CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW

2RINGOLD REAL ESTATE, LLC

Appellant,

v.

153 Carpenter St (Plat 28, Lot 957)

CITY OF PROVIDENCE PLANNING COMMISSION, Katherine McClure and Seth Clark

Appellees.

MEMORANDUM OF APPELLEE/CPC APPLICANT

Appellees Kathryn McClure and Seth Clark submit this Memorandum in opposition to the Appeal brought by Appellant 2Ringold Real Estate, LLC of a Decision of the City Plan Commission approving the preliminary plan of Unified Development Review Project 20-040 UDR at 153 Carpenter Street, Providence, Rhode Island (the "Decision"). As set forth more fully below, the Decision, which does no more than bifurcate a current parking lot into a separate lot that must still be used only as a parking lot, was clearly within the Commission's jurisdiction, and was supported by adequate reasoning. In opposition to the appeal, the Appellees state:

Background

1. In or about April 2020, Appellees purchased the property located at 153 Carpenter Street, Providence (the "Property") from its prior owner. The Property had one driveway with ample parking for the Property, and a second parking lot (the "Parking Lot") on the opposite side of the house. As part of the purchase agreement, Appellees agreed to the bifurcation of the Parking Lot from the Property, subject to all appropriate approvals from the City of Providence, which would be retained by the prior owner.

- Appellee therefore filed an application for a minor subdivision, special use permit
 and dimensional variance, pursuant to Unified Development Review under Section 1702 of the
 Zoning Ordinance.
- 3. Under the proposed plan, the Parking Lot, which the Commission found had been used as a parking lot since 1957, before the dwelling was built, would remain in use solely as a parking lot, but exist separately from the residence. **There is thus no proposed change in the use or characteristics of the Parking Lot** (except the beautification conditions imposed by the Commission). The fact that it is a separate parcel to 131 Carpenter has no negative impact whatsoever.
- 4. Following a hearing on the matter on December 15, 2020, the Commission acted correctly and unanimously approved the proposed plan. Although adequate and sufficient notice of the hearing was provided by publication and by certified mail to each owner within the notice area, no party in interest, including the Appellant, objected to the proposed plan. (See attached Exhibit A for all proper mailings.)
- 5. Notwithstanding that the changes proposed in the plan would in no way affect any party, including Appellant, the Appellant filed this appeal. It should not go unnoticed that the motivation for this appeal no doubt stems from an unrelated dispute involving a principal of the Appellant, who unsuccessfully asserted a right to a real estate commission from the sale of the Property. Only after her efforts failed before a real estate peer review board did the Appellant bring this appeal and the Appellees take offense to this filing. In a court of law, this will be considered a bad faith, sanctionable appeal.

Argument

- 6. Appellant asserts that the Commission lacked subject matter jurisdiction over this matter because Appellee failed to provide proper notice. Significantly, Appellant does not dispute that it received proper notice.
 - 7. R.I. Gen. L. § 45-32-42 provides, in relevant part:

Public notice of the hearing shall be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality following the municipality's usual and customary practices for this kind of advertising. Notice shall be sent to the applicant and to each owner within the notice area, by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the time and place of the hearing not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing.

- 8. As set forth in the Affidavit of Peter Casale, all parties entitled to notice of the hearing on the Application received proper notice by publication or certified mail. (See Exhibit B, attached hereto and made a part hereof.)
- 9. Appellants suggestion that notice was not proper because certain properties were recently sold to an owner from New Jersey and notice was not sent to New Jersey is unavailing. Notice was provided to the addresses and owners of record at the time on Carpenter Street, which was sufficient notice and the October 2020 filing is adequate. The standard is that it is good for ninety (90) days and the mailings were done and complete and went out as required.
- 10. Equally unavailing is Appellants suggestion that the UDR requires a level of specificity for zoning approvals that it alleges does not exist here. To adopt the argument asserted by the Appellant would lead to the ridiculous conclusion that zoning ordinances address every possible scenario that could be contemplated in an application such as this one. The City Planning Commission is granted authority to hear sub division cases and that is why we went this route.

The Commission's Decision was Reasonable

- borders on the frivolous. Appellant appears to argue that the Commission erred because it kept the Parking Lot as a parking lot, instead of requiring that it be used to construct a single-family house. Even if this were a basis for appeal (which it is not), as the Commission noted, the Parking Lot is only 1,337 square feet. A cursory look at the neighborhood indicates that it would have been much smaller than even the smallest lot. A cursory knowledge of home building indicates that a home on such a lot is impractical.
- 12. Appellee does not dispute the legal standard proposed by Appellant: "the issue is not one of form, but the content of the decision . . . whether the board members resolved the evidentiary conflicts, made the prerequisite factual determinations, and applied the proper legal principals." It is evident that the Decision meets all of these standards. Since no party opposed the Application, including Appellant, there were no evidentiary conflicts to resolve. Further, the Commission carefully reviewed the facts and made proper factual determinations, including:
 - That the requested relief was consistent with the prior use, for over 60 years, of the property as a parking lot, which would be unchanged;
 - That the size, dimension and use of the property contributed to the applicants' hardship;
 - That the relief granted was the least relief necessary;
 - That failure to grant the variance was more than a mere inconvenience.
- 13. The Commission acted with reason in weighing all of the uncontroverted evidence before it and granting the Application.

The Commission's Decision Was Not Clear Error

14. Appellants contention that the Commission's Decision was clear error appears to repeat and rely upon its earlier contention that the 1,300 square foot parking lot would be better

served as a dwelling lot. Or, citing literature that was meant to encourage parking lots but discourage surface parking lots, perhaps Appellant suggests that the Decision should have required Appellants to erect a multi-level garage. In either event, it is impossible to imagine how either of those results is more consistent with a comprehensive plan than leaving a small, unbuildable lot in its same condition.

- 15. Indeed, if there is any need that should be addressed on Carpenter Street, it is the need for parking. Several dwellings, including the one owned by Appellant, have no off-street parking. Retention of the Parking Lot is clearly the best use of the property as decided in 1957 and carried forward. To ensure this, the Commission required that: "the applicant deed the spaces in the parking lot for use of the building at 131 Carpenter Street [which is owned by the former owner of 153 Carpenter] in order to ensure orderly parking and limit the effects of the lot on neighboring property."
 - 16. Based on the foregoing, the appeal should be denied.

Respectfully submitted this day of March, 2021.

Kathryn McClure and Seth Clark,

By their attorney,

James A. Jacoj, Esquire

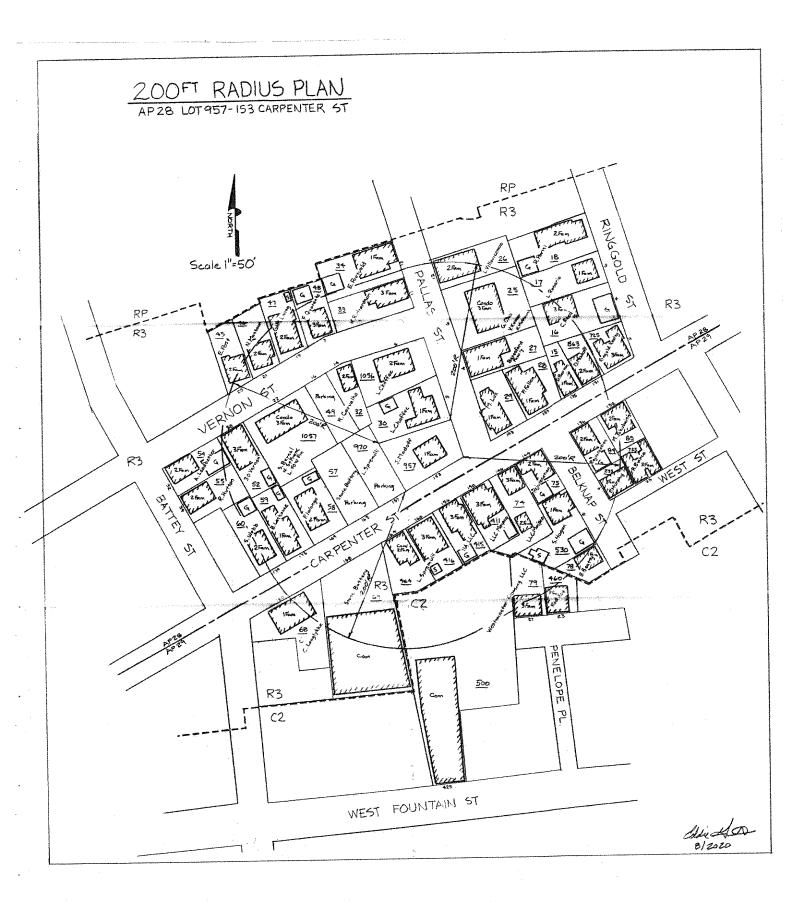
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EXHIBIT A





















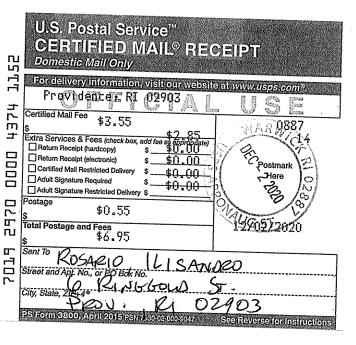




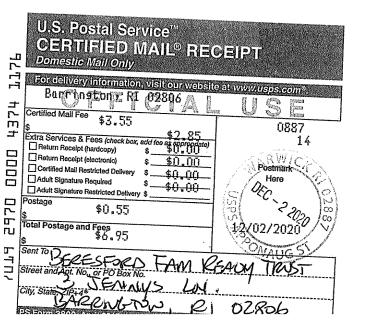


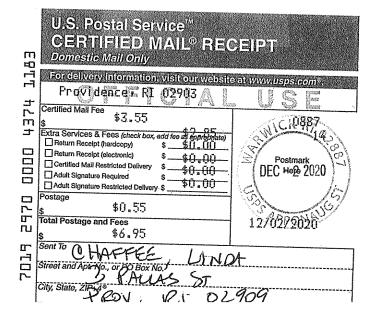




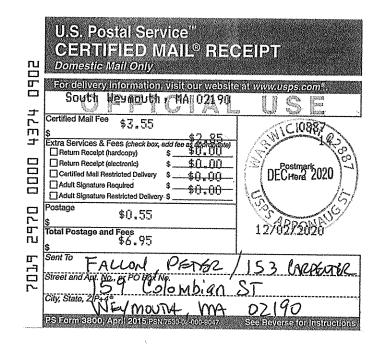


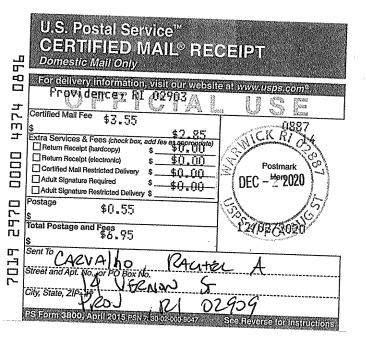


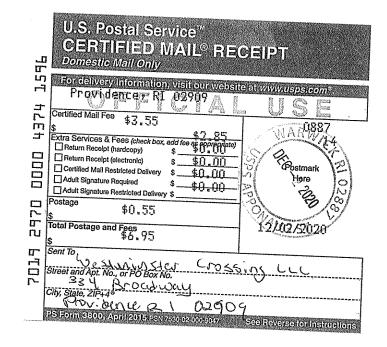


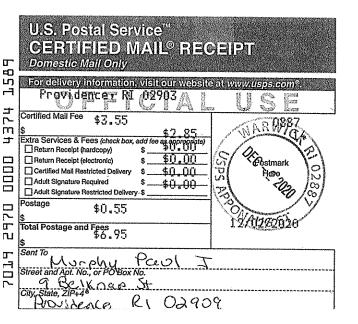


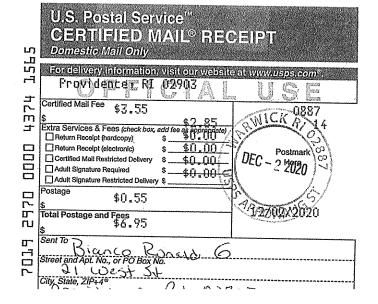


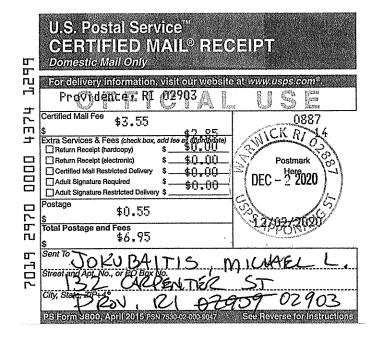




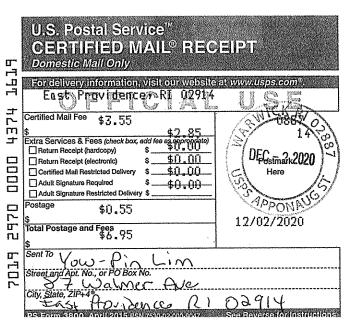




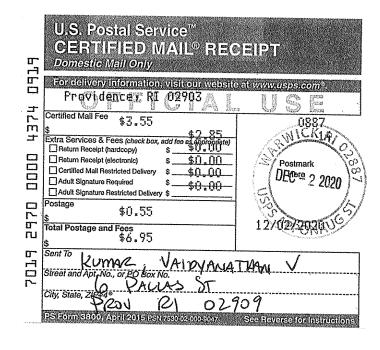




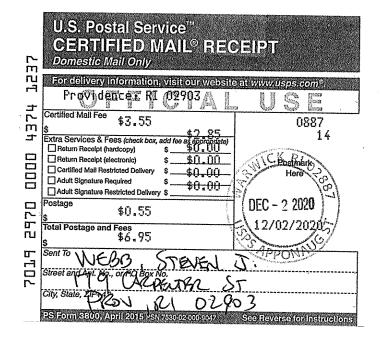


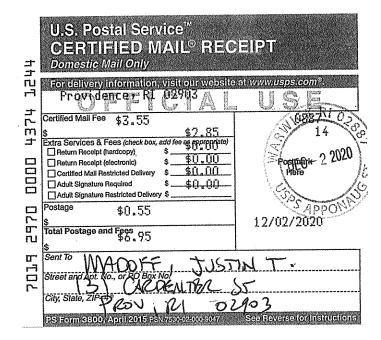


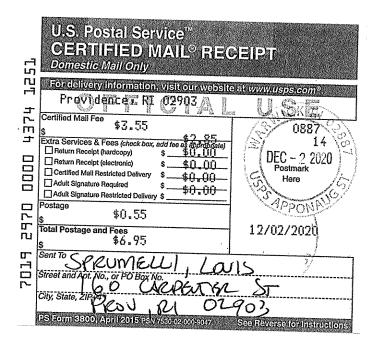






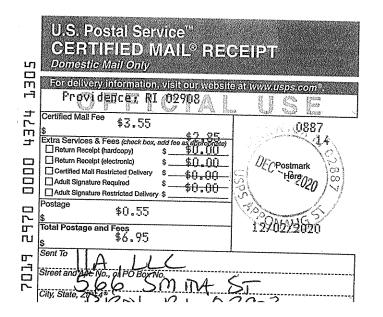










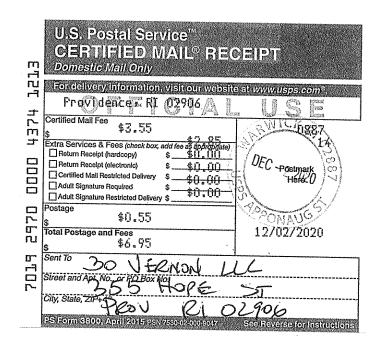






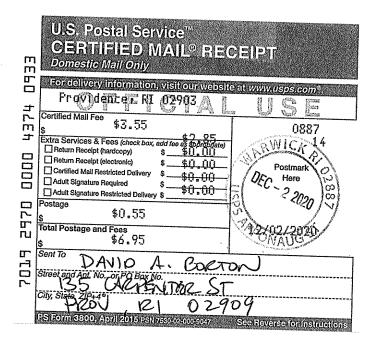


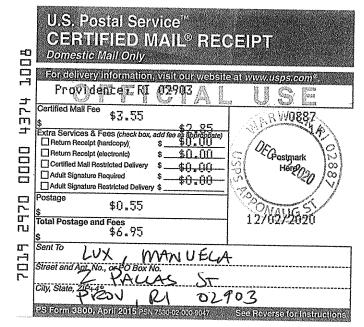












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| Parcel Address | 135 Carpenter St | 4 Ringgold St | 6 Ringgold St | 8 Ringgold St | 6 Pallas St Unit 6 | 6 Pallas St Unit 8 | 6 Pallas St Unit 10 | 12 Pallas St | 4 Pallas St | 137 Carpenter St | 2 Pallas St | 3 Pallas St | 14 Vernon St | 11 Pallas St | 13 Pallas St | 25 Vernon St | 21 Vernon St | 15 Vernon St | 7 Vernon St | 16 Vernon St | 30 Vernon St | 32 Battey St | 34 Battey St | 163 Carpenter St | 169 Carpenter St | 175 Carpenter St | 179 Carpenter St | 2 Ringgold St | 131 Carpenter St | 153 Carpenter St | 157 Carpenter St | 6 Vernon St | 22 Vernon St 1 | 22 Vernon St 2 | 22 Vernon St | 180 Carpenter St | 168 Carpenter St |
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| Zip | 02303 | 02903-1433 | 02903-1433 | 02903-1433 | 02903 | 02203 | 02303 | 02903-3002 | 02806-4424 | 02190 | 02903-3002 | 02909 | 02909 | 02909 | 02909 | 02903-3027 | 02909 | 01720 | 02903-3027 | 02909 | 02906 | 02903 | 02903 | 34293 | 02909 | 02909 | 02903-3043 | 02903 | 02903 | 02903 | 02903-3046 | 02903 | 02903-3028 | 02903 | 02914 | 02909 | 34293 |
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| Cify | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Attleboro | Providence | Providence | Barrington | Weymouth | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Acton | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Venice | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | East Providence | Providence | Venice |
| Owner Address | 135 Carpenter St | 4 Ringgolc St | 6 Ringgold St | 8 Ringgold St | 6 Pallas St | 457 Tiffany St | 6 Pallas St | 12 Pallas St | 3 Jennys Ln | 159 Colombian St | 2 Pallas St | 3 Pallas St | 14 Vernon St | 11 Pallas St | 13 Pallas St | 25 Vernon St | 21 Vernon St | 39 Meyer Hill Dr | 7 Vernon St | 14 Vernon St | 355 Hope St | 32 Battey St | 34 Battey St | 19211 Jalista St | 169 Carpenter St | 175 Carpenter St | 179 Carpenter St | 178 Broadway | 131 Carpenter St | 131 Carpenter St | 160 Carpenter St | 6 Vernon St | 26 Vernon St | 24 Vernon St, Unit B | 87 Walmer Ave | 347 Broadway St | 19211 Jalista St |
| 200 Foot Radius Abutters Names List Plat Lot Owner | Borton David A | Reed Cynthia M | Rosario ILisandro | Parisi Robert J | Mushaweh Kyle | Choi Gene J | Kumar Vaidyanathan V | Villavicencio Marco A | Beresford Family Realty Trust | Fallon Peter | Lux Manuela | Chaffee Linda | Carvalho Rachel A | Richardson Kristopher A | Rietveld Eric | Post Everett C | Mansour Norman Joseph | GHR Living LLC | Quaranta Filomena | Carvalho Rachel A | 30 Vernon LLC | Leadbetter Alexander Benjamin | Hutton IV Robert | State Battery Co Inc. | lalongo Peter A | Lachance Brandon | Webb Steven J | Ringold Real Estate LLC | Madoff David B | Madoff Justin T | Spremulli Louis For Life | Chaffee Linda | Bernal Sylvia M | St Franc Ndidi N | Yow-Pin Lim | Langlykke Cynthia | State Battery Co Inc. |
| 200 Foot Rad | | 28 16 | 28 17 | 28 18 | 28 25 | 28 25 | 28 25 | 28 26 | 28 27 | 28 28 | 28 29 | 28 30 | 28 32 | 28 33 | 28 34 | 28 45 | 28 46 | 28 47 | 28 48 | | | 28 54 | 28 55 | 28 57 | 28 58 | | | | | | 28 970 | 28 1056 | 28 1057 | 28 1057 | 28 1057 | 29 68 | 59 69 |

| Parcel Address | 148 Carpenter St | 144 Carpenter St | 12 Belknap St | 27 Penelope PI | 136 Carpenter St | 132 Carpenter St | 9 Belknap St | 150 Carpenter St | 156 Carpenter St | 160 Carpenter St | 23 Penelope PI | 164 Carpenter St | 23 West St | 425 West Fountain | 8 Belknap St |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Zip | 02903 | 02909 | 02903 | 02909 | 02909 | 02909 | 02909 | 02903 | 02908 | 02903-3046 | 02903 | 02903-3046 | 02903-3555 | 02909 | 02909 |
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| City | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence | Providence |
| Owner Address | 150 Carpenter St | 334 Broadway | 12 Belkap St | 334 Broadway | 334 Broadway | 132 Carpenter St | 9 Belknap St | 150 Carpenter St | 566 Smith St | 160 Carpenter St | 400 West Fountain St | 160 Carpenter St | 21 West St | 334 Broadway | 8 Belknap St |
| Owner | LLC Maipco | Rejuvenation LLC | Beatty Bryan M | Westminster Crossing LLC | Rejuvenation LLC | Jokubaitis Micheal L | Murphy Paul J | LLC Maipco | IIA LLC | Spremulli Louis For Life | Red Fox Realty LLC | Spremulli Louis For Life | Bianco Ronald G | Westminster Crossing LLC | Hogan Samantha M |
| Plat Lot | 74 | 75 | 78 | 79 | 84 | 82 | 233 | 411 | 415 | 416 | 460 | 464 | 475 | 200 | 530 |
| Plat | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 58 | 59 | 59 | 29 | 58 | 58 | 29 | 58 | 58 | 59 |

EXHIBIT B

(Original Signed Affidavit in File at City Hall)

Certification of Notice for Land Development Project or Subdivision Master/Preliminary Plan Stage

In accordance with Section 805 of the Providence Development Review Regulations, I hereby certify that I caused notice to be placed in the Providence Journal on November 25, 2020, notifying the public of the Public Informational Meeting/Public Hearing to be held on December 15, 2020 to consider the project known as 153 Carpenter Street. A copy of the actual newspaper notice is attached.

Also, in accordance with Section 805, I caused the same notice to be mailed, by regular mail, to all owners of real property whose property is located within 200 feet of the subject site, based on current real estate tax assessment records of the City. A map showing such properties and a list of all property owners and their addresses are attached.

Signed, Peter J. Casale Code Consultant, State of Rhode Island County Providence In Rhode Island in said County on the 25th day of November, 2020, before me personally appeared Peter J. Casale, Code Consultant of 44 Landmark Road, Warwick, RI 02886, to me known and known by me to be the party executing the foregoing instrument on behalf of said corporation and Crystal Holt acknowledged said instrument, by the party executed to be the free act and deed and the free act and deed of said corporation.

(Signature of Notary, title)