

**Town Board Meeting – January 30, 2024**

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**TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD  
TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
January 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT**

JENNIFER DESENA - Town Supervisor  
ROBERT J. TROIANO - District 1 Councilman  
EDWARD SCOTT - District 2 Councilman  
DENNIS J. WALSH - District 3 Councilman  
CHRISTINE LIU - District 4 Councilwoman  
DAVID A. ADHAMI - District 5 Councilman  
MARIANN DALIMONTE - District 6 Councilwoman

**ALSO PRESENT**

MARGARET MALITO - Chief Deputy Town Clerk  
RAGINI SRIVASTAVA - Town Clerk  
RICHARD NICOLELLO, ESQ. - Town Attorney

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, good evening everybody, let's get started. If we could all please stand and place our right hand on our hearts for the Pledge.

(WHEREUPON, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, Madam Clerk, will you please call the roll?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Good evening everyone, Town of North Hempstead Special Town Board meeting, January 30th, 2024. Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Present.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Present.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Present.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: So good evening, everybody. This is a special hearing. Our last Board meeting, we had very dangerous weather moving in, and so we postponed all of our hearings until February 6th with the exception of this one because of a conflict. We're having a special hearing tonight of -- but we do normally start with public comment. I understand that there is one person who would like to make a comment, and so since that person did make the trip, we'll allow it, and oh, but before we do that, I want to welcome Councilwoman Christine Liu to the dais. She was sworn in in early January, but unfortunately, was sick for our first two meetings. So this is our first time sitting here. So welcome, Councilwoman Liu.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: With that introduction, Jen —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: — I've been approached by some of our residents in my district that because it's only one item on the agenda tonight, and they asked if they could be given some more time to speak than the allotted three minutes. So I said I would ask the Supervisor if that would be allowed.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Well, you know, this is a continuation. We've had several hearings on this item, and so I'm actually going to ask that if you already have spoken at one of our prior hearings is, if you please let new people speak if they haven't had the chance yet, and we do need

to keep time to three minutes per person. So thank you, and so if we could call the one public comment.

(WHEREUPON, there was three minutes of public comment.)

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, so we can now continue the hearing. Counsel for the applicant?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Just one sec.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: It should be facing us. I mean, if it's possible for you to turn it slightly sideways.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: I just don't want to block the reporter.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Oh, that's right, she needs to be able to see you.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Is that all right?

COURT REPORTER: It's fine.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Good evening.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Good evening.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: My name is Kathleen Deegan Dickson, I'm a partner in the law firm of Forchelli, Deegan, Terrana, located at 333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Uniondale, New York. First, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for coming out this evening for a special hearing. I know you guys have very busy schedules, and I appreciate the accommodation. So thank you, very much. Also, I'd like to say hello to Councilman Scott and Councilwoman Liu and welcome you to the Board that I appear in front of so often.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Thank you.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So as you know, I'm here this evening on behalf of the Hillside Islamic Center. It's a proposal for the expansion of the existing house of worship located at 300 New Hyde — Hillside Avenue in New Hyde Park. I'm going to go through a little bit more than I ordinarily would just for the benefit of the new Councilmembers and for anybody in the audience who wasn't here at the past meetings, but as you know, we were here in December and prior to that, my client appeared for public hearings in June, July and August of 2023. Since that time, in August of 2023, they modified their plan to add more parking, and that was submitted to the town in September of 2023. At the December hearing, for some reason, there was a mix up, and that plan hadn't made it out to the Board members. So that hearing was continued so that you could get familiarity with the plan that was submitted in September, and is, again, before you this evening. Also since that time, the Hillside Islamic Center added a third service on Friday afternoons which enabled them to bring all of their congregation into the building for their worship services, and it spread out the traffic flow and freed up parking on the site. All that being said, I would like to incorporate the record from the prior hearings, all of the submissions and all of the testimony received at those prior meetings, and since the application was submitted into the record tonight, so we don't have to go into every last bit of detail, but of course, if there's anything that we leave out that you'd like to know, we're here to answer your questions. So the Islamic Center has been at this location since 2005, it constructed the current building in 2012. Since that time, over the last 14 years, their community has grown and the — or 12 years, I should say, the community has grown, and they've outgrown their facility. The proposed

building expansion is planned to accommodate their existing congregation, and to accommodate everybody within the building, and also, to expand the parking to alleviate some of the pressure on both the congregation and in the neighborhood. The expansion is planned from their current 5,428 square foot building with their current 29 parking spaces located on a 22,315 square foot lot to a 12,028 square foot building with 63 parking spaces on a 38,315 square foot lot. Over the years, the Hillside Islamic Center has purchased three adjacent properties, and now they can utilize these additional properties to create more parking for their members. This will more than double the existing parking onsite from 30 spaces to 63. The renovation includes the expansion of the second floor and addition of a third floor with the addition of new perimeter landscaping buffers and the reconfiguration of the parking lot and the addition of the new parking areas. As I mentioned, this application is intended to accommodate the existing congregation. There's no expectation that the congregation will increase because of this expansion. Every religious institution, obviously, hopes that their membership will grow over time, but this is — that is not, if we build it they will come. That's not the purpose of this application. This application is really, they have come, and now we need to build something so that we can accommodate both them and try to alleviate some of the pressure on the neighborhood. The — as I mentioned, since this application was initially heard last June, they added an additional July service on Friday afternoons to spread out the occupancy over three services instead of two. That also enabled them to free up the outdoor space by bringing their congregants inside, and then also, the plan was modified to add an additional property that they already owned but allow them to demolish that residence and create additional parking. The issues really only occur on Friday afternoons during most of the year. This is the equivalent of Islam Sabbath. Their population is much higher on Friday afternoons. It's the one day that — that services are really mandatory for their faithful. During the month of Ramadan, the busy hours have shifted into the evening, when presumably, more area residents are at home from work but it also frees up additional parking in the commercial areas in the immediate neighborhood. Since we were here last, my clients sent letters to all of the commercial properties within a half mile to the east and west on Hillside Avenue requesting that would they consider renting parking to the Hillside Islamic Center. We received only one response. It was a voicemail from the owner of the Stop & Shop Center, not Stop & Shop itself but the actual property owner, and they indicated that they couldn't accommodate us because all of their parking was accommodated for their tenants, that the leases used up all of the parking. So even if there is excess parking there, the tenants are the ones that have a right to it, and there's cross access for the tenants in the shopping center, so no one tenant could give us permission to use that parking. After many discussions with Town Board members and members of the community, the Islamic Center also hired an outside security company. I submitted that contract at our hearing in December. This provides a guard at the site who will — around the site who is intended to police parking throughout the neighborhood. Currently, he patrols in a car. The thought was that that would give him a little farther range and maybe have a horn that he can honk to get people's attention if they're doing something improper but it's been suggested that having him on foot might be a better use of his talents. We're fine either way. It's actually more expensive to have someone in a car, so we'll — we're happy to provide either way. In addition, they've enlisted their community members as volunteers to help with onsite parking and site circulation, and also to patrol the neighborhood to discourage illegal parking by it's members. They've agreed, or they will agree, to increase that number to up to four community members, you know, it's hard to get volunteers to do things on a weekly basis but they're committed to enlisting more and more of their members to be there, at Councilwoman

Liu's suggestion, having them wear high-visibility vests that may give them a little more authority and a little more visibility. They're willing to do that, as well. The idea with this would be to station them, not only onsite in the front and the back of the building but also at strategic points throughout the neighborhood so that people will know that they're being observed, and hopefully, will — people who are being watched usually tend to behave a little bit better. In addition, many of the neighbors, I'm sorry, many of the members live in the nearby neighborhood. At the last meeting, we submitted letters from 40 area residents who are also congregants at the Hillside Islamic Center where they've committed to only walk to services in order to reduce the burden on parking in the area. Many of them do already. We've also had conversations with some of them who do live in the area that they would be willing to allow their driveways to be either utilized or blocked to accommodate additional parking and make sure that it doesn't — that people are blocking nonmembers driveways. So we are going to work with code enforcement to figure out the best way to accommodate that, whether it's having placards or having a sign in front of each home saying, available for parking for members of HIC between noon and three on Fridays. Whatever that is, we thought that that might be an additional way to provide more parking for the members. We've really been brainstorming this over the last couple of months, and are certainly open to any other suggestions, but it is our expectation that with this expansion, with these additional 33 parking spaces onsite and with none of the parking spaces being taken up by worshipers who didn't have room to be inside, that the issues will be alleviated. We again encourage code enforcement to come out and help us enforce. The board of the Islamic Center has been encouraging their members to be courteous to their neighbors. There's always a couple of bad apples that will spoil the batch. Unfortunately, it's hard to pin down who they are and when they do it but code enforcement is something that we welcome, you know, we'd really love to have a crossing guard if the town can help us in petitioning the Nassau County Police to have a crossing guard so that there's a short, safe crossing on Hillside Avenue. There is a traffic light there and a crosswalk, so the ability to have a safe crossing is there. I do have with me Mr. Talha Ahmad, who is the traffic engineer who prepared the traffic study that was submitted to this Board initially with the application, and it was updated again in September to reflect the additional parking that was proposed. He's here this evening, and just for the record, for the benefit of people who did not hear his initial testimony. He's just going to make a few comments for the record.

MR. AHMAD: Hi, everyone. My name is Talha Ahmad from Greenman-Pederson. I'm a traffic engineer with 30 plus years of experience.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: It's very hard to hear you.

MR. AHMAD: Okay.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: A little closer, yeah.

MR. AHMAD: I'm a traffic and transportation engineer with 30 plus years of experience, PE for New York State and Connecticut, as well as a PTOE certification, Professional Traffic Operations Engineer. So we did this study, and initially, we were hired to do a study to determine traffic operations associated with the adjacent intersection because of the expansion of the mosque, and in addition to that, it was the trip generation activity that will be resulting from the expansion. So because of this, we had to do traffic observation, traffic count. We did traffic counts in December of 2022 for weekday a.m. and p.m. peak periods and a Friday peak period and a Sunday peak period. Based on that information, we come to know, and this analysis, this

observation, was also done on the driveways of the mosque to determine when the peak activity occurs in the mosque. So based on this observation, we come to know that the Friday peak activity was the highest between 1:15 and 2:15 p.m., and that is the time when we did our traffic analysis, and the difference between the existing condition and the proposed condition is that there will be another driveway on 2nd Street coming out of the mosque. So there was some changes in the trip generation traffic pattern, and we adjusted the traffic pattern coming in and out of the mosque, and we did a traffic analysis for the build condition, and we come to note that there is not much difference in the levels of service which is, like, a term used for traffic assessment from "A" to "E." "A" meaning the excellent level of service with less than ten seconds of delay, and then as it progresses, "F" meaning the worse condition. So the intersection as a whole is not operating bad, it was slightly under ten, about 9.9 seconds or ten seconds, so it is operating better compared to the existing condition. It is operating about the same condition where we do our future assessment, and in doing the future assessment, we also take — took into consideration the background traffic growth rate of this area, which, according to NEMTEC was about .395 percent per year. So 2022 counts were projected to 2024, two years, so that was a minor increase, and in doing the analysis we also took into consideration the pedestrians that were crossing on the crosswalk and nearby the crosswalk, and that analysis was done along with the traffic assessment, and there was no impact because of the new addition, and that's what we thought. In addition to that, the 33 extra spaces that they're going to create, first it was 29, initial, then 35, then 43 or 44 and then 63. So based on these public hearings, they keep increasing the parking spaces because these guys bought the properties, and as a result, it will certainly improve the parking condition compared to whatever it is now. So that's --

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Excuse me, sir, if I could just ask you.

MR. AHMAD: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: These analyses you keep referring to. Did you actually have boots on the ground? Were you there or was anybody there counting --

MR. AHMAD: So —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — I mean, counting pedestrian traffic?

MR. AHMAD: Both. So for the intersection we had cameras installed, and during those peak periods, they automatically get energized, and they count the pedestrians and cars. So the peak period is, basically, we keep the counts to like two or three hours and from there we come up with the peak period of one hour. That is what the analysis is based on. The analysis is based on the highway capacity manual criteria for signalized intersections in which pedestrians are also considered which are interfering with the right turns or the left turns when people are allowed to cross the light. So that's the analysis that we did, and I think, if I'm not wrong, from the two crosswalks that were there on Hillside Avenue, one was 80 plus people crossing, and the other one was 29 or 30 plus people crossing. So that was included in the analysis.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: In your trip generation —

MR. AHMAD: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: — sorry, still first time. All right, in your trip generation analysis, you say that a vast majority of worshipers were noted to park their vehicles within five minutes of walking distance from the mosque, which, in the survey, these trips were considered vehicular trips coming to and from the mosque. So you have a total of 311 vehicle trips, okay, during that

period of time. That also includes those who park their vehicles five minutes away and walked over. How do you know that they parked five minutes away and walked over?

MR. AHMAD: On the driveways, right, there are, right now, two driveways. One on Claussen, and the other one was on the other side.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: I'm sorry, can you speak into the microphone?

MR. AHMAD: There are two driveways right now; right? So we put, manually, people on those driveways, and I, myself, was on the 2nd Street area. So as the people are coming towards us, we were asking this question. How are you coming here after parking your car or are you coming just by walking? So that was the criteria, and once we get done, so we make mark on the boards. So it was manually done. It was not automatically done by the camera.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: And you said you had two people physically?

MR. AHMAD: Three, three.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Three people.

MR. AHMAD: Three people.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Okay, thank you.

MR. AHMAD: On all these three peaks, midday, a.m. and p.m., Friday and Sunday, we had that.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I have a question. These cameras are wherever you're counting people. Did you count the number of people that cross Hillside Avenue without a light from the Stop & Shop parking lot to the Islamic Center?

MR. AHMAD: The way this is calculated is all the people in that particular time period. If it was an hour, it is broken up into 15 minute interval, four 15 minute interval, so that's doesn't matter. It is like all the people that are crossing that crosswalk from one place to another — -

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Well, I don't know about what matters or what doesn't matter, but my question is, did you have a camera —

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — hold on, let me finish my question. Did you have a camera that observed the people that run across Hillside Avenue from Stop & Shop into the Islamic Center, and did you count that number of people, specifically, that went from Stop & Shop, across Hillside Avenue to the Islamic Center?

MR. AHMAD: We count —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Did you observe those with your camera

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — and count those particularly —

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — and if so, how many people did you count running across Hillside Avenue?



MR. AHMAD: The total -- that's what I was saying, the total number of people that were crossing in that hour was 73 from one side and 29 from the other side.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: So both 73 and 39 —

MR. AHMAD: Twenty-nine.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — added up —

MR. AHMAD: Twenty-nine.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — you know, so that's 110 plus ran across Hillside Avenue with no light or anything else.

MR. AHMAD: No, no, it was total number of people. We did not know how many crossed with the light or without the light.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: There is no light, so if they're crossing, there's no light there.

MR. AHMAD: That's what I'm saying. The total number of people that were crossing were observed.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: But it was over 110 in an hour.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah, it was 70 —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Thank you.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Seventy-nine.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm sorry, can I ask a question?

MR. BHUIYAN: I just want to clarify, I just want to clarify this something. He's asking people — you're talking about 130, almost 110 people crossing from Stop & Shop to Hillside on the crosswalk.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I thought that was a clear question.

MR. BHUIYAN: That is —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Nobody mentioned crosswalk, there is no crosswalk there. They run across the street without a crosswalk.

MR. AHMAD: That's what I'm saying.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Yeah.

MR. AHMAD: From one side to the other side near the intersection. From one side to the other side.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Okay, with no — now you just added the word crosswalk. Where is the crosswalk? There is no crosswalk; right? They cross Hillside Avenue.

MR. AHMAD: Cross —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Okay, thank you.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Excuse me? You did the traffic analysis in 2012, 2013, when the first expansion was happening. Did you look at it?

MR. AHMAD: I did not have the copy of that.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Did not. So you don't know how the current situation compares to what was being presented back then.

MR. AHMAD: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: You compared what you expect the traffic to be with the expansion —

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — to what it is today.

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But if today is higher than what was expected in 2012-13 that wasn't looked at.

MR. AHMAD: I don't have that.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Thank you.

MR. AHMAD: Can I add something? When we did the analysis, we did an existing condition analysis without the, without the project being constructed as if it is what it is now. Then we did a growth rate of .395 percentage, and we did a no-build condition analysis. So existing was 2022, no-build was 2024, as if nothing was being built in 2024, and then the build analysis.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I understand that, and as counsel said, this is not expected to draw more people in.

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: It's just expected to accommodate the people that are there already.

MR. AHMAD: Slightly reopening.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: What I'm wondering is, was the — in the 2012 or 2013 traffic analysis, was the level that was expected then much below what we're seeing today, and if that might be a more appropriate standard; right? Because it's how much can the community take, not how much more will this create.

MR. AHMAD: I don't have that.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Also, may I ask? You have here that there are 105 inbound trips during that peak time and 206 outbound trips. Can you explain the difference in the inbound and outbound?

MR. AHMAD: Inbound is people who are coming in.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: In, right. So 105 vehicles coming in.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: And exiting is 206.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah, meaning it's — they're not entering the mosque. They're coming in the mosque area.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Mm-hmm.

MR. AHMAD: They're parked somewhere, a block here, a block there. So people who are coming in those vehicles are coming into the mosque. So that's inbound and out.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: And then, maybe I'm just not — so then the 206 outbound where they — those are people already in the mosque maybe?

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Is that what you're saying?

MR. AHMAD: Yeah, people, after their prayer, they're going out.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: I think what the confusion is is that you can't have more people coming out than went in.

MR. AHMAD: No, no, because there are two services; right? So it starts at like 12:15 or something, and then all of a sudden, people go. So it —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: It's much easier to count them leaving than it is coming in, basically. They all leave at the same time, and it's easier to count.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: That's how I —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm sorry, can we pursue that some more? I don't know if I understood that. So you're saying that there are people attending the mosque, and so at the time, the time you were doing a count, there were people in the mosque, already. So you didn't do a count that included those people that were in the mosque already?

MR. AHMAD: No, no, we started at 12:15.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Okay.

MR. AHMAD: The counts were done at 12:15, 12 or 12:15.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: 1:15.

MR. AHMAD: Huh?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: 1:15.

MR. AHMAD: 1:15 to 2:15 is the peak. We did it like two hours count.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Okay.

MR. AHMAD: So it was like, start at 12 or 12:15, and then we picked the peak hour out of the two hours. That's how we do that. So at the start, there may be one or two people in the mosque at 12:00, and they weren't counted.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And they what?

MR. AHMAD: They would not be counted because they are already there.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Okay, so when you got, I think it was 106, you said?

MR. AHMAD: No, no, 106 are during the peak period.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Right, what time was that?

MR. AHMAD: Between 1:15 and 2:15. People are coming in and people are getting out.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And I'm not sure how we explain. The outbound is 200 and something or is it almost double that?

MR. AHMAD: So they're already coming in from 12:15 in, so the mosque is already filled. So the people who are coming out are more than coming in at that time.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Yeah, before they went in; right?

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: So you should have counted 200 plus coming in.

MR. AHMAD: But those people are not going to be in that particular peak hour.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: So you're separating the hours.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah, the peak, the peak hour that is the hour that is the highest in and out combined.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: So you do have 200 people going in, calculated, if you include —

MR. AHMAD: But then people coming out, if you are going to count, let's just say 12:15 to 1:15; right? There'll be nobody going out, everybody will be coming in; you understand? Because nobody — the service is going to end at like 2:15. So nobody is really coming out. Everybody will be coming in.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Well, the service ends at 2:15,

MR. AHMAD: 2:15, then it'll be going out. But at that time, people are already in. People are already in; right? Because 1:15, the people are already in between 1:15, 2:15.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Yeah, but we're asking about the total number of people that are in there.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Well, so let me just clarify —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Move to the microphone, please.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: — the standard that the traffic engineers use as a peak hour. So they may have activity from nine in the morning or actually, in this case, 6:30 in the morning, depending on when sunrise is, until ten o'clock at night. But you don't do your report based on some of these lower ones. You do your report based on a worst case scenario, which is that one hour snapshot. So there's stuff that happens before that snapshot, and there's stuff that happens after, but what they're measuring is the highest number based on the trip generations that —

MR. AHMAD: In and out.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: — ins and outs combined. So there may be, I'm sorry, there may be 50 people there for an earlier service that are not coming in, but they will be going out, so -- and then some of the people who come in may stay longer than 2:15, so they may not be leaving. So that's why the ins and outs are counted as opposed to the number of people. It's not necessarily reflective of the number of people that are on the premises.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Right. He said that at twelve o'clock, I notice what he said, there's only one or two cars there, and so it's hard to figure out exactly what the — what time did they do the snapshot when they had 106 people inbound?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: That was in the peak hours between 1:15 and 2:15.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Roughly 1:15 is when we saw the peak inbound number.

MR. AHMAD: No, so the peak started at 12:30, the count started at 12:30, and each 15 minutes we did the counts; right? Like, we counted 12:30, one, two, three, 12:15 we stopped the count, we did a total, so — and then we compared the peak hour on which the ins and outs were most.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So just tell me, at what time — what was the — what time were the 106 people counted?

MR. AHMAD: 106 people were counted prior to — prior, like, just as it's counted between 1:15 and 2:15.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So for that hour —

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — 106 people came in.

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Not people, these are trips.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Cars.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Cars, sorry, sorry.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So some of the people may have, again, left within that hour.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But I just have to — this is just my own way; okay?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Okay.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So during that hour, 106 people drove in, and some — but there were some cars that came in before that time.

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And then at 2:15, that's the snapshot of the outbound.

MR. AHMAD: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Is when you had 200 and something.

MR. AHMAD: Correct.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So the cars, the 106 cars that came in, and cars that came in before that snapshot are all leaving —

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — at, I guess, 2:15.

MR. AHMAD: Yes.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Can I ask —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But I thought — I'm sorry, just one second.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: No, no, no.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I thought that additional services were added in order to reduce the burden on the street traffic.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So those services were added after this study was done. This study was done in December of 2022 as part of the initial submission in June of 2023. After that, it was updated, the report and conclusions were updated. But there weren't additional counts done because it was going — because the additional service was added that would reduce the --

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So what are the times for these services now?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: The times for the services now, there's a 12:30, 1:20 and 2:15 at this site, that's in January.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So you know, something's not working; right? Because you're drawing all these people in for the first two services, and then some of them are leaving but some are staying, and so at 2:15, you can get this really heavy load of cars coming out. So you know, and I'm not familiar with about how this Friday is celebrated in the Islam religion, but is it possible to have more time between services?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So I think that's a very good question, and I spoke with my client about it. I got quite a good education, so --

MR. BHUIYAN: Good evening, everyone, my name is Abdul Aziz, and I am the chairman of the Hillside Islamic Center. Is it too loud? Okay.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Now you're good.

MR. BHUIYAN: Okay. So the prayer start, the first service is 12:30, and the second one is, as we said 1:20, third one is 2:15. So when the first one ends, it's half an hour services, so 12:30 ends, say at 12 — depending, sometimes maybe five minutes earlier than one o'clock, but by one o'clock they're done. So in ten, 15 minutes, everybody's out, nobody stays behind. So within that, we have the door —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But apparently somebody does.

MR. BHUIYAN: No, this is something, definitely something is missing or at least is when -- maybe you'll explain, optimize -- so by one o'clock, 1:10 the center is empty, except the new people for 1:20 will be using the other doors, the middle door they will be coming in. So the people are there for the next service, but the first service, everybody leaves. So when the second service at 1:20 finishes at about, another half an hour, that's the next one. The last one is at 2:15. So each service, as the service concludes, within ten, 15 minutes, everybody from the

first — their service leaves the center. So nobody -- yes, there's an interaction when people are leaving and they're coming, there might be some overlapping each other, but I would say ten, 15 percent.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So you know that what you're saying now contradicts what I heard this gentlemen say and leaves us trying to reconcile peak load at 106 inbound and 200 something outbound, so you know, and so the mystery deepens.

MR. BHUIYAN: So let me, before you go further. So the study was done in 2022; okay? So at that time we had, there was no 12:30 service.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm forgetting that the study was done prior to the --

MR. BHUIYAN: Yes, yeah. So 12:30 service was added since, I think, in August, and so prior to that we had 1:15, 2:15, and there were only two services at the center, and that was during summertime that we had 3:45, which, just for the students, maybe even 60, 50, 60 people come study. So these two services were the only service. So when these studies were done, again, the service is always half an hour, no more than half an hour.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So notwithstanding that, is it possible there can be more separation between the three services?

MR. BHUIYAN: So the issue here is the prayer timing itself. Each prayer timing is dictated by — you have maybe an hour or so until the — until the next prayer comes in. So you have to finish your prayers. Let's say, right now, this afternoon, prayer starts at twelve o'clock, just at an arbitrary number. You probably have about two hours by maybe 2:50, you cannot pray this prayer anymore. So you have to do your prayer within — this particular prayer, after an early afternoon, prayer has to be done within the timeframe. Then the next set of prayers starts is a late afternoon prayer. So if you missed it, you missed it already. You cannot make up stretching on Friday, you cannot make up the prayer. So you have five daily prayers. Let me just, if you don't mind. First one is early in the morning, is before the sunrise rises. So you have until the sun rises, you have the time from, let's say, from dawn to, you know, let's say maybe two hours before that until the sunrise. So right after sunrise and another 10, 15 minutes later, the next prayer will come, which is early afternoon prayer, about 11:30, twelve o'clock, the next prayer time will come in. Then you have another two, three hours until — it all depends on the sun, movement of the sun, you know, shadow, how many measurement of the shadow, you know, that's how it's calculated. So the next prayer is called Asr, which is a late afternoon prayer. Once their prayer come in or the first or second prayer that we -- if you missed, you have to make up, that's a normal day. The Friday prayers you cannot make up. So now come the next one which is the fourth prayer of the day, right after sunset. Right after sunset, within a minute or two, you prayer the fourth prayer of the day. Then the late evening prayer, about an hour and a half after that, you'd pray your late evening prayer, which is, right now, we do at eight o'clock. So these are the daily prayers, except the Friday it's -- the timing is same as early afternoon prayer, only different. If you miss Friday prayer, you cannot make it up.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: This is the second call to prayer on Friday you're talking about; is that correct?

MR. BHUIYAN: No.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: So 1:30, actually, if I can just interject because I have the same question and logical reasoning as what Robert is asking. Why can't we just have the two

services, have more time in between, and that's when you're talking about you only have a certain amount of time --

MR. BHUIYAN: Correct.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: — due to the solar, you know, cycles.

MR. BHUIYAN: Cycle, right.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: There's a window of time that you can pray; right? So before, you had two services within that window, but now they're trying to squeeze in three services, so there's even a shorter amount of time in between, and it seems like — seems to have the shortest window. I did ask Kathleen, maybe she has it, she printed it out, these times, if she —

MR. BHUIYAN: It's all on the website, as well, if you say Hillside Islamic Center website is everything is there. It tells you when it begins, when it ends, it's everything there.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: It makes sense if you distance your services.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: The answer is no. It's different.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: It's different, months can be changed.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: The motion of the sun.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Right, so I think, May, June, the summer months, when the days are longer, you could probably do that, but January, the winter months, they are shorter.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: This study was done you said in 2022 —

MR. AHMAD: Right.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — during COVID. Did that affect it at all? Did COVID affect the number of people that come to pray?

MR. AHMAD: December.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: In August of 2022.

MR. AHMAD: In December.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: In December of 2022.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Can you get closer to —

MR. AHMAD: When the counts were allowed by duty.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I get it.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So since December of 2022, steps have been taken adding the third service to dilute those peak hour numbers. We know it's still a busy place, there's still a lot of activity, you know, and I'm sure it takes a little time between — September was the first time that they initiated the first afternoon prayer. It's only been a few months, so you know, we're -- I'm not sure how it spreads out from service to service but we know that we've been able to accommodate the people who were originally worshipping outside. We've now been able to accommodate them inside by adding this additional service. So no longer is the parking lot being used for worship services in tents, it's being used now for parking. So it's been incremental. I also want to mention that, you know, we have this two -- two of the houses



directly to the south have already been demolished, and right now, we're waiting for the approval of the site plan in order to pave them. They're unfortunately not permitted to use them for parking because the town code has a requirement for certain, you know, how many inches of this, you know, with asphalt and drainage and all of the things that are required for a proper parking lot. They would like to use it until they're able to build it, just because they think that that would alleviate some of the current pressure on the community. I've been told that when they have used it, that code enforcement has come out and asked them to remove the cars and not to use it. So you know, it's a matter of timing. If — the sooner they're able to build it, the sooner we'll be able to get those additional 30 cars off the street and into a proper parking lot. I just — while we're talking about these things, I reviewed the conditions and the draft resolution, and by and large, we're fine with them. The only thing that I would request is that condition number three, that talks about having parking lot attendants onsite an hour before the services, that that be limited to Fridays because they have services, again, at 6:30 in the morning and at eight o'clock at night where the congregation is much, much smaller. Really, it's Friday afternoons and then during the month of Ramadan. They always have additional people volunteering, they have offsite parking available to them. So that would be the only request I would make in modifying the You know, my client certainly welcomes continued community engagement. They really would like to be a good neighbor, and as I said, there's certain bad apples in every organization that no matter what you do, you can't persuade them to be courteous, and they will — they're committed to continuing to message to their congregation that courtesy is important, that it's important just being a good citizen, but also to their faith, and you know, I'd like to also just remind the Board that this is a site plan application. I mentioned this the last time. The building that's proposed is fully zoning compliant as far as height, as far as setbacks, buffers, parking. There are no variances being sought or required and use, I should add, it's not even a special use. This is a permitted use that complies with all the zoning requirements. Your job, as a Board, is to make sure that the site works for that intended use. We are, again, open to additional suggestions, if you have ways that we can make it work better. I think you can see that with every suggestion that's been made, it's been accommodated. We're happy to continue brainstorming, and if we do get any responses to the original letters that we sent where there may be some offsite parking available, we'll certainly agree to avail ourselves of it, but we haven't had a great response. So I would just ask that, you know, it's been five public hearings over eight months, and I know there's a lot of people here in the community that have things that they'd like to add, and we're certainly happy to answer their questions, but I would ask that at the end of this process this evening that you close the public hearing, and render a decision. I think it's time. So thank you, and I just ask that you give us an opportunity to respond to anything that needs responding to.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you. Well, unless anyone from the Board has questions, we can take public comment. Madam Clerk, would you like to call the first comment?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: So we are going to start the public comment, and we request you to please keep your comments to three minutes. The first card is Donna O'Callaghan.

MS. O'CALLAGHAN: Hello, everybody.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Hi.

MS. O'CALLAGHAN: I'm Donna O'Callaghan, I live at 1028 Hillside Boulevard, New Hyde Park, and I'm here to talk about the traffic study. The traffic impact study omitted numerous

crucial factors such as the hundreds of cars that are parked illegally at Stop & Shop, CVS, the cars that park on the streets, as well as the ones that double park. It overlooked the busiest time of all, which is the month of Ramadan, and the cars that block Claussen Place during that month. It excluded all the traffic at the Stop & Shop traffic light intersection, as well as collision impact data. It excluded the anticipated traffic that HomeGoods will bring. It also excluded the impact redirected traffic would have on public transportation. There's a bus stop next door and one across the street. Gridlock on side streets would halt traffic on Hillside Avenue. The study states that vehicle trips are mainly dependent on prayer space, therefore, offices, libraries, restrooms, staircases and the lobby were excluded, too. The traffic impact study is filled with discrepancies. The charts used on page 14 and 17 are incorrect. Per the architectural drawings, there is no prayer area in the basement or the second and third floors. There is a discrepancy between the set of drawings reviewed in the traffic study versus the Department of Building's set. The third floor construction plan, sheet A6, dated 8/12, shows a kid's library, food storage, accessory storage and an office. The same drawing that's part of the Department of Buildings set, dated 8/23/23, shows a men's library and offices. The current occupancy for assembly space is 64, the proposed occupancy is listed at 142. However, that needs clarification since there's a discrepancy in the square footage, and that may be 12 occupants too many per code. The increased occupancy for assembly space is 78 or 66, this is what the study's based on. The impact study is subjective. It states the proposed expansion will help in bringing the worshipers inside the mosque and protect them against potential bad weather conditions, particularly, in winter months. There is no room to legally and safely bring an additional 300 worshipers inside the assembly space for 78 occupants. Occupancy restrictions must be observed. The chairman has stated there are three new centers within a two mile radius, in addition to the Elks Club service. The study further shows that since the second prayer session starts at 2:15, there's a significant overlap of vehicles entering and exiting at the same time. This is a major issue. The study verified that there were over 400 people at the 1:15 service. This is what residents have been complaining about for years. Four hundred plus people at one service, not 400 plus at three different services. Despite all this, the study suggests that closing off the main entrance and adding three new curb cuts -- oh, by the way, it's three curb cuts, it's not two. The agenda says two but they're asking for three.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay.

MS. O'CALLAGHAN: And Maria's going to give me —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: All right, no, well, that's three minutes, so —

MS. O'CALLAGHAN: It's just a paragraph, and it's kind of important.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Please don't yell from the audience.

MS. O'CALLAGHAN: Okay, despite this, despite all this, the study suggests that closing off the main entrance and adding three new curb cuts and redirected and admitted and observed four to 500 plus worshipers from Hillside Avenue to the narrow side streets of North 2nd, which already has a gas station and the diner emptying onto it, and North 3rd Street would have no significant traffic impact. This conclusion contradicts the evident chaos observed at the center. Please don't ignore and compound the substantiated traffic, safety and community issues. There's no federal law that would force you to put the safety of the community you represent at risk. Please vote no for this application, and just with — when they saw 105 cars —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: You're way beyond the three minutes.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you, thank you. Other people will have a -- no, no, no, no, no, no, we're not doing that. We can't be transferring three minutes, three minutes. Everybody, they --excuse me, stop yelling, please. They are the applicant, and we have asked them a lot of questions so that we can make our decision. Now please, everybody who's here is welcome to speak for three minutes. We cannot add it up and transfer it, and that's just not the way we do things.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Matthew D'Amico?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Sorry. So can we ask the applicant to clarify this issue about two curb cuts versus three curb cuts?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Sure, if that's helpful. If we could answer that right away, that would be great.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Presently, this is the — this is proposed. Presently, this curb cut is not —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Can you speak into the microphone? Thank you.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: All right. Presently, the curb cut on North 2nd Street is not there, there's a fence there. So that curb cut will be added. Oh, thank you. There's an existing curb cut on North 3rd, and two new curb cuts are going to be added to accommodate the additional parking on those new lots.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: What's going on? You said 2nd Street with the fences?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Second Street where the fence is will be a two-way ingress/egress. Right now, there's a fence there. So that allows some of the traffic to flow out to the traffic light.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But there's a curb cut there already.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: No, there is no curb cut there.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So that's going to be a curb cut.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: That'll be a new curb cut.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So basically, there's going to be two on the bottom side.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: I'm sorry; say again?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So there's one curb cut at the top.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yup.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And basically, it's going to be two at the bottom.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Two new ones on the bottom.

MR. BHUIYAN: Total three, yes.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Three now curb cuts, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So that's — so that is three.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: There's —

MR. BHUIYAN: Total three.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes, total of three new curb cuts.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: One exists, but I think what we have says two curb cuts. Does anybody have that?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So this must have been carried over from the prior --

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Excuse me for a second.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: I'm sorry.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: This is from the resident that just spoke. Okay, thank you.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So that must have been carried over from the prior submission, prior to September. In September, ever since September, these curb cuts have been shown where they are. This plan was August.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I just want to make sure that —

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — the Planning Department and the Building Department have it as three because I do think I read about there being two curb cuts.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I think I read this here today.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: They have this plan.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: The construction of the building addition greater than 750 square feet, and the addition of two curb cuts.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So the original plan had two curb cuts. When we added this further parking area, that would add a third curb cut. So it's in the — it's in the plan that was submitted and reviewed by both the Planning Department and the Building Department, and that's a typographical error in your resolution. It's the same plan you've had since September.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Is that good?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I don't know, I think we — I'm a bit confused now because we've been submitted a plan that says two, it's actually three, and I don't know what the -- I don't know what the Building Department or the Planning Department made a recommendation based on or if it's a difference between two would cause them to make a different recommendation.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: With all due respect, Councilman, we went through this back in December.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I know.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: And this ended up getting kicked over for another month and a half. So we confirmed at that time, shortly thereafter, and unfortunately, Commissioner Levine is no longer here, but there are members of the Planning staff who can confirm that this plan is

the plan that was reviewed by them.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Right.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: I also have a Notice of Disapproval from the Building Department that reviewed this plan, this exact one with three curb cuts, and the Disapproval said all we needed was site plan approval. That's why I say it's a typo, it's — we have the plan for four months.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: We do have members of the Planning Department here if you'd like to ask them what they reviewed. Wes? Thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Planning's here?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Matthew — oh.

MR. STERNBERG: So the —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Wait, wait, can you identify yourself?

MR. STERNBERG: Sorry, Wesley Sternberg from the Town of North Hempstead Planning Department. The site plan with the additional entrance on 3rd was the result of the revision they did in August/September. That was the plans the Board and the Planning Department never saw after we were told they were made. So the fact that it still says two is just a typo from a previous version. So the plan that you see is the one that we've been looking at. It's the last one the Building Department saw, and it's the one that was discussed in December.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Thank you.

MR. STERNBERG: You're welcome.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you. Okay, next comment, please.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Matthew D'Amico?

MR. M. D'AMICO: Good evening, my name is Matthew D'Amico, I reside at 963 Hillside Boulevard, New Hyde Park. I just want to talk about the structure and the analysis of the existing building and how it's just good enough, and we really don't know if it could support the addition of the proposed addition that they want to build. So let's start from the bottom up on how we typically build a building, and why this building, like mentioned, is good enough for the current application. First, foundation. In conjunction with an environmental aspect, the soil was not tested. According to the Town of North Hempstead, before your footings, you're supposed to test the soil. This is going back to 2013, 2014 where I do have the core drilling reports and foundation in certain parts where they failed. When planning for the footings and when concrete was poured, the building was originally planned for 5,000 PSI but only 4,000 PSI was accepted. Due to the fact that, as mentioned, some samples failed in load testing and core drilling report by FTC, seventeen out of 20 of these reports of these samples failed. Seventeen out of 20. The existing foundation plan, so we can make sure it can withstand an addition, the building has an inconsistent concrete pour in the foundation, and according to the FOIL request put in by Gary Heeseman and myself, from my observation, there's absolutely no documentation on the existing concrete structure and vague concrete details which I have here and proposed for the structure that was built about ten years ago. Proper joinery in the floor, we just want to make sure that the footings to the walls and the concrete floor is all secured which goes back to my question with correspondence and consulting with Maddock, and along with my

investigation and per the average strength tested, was only 4,100. So going back to 17 out of 20 samples failed, why was this when the building was slated to be and accept 5,000 PSI? The lowest statistical numerical strength that was tested and failed was at 2,920. Once again, where are the existing foundation plans and details for the initial finalized application, remediation, and all the details to prove the building is suitable for said proposed expansion? In addition to violating the town code and not testing soil for the footings, there is no proper joinery in the compositions, floor, wall and footings, as previously stated. The inconsistency of the continuous pour and going back to how there's no reinforcement in the foundation walls. They remediated this by scoring the foundation wall, epoxying rebar, and they called that the remediation, which that's not reinforced concrete. The New York State Building Code and drawing has 001 on the existing structure states that concrete reinforced itself shall be detailed, which it wasn't. After reviewing more of the correspondence of the floor requests, and in conjunction with Bill Maddock, the additional quantity of two number five bars around the floors and wall openings were not met. Is it possible that we can go back to maybe some documentation or notes as to how the building was constructed? Maybe it needs to be heavily evaluated on this matter and x-rayed, and in conjunction with the ACI315, the manual standard practice rule for all detailing reinforced concrete.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Time, please.

MR. M. D'AMICO: Sure.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

MR. M. D'AMICO: Sure.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Can I just respond to that quickly? I am told by the Building Commissioner that all construction has been verified and certified by an independent engineer.

MR. M. D'AMICO: Okay. An outside engineer or —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Yes.

MR. M. D'AMICO: Third-party non-biased?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I beg your pardon?

MR. M. D'AMICO: Third-party, non-biased? No connection to

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Independent?

MR. D'AMICO: Yeah, independent.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Independent, yes.

MR. M. D'AMICO: Yes, okay, thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Thank you, Robert, that's helpful.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: James McHugh? Oh.

MR. McHUGH: Jim McHugh, 15 White Avenue, New Hyde Park. I'm following up on Matthew. This is for the Board, every member. Those are the PSI tests, and these are the

letters, part of the letters that Bill Maddock and I, when we were involved in this. I only have the concrete part and the foundation part.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Can you hear?

MR. McHUGH: — the letters; okay? This is — we went through this, Bill and I, back in 2013-2014. One of the things that we asked for at that time were the detailed drawings of the foundation. We wrote, we FOIL'd it, we wrote a letter to the Commissioner, we was written back, they didn't exist. They have to exist by law. If they don't, you built an illegal building, and we never were able — they were never able to find them for us. Now why that's significant? Because when you're building the new improved building, the new additions, you also have to have that detailed drawings of the original foundation because you're going to build on that building. They never submitted a foundation plan. That goes against the code. So to tell me that you're in compliance with the code, you are not, by law. You are not in compliance with the code. Matt went through it, 5,000 PSI was originally proposed. When the core samples came back, and you have it in front of you, the footing is page one, the walls is page two, page three is the details of each section. All of them were under. Five thousand PSI is plus or minus ten percent. So it's 4,500 to 5,500. Only three came in, 17 failed. So what did the town do? The town said, well, you know what? Why don't we drop it from 5,000 PSI to 4,000 because the average of these was 4,100. Now the problem with that is, Bill and I contacted our friend, Damon, who's a PE. We said, Damon, is 4,000 sufficient for this building? The answer came back, and I'll never forget it, it's good enough for the existing structure. The existing structure. But not to increase a load on that structure which is what this is going to do, this expansion. You're adding to the second floor, you're putting a third floor, you have a fourth floor, basically, it's a fire stairway to the roof. The additional load on that foundation is going to make it fail. You have to vote no because they are not in compliance with the code, and this is a public safety issue. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Marianna Wohlgemuth?

MS. WOHLGEMUTH: Good evening, Marianna Wohlgemuth, and I live at 39 Spruce Lane in New Hyde Park. I had originally intended to yield my time, but in accordance with the rules for tonight, I could not. However, I would like to say, I'm opposed to this project as it is submitted. I believe that good enough is not good enough for the Town of North Hempstead. We need to be better than good enough. So that's it.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Larry Brady? Larry?

MR. BRADY: Larry Brady, 69 Leslie Lane, New Hyde Park. I rise to oppose this project going any further until a full study is done, a good, correct study is done. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you. Joe D'Amico?

MR. J. D'AMICO: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Joe D'Amico, I've been living on Hillside Boulevard for over 30 years. I'm about three and-a-half blocks away from the Hillside Center. So I just want to say that I wish I didn't have to be here tonight; right? But I feel that I must be here. For me, this has been a dilemma because on one hand, I understand that, you know, these are many of my neighbors, and this is very important to them. However, I

have some serious concerns, and they have to do with some of the things we've heard here. I'm not going to get into the zoning and all, as far as I know maybe there are some issues there, but that's beyond me. But I can tell you that I'm very concerned about safety, I'm concerned about the traffic and the congestion. Now, I don't want to over blow that up, I mean, it's during peak periods. It's not a constant, it's not all the time, but we live with it every Friday afternoon, it's like we get a swarm. Now, I've seen this grow over the years, and I had no issues the first few years after that first expansion. We didn't have any problems, we didn't see, I mean, we saw there was increased activity, but it's only been in the last couple of years where the numbers have grown, and it really concerns me here that I think it's foolhardy to believe that we're going to expand the building, and we're not going to get more congregants coming into the area? We already have a problem with parking; right? And you can just look at the numbers. Now, we said that there are about 40 or so, let's say. Let's assume that 40 congregants walk to the center; right? We're talking about increasing occupancy to 220; all right? So if you just look at the numbers, you still have 180, if my math is right, you have 180 congregants that would be getting there by car; all right? So if we look, and you can ask pretty much anybody in the neighborhood, when we see cars come in and parking, whether it's in front of a driveway or in front of a hydrant or blocking a crosswalk, it's usually one passenger in the car. So 60 somewhat spaces are not going to be sufficient, according, you know, according to the numbers that I'm seeing, unless somebody wants to debate how many occupants are in the car, but it's usually one occupant per vehicle. So we have a number of vehicles during these peak periods coming into the area and they're winding up not only on the residential streets, but also across the street, in CVS, over at the New Hyde Park Diner. I wish the owner, Kenny, could have been here tonight, but he had something important to do. He would tell you what he's seen over the last ten years. I'm not going to infringe on everybody's time and continue, but I think I've made a couple of points that you have to seriously consider. This is about safety, and I think the mosque in its present --

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Time, please.

MR. J. D'AMICO: — capacity and form is sufficient to accommodate the congregants we have in --

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Time, please.

MR. J. D'AMICO: — the community, if you define the community as the Nassau side of the border, and life on that --in Nassau is very different from Queens as most of us here, I'm sure, would agree.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

MR. J. D'AMICO: Thank you for your time.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Ann Marie D'Amico?

MR. J. D'AMICO: You've probably heard enough from me. If you want more, I can keep going.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I think he presented very well in his three minutes. Anyone else? No, I think he's wrapped it up well.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Ann Marie D'Amico?



SUPERVISOR DESENA: Anyone else? He's fine, he's fine.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Barbara Hannwacker?

MS. HANNWACKER: I'm Barbara Hannwacker, I live at 959 Hillside Boulevard, right on the side of Joe D'Amico, and I just want a minute to say there are people that cover my driveway. We need more parking spaces. When my husband was dying, I had to worry about if someone was going to go and go right into my driveway, and I've had that happen. I don't want that anymore. Thank you, very much.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Colleen Heeseman?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Can you repeat that?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Colleen Heeseman?

MS. HEESEMAN: Good evening, my name is Colleen Heeseman, and I live 1018 Hillside Boulevard, New Hyde Park, New York. Currently, the center has a prayer space for 63 people in 30 parking spots. The building has a maximum occupancy of 108 on paper. This is conformant with the code. Excluding structural, the first major safety issues are the existing ones, even though, on paper, they're in compliance. The center, admittedly, has 400 to 500 worshipers on Friday and far more attending in the month of Ramadan. Occupancy regulations are ignored, parking and fire safety regulations, as well. Customer only signs are disregarded, complaints to code enforcement have been ineffective leaving us feeling disrespected and ignored. Where is the outrage from our representatives? The only way to obtain the additional parking spots is to demolish even more beautiful homes along North 3rd and replace them with parking lots, destroying the character of our single family suburban neighborhood. Again, the center did not follow code or wait for this Board to approve this site plan. It has gone ahead and begun construction. Two houses along with healthy town trees have been destroyed during this pending application and illegal parking in a dirt lot. It's against the law. Finally, please don't ignore the warnings of what would happen if the main entrance was closed and hundreds of cars were redirected off the main street onto the narrow side streets. North 2nd and North 3rd Streets are ill-equipped to handle the current traffic congestion. They can't possibly handle more. Approving this expansion with a side street curb cut and redirected traffic risks accidents, invites liability issues. Enforcing code and rejecting this expansion request is essential for safety in the neighborhood's preservation. I just want to say, also, it was admitted that 110 people come across Hillside Avenue, 105 cars were estimated, 420 at a four-to-one ratio. Your occupancy is 120, stated by their — this is their public assembly. So, and I have pictures, just if you would like. Okay, thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Gary Heeseman?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I beg your pardon? Could you go back to the mic; please?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Yeah, go to the mic.

MR. HEESEMAN: Hello, my name is Gary Heeseman, I live at 1018 Hillside Boulevard. It's a shame that we put an architect here to talk to you, and he wasn't given — he was only given three minutes when the other side can talk all they want. It's not right. We're here, we're all

here to talk about safety. We're not here to waste your time. What I want to talk about, I can't, because I gave out pictures of a weld in the building. I spent the last two Mondays down in the Records Department going through all the paperwork; all right? This weld is inadequate, and they just, they just, they kept going. It's supposed to be a continuous weld. It's not, you'll see. It's spot welded across the thing, and the joints don't match up. That's two, that's two things right there; all right? I'm not talking about that — well, maybe; all right? I want to talk about the short environmental assessment form that was turned in with the site plan. Everybody's got one?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Yes.

MR. HEESEMAN: Okay, number one, part one, is that one-family house that you see there? That's not a one-family house, that's what they put on the paperwork. Go down to, brief description of proposed action. Interior renovation of existing community facility building third floor addition. There's a little bit more that they're going to be doing than that, and now, if it's a faculty building as they say here, are they not ADA exempt anymore? Do they have to follow ADA rules because the building is not ADA compliant, and neither is the first building they built. All right, let's get down, number two. That can't be three minutes. All right, okay, whew. All right, number two. Does the proposed action require permit approval? Yes, the Town of North Hempstead Board has to approve it. So that's another lie. Acreage, they put 6.95. It's over an acre now with the new lots, another lie. Number four. It's a residential area, you read it. Check all land uses that occur, adjoin or near of the proposed action. It's a residential area. Everyone knows it's a residential area, well, except the people who made this up. All right.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: The people?

MR. HEESEMAN: The people who made up the paperwork. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built on natural landscape? It's a residential area, it's not consistent with it. You have pictures up there, you can see what it looks like. Like, the trees have been taken down. I thought you always had to plant another tree when you took one down in the Town of North Hempstead. They didn't. All right, number seven. Is the site of the proposed action located in or does it adjoin a state-listed environmental area? Well, I don't know, but in the area, there's 100 monitoring wells. There's a plume in the area. No one talks about it. I can't even get information on it, I'm trying to find out. There's 100 monitoring things. On 3rd Street, where the mosque is, there's 12, on 2nd Street, there's six, and they're all from, like, Hillside Avenue going south. If you go to Hillside Boulevard there's four, 4th Street, there's two going the other way, 2nd Street, there's four, there's four on Cherry Lane, there's a couple in the city. You go across the street, there's some on Stewart Avenue on the grassy area going up. They have them in the parking lot of Stop & Shop, they're all over. So I don't know what it is, but there's something going on. So this question is wrong. Maybe I should have done some investigating; all right? Maybe when they dug — when they dug down to put the footing in, they should have taken the soil samples because how do you know what they're digging up or when they poured the concrete that it's not eating away whatever's in the ground? It's settling away. I guess I can't even finish this or this, so --

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

MR. HEESEMAN: If you'd like me to finish just this, I'll do it. There's a lot more good stuff

here.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I think we understand.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: We understand.

MR. HEESEMAN: It's safety, we're all here for safety. That's what we're trying to say.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Mr. Heeseman —

MR. HEESEMAN: I wanted to talk to John Lewand (phonetic) but he couldn't. He called me up saying he wasn't getting paid.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Don't —

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Mr Heeseman?

MR. HEESEMAN: Yeah.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Can I ask you something?

MR. HEESEMAN: Yeah, sure.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: What is this picture that you're showing us of?

MR. HEESEMAN: That's a picture of —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Please go to the microphone.

MR. HEESEMAN: That's a picture of the metal beam that we pulled out of records, and if you read the second thing, it says it must be a continuous weld. I can show you where the weld is not continuous.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: So where is this? In the basement? What did you show us here?

MR. HEESEMAN: Well, it must be in the basement. It's part of the property. It doesn't say where it is. Like, there was — the paperwork that they have up there, even downstairs, the concrete, there's nothing there. We went through all the boxes, there's a big box. Two weeks, two weeks or two Mondays we were there looking, and we can't find the paperwork we want. Like, you can't build a big building unless you have a proper foundation. We don't know what the foundation is there. Yeah, we don't know what anything is. We don't know what rebar is there. There was a port, there was a poor port like they said. It didn't pass the test. Some of them were as low as 3,000 pounds. So now they're going to put something on that? Three thousand pounds is not even a private house. Now you're going to have a three-story building with a dormer coming out from it?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Thank you.

MR. HEESEMAN: If you'd like, I'll show you what that's supposed to look like. The beam. Yeah, I mean, I'll show you. If you want to come down, I'll be happy to show you if you want to take the list.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: That's fine, I'm good, thank you.

MR. HEESEMAN: All right.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Marietta?

MS. DICAMILLO: Good evening, Marietta DiCamillo, 69 Leslie Lane, New Hyde Park. After many hearings on this matter, we've shown the area is too small, too busy, too residential, too narrow streeted (sic), and after decades of coexistence with the center, the area is just not conducive to support the current configuration, let alone, the doubling of the building size. So how could this happen to the quiet community? Could RLUIPA be an answer? Specifically, the threat of a costly legal battle if sued by the religious institution forcing a willingness to accommodate burdensome requests? I appreciate that concern as a taxpayer, but as a resident of this community, how can we coexist comfortably and happily? Two items of relevance. By voting no, you are not blocking the congregants from worshipping at the Hillside Avenue. Without the expansion, the building will still continue to provide the same worship capabilities it currently enjoys at the current location, and two, denying this expansion can be successfully argued that denial is based on compelling interests which exist on behalf of the community. The laws, zoning, fire, traffic, parking have all been ignored strengthening the compelling reasons which has stripped public safety and the quality of life of the surrounding residential neighborhood. The current building has already challenged the rural and rustic single family character having three homes being razed to create parking lots. If permitted, this expansion would further erode the suburban community with an underscore of an increased lack of public health and safety. It would increase already heightened tensions and chaos caused by attempting to put more people in a grossly undersized area. One of the materials I reviewed regarding the defense of claims against RLUIPA states, municipalities have been successful in defending against RLUIPA claims by focusing on the size and impact of a proposed religious uses, including compelling interest. It's more than apparent that the town and the community are not promoting religious discrimination, but rather, concern over the impact of its proposed growth which would further reduce the lovely character in this area. We live in the suburbs and would like to maintain it. We know we're a community of diversity. We have proven acceptance and have exhibited peace and patience during the last 12 years of coexistence but it has been a challenge. We are requesting the town retaining an RLUIPA specialist well-versed in the federal law. It is evident the legal arguments are vast in scope. We ask you gather guidance and research on this particular matter by working with a legal firm that specializes in this field. It's hard to understand how a law to protect religious freedoms violates and prevents others from their freedoms, the right to a peaceful existence and the pursuit of happiness in their own homes. When voting, consider the effect this has on our community, and think about how you would feel if it were yours. Vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Rhonda Rosenfeld?

MS. ROSENFELD: Hello, good evening, my name is Rhonda Rosenfeld, I live at 206 White Avenue, New Hyde Park, and the traffic conditions are horrible. I know they're trying to sort of it out, but it really hasn't done any good. My area, where I live, I still wonder if I'm going to have parking when I come home, even from doctor's visits or anything. The initial proposal in June was for 35 parking spots, occupancy for 132 people and two curb cuts and has since ballooned to demand for 62 parking spots, occupancy for 220 people, along with three new curb cuts. This expansion overlooks existing safety and congestion issues and aims solely to accommodate increased occupancy which requires more parking spots due to a ratio of one spot per four people. To acquire these additional spots, more residential homes will be demolished, adding to the disruption of the neighbor's suburban character — the neighborhood's suburban character and the removal of healthy town trees. This expansion disregards verified code, fire code violations, noise restrictions, overcrowding and the obstruction of town thoroughfares,

driveways, walkways, fire hydrants. It would redirect traffic of hundreds of cars off the main street onto ill-equipped narrow side streets adversely, and it would be adversely affecting the neighborhood's residential nature and putting residents and infrastructure in harm's way. These narrow streets were originally built for residential areas, not as main thoroughfares with parking on both sides. Emergency vehicles cannot get down the street. So it's like a horror, and I know everybody's trying but nothing is really working. Here are some — also some pictures of traffic. So that's it, and thank you for your time.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you. Rick Rosenfeld?

MR. ROSENFELD: Good evening, I'm Rick Rosenfeld, I live at 206 White Avenue in New Hyde Park. Despite the recent sporadic enforcement efforts and over 150 tickets issued by code enforcement, the police and the fire marshal, it has not been a deterrent to the numerous and continuous safety violations, this while on their best behavior with a pending town approval to expand. The center's disregard for occupancy restrictions has caused enormous congestion and safety issues on the residents. The building's current occupancy for prayer space is 64 but accommodating and admitted 400 to 500 indoor and outdoor worshipers, which is far beyond the allowed capacity. The proposed expansion for prayer space for 142 occupants, well, do the math. It still doesn't work. The basement has a maximum occupancy of six people yet hosts various events like bake sales, book sales, religious classes and martial arts lessons for congregants, not residents. Off-street parking spots are covered with basketball courts for congregants. This circumvents parking requirements and contributes to the congestion. The streets are already jam-packed with hundreds of worshipers, parked cars on Fridays and even more during the month of Ramadan. The traffic on White Avenue has been unbelievable. Trucks can't get through, the same with school buses, people with disabilities, even the U.S. Mail must wait. Emergency vehicles wouldn't stand a chance getting through. Closing off the main entrance and redirecting traffic to the narrow side streets will strain the neighborhood beyond sustainability. Demolishing homes and replacing them with parking lots to accommodate more cars on our narrow streets increases noise, light, air pollution and traffic congestion endangering the community and is destroying the character of our residential neighborhood. Don't pretend that this will work, and I have packets for each of you. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Jennie Ray?

MS. RAY: Good evening, my name is Jenny Ray, and live at North 2nd Street. Thank you for letting me speak, and my purpose is to please beg of you to vote no because it is a safety and quality of life issue. I live on North 2nd Street, which as most of you have seen, is a very densely populated residential area with narrow streets. The congestion and volume of traffic that comes through on Fridays is so bad that many of my neighbors, including myself, have had car mirrors taken off and cars sideswiped. I have lived here for 28 years without a problem until the last center expansion. The parking, the noise and the congestion problems due to the exorbitant amount of traffic, has taken away from my quality of life and the character of single family living in New Hyde Park. I might as well move back to Queens. We never thought, before the last expansion, that it would bring so many people. We were told it would be a maximum occupancy of 107 people on Fridays. This is not so. We never expected 500 people every Friday. We never expected hundreds of people worshipping outside and being broadcast until

almost midnight preventing our sleep for a month every year. Our main concern back then was about the intersection of North 2nd Street and Hillside Avenue. We already had the New Hyde Park Diner and the gas station and the security company with curb cuts on North 2nd Street. We were assured by the Civic Association that the center agreed never to have another curb cut on North 2nd Street. Now we see that this is a lie. I am aware that the Board has received numerous photographs, videos and testimonials from the residents pertaining to this problem. I implore the Board to take our safety concerns into consideration and not exacerbate the problem by voting no. We are taxpayers, and we deserve the best. Thank you. Please vote no.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Before you walk away, I'd like to ask you a question. You just said that you were assured by the Civic Association that there wouldn't be another curb cut. What Civic Association assured you of that?

MS. RAY: That was when we were having the original increase from 2005; correct?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Please, Mr. McHugh, I'm asking the woman, you're steering your arms.

MS. RAY: Yes, three —

COUNCILMAN WALSH: So it is his civic — it is his Civic Association --

MS. RAY: Yes.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: — that you have. Okay, thank you.

MS. RAY: Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: What's the name of it?

MR. McHUGH: Park Civic.

MS. RAY: Park Civic.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: D. Clifford?

MS. CLIFFORD: Hello, good evening, my name is Dana Clifford, and I'm from New Hyde Park. First, I want to share with you the minutes from August 8th, 2023, six months ago, to help us remember some facts that still apply today. While speaking directly to Mr. Bhuiyan, Councilman Troiano stated, and I quote, "but you have a problem, and it's going to be on you to fix it, and I hope that we don't, you know, that you don't get the approval, and then if this continues, because it's not fair, and no matter what you think you may have done for the quality of life, having a car sticking out in your driveway, having a fire engine or an ambulance not able to get down the street is not improving anybody's quality of life, and so I appreciate that you just came up here for five minutes and told us what you were doing for improving the quality of life, but you're not. In the end, as Mr. McHugh said, it's about safety. But it's also about these people's quality of life and being able to get down their own street and park in their driveway without having to risk getting hit by another car as they back out of their driveway. So you know, my unsolicited advice is, fix the problem," end quote. So here we are, six months later, in the new year, and it's obvious that Mr. Bhuiyan cannot fix the problem, although I know he wants to, because members from his congregation won't listen to him and won't abide by the law. Videos, photos and statements from the neighbors undeniably show that this problem persists, and I hope that all of you came to our neighborhood to confirm this for yourselves as this goes on every Friday. I 100 percent agree with Councilman Troiano that it would be unfair to grant

approval if this problem continues. Councilman Troiano and members of the panel, I call on you to deny the approval of the expansion of the mosque. Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Richard Ray?

MS. RAY: He passes.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: John Ulrich?

MR. ULRICH: Thank you. I live at 1006 North 2nd Street, that is all about one block south of where the diner and gas station is; okay? I'm one home from the corner. I'd like to say that, in my experience, not doing any counting or whatever, the amount of traffic and cars has definitely increased over the years. I'm in my home since way before the first center, small center, went up. The problem is, the original parcel. That original parcel of land is so small. That parcel would have been okay for a small teaching center or whatever that it was originally. Before that, it was a small used car dealer that was tiny and stuck there. Didn't bother anybody because I don't think they did any business. But some of those parcels are up -- on Claussen Street are so small that it was sad that they went in there to begin with. They could've looked for a bigger piece of property. I know that's hard, property's expense, but that's -- it is what it is. Now the fact that they've already torn down more homes to expand proves that the area is residential. There's no room to expand. There's nothing more that they can do except build up, and also, what type of -- where are they going to stage the construction materials when they do if it does get approved? Where are they going to be staged? In the middle of Hillside Avenue or on those lots that they've put down and haven't put parking on yet? There's really no good plan. They really should look for another piece of property of a bigger size where they can move. I know that's expensive, but to stay where they are is not viable, and I've been in the neighborhood for 27 years now come April, and it's a great neighborhood. Before that, I lived in another section in New Hyde Park, closer to Denton and on Marcus Avenue, but the only way to make it viable is to be more -- tear down more and more residential houses and build, but I don't think that's right to the people then that are left surrounding it. I implore you to vote no because this -- the original lot, parcel of land that they went on was way too small to do anything near what they're looking to do now. Thank you.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Maria Brigalio (phonetic)?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Gina? Gina?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Josephine Licata?

MS. LICATA: Yes, my name is Josephine Licata, I live at 82 Maple Drive in New Hyde Park. I was going to give my minutes away, but apparently tonight, we can't do that. So apparently -- it's apparent that there are issues, safety issues which have been brought up, and I hope that the members have seen that, that this is just not viable, this expansion is just impossible. My question is, also, who are we building -- who are we trying to build for? So apparently, there are already 400 congregation members coming into the mosque. Where are they coming from? Are they all living in Nassau County or are they living, most of them, in Queens? Are we building now for them to come from Queens over to us? If they needed something for the Queens membership, they should be building something in their area, not for us to build for

them. It should be — you should be seeing our point, our Nassau County, our community. You should be voting for our community and our safety. It's just not viable. I wanted to also ask if the members have gone down, maybe, to see what's happening with their own eyes. That would be a good thing to do because you would see that it's just not a possibility, and I think that's it. Thank you —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

MS. LICATA: -- for your time.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you. We're done with our cards for public comment.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Counsel, would you like to address any of those points?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Just very briefly. The comments about the building safety, I have the utmost faith in the Town of North Hempstead Building Department to do a thorough review of the building plans, and I have —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Kathleen, can I just reinforce that point now?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Because I think people are confusing site plan with approval of the building plans —

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — and that's yet to come, and a lot of the things that are — issues that are being discussed now, even occupancy, will be reviewed by the Building Department. The foundation will be looked at by the Building Department, the ability to hold load will be looked at by the Building Department. But the way the town has laid the process out is we do the site plan first, and then the Building Department comes in after that, and I think a lot of that is missed.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes, thank you for clarifying that, I do agree. I think that there's a misunderstanding of what the process is. So once a site plan is approved, we put in a full Building Department set that has all of the structural engineering, and has all of the mechanical, plumbing, electrical plans. It has all of the — so, but I do have confidence that the Building Department, which is extraordinarily thorough in most situations, will make sure that this is going to be a safe — safely built and properly built building, and then just one -- just sort of to wrap up. One of the -- one of the neighbors quoted you, Councilman Troiano, that we have a problem that we have to fix, and that's what we're trying to do with this application. We're trying to fix the problem. We're trying to expand our parking so that it will allow our -- the people who are already coming here spilling onto the streets because we don't have enough parking. We're expanding the parking by 33 parking spaces. We're also — we're expanding it by even more because before the building — before the building was —

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Please, don't yell out. You're not being heard, and you're just making it more difficult. So please, we are going to listen to her conclusion. Please stop talking.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So my point being is that this will alleviate a lot of the problems that already exist. The Islamic Center is here, it's not going anywhere. Even to say we should go somewhere else and find a larger space, that would be an ideal thing. But we're in Nassau



County, we're in western Nassau County, there are not a lot of very large spaces. We have 30 — 30,000 some odd square feet, 38,000 square feet of property here. So we've increased our area to try to keep the cars onsite, try to keep our people in the building so that this parking area is not occupied by worshippers. I don't need to go into the RLUIPA arguments, I know that I've made them before. I know your counsel will adequately advise you on that, but I will remind you that being a religious institution in New York State and throughout the United States, religious freedom is a very important tenet of our society, and local governments have a right -- have an obligation to not make the practice of one's religion more burdensome. We're trying to make the practice of their religion less burdensome, not only for themselves, but for the neighborhood by expanding the parking and by accommodating our existing members in the building. So I would ask that, at the very least, that you close the hearing tonight, and that you adopt the resolution subject to the conditions that you deem appropriate. Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'd like to ask that we go into Executive Session to discuss with the Town Attorney some issues that I'd like not to discuss in public. I'm concerned that no matter how we vote, this is going to go to litigation. Some of my questions and responses might have impact.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Can I ask that we go into Executive Session for 20 minutes?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Is that — is this appropriate for Executive Session?

MR. NICOLELLO: To a limited degree, yes, but as we discussed earlier, there are certain areas that we would not be able to discuss in Executive Session —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Understood.

MR. NICOLELLO: -- that would have to be discussed in public.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Just — and when we go in the back, you can advise us what can be discussed in public or not.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye to go into Executive Session.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Yeah. Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

(WHEREUPON, there was a 20 minute adjournment for Executive Session.)

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: This is to come out of Executive

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Yeah.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: To come out of Executive Session.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: So I entertain a motion to adjourn the public hearing.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I think I've got some questions for the applicant.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, we'll do that before we conclude. Go ahead.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I wanted to ask you about some of the conditions that are in what the Town Council's received from the Planning Department.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Okay, let me get my — Okay.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So there are four conditions listed in what we've got, and I'd

imagine you're familiar with those four conditions?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And the — you and the applicant agree with those four conditions?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes, with the exception of my comment about —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Right.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: — number three.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm going to talk about that, as well.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Okay.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But with respect to the first one, which provides that there will be no tents or unoccupied temporary structures permitted within the designated parking areas.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: You're agreeable to that; right?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And what are the tents used for now?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: There are no tents now. They were used prior to the addition of the additional services to cover worshipers.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So they were intended to cover worshipers from inclement weather.

MR. BHUIYAN: No, the second — so the tents are only during the month of Ramadan.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Only when?

MR. BHUIYAN: Only during the month of Ramadan.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Ramadan.

MR. BHUIYAN: Ramadan, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So there are tents being used -- there have been tents being used for Ramadan.

MR. BHUIYAN: For Ramadan only, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And why would they be needed for Ramadan?

MR. BHUIYAN: Because you have inclement weather, and the -- especially in the summertime, I'm sorry, wintertime. That's what we use because additional people come in to pray.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So are the tents enclosed from the main —

MR. BHUIYAN: Enclosed, yes. Enclosed, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So they protect against —

MR. BHUIYAN: Correct.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — bad, cold weather.

MR. BHUIYAN: Cold weather.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: All the snow and ice.

MR. BHUIYAN: Correct, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Okay, what about — so if that's the case, what are you going to do when Ramadan comes about again if this site plan is approved and you agree —

MR. BHUIYAN: If we have the expanded building that is still — when we have the building expanded, it will be inside already.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So there won't be any need for tents

MR. BHUIYAN: No.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — any longer?

MR. BHUIYAN: There will not be any need for any tents.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: The tents were being —

MR. BHUIYAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — just because you had an overflow of worshipers.

MR. BHUIYAN: Correct, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So then will there be any worship allowed to take place in the parking lot going forward?

MR. BHUIYAN: When the building is done now, there is no need for it.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: How about funerals?

MR. BHUIYAN: So this series of funerals we have only we're talking about we have in the afternoon, sometimes —

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Can you move a little bit from the mic?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Yeah, that's better because I can't hear you. .

MR. BHUIYAN: Okay, so the funerals happens, I say, interior, maybe ten, 15 funerals happened entire year, throughout the year, so it could be, so far, for the last two, three months, there was none. So let's say 15 max, 20 funerals happened. Ideally, we should pray outside, the weather is the best, that's the suggested, that's the tradition that the funeral prayers, but that is only four, five, six minutes. So that's done. You don't need extended period of time, there's no lecture, there's nothing, there's just prayers. Four, five minutes, you're done.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I think Councilman Walsh is asking, though, will — for funeral services, could there be worshipers outside in the parking lot?

MR. BHUIYAN: Ideally, if something else, you know, do we have to? No. But as I said, this is recommended that we pray, funeral services should be prayed outside, not in the building. Outside, in open field. Now --

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm sorry, I didn't quite understand that.

MR. BHUIYAN: So the tradition in off the prophet, that whenever you pray there, you listen — you adhere to the tradition of the prophet. Is it a mandatory must? No. When you have, let's say with rain, what do we do? We pray inside. But when it's good weather is tradition that is suggested that we pray outside funeral prayers. Now as I said, it's ten to 15, maybe let's say 15 to 20 at the max so far.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Fifteen to 20.

MR. BHUIYAN: Throughout the year, service, funeral prayers will be held there. Now, that's almost mostly in the afternoon, maybe usually around, like, you know, afternoon prayer time, that's what happens. So if that's something, since we have the -- we'll have the building, if necessary, we can put them, bring them inside. It's not against the religion, but it is, as they say, it's recommended that we pray outside. So that's why we do prayer outside for them.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: All right, so it's — I believe we heard some testimony that when there — that when there are services outside or when people overflow to the outside, that the -- what's going on inside is broadcast outside.

MR. BHUIYAN: So you have the speakers on the wall.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Mm-hmm.

MR. BHUIYAN: So you just —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: You have speakers on the wall on the outside of the building?

MR. BHUIYAN: Outside of the building, so just to project so anybody who's outside, they can hear it, and the sound, you know, the — I think the code enforcement visited us at least not once, I would say ten, 15 times because when we had — initially, there was initially people were complaining. Not even once did they issue any citation for us because they said you were within it, but even then, at nighttime there's nothing there, but in the daytime, it's there, you know, when — for those purposes, but as I said, it's five, six minutes at the max.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Mm-hmm. So you know, you've tried to accommodate and make revisions or make accommodations for the community. Would you — and one of the things that's an issue for them is the outside worship and the use of outside external speakers. Would you be agreeable, as one of the conditions, to not having any worship take place outside the building?

MR. BHUIYAN: Sure.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Not to have anything broadcast outside the building.

MR. BHUIYAN: We don't have any service outside, we don't need any, except --

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So just to be clear; all right?

MR. BHUIYAN: Sure.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So that — because we want to establish a record that you're agreeing to that with respect to normal services, prayer time, as well as the funeral services.

MR. BHUIYAN: Correct, okay.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So no outside services at all? No broadcasting on the outside of what's going on inside?

MR. BHUIYAN: Right.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Okay, with respect to counsel's request that we modify the requirement that you have a parking attendant at least one hour prior to the start of daily services, and you've asked for that to be applied only to Friday services; is that right?

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Correct.

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: And Ramadan.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And — but I think the request is just for Friday services, but to go further, Ramadan takes place for an extended period of time; is that right?

MR. BHUIYAN: One month.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So can you make the same -- so we wouldn't want to modify this to exclude Ramadan. So we'd want to have parking attendants, and I'm going to get to that, there on Fridays, as well as for the entire season of Ramadan.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: That's fine.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And you know, I have, since people are quoting me, I have asked in other hearings that there be more than one parking attendant, and I would like to see that there be at least three. I have recommended a company, in fact, I even — this happened to be a Muslim company that has people that do this, and they — you talked about a car, and we talked about walking. They have — what do you call them? Those things you stand on.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Segue?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: You know what I'm saying; right? And you know, I'm not making an endorsement for any company, but I do want to say that, you know, instead of just hiring, you know, three people, you know, who think they have qualifications, you might get people who are trained in this, but — in how to move traffic along. But I would ask that we modify this in accord with your wishes that parking attendants are not needed for periods that do not include Ramadan, that are during on any day but Friday. That's probably not clear. So you want to have parking attendants there on Fridays, as well as during the --during Ramadan.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Can we —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And we'd like to have not just one, but three.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: So —

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: And we think they should be wearing vests that are identifiable, that they are some — a person of some authority.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Yes, and the only thing I would ask for further clarification on is that there are five services, prayer services, every day, Friday afternoons and the Ramadan evening services are the only ones that have traffic and parking issues. As I mentioned, there's sunrise service at 7 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. We would prefer not to have to have somebody all day on Fridays, just during our peak times.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Well, is that a cost issue?

MR. BHUIYAN: Both. First of all, there's no need for an early morning. You have -- we have, altogether, maybe 50, 60 people coming.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So you know, I've only heard from the community, an issue with the afternoon sessions —

MR. BHUIYAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — and if that's the case, then —

MR. BHUIYAN: Yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: — I would be agreeable to that.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm getting nods here.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: And Ramadan.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: And Ramadan, yes.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: So then for the record, you're agreeing that we would have a minimum of three parking attendants and that they would wear clothing that identifies them as some kind of official.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm not quite sure what to — how to describe it.

MR. BHUIYAN: We do have the vests, they say HIC on it, it is a green vest, so when it's high traffic time, they do wear — some of them do wear at least one wears it all the time.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Now I'm going to, and don't know if this is going to be properly noted as a condition, but it was said by at least one person that you wouldn't want this in your neighborhood, and if you knew what it was like, you wouldn't support this. Well, I know what it's like, and you're aware of that.

MR. BHUIYAN: Sure.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I've said it at various meetings. I live near the Westbury mosque, and it does come to my home, and I have seen the dangers, the risks to public safety that can occur, but the mosque leadership, and I've said this to you, the mosque leadership has dealt with that, and so I would encourage you to, and I'm going to say, do more than what you're presently doing because what you're presently doing isn't working because we've seen that; right? And you know, just this past Friday, I was getting pictures of congregants that were parking illegally. So you know, I don't know if you need to have driving lessons take place or what or lessons on the risk that they are presenting to people, and maybe they need to see that.

MR. BHUIYAN: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Maybe you can show them some documentaries of fire trucks that can't get through because the cars are too congested or people that can't get out of their driveways because there's the back of a car parked across part of their driveway, creating a danger. But it's incumbent, and I've said it before, and I was quoted, it's incumbent on you to do that, and I do know, and I've lived it, and I've experienced it, but I've seen what enlightened leadership can bring to a community to make it better. So I'm going to, again, put that burden on you because I do think it falls on you. These people are not reacting illegitimately. These are legitimate concerns that as a good neighbor, and I know that you are a good neighbor, and I think

it's been acknowledged here that you are trying, you individually are trying, and maybe some of the people that support you, but it's the message is not being adhered to, and I think you're aware of this by your congregants. Okay, that's my sermon to you.

MR. BHUIYAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But we've —

MR. BHUIYAN: Give a sermon there at the center.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: But so you've heard the conditions. We've established enough of a public record; counsel?

MR. NICOLELLO: Yes.

MS. DICAMILLO: Excuse me, can you just put on the record that they are paid professionals, not volunteers?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I don't know if I can require that.

MS. DEEGAN DICKSON: We have already, as you know, already retained a company. If it turns out that the paid volunteers are inadequate, insufficient or unavailable, you know, we would, but I think that there's enough people in the membership that they'll be able to get volunteers.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: You know, since I've got the floor, you know, we -- in Westbury, we solved some of these problems with different parking restrictions, and if these — I'm going to talk to the community members here, some of the conditions that you've pointed out, you know, are very real, but in a way, to address that is to have some restrictions on parking that may cause some -- may burden you a bit for that time that there's a parking restriction. But I do think that it'll resolve the concern about emergency vehicles being able to get through. But that's something that, you know, you work with with the Councilperson here. So I'm done.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Okay, okay, I move to close the public hearing.

Can you call the roll; please?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Can you call the resolution?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: No, well, first we're going to vote on closing the public hearing.

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Oh, I'm sorry, you're right.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Can you call the roll; please?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Yeah, I don't know if we've done that before, but aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?



COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I offer the resolution.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I'm sorry, you offered the resolution?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Now we're going to vote on it. Vote yes or no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: I can; Supervisor?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Call the roll, please.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I have, throughout these various hearings that we've had, I have, I think, posed some tough questions. I've delivered my sermon to the members of the mosque, I have admonished the congregants of the mosque, I have spoken to leadership of this mosque, and I've spoken to the leadership of the Westbury mosque and asked them to work with you, whatever they did in Westbury, to work with you, and I've been very sympathetic to the community members which may have led some to believe that I would vote against this, and I would like to. Honestly, I would like to, because I understand what you're going through. But the — what you're going through is an existing situation that really — isn't really part of this application. Some of the arguments against approval of the site plan that have been made having to do with occupancy, construction, the structure of the building, our ADA compliance, are all issues that our Building Department will review before the building plan is approved, and so, I don't want you to think that your concerns are going by the wayside by my vote because I'm confident that the Building Department will address all of those issues, and you may not share that, but I am confident of that, and even if you don't share my confidence, none of those issues are subject to this site plan. This site plan is compliant with town code, it doesn't require any variances at this point. The Building Department, when it does the review, may require more parking. We don't know that, but that day will come. So because they are compliant with town code and don't need any variances, I vote aye on this site plan.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: As many of you know, safety and public safety is paramount to me, and I think that we still have a problem with public safety. So with that, I vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Yeah, you know, I've been there six times, and my legislative assistant has been there three additional times, so I kind of know what's going on over there, and two weeks ago, I had the occasion to speak to two security guards in the parking lot for Stop &

Shop, and they were handing out little flyers to anybody who would take them, and very few people would take them, were crossing over Hillside Avenue to use the mosque, and these flyers said, please don't park in here, it's illegal to park and don't park here. Now he also told me that in the future, they're going to do something to prevent these, maybe, hundred cars or however many there are, but there's probably close to 100, from parking in there. I also know that the diner owner has to hire somebody on Friday as a security guard so he can get his customers in the parking lot rather than the people from the Islamic Center. On that Friday, on the last Friday that I was there two weeks ago, while on the phone with the Town Attorney, former Town Attorney, I was sitting still, unable to move, immediately in the front of the mosque, while your guard, who's working very hard trying to get to move people, but it was between the time when the first call to prayer ended, and when the second call to prayer was going to begin in about 15 minutes. So there's a tremendous amount of people trying pull in those spaces, and I couldn't move my vehicle. So I went -- after two minutes or so, when I went to the corner, I made a right-hand turn, went down to the -- where the new houses are going to be taken down, made a left, and I came up the next street immediately to the east where there is a Chase Bank on the corner of Hillside, and that Chase Bank was now emptying out with all people that were coming out of the Islamic Center and new people were trying to get into the Chase Bank, and again, I couldn't move for at least two minutes. Now, on Hillside Avenue at that time, there were people heading west that were trying to make a left-hand turn to get to this Chase Bank to park, and it just stopped all the traffic on Hillside Avenue because these — some people were trying to make a left, some people were trying to make a right, there was a tremendous amount of people trying to leave and a tremendous amount of people trying to come in. The same thing occurred at the CVS. At the CVS, when the first call to prayer ends, the parking lot just about empties out, and it fills up again immediately with people that are there for the second call. I also observed, and our — your traffic study expert said that there were more than 110 people that cross Hillside Avenue. Well, I didn't count the number of people, but every single week that I've been there, people park their car in CVS -- in the Stop & Shop parking lot and run across the street, some with children, I saw somebody with a crutch, I saw somebody with a walker, there's no traffic light there, and for me, those three items are safety issues for the neighborhood. So because of this safety issue, and I think it's dangerous, I think it's dangerous to run across Hillside Avenue, I think it's dangerous to be unable to move your car, if I were an ambulance I would have been stuck. I would say the third time I was there, I saw a DHL -- is it DHL or DHS, it's a delivery truck, unable to move, also. It was a pretty wide truck, and it probably sat there for three minutes unable to move. So for those reasons, I vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Thank you. Okay, so although I've been at these Town Board meetings last year and listened to all the public hearings and what was being said by the mosque and the residents surrounding the Hillside Islamic Center expansion, it was definitely not enough. I have many, many questions and had to get up-to-speed as quickly as possible starting in January, and I had to read through site plans, I'm sure Councilman Scott, too, site plans, traffic studies, legal and planning memos, as well as meet with residents in the community, the mosque and the attorney, our code enforcement. I met with the police, I met with the Building Commissioner, Planning staff, Town Attorney's office, and even then, I still had more questions and more answers still need to come. Not everybody had all my answers ready yet. So I really wish I had more time to delve deeper into the issue and maybe even come up with more solutions there. I found out that there were 207 parking tickets issued in 2003 and 50 were issued just this

month. So it's good to have data, but you need to have solid data as to when in 2003 these parking tickets or code enforcement issued these tickets, and they said they're not so sure but they think around April. So to do the math, it came out to be like 17 tickets a month, which, divide that by four, I was thinking, why is it so low? Like, I didn't quite understand, then I called back, and I asked if you can give me the breakdown of the months maybe, because maybe it started out when code enforcement came but then it tapered down, and then it went back up because the parking lot was kind of closed off the last six weeks leaving people to look for more parking in the area. So there are a lot of — still a lot of questions that we need answers to, but my aide and I, we went to Hillside Islamic Center this past Friday to observe the parking and traffic situation. I had gone there last year two times, and there were congregants praying outside. I didn't take count, but I did see in the front and in the back lots; right? So I understand that they took up the parking spots. But this past Friday when I went, there was nobody outside, and I didn't realize, I asked, you know, why, what was going on, and that's because they moved it to three services. That was the answer that was given, and so they were able to accommodate more in each service or less in each service, and that's why you don't need as many people in the parking lots anymore, they don't need that overflow, which was great news, but we still saw many violations. People parked in driveways, the latecomers, basically, were parking in driveways and by hydrants, and code enforcement and the police were there but the police leave when our code enforcer comes. So she has to go around the perimeter onto Hillside Boulevard, along White Avenue, going up and down 2nd and 3rd. So I would hope that we would have more code enforcement there moving forward. So what I was going to say is, there's still a lot of work to be done. I will say, when I was there last year, I did hear over the announcements, Mr. Abdul Aziz saying, please pay attention to where you're parked, he was calling out license numbers to move your vehicles. I did see the community patrol that they had, so there were efforts being made. Why people's behaviors weren't curbed because of that, I'm not so sure, and we need to work on that. So there's still much work to be done. But I do know that the center, by their actions and by their words, they don't condone these actions by their congregants when they're doing things that are illegal. But we spoke to the Town Attorney's office, and we were advised that the denial of application would likely constitute discrimination and unequal treatment to a religious institution.

MR. NICOLELLO: Councilwoman —

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Oh, I'm sorry, sorry, I take it back. Strike that.

MR. NICOLELLO: I didn't say that. First of all, that wasn't an accurate summary. Second of all, you really should not be saying — stating what you were advised by the Town Attorney's office. Again, again, that was not an accurate summary.

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Okay, I apologize. So we're not so sure how we can alleviate the situation, but RLUIPA plays a big factor in our decision here, and so, Councilman Troiano, he laid out some conditions that are now on the record. That being said, the site plan is compliant with the town code and the Building Department will need to approve the building plans that still need to be submitted. I will personally be there with my aide on Fridays, monitoring the situation until behaviors are changed. I will ask for more town code enforcement to join, and to also ticket where they see illegal parking. So with that said, I will do my best, I've just come on, but I will be there with residents to work this out and to help make this a community where we can live, work and enjoy our quality of life together. So I vote aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: So I have invested a good amount of time in this in the past, and I have heard both sides, and both sides do have very legitimate concerns. Of utmost import, and I guess to not quote Councilman Troiano, because I don't remember exactly his words but in sum and substance, he stated that since June, the Islamic Center has been under the spotlight, and still, a lot of these issues haven't been hashed out, and I don't fault the leadership at the Islamic Center, but there is the basic fact that there are still significant issues, people crossing Hillside Avenue where people drive 40, 50 miles an hour, if they do cross at — not at a crosswalk, I think that's a serious safety issue, especially if there's 100 people crossing back and forth. It creates a huge public safety issue, in my opinion, and the residents have stated their driveways are blocked, if they have an emergency, is quite concerning or people whipping around the corner, and also, as my fellow Councilman, Councilman Walsh stated, where he was stuck in traffic for an extended period of time. I think if there is an emergency vehicle that does need to pass, it would be very dangerous and for public safety reasons, I vote no.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: We've been going over this for months. I've heard all the residents, I've heard the applicant. I am, I'm very -- I am concerned about an emergency vehicle getting through. I do feel that if we change parking ordinances on the street on those streets or on Fridays, where it may be it's only one side. I'm not a traffic engineer, we would have to have our traffic engineer go and look, and I kind of wish we did that before, but Councilman Adhami, this -- I know it's your district now, Christine, but it was his when this all came up, and I have always said, we need to really respect the council district, the person who's representing that district. They know what's going on in this district. So by you casting your vote of no has me second guessing how I should vote. It really does, because this is your district. You did the outreach, you did all the meetings with the residents. So I am now second guessing my vote, and I'm going to abstain, because really I really — I'm abstaining.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: You know, I want to thank my fellow Councilmembers for bringing up some very good points. We have a safety issue here. We all have been there, and we've seen that, God forbid, if someone needed help, a fire trunk or an ambulance could not get through on those streets. This does affect the neighborhood. It affects the quality of life. We have to be concerned about the safety of our streets, and maybe there is more that can be done with signage to improve that, but right now, it has been over six months, there have been some good attempts to alleviate the pressure in the neighborhood as has been said, but the safety problems remain. So more must be done for this neighborhood to be safe, and the conditions that we have discussed, while they are a great start and perhaps might show some improvement into the future, they're not enough to remedy the current -- the safety problems that we have all heard about and that we've seen for ourselves. So with that, I must vote no. Okay, Madam Clerk, will you call the next item?

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Item number 2. A public works session regarding the Town of North Hempstead 2024 Capital Plan.

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: I can't hear.

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I can't hear. This is something that —

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Number 2.

MR. NICOLELLO: A resolution setting a date for a public hearing. Yes, Item number 2.

MS. MALITO: Okay, I think the Clerk would apologize having been given the wrong materials. Resolution, it's a resolution setting a date for a public hearing --

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Can you step back a little bit?

MS. MALITO: A resolution setting a date for a public hearing to consider the rescission and adoption of ordinances affecting Carle Road in Carle Place, New York.

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I offer the resolution, setting a hearing date for February 15th, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: I object to the hearing date being during the daytime hours, but that I know is going to be passed by the majority. So I vote aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: I hear the objections, I vote aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: I vote aye, but I'm not going to be able to be here.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Thank you.

**Supervisor DeSena offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, which resolution was declared adopted after a poll of the members of this Board:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 47 - 2024**

**A RESOLUTION SETTING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE RESCISSION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES AFFECTING CARLE ROAD IN CARLE PLACE, NEW YORK.**

**WHEREAS**, a recommendation has been made for the rescission and adoption of ordinances affecting Carle Road, Carle Place, New York.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED** that a public hearing be held by the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead on the 15th day of February, 2024, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of considering the rescission and adoption of the following ordinances:

**PROPOSAL:**

**RESCIND:**

1. T.O. #19-2016

Adopted September 09, 2016

CARLE ROAD – WEST SIDE – NO PARKING - 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. – EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

From a point 25 feet north of the north curblines of Mineola Avenue, north, for a distance of 80 feet.

**ADOPT:**

1. CARLE ROAD – WEST SIDE – NO PARKING - 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. – EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

From a point 25 feet north of the north curblines of Mineola Avenue, north, for a distance of 175 feet.

2. CARLE ROAD – WEST SIDE- NO STOPPING HERE TO CORNER

From the north curblines of Broadway, north for a distance of 30 feet.

**RESOLVED** that such ordinance when adopted will rescind all ordinances or regulations heretofore adopted in conflict therewith, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be and hereby is directed to affect the required publishing and posting of the hearing.

**Dated:** Manhasset, New York

January 30, 2024

The vote on the foregoing resolution was recorded as follows:

Ayes: Councilperson Adhami, Councilperson Dalimonte, Councilperson Liu, Councilperson Scott, Councilperson Troiano, Councilperson Walsh, Supervisor DeSena.

Nays: None.

cc: Town Attorney      Public Safety      Comptroller      Traffic Safety

SUPERVISOR DESENA: I move to adjourn.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Troiano?

COUNCILMAN TROIANO: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Scott?

COUNCILMAN SCOTT: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Walsh?

COUNCILMAN WALSH: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Liu?

COUNCILWOMAN LIU: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilman Adhami?

COUNCILMAN ADHAMI: Aye.

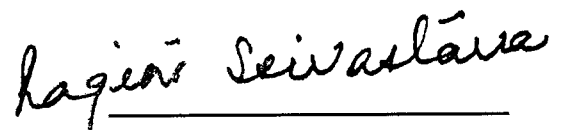
CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Councilwoman Dalimonte?

COUNCILWOMAN DALIMONTE: Aye.

CLERK SRIVASTAVA: Supervisor DeSena?

SUPERVISOR DESENA: Aye.

(WHEREUPON, this meeting was concluded at 9:45 p.m.)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rajen Srivastava". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Town Clerk





# NEWSDAY AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

TOWN OF NORTH HEMP TOWN CLERK  
200 PLANDOME ROAD  
MANHASSET, NY 11030-2326

STATE OF NEW YORK)

Legal Notice No.

0021833974

:SS.:

COUNTY OF ERIE)

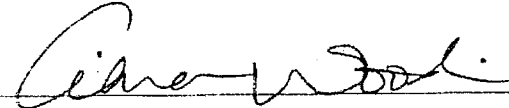
The undersigned, being duly sworn, says that such person is a duly authorized custodian of records of Newsday LLC, the publisher of Newsday, a daily newspaper published in Melville, County of Suffolk, State of New York, and circulated in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties, and that the Legal Notice of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the following editions/counties of said newspaper on the following dates:

Saturday

January 20, 2024

Nassau

By:

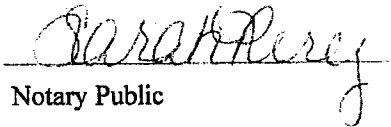


Ciara Woodin

Print Name:

Authorized Designee of Newsday LLC, Publisher of Newsday

**SWORN** to before me this  
22 Day of January, 2024.



Notary Public

Sarah Perez  
Notary Public - State of New York  
No. 01PE0006459  
Qualified in Erie County  
Commission Expires 04/27/2027

**Ad Content**

Legal Notice # 21833974  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead on January 30, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Board Meeting Room, Town Hall, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset, New York, on the application for site plan review submitted by the Hillside Islamic Center to construct a three-story 6,600 s.f. addition to an existing two-story 5,428 s.f. religious building, including expansion of the parking lot into two adjoining parcels and the installation of two new curb cuts, on a 0.9-acre lot.  
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the property which is the subject of this application is located at 300 Hillside Avenue, New Hyde Park and identified on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map as Section 8, Block 3, Lots 6, 11 and 13.  
Dated: Manhasset, New York  
January 9, 2023  
**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD**  
**RAGINI SRINIVASTAVA**  
**TOWN CLERK**

**NEWSDAY PROOF**

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