just simply 5 indicated those mosques -- the closest mosques are 6 roughly 35 minutes without traffic. During lunch 7 hour or during any time, you do the math, or you try 8 to take that drive during the middle of the day. 9 MR. LU: Can you repeat that again 10 please? 11 MR. ABDELKADER: What I testified is 12 just simply that the distance to the two nearest 13 mosques that I can think of is about 35 minutes in 14 two different directions, and that that 35 minutes, 15 that's with the GPS or MapQuest would give you, not 16 what the realistic drive during traffic on 287 or 17 the side streets with how long it would take. 18 MR. LU: Why would you say two 19 directions? What do you mean two directions? 20 MR. ABDELKADER: There's two different 21 mosques. I gave two examples at two different 22 mosques. That's all. 23 MR. LU: Okay. 24 MR. ABDELKADER: And, yes, we would 25 turn them away for safety and for the rules.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 in 2011 which made this a nonpermitted use. We are 2 back because a federal court has said this 3 proceeding shall go forward without reference to or 4 reliance on the public ordinance that the court 5 found problematic. 6 MR. LU: So my question to you is you 7 promote faith, and on your website, you are bringing 8 up this propaganda and you -- do you respect the 9 neighbors in this particular site? Are you creating 10 a fight? 11 MS. TUBMAN: That is not a relevant 12 statement or question and we are -- 13 MR. COLLINS: Sir, I agree with Ms. 14 Tubman. Sir, you have to move on and focus on 15 questions about the site plan, the conditional use 16 application. 17 MR. LU: No. I'm very curious about 18 why he's fighting for this. 19 MR. COLLINS: The objection is it's not 20 relevant, sir, and the ruling is that it is not 21 relevant. So please move on. 22 MR. LU: I don't have any more 23 questions at this time. 24 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. Next. 25 MS. RACK: My name is Susan Joseph</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 Rack. I'm a resident of Martinsville at 1381 2 Mallard Drive, R-A-C-K. 3 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right 4 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the 5 whole truth and nothing but the truth? 6 MS. RACK: I'm a pastor. My yes is 7 yes, and my no is no. 8 MR. COLLINS: But the answer is yes? 9 MS. RACK: Yes. Thank you. 10 I would like to first correct the 11 record, if I may, regarding the necessity of a 12 professional janitor or cleaning service for a house 13 of worship. I am the pastor of a house of worship 14 in Bridgewater, and in the 12 years that I have 15 served there, we have never had a permanent 16 janitorial staff, and the community is capable of 17 keeping the building in good repair and clean by 18 volunteers. So that's my first comment. 19 My question to you, Mr. Abdelkader, is 20 that I understand that the Muslim tradition does not 21 allow alcoholic beverages on the property? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: Correct. 23 MS. RACK: So where as the Redwood Inn 24 would have allowed parties with the use of alcoholic 25 beverages, there's no occasion for alcoholic</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 or go from that site during the hours of that 2 evening and at nighttime prayer? 3 MR. ABDELKADER: None that I'm aware 4 of, and I actually tried my best -- actually, I made 5 sure to ask you if you ever heard from any of your 6 neighbors about any situations. There were 7 absolutely none. 8 We have basically, again, come in in a 9 very, you know, trickle manner. We perform the 10 prayers. We leave quietly. There's no music. 11 There's no loud sounds. There's no socialization 12 outside, and pretty much last Ramadhan and this 13 Ramadhan would be the latest time in the year that 14 they fall. After that, they become earlier and 15 earlier. Thank you. 16 MS. RACK: And when you use your 17 facilities that you're currently using for your 18 worship services, whatever they may be, including 19 Ramadhan, how do you take care of cleaning the 20 facilities that you use and taking care of garbage 21 and recycling? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: We try to leave the 23 facility in the same or better condition that we 24 used it. Basically, at the beginning, at the 25 beginning of the service, the prayer, we need to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 beverages to be used for the mosque? 2 MR. ABDELKADER: True. Alcohol is 3 completely forbidden for Muslims. Yes. 4 MS. RACK: And I know that there are 5 some churches in the area that enjoy worship in the 6 style of rock music and large screens and rather 7 raucous and joyous celebration. 8 Would you characterize your Muslim 9 style of prayer in similar ways? Would those things 10 be happening at the mosque? 11 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. We actually do 12 not actually even allow music or, you know, anything 13 that relates to that in the mosque. It's not 14 permitted, and our prayers -- the extent of our 15 prayers is one person in the front using a 16 microphone like this with this kind of voice 17 internally inside the room to lead the prayer by 18 reciting verses from Quran, from our holy book while 19 the rest of the congregation standing, lining up 20 behind him and following him in prayer. That is the 21 extent of it. 22 MS. RACK: You have been doing your 23 Ramadhan prayers at my church for the past three 24 years. To your knowledge, has there ever been a 25 complaint regarding parking or noise when you come</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 roll out our prayer mats because we need to pray on 2 area that has not been stepped on with shoes that 3 you came from outside obviously, and we basically do 4 our service. We perform our prayers. 5 Sometimes there are very light 6 refreshments, cookies, coffee, water, and then at 7 the end everyone just simply rolls up their sleeves 8 and chips in. We roll up our rugs. We clean. We 9 vacuum. We make sure the bathrooms are completely 10 wiped and cleaned and that everything is left as it 11 was until the next day. 12 MS. RACK: I do confirm that that is 13 our experience of you, that you have been 14 extraordinary tenants. 15 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. 16 MS. RACK: And we have not received any 17 complaints from neighbors regarding your comings and 18 goings. Thank you very much. 19 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you so much. 20 Thanks a lot. 21 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. Next. If 22 anyone else would like to come forward, we'll try to 23 get everyone in this evening. 24 MR. FIALKOFF: Richard Fialkoff, 1203 25 Geiger Lane in Bridgewater, New Jersey. F, as in</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 Frank, I-A-L-K-O-F-F. 2 MR. COLLINS: Richard, were you 3 previously sworn? 4 MR. FIALKOFF: No. 5 MR. COLLINS: Please raise your right 6 hand. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the 7 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you 8 God? 9 MR. FIALKOFF: Yes, I do. I want to 10 get back to two items that came up, the noise and 11 the parking, particularly, when you exceed capacity. 12 First of all, the noise. You indicated 13 that there's no prayer outside. Is there any 14 prayers conducted with windows open so that the 15 noise will be leaving the building or how is that 16 process typically handled? 17 MR. ABDELKADER: We do not leave 18 windows open for any purpose or any reason. My 19 guess is during the winter you need to maintain the 20 heat and during the summer you have the AC running. 21 So I doubt that there would be any need to open 22 windows or doors and even at that you wouldn't -- 23 you wouldn't be able to hear anything outside. 24 MR. FIALKOFF: Okay. Good. Thanks. 25 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 solutions for Eid. I assume you're talking about 2 Eid prayer, the two days of the year where we 3 have -- 4 MR. FIALKOFF: Exactly, I am. 5 MR. ABDELKADER: Two things we can do. 6 Either have two services, two services enough apart 7 in time to allow people to come in and go out safely 8 without any issues, and many, many mosques actually 9 do that. They hold multiple services. 10 The other solution is that we rent 11 space somewhere else that accommodates our needs and 12 also other mosques have opted to do that for many, 13 many years. Even though they have their own mosque, 14 for those two days of the year where you have high 15 capacity, they'll rent the Double Tree, and they'll 16 go park -- they'll go conduct the two -- the two Eid 17 prayers there. 18 MR. FIALKOFF: Right. At what point 19 will you know you're out of capacity and you're 20 going to reach capacity so you don't have all that 21 traffic coming to the area to be turned away? 22 MR. ABDELKADER: That's something that 23 I cannot predict or tell. 24 MR. FIALKOFF: Just trial and error 25 basically.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 MR. FIALKOFF: Regarding the capacity, 2 you mentioned you'll just turn people away, but what 3 does that mean when you say turn people away? 4 MR. ABDELKADER: It means that we will 5 be extremely, super apologetic and tell the people 6 before they even exit their car as they enter maybe 7 the circular drive through that, unfortunately, we 8 have reached capacity. We are unable to accommodate 9 any more either cars or individuals. Otherwise, we 10 would be in violation and there would be a safety 11 hazard and that we were very, very sorry and that 12 they would need to be turned away. 13 And by the way, just a side note, just 14 the fact that they have come to perform the prayer 15 and to worship, they've got full credit. They've 16 got full credit for it in the eyes of God. It's 17 irrelevant whether they were able to actually make 18 it inside or not. 19 MR. FIALKOFF: Do you expect to do 20 anything proactive and if you've got to particularly 21 hire man service for Ramadhan where you might expect 22 a crowd to exceed capacity? Do you have any people 23 bussed in from some other parking lot you've made 24 arrangements with? 25 MR. ABDELKADER: Well, there are two</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: It will be, basically, 2 as we learn about our pattern and our attendance and 3 our needs, we will accommodate and we will adjust 4 accordingly and do whatever is necessary. 5 MR. FIALKOFF: Okay. Thanks. 6 So assuming you still have room 7 capacity but you're out of parking capacity, you 8 mentioned there's no parking on the streets at all, 9 but I'm concerned what about a block away as the 10 crowd flies about parking on a lot of the surrounding 11 residential streets and then people walking over. 12 How do you expect to control that? 13 MR. ABDELKADER: We actually announce 14 during the sermon and at the end of the sermon 15 anything that is important and relevant. We will be 16 extremely clear about the fact that there's 17 absolutely not to be any parking on the streets. 18 There isn't any room to park on the streets. You 19 know, the nearest location that you can park to walk 20 over there, it's just unfeasible, unrealistic. 21 MR. FIALKOFF: What about in the 22 arrangements with people who might give permission 23 to cut through their property if there are houses 24 that can provide, you know, perimeter access 25 somewhere to the property and park on their street?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 Would you allow people to get 2 permission from say a homeowner and essentially park 3 on a street and cut through their property. 4 MR. ABDELKADER: With the very, very 5 heavily wooded lot around from most directions of 6 the building, I don't think that's going to be in 7 the realm of possibility. 8 MR. FIALKOFF: Okay. You mentioned 9 you're not going to put a fence around the property. 10 MS. TUBMAN: That was not his 11 testimony. 12 MR. FIALKOFF: That was your comment. 13 Excuse me. 14 MS. TUBMAN: I said the daycare play 15 area would be fenced. 16 MR. FIALKOFF: Okay. So you do expect 17 to fence in the property or not, or that's an 18 engineer's question? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: I really don't know 20 what the need is going to be. I mean it's been 21 operated for the last 70 years the way it is now. 22 So I have no idea what the need will be. 23 MR. FIALKOFF: Thank you. That's my 24 last question. 25 I guess just comment. I've lived in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: Abdelkader. 2 MS. HOZENY: First of all, I want to 3 thank you for educating some of us, although it was 4 brief, on your religion because a lot of us don't 5 understand it and perhaps we have, you know, some 6 apprehension about it, but I want to say that you 7 made me feel very good tonight. 8 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you very much. 9 It was my pleasure, and like I said, I'd be here 10 until they kick me out of the building. I'd be glad 11 to talk to you as long as you want. 12 MS. HOZENY: According to the 2010 13 census, the population of the Muslim mosque in 14 Somerset County is almost 3300 scholars, 3300 and 15 continues to grow. That said, do you envision that 16 your congregation will grow? 17 I know you tried to answer it with the 18 numbers of participants that you have with the 19 various prayer services and the two big holidays 20 that you have, but in most churches and synagogues, 21 we kind of like our congregation to grow and expand 22 because we rely on our participants to help fund the 23 congregation. 24 So with that said, do you expect and 25 would you envision that your congregation will grow?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 the neighborhood, and as I said, I can hear things 2 at the Redwood Inn, and I know you've said several 3 times that the activity is going to be no different 4 than we've seen in the last 70 years. 5 I've lived in my house for the last 25 6 years, and, basically, I'm on that header on the 7 chart there just across the street from the backyard 8 at the Redwood Inn, and over the last 20 years I've 9 heard noise there one Saturday night. So there's 10 not been a lot of activity there. It's been a 11 pretty much unused, low-key facility. 12 So thank you for responding to my 13 question. 14 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. 15 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Thank you. Next. 16 MS. HOZENY: My name is Fran Hozeny. I 17 live on Top Place in Bridgewater, and I have been 18 sworn in before. 19 MR. COLLINS: Ms. Hozeny, you 20 understand you're still under oath. 21 MS. HOZENY: Yes. Would you just 22 pronounce your name for me? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: Sure. First name 24 Yasser. Last name Abdelkader. 25 MS. HOZENY: Abdelkader.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 MR. ABDELKADER: We would like and we 2 wish that it would grow at a reasonable, you know, 3 rate, you know, that the Bridgewater Township 4 population grows which I believe -- I don't want to 5 give numbers. In fact, I was looking it up one day, 6 and I think Bridgewater grew 3, 4 percent in the 7 last 12 years. So I do expect it to grow. 8 I don't see in Bridgewater a thousand 9 home developments being developed. Bridgewater is 10 pretty much built up. 11 MS. HOZENY: Yes. 12 MR. ABDELKADER: People will move in, 13 people will move out probably at the same rate, 14 maybe slightly different. So I do expect growth. I 15 don't expect it to be huge or anything that's 16 outrageous. 17 MS. HOZENY: Well, I think that a lot 18 of the concern too is the Hindu temple on Route 19 202/206. Now that started out a little small and 20 then they expanded and they expanded and they 21 expanded, and now we see there are four residences 22 there, and I think it is a concern to most of the 23 residents that live in the Redwood Inn vicinity that 24 it will expand more, and I do think that that is 25 truly a big concern of many of us because it will</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 have an impact if that does happen on the area. 2 MS. TUBMAN: I didn't respond because 3 that really wasn't a question, but I will attempt to 4 answer your -- I will attempt to answer your 5 concern. 6 We are at almost the limit of what 7 could be -- is conditionally permitted on this site. 8 We could not put an Imam residence because of the 9 square footage limit even though it would be 10 permitted. So we are -- 11 MS. HOZENY: Capacity. 12 MS. TUBMAN: -- at capacity now unless 13 we come back with another application to a different 14 board with a variance request. 15 MS. HOZENY: Okay. Thank you very 16 much. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you very much. 18 MR. MALLELA: My name is Shiv Mallela, 19 S-H-I-V M-A-L-L-E-L-A. 20 MR. COLLINS: Sir, you understand 21 you're still under oath. 22 MR. MALLELA: Yes. 23 MR. COLLINS: Thank you. 24 MR. MALLELA: Hi. 25 MR. ABDELKADER: Hello.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 or whatever, more than 200. You can project, but I 2 can project also that you could grow to a thousand 3 meaning that, if I look at other temples like the 4 Hindu temple is a good example and there's also a 5 Sikh temple, those places have grown. So there's no 6 reason to believe that you're not going to grow. 7 MR. ABDELKADER: We are -- as Ms. 8 Tubman said, we are simply bound by our current 9 square footage and allowed parking. We are pretty 10 much at capacity right now. We maxed out. There is 11 no place to grow. 12 I know that there were many references 13 to the Hindu temple, and I am not going to even 14 venture to talk about it or discussing it in any 15 positive or negative manner because it's none of my 16 business. 17 MR. MALLELA: No. 18 MR. ABDELKADER: I drove -- I drove by 19 the Hindu temple twice a day for five years to go to 20 my shop to work, and I know exactly the concerns, 21 and I completely understand it, and I know what 22 you're talking about. 23 We don't have anything outside. We 24 don't have anything that resembles or comes near 25 what you're witnessing at the Hindu Temple. You're</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 MR. MALLELA: A few questions. So you 2 don't really have a membership because you don't 3 know how many members you have because you don't 4 keep track of members. 5 MR. ABDELKADER: No, we don't. 6 MS. TUBMAN: That was two questions. 7 Would you say that you do not keep track of members? 8 MR. MALLELA: You don't know who comes. 9 You don't have a list, nothing. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: We don't have a 11 membership. We don't track members of the 12 community, and in terms of who comes and who goes, 13 it's basically -- like I said, it's the same faces 14 that we see every single week. 15 MR. MALLELA: So -- but you have a 16 list. You have a list of people. 17 MR. ABDELKADER: No, we don't. We 18 don't have a list of people. 19 MR. MALLELA: So the question is, at 20 this point, you have certain number of people who 21 come to your services. 22 Now, once you built a mosque, 23 definitely, other people in other townships will 24 want to move into, you know, Bridgewater or nearby 25 township. So you could grow to like a few hundred</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 comparing apples and watermelons. It's that simple. 2 MR. MALLELA: A couple of things, sir. 3 First thing is, at this moment, the previous 4 testimony that we heard said the capacity of 500 5 people for the site. 6 MR. ABDELKADER: Actually, it's 437 -- 7 437. 8 MS. TUBMAN: Architect's testimony. 9 MR. MALLELA: Was it 437? 10 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm sorry. That was 11 the architect's testimony. 12 MR. MALLELA: So, basically, the site 13 can accommodate more people than you are citing in 14 terms of the numbers that you're seeing right now. 15 So you can have growth in number of people there 16 without growing the site or the facility, right, 17 because the numbers you have quoted earlier, you say 18 70 people, 80 people, whatever. So numbers can be 19 much bigger given the same size. 20 MR. ABDELKADER: Again, we are 21 basically bound by the limitation of the capacity 22 and the limitation of the parking. These are our 23 limits. We can't go outside it. 24 The amount of growth that you're 25 referencing, I'll leave that as a problem for my son</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 to resolve, you know, many, many years from now. 2 We'll cross that bridge when we get there. 3 MR. MALLELA: I wanted to give you some 4 numbers which is, the Hindu temple, when the initial 5 approval was given in '90 something, had -- it was a 6 church there in the area of three and a half acres. 7 Right now it's 20 acres. Okay. And you can imagine 8 how they got the 20 acres, because people sell 9 houses and they buy it out. 10 So, in principle, you know, while you 11 can say, oh, we can't grow because the area, we'd be 12 limited by area, in principle, you can grow because 13 it's not out of the realm of possibility. 14 MR. ABDELKADER: We can't afford the 15 houses around the area. 16 MR. MALLELA: You can afford this one. 17 I think you're doing pretty well. You give me 18 numbers of 90 people who can afford this one. 19 Pretty good. 20 So I'm saying one of the things that 21 are of concern because the area, the size that you 22 can have, and while I do accept the numbers that you 23 have right now, I say 20 years from now you cannot 24 tell me what it's going to be like and nobody can 25 say. It could be big. It could be the same, but it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 prayer at the time that -- you know, we can 2 basically wait until towards the latter or closest 3 period to before sunrise to perform it, and that's 4 what we actually do. There's no point for -- and 5 that's what any mosque does anywhere in the world. 6 You don't need to get up at four in the morning and 7 perform that prayer. You have from four until six. 8 So you can perform it quarter to six comfortably 9 without any issues. 10 MR. MALLELA: No, but I'm saying I have 11 seen the timings for prayers from mosque, New Jersey 12 and elsewhere, and, usually, I see like hour to hour 13 and a half before sunrise. Now, I don't understand. 14 You're saying that you are an exception, but I'm 15 going by what I read as a general statement. 16 MR. ABDELKADER: What you're seeing 17 probably on their website is the calendar where 18 they're telling people that's the time -- that's the 19 cut off or the time where you can actually perform 20 that prayer if you wish to. 21 If you perform it before that time, 22 it's still not valid, not ripe, whatever the 23 expression is, but you have from -- so what you see 24 on the website, I'm not sure whether you're 25 referring to -- I'm just guessing or I'm trying to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 could be big also. That's what I'm saying. Okay. 2 MS. TUBMAN: That's not a question. 3 MR. MALLELA: It's not a question. All 4 I'm saying nobody can tell. You can't say. I can't 5 say. A lot of people. Right, I agree. 6 Now, the next question I have is this 7 has to do with an earlier question which was when 8 will the first prayer start when people would be 9 coming in. You said 5:45. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes. 11 MR. MALLELA: Okay. My understanding 12 is the first prayer is about hour, hour and a half 13 before sunrise. It has to finish by sunrise, 14 correct? 15 MR. ABDELKADER: Any of our prayers has 16 a range, has a window of time where you need to 17 perform that prayer. You don't need to -- so, for 18 example, just to give an example, the midday prayer, 19 which is one hour after high noon -- let's call it 1 20 p.m. So the prayer is -- you can start performing 21 the prayer at 1 p.m. The next prayer is going to be 22 roughly two and a half hours after that time. You 23 have two and a half hours to perform that prayer and 24 it's completely valid and acceptable. 25 We don't need to actually perform the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 help you, but I'd say the first morning prayer, what 2 you're seeing, is 4:30. 3 MR. MALLELA: Right. 4 MR. ABDELKADER: Sunrise is what time? 5 MR. MALLELA: 5:30, 5:40 is the sunrise 6 here. 7 MR. ABDELKADER: Then you can perform 8 that prayer at 5:35. 9 MR. MALLELA: That is so narrow. 10 MR. ABDELKADER: No. No. Please look 11 up on our website. Look up on our website. Our 12 morning prayer has been at 6:30 a.m. 13 MR. MALLELA: It's not standard. What 14 you're doing is not standard. 15 MR. ABDELKADER: We start adjusting 16 based on the change in time, the change in daylight, 17 but, basically, we pray at 6:30. We could pray at 18 five but we don't. There's no reason for it. We 19 pray at 6:30. 20 MR. MALLELA: The question is how long 21 is your morning prayer, just 10 minutes? How long 22 is the morning prayer, 10 minutes? 23 MR. ABDELKADER: Any of our prayers is 24 usually less than 10 minutes. Any of the prior 25 prayers you pretty much finish in less than 10</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 minutes.</p> <p>2 MR. MALLELA: Because, again, that's</p> <p>3 something that I'm saying, based on what I've read</p> <p>4 and what you're telling me, I'm having a little</p> <p>5 difficulty reconciling this, but, anyhow, that's</p> <p>6 what you do.</p> <p>7 So let's say you come to the evening</p> <p>8 prayer. If we have sunset at 8:30, would your</p> <p>9 evening prayers end then?</p> <p>10 MR. ABDELKADER: That's about the</p> <p>11 latest that it can be. Like the longest day of the</p> <p>12 year it can be at 10:30. Yes.</p> <p>13 MR. MALLELA: So even that, is that</p> <p>14 also a 10-minute prayer?</p> <p>15 MR. ABDELKADER: Any of the prayers</p> <p>16 take about 10 minutes. Any of the five prayers,</p> <p>17 yes.</p> <p>18 MR. MALLELA: That's a lot less than</p> <p>19 what I thought it was.</p> <p>20 MR. ABDELKADER: I've been a Muslim for</p> <p>21 about 50 years.</p> <p>22 MR. MALLELA: Then if you add let's</p> <p>23 say -- forget Ramadhan. So, basically, though, it</p> <p>24 would be fair to say -- let's say the prayer starts.</p> <p>25 There will be some people coming in and all that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 the one on Solomon Drive. I don't see the</p> <p>2 Presbyterian one, but I'm saying, generally, on</p> <p>3 weekdays, churches have services -- like two</p> <p>4 services in the morning.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Excuse me. Because of</p> <p>6 the hour, it's very late. Could you continue on</p> <p>7 with the form of questioning?</p> <p>8 We don't want to cut you short, and we</p> <p>9 want you to get your point across, but we'd like you</p> <p>10 to move forward.</p> <p>11 MR. MALLELA: Would it be correct to</p> <p>12 say your activity is a lot more than what a church</p> <p>13 would see in a normal weekday?</p> <p>14 MS. TUBMAN: Let me address that</p> <p>15 question with a question. Are the times of your</p> <p>16 earliest and latest services dictated by your</p> <p>17 religion?</p> <p>18 MR. ABDELKADER: Yes, they are.</p> <p>19 MR. MALLELA: I'm not saying that it's</p> <p>20 not. I'm saying factual activity dictate is a lot</p> <p>21 more than a church on weekdays typically.</p> <p>22 MS. TUBMAN: That's not a question.</p> <p>23 MR. MALLELA: No.</p> <p>24 MR. ABDELKADER: I'm not understanding</p> <p>25 your point.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 The activity at your place could start at about</p> <p>2 5:15, 5 o'clock, people coming in, setting up things</p> <p>3 and all that.</p> <p>4 MR. ABDELKADER: No. I mean there is</p> <p>5 no setup needed because it is a mosque. It's</p> <p>6 already set up for a prayer.</p> <p>7 MR. MALLELA: I thought you said people</p> <p>8 have to go spread, put the mats in and clean up and</p> <p>9 all that stuff.</p> <p>10 MR. ABDELKADER: That's when we rent</p> <p>11 space.</p> <p>12 MR. MALLELA: So let's assume that the</p> <p>13 activity can be from 5:30 in the morning to 10:30 at</p> <p>14 night.</p> <p>15 MR. ABDELKADER: No. Activities are</p> <p>16 not going to be from the first time of the first</p> <p>17 prayer until the last.</p> <p>18 MR. MALLELA: Things happen. It's</p> <p>19 open. It's not closed. I'm saying -- for instance,</p> <p>20 the reason I say since you compare it against</p> <p>21 church, comparing with churches and synagogues and</p> <p>22 so on, as far as I know, most churches on weekdays,</p> <p>23 they have two services in the morning. So your</p> <p>24 activity is a lot more in a church around here. I'm</p> <p>25 talking about the Martinsville church or looking at</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 MR. MALLELA: The reason I am asking</p> <p>2 this question is, you know, as I said, it's a place</p> <p>3 of worship. All places of worship, they're not all</p> <p>4 identical. They're all different. I agree that,</p> <p>5 based on what is allowed to be permitted in the</p> <p>6 area, I just think activity-wise it's just a lot</p> <p>7 more going on in terms of when it starts and when it</p> <p>8 ends on weekdays, at least more than other, because</p> <p>9 the reason I'm saying that is because you compared</p> <p>10 it that it will be no different. You are different</p> <p>11 in some sense in terms of the activities. No.</p> <p>12 MR. ABDELKADER: That's not a question.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Again, I hate to</p> <p>14 interrupt you, but we'd like you to continue. You</p> <p>15 will be the last speaker of the evening because of</p> <p>16 the late hour, and we'd like you to move forward</p> <p>17 with a different form of questioning or form of your</p> <p>18 next question. Okay?</p> <p>19 MR. MALLELA: Then let me ask you a</p> <p>20 couple more questions. Now, this particular</p> <p>21 application doesn't involve any, you know, school,</p> <p>22 elementary school at all at this point I understand.</p> <p>23 MR. ABDELKADER: No, it doesn't.</p> <p>24 MR. MALLELA: But you have not</p> <p>25 precluded that anywhere in the future, right,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 meaning, for this application, you're not saying 2 that this is not going to be the same thing with 3 call for prayers? Is it something which is 4 currently not part of the application but could be 5 applied to later or just, no, never going to be 6 part? Are you going to say we're never going to ask 7 for? 8 MR. ABDELKADER: We're never going to 9 make a call for prayer or from the minaret. No. 10 MS. TUBMAN: Do I understand your 11 question correctly is there never going to be a 12 request for an elementary schooling? 13 MR. MALLELA: Yeah. That's what I'm 14 saying. At this point, obviously, you have certain 15 application, but your initial application talked 16 about an element of a school. So it's not part of 17 the current application, but there's nothing that 18 will say it may not be there in the future? 19 MR. ABDELKADER: We took the school out 20 of the application, and we're not going to apply for 21 it. 22 MR. MALLELA: As part of this 23 application. 24 MS. TUBMAN: As part of this 25 application. If it is demonstrated that the parking</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 April are tech week and the building is occupied by 2 the high school students. So we'll be working more 3 on that in the future. So we'll hopefully decide 4 and report on March 24 what date we can accomplish a 5 meeting at the high school. We're also looking at 6 whether to relocate to the municipal building in 7 April, if needed, to get a date. 8 MR. MOENCH: Quick question. I want to 9 confirm, when we start in March, we'll be starting 10 with this witness again. We'll continue with this 11 witness. 12 MS. TUBMAN: That's correct. 13 MR. MOENCH: Okay. Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: No further questions. 15 I'd like to see if someone will make a motion to 16 adjourn. 17 MR. MOENCH: So moved. 18 MS. KANE: Second. 19 CHAIRMAN RUSAK: Okay. All in favor, 20 aye. 21 (All respond aye.) 22 (Proceedings conclude at 10:30 p.m.) 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 lot will accommodate the use over time, we withdrew 2 that aspect of the application without prejudice. 3 MR. MALLELA: Okay. That's all I have. 4 Thank you. 5 MR. ABDELKADER: Thank you. 6 MR. COLLINS: We're going to do some 7 housekeeping to just confirm that the next hearing 8 is scheduled and is going to be at this location, 9 the high school auditorium, on March 24 at 7 p.m. 10 No further notice and that confirms that it is at 11 this location. 12 We will also be working with the 13 applicant's attorneys and the objectors' attorneys 14 to look for a date in April. April is a difficult 15 month at this high school because of many different 16 scheduling conflicts, and we're currently looking at 17 the possibility of a meeting on April 29 and, a 18 Tuesday, the 28th was not available here, and if the 19 date of the 29th doesn't work -- what was the date 20 in April, Marianne, that you had? 21 MS. VORHEES: We were looking at the 22 14th, but I don't know with Passover. Pretty much 23 that's it really. Then the last weeks are tech 24 week. 25 MR. COLLINS: The last two weeks of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony and proceedings as reported stenographically by me at the time, place and on the date as hereinbefore set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney or counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DIANE M. HOLMES, C.C.R. Certificate No. XI01660</p>