

President Arredondo called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. Clerk Greer announced that the public hearing was called to discuss the **Petition to Vacate Regina Avenue, 60 feet in width, from the southline of sublots 123 and 303 of Falbo Subdivision northerly a distance of 20 feet as shown on Exhibit A.** The petition was signed by abutting property owners Brenda & Eric Brock @ 3346 Regina Avenue and Mindy Shawver @ 3345 Regina Avenue. The Lorain City Engineer certified the petition to represent 100% of the frontage between the points named.

Both the notice of the hearing and receipt of the petition were published in a local newspaper in accordance with state statutes.

REMARKS: PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: For those of you who have never attended a public hearing before, tonight is your chance to speak publically. You will be allowed three minutes and please stay on topic. The Clerk was notified that some people were not here and those will also be entered into the record. No votes will be taken tonight, the earliest action anything will be taken will be at the first meeting in September. Please keep your comments on topic and be civil and I will ask the two petitioners first to come to the mic and state your name and reason for the petition.

MINDY SHAWVER, 3345 Regina Avenue, Lorain, Ohio: I just moved here right before this past Thanksgiving assuming that was a dead end street. All of sudden I received a letter in the mail stating that Horizon Science Academy is going to...they sent me a letter I did not ask for the letter that they already have approval from the city and they will make a driveway and it doesn't matter what we think or what we say that the city has already approved it and it is in the process of going through. I called a few people, including my ward councilperson Pam Carter, Jack Bradley and Mr. Bradley did call me back. I talked to him about their stating that they had already approved the permit and Jack told me he talked to someone, maybe the Safety/Service Director but he assured me that no permit was granted for them to make a driveway up to that dead end of Regina Avenue. I don't want the street, I am a voter, I always vote for everything and I do not want this street and see no need for this street. I go past that every day when school is out and I never see traffic backed up like. I get stuck at the traffic light on Middle Ridge and Rt. 254. Sometimes I have to wait ten minutes to cross over that intersection. It is what it is. I mean adding another driveway there is just stupid. They have a driveway on Tower and they have one on Falbo Avenue and they have one they can use that is on Washington Avenue. I would say no, no, no. I am the very last house. Every day when I come home, I look at this huge mess that is on the other side of the fence from my house. It is a mound of branches that is 40 feet wide by 20' and there are electrical wires in there just cut off with no electrical tape on them or anything. For one thing, it is a safety hazard, the stuff they got going on right now much less they are going to pave a road and all the flooding is going to come down our street. So they say they are not even going to put curbs or any kind of drainage and they will just put a driveway. Well, where is all of that water going to go? It is going to go down our street because we are lower than their property by at least two feet. I have not measured it but I have a really good eye for leveling and I'm not a finish carpenter by trade and I can tell level and their property is at least two feet taller than our yard. All that water when they put that pavement in will drive down our street and flood our basements. They don't take care of their property as it is. How are they going to maintain this? It is just ridiculous. Thank you.

ERIN BROCK, 3346 Regina Avenue, Lorain, Ohio: Basically what Mindy said is what I was going to say but also that this is annoying the way they dealt with it. I signed it because I am going to do what I have to protect mine and my neighbors and our property values. I will do anything I can to stand up for us and our street.

TOM SPRINGOWSKI, 3317 Regina Avenue, Lorain, Ohio: I have lived on Regina Avenue since 1959. We are the third house on the street. I have to take umbrage with the fact that we only get three minutes when Horizon has gotten years to figure out how to get around us. The taxpaying citizens of the street have been putting forth very serious reasons and explanations

many times in front of council and the administration of Lorain. We are assembled here today to ask why do we even have to argue a point and essentially be threatened as to why we don't a thoroughway coming from a for-profit doing business as Horizon Academy. This issue is to enable the administrators and faculty to exit quickly to get home. Make no mistake about it, this is why this is concerning. Others here will point out why it is a bad idea and a self-serving interest of Horizon Science Academy. We resident voters and taxpayers of Regina have three minutes to try and get answers why this is a bad idea- not only for the residents of Regina but for the city. The ground fall of Horizon Property with no barrier to stop the flow of water over the asphalt is one of the issues. No study has been done to analyze the impact of this drainage over the underground storm sewer which is already struggling to take on heavy rain water causing many streets to flood. Other facts which are a major concern are the many complaints from taxpaying, voting residents of Tressa Avenue. The street is being used as a drop off dead end causing fights and other hindrances to those residents trying to get out for work in the morning and get back home after work. What about their quick access to their own roads at home? Do they have to put up with Horizon's callous disregard for its neighbors and taxpaying residents? Horizon keeps trying to go around us contracting work to build an access route for the administrators and faculty regardless of the rights and wishes of the actual residents. On top of this, Horizon Schools are a for-profit charter school which takes tax money away from the city schools in Lorain. It would be a surprise to know that many of the faculty sends their children to other schools such as Amherst. I ask the administration and City Council to use every possible action available to protect the rights of the residents on Regina Avenue and stop this self-serving attempt to circumvent what we taxpayers' desire. You are our representatives that we have voted in and we are asking you to represent us – not Horizon. Their budgeted money for the project would be better spent cleaning up the grounds of decaying vegetation, fallen branches that have been there since they came here. Thank you.

JACK LEWIS, 3318 Regina Avenue, Lorain, Ohio: As I have said before, we don't want this street opened and don't need all of that extra traffic over there. I want to be able to get out of my driveway in the morning. The principal over there, or Assistant Principal, they are going to tell you all kinds of things to get sympathy and use buzz words like "safety" "children's safety" expansion" "progress and future needs" those are tactics to sway your sympathy. He will tell you it is only for use for the faculty with carded entry and everything. Well we know how that goes. There will be busses, lines to pick up and drop off the kids; it will be backed up all the way down to Meister Road and I can guarantee you that. Most of the residents on Regina Avenue are older but we are not stupid and we vote. Just a little input, type in concept horizon Science Academy. They have been under investigation from the FBI since 2014. There are pages and pages and pages of corruption on them. They don't pay their taxes; they are behind \$150,000 last I checked. They get 12% off of every school to this most of them clear over in Pennsylvania. I know I am getting off course but I am pretty upset. They are guests to our community, it is a charter school. They come in here and they want to roll over top of us. The council, you are our watch dogs; we rely on you to protect us from stuff like this. We are getting older and we don't want this on our street. I don't know what else I can tell you; I think I have said all that I can say.

SHARON LEWIS, 3318 Regina: To add to what Jack stated, we should not even be wasting our time or the city's time on this issue. We made in very clear back in 2019 that we did not want our street opened. The school may think it's fair but it is not fair to the neighbors on the block. We purchased our homes on this street because it was a dead end street as our neighbors have said. All that we ever hear about is the safety of the kids... well if you open up our street, what happens to the safety of our children playing on our street that was a dead end. So, that is a two-way street. It is not fair to us as homeowners. They already have access to Washington Avenue; all they have to do is cut the grass. Talking about Washington Avenue, I ride my bike back there. Where the football field used to be, they have a dilapidated shed and I walked in there. There are human feces, broken beer and wine bottles, etc. someone is living there and they are not doing anything about it. I guess they will just leave it there and we are supposed to deal with it. That is another problem we have. They should use Washington Avenue as an

access; it is probably because they don't want to have to deal with tearing down that building. I know it is because it is convenient for them to cut through our street. It is an inconvenience to us on Regina Avenue. They do not care because at the end of the day, it is all about what the teachers want and not the kids – forget all that, it is ridiculous. Think about us and let me close with this last question. If any of you lived on that street and bought your home knowing that was a dead end street, to raise your families, if this was coming up now –would you be standing up here doing what we are doing and trying to protect our street? I think you would. Thank you.

JAYSON BENDIK, Assistant Principal at Horizon Science Academy of Lorain: I am a resident of Elyria. I wish to read a letter first from a parent named (Christina Pavelle?) Mr. Mayor and Council President and Councilmember, my name is Christina Pavella. I am a parent of two children, Sophia and Carson who attend HSA and a resident of Lorain on and off for 25+ years. I have even purchased a home within a five minute walk to the school, 818 Redhill Drive. I am also an alumnus to Lorain Catholic High School so I have watched the building that once filled with laughs and learning a building that was a staple in the town start to disintegrate. It was losing value along with the value of the surrounding areas until Horizon Science Academy took the opportunity to step in and create a school for all kids. I watched my daughter and son soar in their school testing scores and grades. Sophia, even through COVID well exceeded the school in county average testing scores in both the past years have done in charity in the news papers and even Sophia put a pie in my face specifically for exceeding the reading challenge one semester. I have watched this school grow and it has kept growing throughout the years well beyond Lorain Catholic did and has created a place for my children and other children to feel supported, safe and active in learning. I find those three things a high priority to me as I bet are a priority to many other parents. With this growth, staff grows as well. If having to ask for this gated back entrance for the staff to have and even look into how busy Falbo and Tower streets are at drop off and pick up hours, in my opinion gives them the same sense of safety that they have provided to all students in this school. I cannot even put into words how safe they made my children feel. I want them to have the sense of safety; I fully support their need for this access way as the school now holds over 800 children and teachers and staff don't truly have an easy access to leaving the property due to that volume. We, as a society, have even stated over this past year how thankful and how much praise needs to be given to teachers and schools through this hard COVID situation. Let's not create anymore hardships and division for something that makes teachers and staff feel safe, along with giving them more safety for their own children. This school has only brought back the positive light to the building that would have just sat there vacant. Thank you. That is from a parent.

This is my statement here; I have been the Assistant Principal for twelve of the thirteen years. As you know, Mr. Arredondo since the school has existed. I have been waiting for this opportunity for a very long time to set the record straight. HSA Lorain is not for profit 501 C 3 public charter school where any students who seek a different opportunity can enroll as long as we obviously have the space to do so. We follow all the laws, policies, procedures that are set forth by the federal, state and local municipalities. We are also held accountable to strict oversight by our appointed board, CMO, which is Concept Schools, which she referenced our sponsor, Buckeye Community and of course our community parents and teachers and students. Additionally speaking, the oversight, in terms of that, we have also been recognized for the Auditor of State award for the fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020. We opened with 90 students in 2009. We now service over 850 students; we have 200+ students on a waiting list. Needless to say, it is a thriving educational institution. We are a college prep STEM focused school that loves kids unconditionally, partners with families and changes the trajectory of students' lives to impact this world. We have an absolute robust graduation rate of 95% with millions of dollars in scholarships every single year and millions of dollars in renovations that have _____. On the other hand, the Regina community members, our positions are as follows so I want you to ask yourself these questions: are they reasonable? Are they logical? And are they justified in asking the city to vacate a portion of the street? Here is the first one, this used to be Lorain Catholic. The bottom line is this; we have had two administrations approve this. We

have every legal standing and grounds to do it. We had an opportunity to have a BBQ about two years ago. We presented the information to them. The community flat out rejected it. At that time, there was also the misconception that our school “promised” not to open that. I can state that for the record by the email that I sent to Mr. Springowski on July 1, 2019.

Dear Community Members, I appreciate all of you coming to the school meeting back in June and the possibility of opening access onto Regina Avenue. With that said, we are not going to pursue opening access to Regina at this point in time. Moving forward, we will reevaluate all of options including Washington Avenue and then determine a final course of action. Thank you for your input and let me know if you have any questions.

Well I have news for you – we are at that point in time with 850 students and almost 100 employees that also have families that need to get to their families as well. So for the record, legally standing, we have the right to do it and the growth of the school as well. This is a thriving educational institution and we look to forward with partnering with them one day.

(Comments from the audience were inaudible.)

JERRY DONOVAN, 5109 Oakhill Blvd, Lorain, OH: I am a little stunned. I attended the last meeting where this issue was discussed. I thought the residents made their position very clear. Obviously they are located next door to the school _____ because they seem to be determined to try to run rough shod over these people that live or the resident on Regina Avenue. I would like to suggest to the school to add to their curriculum a book by Dale Carnegie, for the teachers benefit or the board of directors of the school, ‘How to Win Friends and Influence people.’ I can assure them that the letter that was sent out by the attorney, and all of their actions up to now are definitely not in compliance with that book. Many of these people bought their homes for a specific purpose that it was a dead end street. They could discourage coming in ... I could not understand why they wanted. One moment it is for the staff because they are going to have it locked. (Comments inaudible). These people are going to the point of being ridiculous as far as I am concerned. The citizens of Lorain that live in those neighborhoods are entitled not only to be heard but have a positive response to their request. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Mrs. Donovan, you sit on this side...

MARY SPRINGOWSKI: Excuse me, I am reading Paul Springowski’s letter. If you let the other person’s letter be read into the record, I am going to read Paul Springowski’s letter.

Hello, Paul Springowski here. I won’t be able to attend today’s meeting discussing Horizon’s access proposal for Regina Avenue but I have written a letter that I would like to share and have read at the meeting. It follows: As a lifelong resident of Regina Avenue, at 23 years minus a few days in late 1997, I owe my upbringing not only to my family but the kindness of my good neighbors on Regina Avenue. Regina Avenue cemented my love of Lorain and I often had to defend the name of our city to outsiders. Our residents look out for each other and our way of life is being threatened by Horizon, who is not being a good neighbor. Their plans totally dismiss the wishes of every resident on Regina as none of us want their exit to connect to our street. A unanimous majority of residents should not have to feel powerless against a dictatorial corporation with questionable intentions and poor ethics. Revitalizing the former Lorain Catholic site helped our ward but their unreceptive attitudes towards every last resident on the street have diminished my respect for their work. Some new families have moved in on the street who specifically invested in their property for the sake of the dead end. Kids learned to ride their bikes and play in the street as I did years ago. Increased traffic will pose a threat to their safety. The grading of the exit will undoubtedly cause drainage problems further threatening property values and quality of life. We do not want our street to become victim to another industry ruining the peacefulness of what is considered a residential paradise. They have other exits to use and when Lorain Catholic was the tenant, there were not bottlenecks or errors. If the exit is specifically for the faculty, there is no justification for select members of our community to get special treatment over those who live here and tend to it daily. I ask the council to consider our wishes and prohibit Horizon from building a road to connect with Regina Avenue. Sincerely, Paul Springowski. And for the record Mr. Arredondo, my last name is not Donovan, it is Springowski.

(Comment from audience inaudible)

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: You could have sat right at your desk and I would have let you read it.

REVEREND DAVE RODGERS, 3286 Regina Avenue: Many years ago when the street was built it was a dead end before Lorain Catholic was even a high school. The right of way for Regina would have gone to Tower Blvd. When the Catholic School system was bought, that ended that right of way. I feel that our street has been dead for 62 years. Since they cleared the end of our street, we have already had problems with motorcycles, dirt bikes and things like that going down our street and to their property. They say that it will be used for faculty. I have a daughter that is a teacher. Faculty comes first thing in the morning and is the last to leave. There should be no problem with a traffic problem on Falbo or Tower Blvd. Plus, also they have an access on Washington Avenue to go south from their property already there that is gated. So why not use that? Why? They don't want to spend the money to fix the roadway. I want my street to remain closed. I moved there because of that. These people here do not want Regina Avenue.

DANIEL SUMA: Horizon Academy Principal. I wish to read a letter from one of my staff members. Dear Lorain City Council Members, My name is Morgan Pece (?) and I am an intervention specialist at the Horizon Science Academy of Lorain and this is my second year at this school. To say that I am in love with my staff and students would be an understatement. From the moment I interviewed with the administrators, it was clear that this is a school that is constantly looking for ways for better practices both inside and outside of the classroom and for the benefit of _____. One of the practices we wish to improve is our dismissal. Our dedicated staff works nonstop to ensure all students are safely dismissed in a timely and orderly fashion; however, traffic frequently contributes to causing our dismissal process to be lengthy. Staff and students have missed out of school activities as well as doctor's appointments. Having a second entry/exit ---- to this congestion ___will allow for all to get home promptly and in time for such activities. Thank you for listening and taking this into consideration.

I am very upset to hear some of the allegations that were made towards the school. As the principal, we invited all neighbors when we first initiated this to be a good neighbor and just to enlighten them over the summer and spent a little time for making a nice BBQ and cook out for them. We studied a lot of facts to show them pictures and a presentation about our school just trying to be a nice neighbor. Then unfortunately, they do not even have any interest or listened to what our school was all about, they just care about their issues. I understand and I wish the reason that was behind them and all that. When we feel about we are not taking our property, I am very stunned to see that. I invited all of our community members and all of our neighbors to come to our everyday. They can come in and see (comments inaudible). Just for this summer, we added another _____ of seven offices and classrooms; we updated our lighting system, etc. From my knowledge, which it might be correct for me but not for everybody, the only thing they included property value is _____. Horizon Science Academy is out performing our local city schools ever since they opened the doors in 2009. If you look at the facts, some of the allegations they have are baseless. _____ for us not paying taxes. Come and see us, I can spare my time and show you guys around our school to see how much improvement we are making. We had 85 staff members and this year we have 100 staff members and _____ full time _____. The one thing I just want a little respect I am not going to our neighbor's home and saying hey don't make that addition to the basement or don't make your driveway that way. I just want the same thing. If you want to make a little _____ to our property, I don't need their advice. I will just come to the city and ask the permission. I am not going to anyone's house and saying hey why are you doing the kitchen this way or why do you do your driveway that way. I just want the same thing.

LYNETTE RODGERS 3286 Regina Ave.: It is wonderful that they are doing all of those improvements to the building. But if you come and look at their property, we have pictures – it is a mess. Right by Mindy Shawver's house as she stated and you can come and look but there is a lot of debris and it has been there forever. Their improvements are to the building but not

to the outside property. I don't know what their school hours are and when the students report and when they leave. It used to be that teachers came ahead of time and left afterwards. I am not quite sure why all the congestion issues are being brought up. Usually teachers were there before the kids came and left when the children were gone. If it is going to be just for the teachers, which they say it is and going to be gated. So, that I don't quite understand. We are afraid property values will decrease because it is good to have it be a dead end which is what we all want. It is safer and we enjoy it being a dead end and many people bought their homes based on it being a dead end street with no access.

SHANNON WILLIAMS, 135 Valley Forge Circle, Elyria: I am currently the sixth grade intervention specialist at HAS. I have had the privilege of working at the school for the past ten years. During that time I have witnessed substantial growth in our school. Each year we are adding new classrooms, staff and students. When I first began, we had two intervention specialists for the whole school and now we have nine. We have gone from 90 students to over 800 and we must be doing something right to have so many parents chose our schools and are put on a wait list to get there. I am so lucky to have found my HSA family that supports me. I taught over 250 students and coach both middle and high schoolers. I have also had the opportunity to better the community by raising multiple fund raisers for the Haven Center in Lorain. Seven years ago, I met a group of students that changed my life. I knew working in special education was my calling. My family at HSA encouraged me to get my Masters Degree and now I have finally made the switch to Special Education. My family at HSA has done so much more for me. A few years ago, I was rushed to the emergency room after work. The first person in a hospital to see me was Mr. Sumer. A few years later, a coworker's mother died and they were the first people to offer to drive with me all the way to Indiana to be with her solidifying that their focus is on the well being of their staff and students. Now, I get to start my next great adventure as I am pregnant with my first child. It has been a long journey as I have spent many months trying to conceive and had a miscarriage along the way. Every step of the way, my HSA family has been here for me. My goal is to spend as much time with my students as possible so I planned all of my doctor's appointments so that I would only miss the last ten minutes of school. The problem is when dismissing 800 students, there is physically no way I can leave the building to make these appointments on time. This also gets me thinking about my due date in the snowy month of February. What if I were to go into labor or...

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: I ask you all to please quit bothering the lady or I will ask you to leave. Continue please.

SHANNON WILLIAMS: What if I go into labor or have an emergency during the hour of dismissal? Parents begin to pack the car rider line 45 minutes before we even dismiss. How can I get out to make it to a hospital or how can EMS get in to help me when traffic is gridlocked? I know my HSA family will do anything to ensure not only my safety but my future child as well. But if there is no way out or in, what will happen to me? They proposed this alternative entrance and exit for staff but if not allowed to have it, who is then at fault if something were to happen to me or my child?

(COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC INAUDIBLE)

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Miss, you can leave now, I think you spoke enough. That is what is stated at the beginning of this, let's be civil please. No one interrupted you and no one made comments to you so please do the same.

AUDIENCE: We were told to stay on topic.

MARIE BONILLA: I currently have one daughter and four granddaughters or grandchildren and 20 nieces and nephews and many family members or friend who attends HSA. Not only am I parent, I am also a board member of Lorain HSA. As a member, I proposed opening this street –it was me who decided to propose it and I apologize. I am just letting you know what happened. I proposed the opening of this street. One day when I was picking up my kids from school, I watched as one of our teachers tried desperately to get out of the school parking lot when school was being released. No matter how much she tried, she could not get out. I saw the look in her eye and I know she was trying to hurry and get out and maybe she had an

emergency and had to get out. She just could not and I felt so bad for her because I could not move either; I was stuck in the line too. Then I turned to my right being in line and I saw the side streets and wondered if there was any possible way of opening up one of these streets to get access to our teachers only. These teachers give 110% of their time, effort and love for our children. They are molding and preparing our children for what the future holds in store for them. I thought why not give back to them and make their lives a little easier. Therefore, that is why I proposed it. I apologize if it inconvenienced anyone. I too, am a taxpayer and live on Toledo Avenue. I see where your money goes and I see how much money goes per student, per child. This is school works on very little income. You think it is a great deal but it is not compared to what the public schools make. We have seen, I have been there since 2009 since the doors opened. I watched my daughter graduate from there and I have another one graduating. I have four grandchildren and two more that will attend. I have 20 nieces and nephews that go there, etc. Their intention is not for the busses to go through there; it is not for students to go through there. The intention is for the teachers in case of an emergency. They are our future, they are making your future – our future, don't they deserve to be able to have access to leave in case of an emergency? God forbid something happens. I just ask you to have mercy on these teachers. If it was the public, it would be different. I don't understand why there is so much hate coming to HSA when they are doing so well for our children. My address is 2922 Toledo Avenue.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Before we proceed, I would like that first row of people to please come and sit on the side or else leave. We do not need obstruction with the speakers up there.

CLERK GREER reminded members that it was 5:38 p.m. and there are four additional public hearings that must be held.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Yes we do. I will allow the last five people in line to speak. We only allotted three minutes per person. In the future, any public hearing – no one will be sitting in that front row.

Mr. Donovan, I am running the meeting. If you don't like it, you may leave.

NASHA AUDI, 14499 Trisket, Cleveland; I am an intervention specialist at HSA for nine years. It has become a family. I apologize I know you can hear the nervousness in my voice; it has been pretty intense up here. I love HAS; it was my first job and I have been there for nine years because I refuse to leave. It has become my family and it is a non-profit and a school that I believe really makes a difference. My family constantly asks me why I don't go to Avon High School or somewhere like that but I tell them that this school needs me. These are the kids that we love. We have become a family. I have seen immense changes over the past nine years. The technology, the adversity, we have such a big eclectic family at our school both in the teachers and the students. We have students that come from other countries that come to our school – from Nigeria, Turkey, Mexico, etc. We have such a beautiful adverse school and it really makes a difference. I know our focus is the driveway today. Well, our focus is that our students are built out of the students who don't fit the mold. Break the mold and recreate it. Our students leave Lorain High and elementary schools and middle schools near us and they excel at our school because they didn't feel safe there or comfortable. I have a student that I personally work with, I am a special ed teacher, she failed her freshman year at Lorain High. Now, as a junior, she is gaining senior status because she filled all of her classes and excelled in them and is receiving "A's" and "B's" whereas she was failing at Lorain High. We focus heavily on the safety and well being of our kids but without this additional emergency exit, we as a staff are put at risk. Many of us have kids and I have two older parents who are dealing with many health issues and require a lot of care. At this time, I am my father's primary care taker. When I am not home, I have other family members taking care of him. If something comes up, I need to be there. Additionally, my brother and my sister in law are expecting their first child and she is considered high at risk. I fear that if something happens to her that I would be trapped in the back parking lot. This is for our safety, our student's safety and our loved ones safety. In addition, if there were an emergency at the school, I understand we have those other two entrances, but if were not able to have our first responders come through that back

well as well – it would be immediate. We need those people to be able to come and get us. Our students are obviously our biggest priority but we also have families and kids and older parents and grandparents we need to take care of. It is not fair that we would be trapped behind everyone else and not be able to leave. That will not be our primary exit or entrance. That is only for emergencies. It will not clutter up anything. Thank you.

JESSICA VARNER, 2264 South Jefferson: I had worked with the school system for eight years. I am an employee and I am a taxpayer and I am a parent – maybe not of a school age child now but I will be. I will let you know that my biggest issue that right now, even though I live eight minutes from the school, I have to come to school 35 – 40 minutes early just to get there on time because I cannot get through the traffic from Broadway cutting down the side streets to the school, it is so backed up. No asked you to talk when I am talking – thank you. Also, there have been several times over the years where we had medical emergencies. I had students who had seizures during gym class, students who have had injuries during sports, students who had injuries during class. God forbid something does happen in dismissal or arrival time and they cannot get there. What are we supposed to do? As a parent and anyone who is a parent, that should concern you. The fact that the medical professionals cannot get to your child should be a huge concern to anyone in this room. I don't know why the residents are so upset. It is something that is adding to the community, it is a school that has been here. You have a road, I don't know why you think it is just yours – it belongs to the community and should benefit the community. Again, this is not going to be some traffic thing, this is just for staff members in and out and just for emergencies. I thank you for your time.

MRS. MASSA, 2119 E. 41 Street, Lorain. I am also a staff member and a parent. I was the parent that was in that line with the child with the broken bone who could not move. It took me twenty minutes to get my son out of there to the ER.

RICHARD DAVILLA, 4160 Shore Drive: Many of you know me and my kids. My daughter graduated from there and I have another one graduating this year and my son next year. Yes, I have seen the amount of people. I literally have to take my lunch break at 3 o'clock so I can get my kids at 3:30 and at times have to go right back to work. Sometimes it will take me 40 to 45 minutes before I can get back to work. Yes, it may be an inconvenience to Regina Drive but at the same time, if it is for the benefit of the teachers only, I don't see why it is a big ordeal. Just wanted to give my input.

RITA FLORES, 3301 Regina Ave.: I am a lifelong resident of Lorain, OHIO for 47 years. I am a taxpayer on Regina, we like our street the way it is. We bought those homes because of that reason. It is private; we don't want traffic running up and down our street. There are elderly on our street and we like the privacy. That is the bottom line. We are not here talking about the school system or what they are doing or if they are doing wrong, we are just here to say that we don't want our street opened. That is the reason and him saying he invited us to cook out... that was not really a true statement because we had a meeting about two years ago and they brought it up and it was shut down. Recently, they started cutting down a gate and clearing the pathway without permission or getting the city's permission. Their grass is so long back there and there are things on their property that need to be taken care of but the way they are acting, it is not professional at all. We are here to say we do not want our street opened. We are not saying anything bad about the school or anything at all, we just want our privacy.

SAMANTHA RIVERA, 3424 Amherst Avenue: I have lived there for the last five years. I have sons that attend HSA. I have sophomore and a fourth graders who both participate in city events and sports, etc. Last year my sons both walked to school and noticed as I picked them up when it's nice outside, I am walking to pick them up and noticed how many more students are walking to and from school. I made the necessary calls and I got school speed limit signs and cross walks put in on Falbo Avenue. Last week, when school started, I stood on the corner of 34th & Falbo. The amount of traffic was insane. When I say the word insane to you, an ambulance traveling with lights and sirens south on Falbo to get to Tower, to get to Sprenger could not get through. Not only could it not get through because of school traffic, but because of other traffic that did not want to wait in the school lines. There was almost an accident and thankfully no one was hurt but so close that I could not have fit my body between the car that

almost hit the ambulance and the ambulance. I too, live in a neighborhood with mostly elderly people. I too, don't want all the craziness but I want our kids safe. I walk at night and I walk in the morning and I know my community members. This drive for staff is not that serious and to put the school down and to put down the staff and say that they are supposed to be there later, those people have families and lives. I am one who took my lunch break to go and pick up my children because I had to. My thing is this; this drive will only make it better. I am a Lorain Catholic alumni and this school and this building is home to me. I am very proud to be part of Horizon and the school will continue to grow so changes are going to have to happen.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: That is the end of the public comment. Mrs. Springowski?

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I own a house on Regina Avenue, I have to say if we were in a court of law, I wouldn't be willing to attest to the veracity of the people from Horizon Schools. They are not good neighbors. They need to get their story straight. Is it for the teachers or the safety of the students? My sister attended Lorain Catholic in 1998 or earlier. My daughters went to Lorain Catholic. We had Washington Avenue entrance opened, that is where we took our floats, we had fire engines go back there and all sorts of vehicles and trucks on that road. That road was in good condition. My eldest daughter graduated in 2004. If you are a good neighbor, you pay your property taxes. I have a thing here from the auditor's site where the school owes over \$150,000 in property taxes. All of these residents on Regina Avenue, they pay their property taxes in a timely manner. We have Washington, Falbo and Tower. They are talking about an electric gate with a key card. Is it only going to be open during an emergency or is it going to be open every day for the teachers? They keep going back and forth. I worked for Ford for 30 years and we have electric gates with key cards there. I can tell you they break down constantly and you have no choice but to leave the gate up if you want anyone to get through. What will happen is everybody will be using that. I can tell you for a fact that back in the 80's and 90's Lorain Catholic had more students and staff as a high school than HSA does now. They had more cars because many of those kids drove themselves and they had sports and other extracurricular activities and bingo. God knows I worked enough bingo and it was never an issue. We would get 500 people into that school. What about the safety of Regina Avenue? The vast majority of those people are elderly and it is common knowledge that most heart attacks start between 5:30 and 9:30 a.m. I know because it has happened to family members. What about their ability to go and get an ambulance if it is backed up with traffic from these teachers who are only using it in an emergency or maybe on an everyday basis. The letter that we got today was a threatening letter from the attorney that we received today in council. It said that we can be sued for damages, the residents on Regina Avenue, well what about the damages to the residents on Regina Avenue who bought their houses at a premium because it was a dead end street. They talk about the growth; they reference the growth of Horizon School. This is probably mostly due to the fact that Lorain City Schools were in academic distress and state take over. We have had a lot of anecdotal comments here but the majority of the people that have spoken tonight that live in Lorain and have lived on Regina have spoken against it. Ask the vice principal or principal, where do their kids go? It is not Horizon. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER FALLIS: I would like to ask two questions for clarity from the principal of HSA.

My first question is I assume the school operates under Horizon Science Academy HSA? Is that the legal name of the school?

PRINCIPAL: The official name of the school is Horizon Science Academy of Lorain.

MR. FALLIS: Is that the legal entity to?

PRINCIPAL: Yes.

MR. FALLIS: I have a document dated 8-23-2021, it says the owner of the property is NOG Ohio LLC. What is HSA's relationship with NOG Ohio LLC?

PRINCIPAL: They are our landlord, we are the tenant.

MR. FALLIS: It appears they have not paid real estate taxes based upon this document. Are you aware of that?

PRINCIPAL: Do you have the latest letter from the Auditor of State about the tax status? They are a 501 C 3 organization. They applied for the tax exemption and I believe as far as 2019, two years ago. The Auditor of State has not responded as of July 30, 2021. Based on the date of _____ all of the taxes owed are forgiven because they are 501 C 3 tax exempt organization. So, two years – the Auditor took their time to find out their response to NOG. I have an official letter that I can provide to you right now.

MR. FALLIS: Can you give me an executive summary of this letter?

NICK DERTOZOS Attorney for Horizon Science Academy: That is a letter provided by NOG Ohio. Two years ago they applied for a tax exemption for the property. Ohio law provides that you don't need to pay the tax while you have a pending exemption request. It took the Ohio Department of Taxation two years to rule on the exemption and it was just ruled on a few weeks ago. It just has not caught up with the county yet.

MR. FALLIS: I see in the conclusion under item three it states they are entitled to be tax exempt from taxation pursuant to ORC 57-9.07 private school and part of the property is not entitled to be exempt for the reason set forth above. Part of it is exempt and part is not exempt.

PRINCIPAL: Just for the record, the school itself is a 501 C 3 organization. If we owned the property and purchased it from NOG, again we were not supposed to have tax.

MR. FALLIS: This was dated July 30th and I am sure NOG will pay whatever small portions of taxes still due that are not tax exempt. Thanks for clarifying that. Next question is the road to Regina Avenue, how many teachers would be using that and what hours would they be using the road? I wanted to get clarity on what is the impact is to the resident on Regina Avenue?

PRINCIPAL: Many of our staff members do work longer hours. They arrive as early as 6 a.m. and some do not leave until 8 – 10 p.m. They are very hard workers. Given the fact that our contractual obligation for our staff members is 7:45 a.m. until 3:45 pm. I would say 50% of our staff members are already staying more than 3:45 cut off time. The ones that are left over are going to be leaving from the irregular driveway entrance from either Tower or Falbo anyways. The ones we are talking about here are the ones that needed to leave on the dot at 3:45 p.m. My experience the last eight years as a principal, it is about 8 to 10 people. Again, will it change this year when they have the access, maybe. Let's just estimate 20, and it is just going to be 20 cars moving from the street and then be done with it. We are not trying to destroy anyone's lives here, we are educators. When we get a comment about where are my children? I am coming to Lorain from Orange _____ it is 46 miles away – every single day. One hour one way and one way back. That is two hours and you ask me why my children are not coming here? My first child went to Horizon Science Academy – kindergarten first year. My second child, she started kindergarten in HSA of Cleveland. I am sorry but I am not going to bring my child with me every day for a two hour drive when I work longer hours leaving here at 6 – 8 p.m. Thanks for the question but that is the reason. I do have many staff members coming to school with their children. If they didn't believe in the system, they would not enroll their children in our school. I am willing to have everyone, the city and council and residents come and see the school and what we are doing instead of just assuming or accusing. We have nothing to hide. All of our teachers are certified, professional licensed teachers. Before they even take the job, they have to get a back ground check BCI and FBI at the same time.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: This has been going on for awhile and when I got the first phone call from the resident on Regina. I just want you to know first of all this was not about your education and how you educate the children; you do a very good job. I know several families who attend the school. The issue is not about the work and the education that you put into the children and the care and love. This is about a dead end street that has been that way for 62 years. The residents living there and their family members have passed away and the homes were turned over to their children. So, I am also a little concerned about the clarification if this is an emergency exit or is it the entrance/exit for teachers every day Monday through Friday? That must be clarified. I understand the first responder issue and would love to know how our first responders feel about the issue. Is this the first choice and the best choice? I don't understand why we didn't look at the Washington entrance and clear out the path there. It would have been nice if someone would have contacted the city and

suggested that or asked the question if it is possible to get that cleared out. This whole situation would have been a better situation. I do understand where you guys are coming from regarding first responders. I would love to know how our first responders feel about this. That is not something they need to explain or answer right now. I am sure this will go to legal and whatever legal says, that is what it is going to be. I understand the residents that have been there for years and years. We have the BHP department and they have inspectors. If you have not been inspected, I am sure you will be inspected. If there are violations on the property, you will have to address them. As far as the tax exemption, it sounds like our county might be little behind according to what was discussed. I hope we all can come to a happy medium at the end of the day but I do understand where our residents are coming from. I did see the letter written two years ago where you had a picnic, etc. You cannot expect them to be happy about this; they are fighting to keep their street a dead end. I also can understand the emergencies as well. I just wish we can look at the Washington area and see about clearing that out and opening it up. Traffic in the City of Lorain is becoming tremendous.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Thanks everyone for your comments, this meeting is adjourned. The next hearing will start in two minutes.

President Arredondo called the public hearing to discuss an application to rezone PPN 02-01-003-101-119-001, 03-00-101-120-031, 03-00-101-108-029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034 @ 3956 Globe Avenue from I-1 Industrial to R-3 Residential. Todd Hall is the applicant.

ZCA-9-2021 Clerk Greer announced the Lorain City Planning Commission met on July 7, 2021, and recommended approval of the application to Lorain City Council with the condition that residential construction be limited to single and two family homes. Notice of the hearing was published in the local newspaper and abutting property owners were notified of the hearing by mail as required by state statutes.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Is Mr. Hall present? Is anyone here to represent Todd Hall? (No one was in the audience.)

COUNCILMEMBER MOON: He is not here and I have not heard from him. We have been discussing this for awhile. He wants to do residential and not a junk yard and I was pleased with that.

DREW CRAWFORD, PLANNING & ZONING OFFICER: I actually didn't expect to speak tonight but was here just in case folks didn't show or you had questions. In regards to Mr. Hall, I have not heard from him but I don't see that as a negative thing because of the conditions on the Planning Commission and what was voted on the conditions that it had to be single or double residential but not apartment units. He does have his house plans on file with the Building Department that will go forward once and if this is rezoned. From BHP perspective, we don't have any objections because nothing has changed.

COUNCILMEMBER FALLIS: The letter from Mr. Bradley dated July 9, 2021 says the request is from I-1 to R-3 and on our agenda it says I-1 to R-2, what is it?

MR. CRAWFORD: It is for R-3, the most flexible residential.

ROBERT HANCOCK, 1735 ____ Court. Speaking on behalf of all of the constituents in the neighborhood, no one wants R-3, especially on industrial property. I own a building right next to the property he wants to rezone. The reason I built that is because it is industrial property. The township had that kind of way that you are going to now and that never did work to well. There is going to be all kinds of riff raff if those get built living there and tearing up stuff and destroying property. They are destroying my stuff now; you can't even get the police to come out there. They won't even dig us a ditch to drain the water. He has semis and stuff parked on it right now and he started clearing it off and letting it grow back up. He is dumping concrete in there and it is an eyesore. We do not want it. That is it.

COUNCILMEMBER HENLEY: I have a question that was sent to me from someone. Would this be low income housing that they are looking at? Do we have any idea what type of housing they are looking at?

DREW CRAWFORD, BHP: There is no zoning specific for low income or affordable housing that could happen depending upon either its Section 8 or a variety of things and it could also not happen. That is very typical of all sorts of zoning areas.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: There being no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

ZCA-10-2021 President Arredondo called the public hearing to order at 6:15 p.m. to discuss an application to rezone PPN 02-01-003-168-006 from B-2 to R-3 Residential and PPN 02-01-003-168-036 from R-2 to R-3 @ 205 W. 21 and adjoining rear land on W. 22nd Street in Lorain, Ohio. Family & Community Services is the applicant. (ZCA-10-2021)

Clerk Greer announced the Lorain City Planning Commission met on July 7, 2021, and recommended approval of the application to Lorain City Council. Notice of the hearing was published in the local newspaper and abutting property owners were notified of the hearing by mail as required by state statutes

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Is anyone here from Family & Community Services?

DREW CRAWFORD, BHP: Our department is not taking a particular stand on this rezoning but just want to provide the information. I have not heard any updates from them in regards to this. Hopefully you all had a chance to review the application or remember it from the Planning Commission. The Family & Community Service already exists in the City of Lorain and they want to acquire two additional properties and this is one of them. It is a matter of our new zoning code, technicalities in this particular instance going from residential 2 to residential 3.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: There being no further comments from Council or the public, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

ZCA-11-2021 President Arredondo called the public hearing to order at 6:17 p.m. to discuss an application to rezone PPN 02-01-003-167-017 2 2100 Reid Avenue from B-2 to R-3 Residential (ZCA-11-2021) Family & Community Services is the applicant.

Clerk Greer announced the Lorain City Planning Commission met on July 7, 2021, and recommended approval of the application to Lorain City Council. Notice of the hearing was published in the local newspaper and abutting property owners were notified of the hearing by mail as required by state statutes

DREW CRAWFORD, BHP: This is a different parcel at 2100 Reid Avenue going from B-2 to R-3. This changes the use of the building because it was commercial and from a planning perspective it is in line with the surrounding uses. I do think it is an appropriate rezoning.

COUNCILMEMBER FALLIS: Typically I am not a big fan of rezoning at all but I agree with Mr. Crawford. The zoning abutting this property is residential and the zoning change would be contiguous with the same zoning of adjoining and adjacent properties. I like this zone change.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: There being no further comments from Council or the public, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

ZCA-12-2021 President Arredondo called the public hearing to order at 6:17 to discuss an application to rezone PPN 02-01-003-150-016 and 02-01-003-150-001 @ 1657 Broadway from I-2 to I-1. (ZCA-12-2021) Vermilion Shores LLC is the applicant

Clerk Greer announced the Lorain City Planning Commission met on July 14, 2021, and recommended approval of the application to Lorain City Council. Notice of the hearing was published in the local newspaper and abutting property owners were notified of the hearing by mail as required by state statutes

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: Is anyone here from Vermilion Shores?

DREW CRAWFORD, BHP: This is the old Morning Journal building. As you can see it is a request from I-2 to I-1. In the new zoning code, the uses don't stack. The old zoning code, everything that was in Industrial 1 could also be in Industrial 2. It does not stack that way and that is on purpose in the new zoning code. This particular parcel, they want both self storage indoors but a larger portion of it is a production facility for labeling cans of beer. It is associated with the Brew Kettle and I forgot who the owner of that is. We feel this is a really good use and it is this large industrial building so they do need to get it rezoned to I-1.

COUNCILMEMBER FALLIS: Going from I-2 to I-1, is that less onerous from a zoning standpoint? I don't have that zoning code committed to memory.

DREW CRAWFORD: Yes, I would agree with that.

COUNCILMEMBER FALLIS: It is a less onerous zoning and I am in favor of it going in that direction vs. the opposite direction. I think that is a good use of that property to allow for the investor to use that facility to conduct his business and generate some additional revenue.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: What was the previous business in there?

DREW CRAWFORD: Good question and before my time. It was some type of industrial use that did not occur. They bought it and tried to fix it and make something happen and ended up just walking away from that.

PRESIDENT ARREDONDO: There being no further comments from Council or the public, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

President of Council



Clerk of Council

Accepted on: September 7, 2021