1	STATE OF NEW JERSEY COUNTY OF BERGEN
2	BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK PLANNING BOARD
3	IN RE: MATTERS AND DECISIONS
4	RENDERED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021
5	
6	TAKEN PLACE: Municipal Building Elmwood Park, New Jersey Commencing at 7:30 PM
7	-
8	BEFORE: The Planning Board of Elmwood Park
9	PRESENT:
10	JEFFREY FREITAG, CHAIRMAN MAYOR ROBERT COLLETTI, absent
11	COUNCILMAN FASOLO, Member JOSEPH BENIAMINI, Member
12	ANTONIO CASTELBUONO, Member ROMANO INTRIERI, absent
13	JOSEPH MULLIGAN, Member MARGARET PYRKA, Member
14	HARIS SHAKOOR, absent VINCENT FERRARA, Alt 2
15	MYLES GARVEY, Member CARL ROBERTS, Mayor's Delegate
16	ALSO PRESENT:
17	
18	JOHN CONTE, ESQ., ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD LORI SPROVIERO, Secretary
19	ROBERT MONAGO, Board Engineer
20	
21	MINUTES PREPARED BY: BETH CALDERONE CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
22	75 Ottawa Avenue Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604
23	(201) 982-5157 Email-Calderone2000@aol.com
24	Email Garderonezooodaor.com

1	Al	PRIL 14, 2021
2		LMWOOD PARK PLANNING BOARD UBLIC MEETING
3	CI	HAIRMAN FREITAG called the regular
4	public meeting o Meeting to order	f the Elmwood Park Planning Board, according to the open Public
5	meeting Act, Apr	il 14 2021 @7:30 PM.
6		**************************************
7	* :	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
-8	Jo	ESOLUTION B21-009 ong Park, 111 Broadway, Block 126
9	Lo	ot 2. Tenant Kid Motors
10		otion offered by C. Roberts, Second solo to accept Resolution as
11	written.	OLL CALL:
12	Me	embers Fasolo, Freitag, Beniamini,
13.	vote in the affi	ka, Mulligan, Garvey, Roberts all rmative to accept Resolution as
14	written.	******
15		PPROVAL OF MINUTES
16	Copresent.	orrection: Member Ferrara was
17	for approval by	INUTES of MARCH 10, 2021 offered C. Roberts, Second by Councilman
18	Fasolo.	LL MEMBERS VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE
19	TO ACCEPT MINUTE	
20	. *	******
21	В	USINESS C.O. APPLICATION
22	1	21-012 RDL Elmwood Associates, L.P 00 Broadway Block 301, Lot 2
23	TI	ENANT: Phenix Salon
24	Dithe applicant.	AVID SCILLIERI, ESQ., on behalf of
2.5		

1	MEGI ASLLANI & KOFI SWANSON,
	applicants. Phenix Salon Suites is a franchise
2	company headquartered in Colorado, with locations
	all across the country.
3	The applicants are franchisees and
J	wish to open a location in Elmwood Park.
1	
4	The basic summary of the business,
	is the Franchise constructs the build-out and turns
5	it into individual salon units for rent and only
	rent to State licensed beauticians/barbers who will
6	be utilizing the individual suites. The only
	service being providing is hair treatment, hair
7	beautification/barbers, men and women. No
,	manicures, pedicures.
8	, <u> </u>
0	There will be a receptionist during
_	normal business hours, nine to five.
9	The individual beautician suites,
	the beauticians or barbers will have a key to
10	access their individual suites at any time during
	the night. This being a 24/7 operation.
11	The correct figure is 34 Salon
	suites, and this is a permitted use in the C-G
12	Zone.
14	The individual salon occupants would
13	-
13	need separate CCO approval, requiring them to come
	to the building department.
14	Currently there are pending
	locations of Phenix Salon Suites in Edgewater,
15	Paramus, Lodi and Woodbridge.
	When a stylist comes and goes, there
16	will be no structural changes or modifications to
	the suites. Only painting of the suite.
17	A hand sink, a sink for washing the
± 1	hair and a chair is provided by the franchisee to
1.0	-
18	the individual occupants.
	Applicants stipulated to only
19	providing hair beautification.
	As stated on the application, a six
20	day operation, no Sundays. There will be security
	cameras for each suite, hallways, and a key pad
21	with a code to enter after hours. The applicant
	records who accesses the key pad after hours for
22	security purposes.
44	
00	Applicants feel this is a more
23	affordable way, given each stylists/barber an
	opportunity to rent space for whatever period of
24	time, being charged a weekly rent to establish
	their own clientele.
25	

1	There will be a cleaning company
2	that disposes the garbage, cleans hallways and the public bathrooms.
3	NO PUBLIC IN FAVOR OR OPPOSITION Councilman Fasolo offers the motion
4	for approval, second by C. Roberts ROLL CALL BY MS. SPROVIERO:
5	MEMBERS Fasolo, Freitag, Beniamini, Castelbuono, Pyrka, Mulligan, Garvey, Roberts all
6	vote in the affirmative to approve the application. APPLICATION APPROVED
7	**********
8	APPLICATION B21-017 JOHN KAPAS 435 River Drive, Block 603, Lot 44
9	TENANT: Three Chefs, LLC
LO	(Transcript of Proceeding attached)
11	THE CHAIRMAN: B21-017 John Kapas. 435 River Drive, Block 603, Lot 44. Tenant Three
12	Chefs, LLC, Ray Tarantula. MR. THOMAS DUCH, ESQ: Good evening
13	Mr. Chairman, members of the board. Thomas Duch, 550 Mola Boulevard, Elmwood Park, appearing on
L 4	behalf of Three Chefs, LLC. Ray Tarantula is my client.
15	Before I start, I just want everyone to understand I have these devices on. It is to
L6	assist me in hearing. I had COVID early on, it impacted my hearing, and I'm waiting for some other
L7	devices, but this helps me. So to the extent you can speak up, I would appreciate it.
18	So we're here this evening to request from the board, a certificate of continued
19	occupancy for 435 River Drive here in Elmwood Park. It is zoned C-G. It currently is a
20	restaurant bar. It's been a restaurant bar probably since most of our lives. I have an applicant who
21	wants to come in. There is no liquor license at this site. The bar will come down, and this will be
22	a family restaurant. So we think it is a great
23	application because we get rid of the bar, and it is no longer really a hangout, and it becomes a
2 4	true family restaurant. So I have with me two different
25	people to testify. Mr. Tarantula, Ray Tarantula is in the hospital with COVID himself. If you look at

1	the application package when he first applied, he listed as an emergency contact Zoila Almonte. I
2	have Zoila Almonte here to testify on his behalf, and with his consent. He text me from the hospital,
3	we've been texting back and forth, and he knows Ms. Almonte is here. We'll talk a little bit about
4	their business relationship. And I also have with me Peter
5	Serpico. He is the architect who did the plan that's before you, so I would like to have them
6	sworn. PETER SERPICO, Architect, 1201
7	Boynton Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, sworn by the Notary, according to law, testifies as follows:
8	ZOILA ALMONTE, sworn by the Notary, according to law, testifies as follows:
9	ZOILA ALMONTE WITNESS: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DUCH:
LO	Q. Miss Almonte, could you step up to the mic. Can you tell the board a little bit about
L1	your business relationship with Mr. Tarantula. A. We have worked for 15 years together with a
L2	restaurant, we had before, a restaurant in Garfield for three years, and now we will now try it out
L3	here, and it is like what he said, it is a restaurant, a family restaurant, a family business.
L 4	Because before, they had a big bar, now we took it out, and now it will be more for families.
L5	Q. Miss Almonte, just for the board's edification, can you confirm that Mr. Tarantula
L6	knows you're here this evening? A. Oh, yes, yes, he knows. He's in the
L7	hospital, and he knows I am here. Q. And he specifically approved you to
L8	come before the board and testify? A. Yes.
19	Q. And should the approval be granted this evening, you're going to do the same thing,
20	you're still going to be the chef and Mr. Tarantula will be running the restaurant.
21	THE CHAIRMAN: I thought it was supposed to be three chefs.
22	MR. CONTE: Mr. Duch, Miss Almonte is not a member of the LLC?
23	THE WITNESS: No. MR. DUCH: She is not. But I pointed
24	out that Mr Tarantula was comfortable enough with her before being hospitalized to list her as the
25	number one emergency contact in the application. With that, I would like to have Mr.

1 Serpico to give us the benefit of his education, your background, licenses, etc cetera. 2 PETER SERPICO WITNESS. DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR DUCH: Peter Serpico, licensed architect in the 3 State of New Jersey since 1997. Educated at New Jersey Institute of Technology, graduated in 1986 bachelor of architecture. I've been practicing 5 since in the town currently in Union County, in Westfield, New Jersey. I've appeared before several boards over the 6 last 20 years, and had favorable outcomes to many of the applications. THE CHAIRMAN: That's good for you. 8 MR. DUCH: Mr. Chairman, will you accept his qualifications? THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. MR. DUCH: Thank you. Mr. Serpico, could you explain to the 10 board what you're trying to accomplish in A-2. You all have a copy of A-2, the proposed floor plan. 11 Mr. Tarantula retained me about six months 12 ago. We had several conversations, and Ray had a dream to pretty much take this restaurant. 13 how it ran in the past, and he wanted to create a family restaurant. 14 So, we basically, first off, I gave him some advise to remove the bar. There was a circular bar 15 in the upper left corner of the plan noted as 28 feet. There is a lower ceiling in that area, and the bar had about 22 seats. And Mr. Tarantula just 16 wanted to replace that with two, three, four tables back there. So the seating is a lot more limited as 17 to what was there. Also, due to his budget on the whole 18 project, we're looking at under the rehab code of 19 the State of New Jersey, and we'll be providing some ADA barrier-free upgrades that are 20 disproportionate to the construction costs, a small percentage of that. And on these plans, I found several areas of the plan that we could put some 21 funding into the space without providing extensive 22 construction costs to Mr. Tarantula. One example is, right in the center of the 23 plan, there's a station called a wait station. There was an original handicap ramp, and an up-to-date ramp was built in the late '50s. 24

saw a vision to create this wait station to enter

the women's toilet room, without having to go down this ramp. So now when he file's for a permit and

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construction is done, you'll be able to get in the women's restroom without going down a small incline. That's one thing. We couldn't do it on the men's side, but we did it on the women's side. So wherever we had some chances to act upon the barrier-free code, we did so. We opened up some openings between certain areas of the restaurant. There were some openings that were under three feet wide that were technically passages to have egress through it, so the drawings have depicted where we're going to widen some spaces, to get some better flow through the space.

There is a total of 114 seats. Me and Mr. Duch spoke about this earlier today. I don't have a record of what the existing restaurant provided, but, I believe this number is a little bit lower than the original seating due to the bar of 22 seats, which will be removed.

Exterior-wise, we're going to add some handicap signage, handicap space, maybe do some work to the handrails that are on the handicap ramp that's already in place. So Mr. Tarantula is on board to do whatever it takes to satisfy that disproportion cost in the rehab subcode. And he's going to dress it up cosmetically. New floorings, ceilings, some light fixture change out. All basic items. I spoke to Mr. DePadova several times to get me some insight, and he was very, very helpful in leading me to this meeting with Mr. Duch. And his denial letter brought us here, but I think we're all on the same page. We want to do the right thing and ask the Board for their opinion, basically.

Q. So in the application, it says that we will operate from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM. 9:00 AM we will start to get ready for lunch. So the application is completely honest, aboveboard, nine to eleven, by the time you clean up, if you have a great dinner crowd.

One of the concerns that Mr. DePadova had was trash removal. We'll work with him, whatever condition, where he wants it located on the site, we will do that. If Mr. Tarantula was here, I would have him testify, but that would be a condition of the approval. That was one of the things he was concerned about.

THE CHAIRMAN: The dumpster that they use is right on the River Drive side, right next to the building. Is that what he was talking about being a problem?

MR. DUCH: No. Mr. DePadova just said

1 we should provide testimony to that effect in his denial letter. Where will the refuse be stored, and 2 how will it be removed. And that kind of goes for the deliveries too. THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 3 MR. DUCH: Everything would be during 4 off peak restaurant hours. They can't come lunchtime, because we have limited parking on the site. We understand that. So any kind of pick up 5 for trash removal or any kinds of delivery, will have to be either before lunch or between lunch and 6 dinner. THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Do you know how old the building is? MR. DUCH: I am not sure how old it 8 is. THE WITNESS: I probably can check on the survey. I don't have the survey in front of 10 50, 60 years? THE CHAIRMAN: I lived here 71 years, I live down the street, and I know it was long 11 before me. It is very old. Okay. Getting back to the dumpster 12 and the trash. If we see fit to approve, it will be within the body of the resolution to say that 13 that would be worked out. 14 MR. DUCH: Absolutely, absolutely. THE WITNESS: I understand. 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Parking? MR. BENIAMINI: Mr. Chair. There is 16 going to be 22 parking spaces. Knowing the past, and there are two questions that I have. One, is the sidewalk on River Road, it is slanted. 17 can't even walk over there. Will you be redoing 18 that? THE CHAIRMAN: If I could say something, but finish your thought. 19 MR. BENIAMINI: The second question is, what if you have an overflow of people? 20 you going to start parking them on Phillip Ave? Philip Ave is parallel to River Road. In the past, 21 as you know, Phillip Ave is congested with cars. The previous owner used to park a lot of cars and 22 leave garbage all over the place, and I believe that that should not be allowed. Because that's a 23 problem. Not only coming in, turning into Phillip Ave, but also with the garbage left there, and 24 there is no parking. So my concern is, if there's an overflow, if they have 22 parking spaces and if

they have 40 people, they need 40 parking spaces.

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1 Where are they going to park? MR. DUCH: Mr Tarantula has been 2 looking around. He's been talking to some of the neighbors. He's talking to the neighboring property 3 owner. As I stand before you, there's no agreement. But I can say this, Mr. Beniamini, you're correct. But the use we propose is a use that is actually 4 less intense than the prior use. We believe by 5 taking the bar out, we take it away from it being a hangout and it becomes more, where you come in, you 6 eat with your family for an hour and a half, two hours, and then you go. So the site exists. It is a 7 site that we have to deal with. We have to recognize maybe it wasn't the best plan, but we 8 think our proposal is far better than if someone had come in and tried to keep it, even as it just was. We wanted to point that out. We understand the 9 parking limitations. And if my client does so well, he's going to have to find places to park, whether 10 it he has to have valet service, that's something 11 he mentioned to me. But as I stand before you tonight, there are no such arrangements made. 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Go ahead Mr. Beniamini. 13 MR. BENIAMINI: I know what's going on there. I know that when people are parking over 14 there, it was a problem turning to go into that street, because it is congested. It is even 15 congested as of today. You can make arrangements with the guy next door that sells hotdogs, he has 16 plenty of parking spaces, or somebody else. But you should also look into that. 17 MR. DUCH: Mr. Tarantula did have a discussion with the hotdog vendor next door. But 18 again, there's no firm arrangement at this time. THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Mulligan. That's what I was 19 MR. MULLIGAN: going to ask, because all the years before this, no 20 matter what it was, way back when it was Goodwins (phonetic) they always parked where (inaudible), 21 they can't make a deal? Even right before this place closed up, they were parking on there. There was a sign, wasn't there? That said extra parking 22 over there. 23 MR. DUCH: You're correct. MR. MULLIGAN: I don't understand why 24 they would say no now. THE CHAIRMAN: Regarding a shared 25 parking agreement, it doesn't exist in Elmwood

Park.

1 MR. CONTE: Right. THE CHAIRMAN: Preexisting. But that's 2 the way it always was. They used to have a big lunch crowd at one time, and I know that was always 3 the difficulty. One of the things, if I could, in mentioning your situation in what you are speaking 4 of, and in particular there, I think you're talking 5 about the sidewalk that goes around the front and back, and maybe Mr. Fasolo can enlighten us. I 6 don't know if the architect or Miss Almonte might be aware, they want to put a traffic light there. 7 MS. SPROVIERO: I spoke with Ricky Scott in the police station, he said that there has been a discussion with a traffic light, that it will be at least two years before any decision is 9 made. COUNCILMAN FASOLO: We're still in 10 the design phase for that. THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 11 interrupt you, you sat on the meetings as a council person, but I know there was talk about some 12 property. COUNCILMAN FASOLO: So we will have 13 the engineer here tomorrow, that's what the discussion will be about. 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I know it is not a lot that you are talking about, but it's possible. 15 COUNCILMAN FASOLO: So we are going to But the light is go through the design tomorrow. 16 going to be there, I am not sure how long it will take, probably two years. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we have a property, you can comment better than anyone, 18 that's preexisting, with 22 spaces. There has been, I guess you might call it, an informal parking arrangement with next door, where people 19 just go there, or go up (inaudible) and visit Mr. 20 Beniamini. MR. BENIAMINI: Besides the parking, the garbage gets dumped there. But also it is 21 dangerous when you are turning. They park right on the corner, and that's an accident waiting to 22 happen. 23 BOARD MEMBER: Maybe they should make it a one way like we did by the school. Mr. BENIAMINI: You may be right, 24 coming down. But the point is that, there are people that live across the street, and that's 25 where they park. I could tell you, there is no

parking. It is a problem going up and down that 1 street. My thing is, it is a great idea to have a 2 restaurant there, I love it. THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it operated 3 before. And again, the fact is, it will more quickly turn over, the tables, because there is no 4 bar. COUNCILMAN FASOLO: I have to agree 5 with you, Jeff. I think the removal of the bar is going to make it more of a turnover, like you said, 6 of customers. MR. BENIAMINI: I agree with that. My 7 point to you is that I would like to have a clarification on it. If you have more than 40 people in there, or 30, 35 people, you got 22 8 parking spaces. This should be contingent on the 9 fact that they get a deal with the guy next door, not on Phillip Ave. 10 MR. FERRARA: We can't do that, right, because there is no formal --11 MR. CONTE: Well, what the board could do is, and Mr. DePadova referenced it in his 12 letter, Mr. Duch, it may make sense to carry the meeting, carry the application, to give the 13 applicant some time to determine what his parking scenarios are, and then maybe come back to the board and gave a little clearer testimony. Now that 14 we have everything else into the record, I think, 15 unless you have any other witnesses, but maybe give the applicant an opportunity to solidify what the 16 possibilities are and then come back to the board. THE CHAIRMAN: If I could say 17 something, I know at one time there was a restaurant called La Bistro, which was on Elm 18 Street, and that operated in a neighborhood concept. The building is no longer there, it was replaced by two family houses, but they had valet 19 over by Marcal's lot there at the intersection of River Road and River Drive. And there actually was 20 an entranceway and a parking lot there. I don't know, the land appears to still be there, I don't 21 know if anyone is interested in going there, you 22 know, but to carry this, might be a good idea. MR. BENIAMINI: Also with the garbage, 23 where the garbage is located right now, it is an eyesore.

> THE CHAIRMAN: On River Drive, right. But they are willing to work it out with the building department as part of the resolution.

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MR. BENIAMINI: If they could move it

1	to the other side. THE CHAIRMAN: They are willing to
2	work it out. I agree with you, first of all, it is not very pretty to look at, and in fact, that might
3	even create to open a space or two there. MR. BENIAMINI: Also like I said, the
4	sidewalk, someone will fall there. THE CHAIRMAN: You mean the fact that
5	the sidewalk is in bad condition. It is like a continuous driveway from the gas station on down.
6	MR. BENIAMINI: That should be part of this to get that fixed.
7	THE CHAIRMAN: I know that's a county road there.
8	MR. BENIAMINI: The sidewalks belong to the building, not the County Road.
9	THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, to do anything there, it's a county road.
10	MR. BENIAMINI: Forget the road, I'm talking about the sidewalk, it is completely
11	uneven. THE CHAIRMAN: Again, it is up to the
12	building department. COUNCILMAN FASOLO: The only issue I
13	have with that is, if we are doing a traffic light there, if we fix it, it will get ripped up again.
1.4	MR. BENIAMINI: That is dangerous, an accident ready to happen. I twisted my ankle
15	walking there. COUNCILMAN FASOLO: I understand.
16	We're a little bit limited too, because the light is going there, and we're not going to interfere
17	with that intersection yet, until the light is done.
18	THE CHAIRMAN: And the other thing, again, our Counsel here advised it might be good to
19	carry, if some sort of thing could be worked out. Definitely, I think the building, I don't think it
20	looks good the way it is, and it is a good use of a building, and it is definitely a positive.
21	Especially you can walk right down there and go to eat.
22	MR. BENIAMINI: I use it, I am telling you, I walk around there when I do my daily walk.
23	I am telling you what the issue. MR. SERPICO: Can I add one item?
24	THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. MR. SERPICO: I did speak to Mr.
25	Tarantula this week. He was planning on having a plan. He is really excited about using a valet

1	system here, whether it is a partial system on his own lot, where they could stack the cars and get an
2	extra ten cars. He is realistic, he is not going to get 50 cars on there, but he could get an extra
3	ten if he does stack. And or using a lot that is in the vicinity. He really wishes he had a plan that
4	he could develop. He was asking me to do this today and I said I can't get it together
5	THE CHAIRMAN: You are not superman, only Serpico.
6	MR. SERPICO: So he has a vision, and also as Mr. Duch said, I believe the neighbor wants
7	to help, but it is one of those legal issues that it is a tough one to put on paper. Maybe they will
8	strike a verbal deal that he could present next month.
9	THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Carl, Mr. Roberts
10	you have something to say? MR. ROBERTS: My question to you, you're putting in handicap spots. How many handicap
11	spots are you putting in? MR. SERPICO: I believe here two, is
12	what I am thinking. There is a nice few spaces right at the face of the ramp, right in that
13	vicinity. If we need more, I think we can do a better calculation when we file for permits.
14	THE CHAIRMAN: How about the sign that takes up space.
15	MR. SERPICO: That sign, we're adding a sign too.
16	THE CHAIRMAN: No, I mean, as far as parking. Could that get a space or two out of
17	there?
18	MR. CASTELBUONO: The point of spaces, the three chefs, do they park somewhere else? Or are they part of the total?
19	THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know if it is three chefs. It is Three Chefs Limited Liability
20	Corporation, that's what it is called. MR. CASTELBUONO: I know, but the
21	people who work there, where are they going to park.
22	THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe she does all of the work.
23	MR. CONTE: I think it is up to Mr. Duch to decide if he'd like the board to act this
24	evening.
25	MR. DUCH: We respectfully request the board carry us to the next meeting, without the need to re-advertise. We waive the running of any

1	statutory time limitations or requirements by
_	virtue of this request.
2	THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there a motion
	to carry?
3	COUNCILMAN FASOLO: Motion to carry.
	MR. ROBERTS: Second.
4	MS. SPROVIERO: This will be carried
	to next month.
5	ROLL CALL:
	COUNCILMAN FASOLO: Yes.
6	CHAIRMAN FREITAG: Yes.
	MR. BENIAMINI: Yes.
7	MR. CASTELBUONO: Yes.
	MS. PYRKA: Yes.
8	MR. MULLIGAN: Yes.
	MR. GARVEY: Yes.
9	MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
_	APPLICATION CARRIED.
LO	THE DECITE OF CHICKED.
	(THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD,
L1	THE MEETING OF THE PLANING BOARD ADJOURNED)
L <u>J</u>	THE MEETING OF THE FLANTING BOARD ADOUGNED,
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