No. 382

September Term, 1967

G. LEIPER CAREY, et al.

v.

TOSEPH J. MARTIN, et al.

Hammond, C.J. Barnes McWilliams Singley Smith, JJ.

Opinion by McWilliams, J.

Filed: November 27, 1968

ZONING FILE NO. 65-220-R

The land in this case, like the Low Countries, has been the scene of much controversy. Its recent history is our only concern at the moment. The earlier chapters will be found in McBee v. Baltimore County, 221 Md. 312, 157 A. 2d 258 (1960). To expedite comprehension of the facts and circumstances we have filed with this coinion a sketch to which, from time to time, reference should be made.

On 12 January 1965, Martin filed with the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County a petition for the reclassification from B.L. (Business, Local) to R.A. (Residence, Apartments) of the 3.3 acre parcel and the reclassification from R.10 (Residence, One-family) to R.A. of the 2.0 acre parcel: Following a hearing on 24 March the Zoning Commissioner, on 31 March 1965, denied "artin's petition. Martin's appeal was heard by the Board of Appea's (the Board) on 7 and 8 June 1966. On 21 December 1966 the Board reversed the Zoning Commissioner and granted the reclassification. The appeal of the protestants (appellants here) was heard by the Circuit Court for Baltimore County on 28 August 1967. The appeal before us is from the order of the Circuit Court, dated 13 November 1967, affirming the action of the

An "unusual feature" of the case, in the opinion of the Board. is that the owner, who proposes to build 101 apartment units if the Board is sustained, presently has the right to build from 69 to 78 apartment units. He could utilize both the R.A. and the B.L. areas

for the apartment buildings and the R.10 area for the required parking. It was pointed out, however, that such a use would be aesthetically awkward and undesirable economically.

The Board went on to point out that the 3.3 agre portion "has been . . zoned B.L. at least since the adoption of the Ninth District Zoning Map on November 14, 1955." At that time, it said.

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"Bellona Avenue was, in spite of its width and curving lines and contours, a major arterial highway uned to a great extent by traffic * between Baltimore and points north of the subject property * *. The traffic was extremely heavy at that time * * overburdening [perhaps] the capacity of the roadway. In 1961 the reconstruction and relocation of the roadway. In 1961 the reconstruction and relocation of Charles Street was completed to the Baltimore County Beltway, and the Jones Falls Expressway was completed in 1962, which construction removed almost all of the through traffic from Bellona Avenue, and it now has become only a feeder road.

* * In Mr. Thompson's [Joseph D. Thompson, Martin's traffic expert] opinion the construction of the proposed apartments would have a minimal effect and would create no traffic expert; opinion the construction of the proposed apartments would have a minimal effect and would create no congestion whatever because the present daily traffic on the road is far below capacity. The traffic counts on Malvern Avenue and Ruxton Road are so small as to make no appreciable difference to the situation. Mr. Risa [justin Risa, appellee's traffic expert] agreed with Mr. Thompson's facts but feared that the extra traffic generated by the proposed apartments, or for that matter any use of this land, might lead to hazardous conditions at the intersections because of the narrowness of Malvern Avenue, and the sight distance from it to the south along Bellona. However, on cross-examination it was brought out in his testimony that the construction of a shopping center, in fact any B-I use, would probably generate more traffic than the proposed apartments. Therefore, the Board finds, as a fact, that if the proposed use were granted and the entire layout, entrances and exits, were prepared subject to approval by the proper authorities, there would be no problem arising from traffic which would warrant any objection to the application for the proposed use.

The Board found there had been "a great number of changes in the neighborhood since the adoption of the zoning map in 1955" in addition to the changes connected with traffic, which in themselves had

made the 3.3 acres of B.L. zoning "if not useless, at least undesirable, for a site for any feasible B.L. use;" in fact, Acme Stores had abandoned an option it once had to build a shopping center on the property. The Board cited the testimony of George E. Gavrelis, the Director of Planning for Baltimore County, who testified that the proposed use of the property seemed to be logical because the proximity of commercial development makes it appear to be "appropriately transitional," that the adequacy of nearby commercial facilities makes the present B.L. zoning seem excessive and that there is a need for apartments because of the limited amount of rental housing in the Ruxton-Riderwood area. Reference was made by the Board to the testimony of Frederick P. Klaus, "a qualified realtor and appraiser," appearing on behalf of Martin, who spoke of "changes in the use and occupancy of the roadside business development immediately north of the property," the erection of "a few apartments" on the site of the old Ruxton railroad station and the changes in the road pattern. In his opinion "the proposed use of the subject property would appreciate the surrounding properties . . [and] the difference between the number of apartments which could be constructed under the present zoning and those proposed would be minimal, and would allow for a much more satisfactory development of the property, both from an aesthetic standpoint and with respect to its impact on the values of neighboring properties." Reference was made also to the testimony of Bernard Willemain, "an experienced land planner" who was familiar with the property and its previous history. In addition to his repetition of the items mentioned by prior witnesses the Board noted Mr. Willemain's recital of the reclassification of the 1.0 acre portion (see plat) from R.10 to R.A. in October 1959, the availability of sewerage since the adoption of the map in 1955 and the continuing

"trend for apartments." The Board took note also of his opinion "that the present zoning deprives the owner of a reasonable use of his property; that rezoning the entire property to R.A. is a reasonable solution; . . . spartments would not have any adverse effect on the community or adjoining properties . . ; that the presence of R.10 next to B.L. was unreasonable * * * ." There appears to be "no serious dispute as to the availability of utilities, sewer and water."

The Board confessed to an inability to "find anything in the testimony of the protestants to support a decision adverse" to Martin. In this regard the Board said:

"The main trend of the protestants' testimony was that they would prefer to have this property remain in its present vacant condition, and feel that any use of this land, of any nature or description, would effect some change in the character of the neighborhood which they describe as od which they describe as

The concluding paragraph of the Board's opinion is, in part, as follows

"This is a case, as in many others, where it is diffi-cult to determine under the facts whether there has been error in the original zoning, or substantial change in the character of the neighborhood, or both. The error, if any, would be based mainly upon the failure of the original zoning authority to foresee or expect the changes which have occurred which have made the present zoning obsolet under any view taken of proper zoning under present conditions. However, even if there were no error the Board finds that the change in traffic, land use, population, and furnishing of utilities, is sufficient almost to require rezoning, and certainly sufficient to support rezoning.

Appellants seem to agree that their testimony was "well summarized" by the following excerpt, selected by appellants, from the testimony of Kenneth B. Marty:

"Q. Would you tell us why you are here opposing this request. A. Well, basically, it is because I am afraid that these proposed apartments will change the character of this neighborhood, that I have learned to love very much, and it would open up other possibilities. If they have this one change, there will always be the possibility of further change.

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"And actually, this area appealed to us, and the one reason we moved out here was the fact that it is unique, to the extent that it has some large estates, and some nice expensive properties, and has some modest homes right next to them. We all get along well, regardless of income status."

The only question before us then is whether the Board's action is supported by any substantial evidence. It is undisputed that the construction, in 1966, of the Minebank interceptor relieved the load on the Roland Run interceptor to such an extent that it acquired excess capacity which, of course, became available to serve the Martin property. And as Martin points out, expert witnesses testified that the relegation of Bellona Avenue to the secondary role of handling mostly local traffic and the construction and expansion of large shopping facilities in the Towson area have reduced the need for commercial uses in Ruxton, making his property virtually useless for business purposes.

Martin also emphasizes 4 zoning reclassifications in the neighborhood. The most significant, it is claimed, is the change from R.10 to R.A. of the 1.0 acre lot shown on the plat. Appellants insist that this 1959 rezoning was merely the correction of an oversight. In 1945, it seems, the 1.0 acre lot was changed from Cottage A to Apartment C because the improvements on it were actually divided into several apartments. The comprehensive rezoning of 1955, which changed it to R.10, also changed the 4.1 acres fronting on Bellona Avenue to B.L. In 1959 the Circuit Court ordered the 1.0 acre lot changed to R.A. Martin argues that because the zoning regulations adopted in 1955 permit, in the B.L. zone, any use allowed in the immediately adjoining residential zone, the 1959 change to R.A. made possible an apartment development of at least 69 units and thereby effected a distinct and important change

in conditions. A 1.55 acre tract on the north side of Ruxton Road west of Bellona Avenue was changed from R.20 to R.A. upon which were built the Ruxton Township Apartments, clearly visible from the Martin property. There were also several other minor changes from residential to commercial in nearby properties which, Martin claims, further reduced the desirability of his property for commercial use.

Martin advances also, but seems not to press, the argument that because the rezoning of his property is a "zoning up" from commercial to residential use the mistake-change rule does not apply. By imposing additional and more stringent restrictions on his property the police power, he says, his been exercised for the benefit rather than the detriment of the neighbors and since the property has been "zoned up" the change quent to be upheld without evidence of any change in conditions, citing Metropolitan Homes, Inc. v. Town Plan & Zoning Comm'n, 152 Conn. 7, 202 A. 2d 241, 243 (1964).

We considered this proposition in Board of Zoning Appeals v. Bailey, 216 Md. 536, 141 A. 2d 502 (1958). Judge Horney, for the Court,

"In Maryland there seems to be no distinction between 'rezoning up' and 'rezoning down.' See Note, 13 Md. L. Rev. 242 (1953). Apparently the same rules with respect to rezoning are applicable regardless of whether the reclassift-cation is to a 'higher' or a Tower' use. In Northwest Merchants Terminal v. O'Rourke, 191 Md. 171, 50 A. 23 743 (1981), Kracke v. Weinberg, 197 Md. 339, 79 A. 23 387 (1991), and Bruning Bros. v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore, 199 Md. 502, 57 A. 23 589 (1952), the issue was the validity of a rezoning ordinance classifying land 'upward,' that is, from commercial to residential. The same standards were applied as in the 'rezoning downward cases. In the O'Rourke and Kracke cases the ordinance was held invalid. In the Bruning case It was held valid. It should be pointed out, however,

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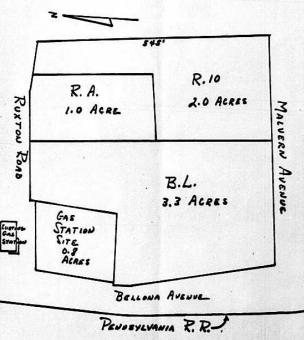
¹ Joseph J. Martin and Kathryn F. Martin, his wife, acquired the property in June 1961.

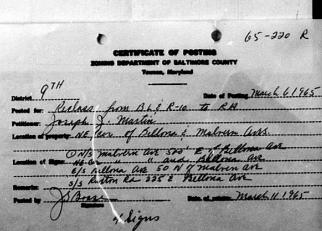
that in all of those cases it was the property owners within the commercial zone who were protecting the 'rezoning upward.' In the O'Rourke case, for instance, the property owner complained that its land was suitable only for commercial use and that it would be unconstitutional to deprive it of this use by rezoning the land residential. The specific question as to whether the same rules must invariably be applied in a 'rezoning up' as are normally applied in a 'rezoning down' was not before us in the O'Rourke, Kracke and Bruning cases. Nor is the question squarely before us in that case, and we leave it open." Id. at 541-42.

We shall continue to " eave it open" because, while the question is more nearly "squarely before us" in the case at bar than it was in Bailey, we need not consider it since, in our judgment, the action of the Board was not arbitrary, unreasonable nor capricious. The record reveals evidence sufficiently substantial to support its findings and we cannot say the reclassification was not fairly debatable. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Brown v. Wimpress, 250 Md. 200, 242 A. 2d 157 (1968); France v. Shapiro, 248 Md. 335, 236 A. 2d 726 (1968); Beth Tfiloh Congregation v. Blum, 242 Md. 84, 218 A. 2d 29 (1966).

JUDGMENT AFFIRMED.

COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANTS.





RE: PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION om R-10 and B-L zones to an

R-A zone, NE corner Bellona Avenue and Malvern Avenue, 9th District Joseph J. Martin,

COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS

OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

No. 65-220-R

OPINION

This case involves an application for rezoning to an R-A classification of roximately six and three-tenths acres which is presently zoned in three separa categories; namely, one acre as R-A, three and three-tenths as B-L, and two acres as R-10. This particular piece of land has quite a history zoning wise, and has been before the zoning authorities and the Courts on previous occasions.

The tract is roughly rectangular and fronts on Bellona Avenue in the Ninth District of Baltimore County running between Malvern Avenue and Ruston Road. approximate width is 550 feet and the depth about 530 feet. The westernmost section of the land, comprising three and three-tenths acres, is and has been for sometime zoned B-L at least since the adoption of the Ninth District zoning map on November 14, 1955. Behind this area and abutting on Ruxton Road is one acre which is zoned R-A, and an irregular "L" shaped tract running between Malvern Avenue and Ruxton Road around two sides of the R-A zone, which tract is approximately two acres and is zoned R-10. An unusual feature of this case is that the owner proposes to construct apart nents on the tract which he already has the right to do under the present zoning regulations, on both the R-A area and the B-L area which abuts it, and could use the R-10 area for a parking space for the apartment development if placed upon the property as it is presently zoned. There is some different of opinion, but it appears that under the present zoning the developer could construct apartments containing some sixty-nine to seventy-eight units on the land as is, however, his plat plan filed with the case (Petitioner's Exhibit *1) shows a site plan including the entire tract with more than sufficient parking spaces as required by law, using the entire area, and providing for a total of one hundred and one apartment units, so that the actua dispute between the petitioner and the protestants involves nothing more than whether or not the developer should be allowed to construct apartment houses with one hundred and one units rather than the allowed number under present zoning, which would be an actual difference of only twenty to thirty units.

At the time of the adoption of the zoning map in November, 1955, Bella Avenue was, in spite of its width and curving lines and contours, a major arterial highway used to a great extent by traffic north and south, between Baltimore and points north of the subject property, including Riderwood, Lutherville, and a large part of Baltimore County

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North of that area. The traffic was extremely heavy at that time and was very probably close to overburdening the capacity of the roadway. In 1961 the reconstruction and relocation of Charles Street was completed to the Baltimore County Beltway, and the Jones Falls Expressway was completed in 1962, which construction removed almost all of the through traffic from Bellona Avenue, and it now has become only a feeder road. The State Roads Commission's traffic counts for 1964 at Bellona Avenue near Charles Street show an average daily count of 3,750, and for 1965 a count of 3,800. Mr. Joseph D. Thompson, a traffic expert testifying for the petitioner, indicated that his counts, made during 1966, showed a daily average total of 3,420 cars at the site, and Mr. Justin Risa, a traffic expert testifying for the protestants, expressed the opinion that, according to his traffic counts, the average daily traffic was 3,520 cars per day at the site. Thompson's opinion the construction of the proposed apartments would have a minimal effec and would create no congestion whatever because the present daily traffic on the road is for below capacity. The traffic counts on Malvern Avenue and Ruston Road are so small as to make no appreciable difference to the situation. Mr. Risa gareed with Mr. Thoma son's facts but feared that the extra traffic generated by the proposed apartments, or for not matter any use of this land, might lead to hazardous conditions at the intersections secause of the narrowness of Malvern Avenue, and the sight distance from it to the south along Bellona. However, on cross-examination it was brought out in his testimony that the construction of a shapping center, in fact any B-L use, would probably generate more traffic than the proposed apartments. Therefore, the Board finds, as a fact, that if the proposed use were granted and the entire layout, entrances and exits, were prepared subject to approval by the proper authorities, there would be no problem arising from traffic which would warrant any objection to the application for the proposed use.

There have been a great number of changes in the neighborhood since the adoption of the zoning map in 1955 in addition to those connected with traffic as stated above and which are not to be disregarded because the severe drop off in through traffic past the site since the adoption of the map, due to the construction of other highways, as stated above, has made the B-L portion of this land, if not useless, at least undesirable fo a site for any feasible B-L use. It was testified that at the time of the original zoning, the Acme Stores had an option on the property to construct a store or shopping center which they abandoned, and the property has now remained vacant with its B-L zoning for ten years with no takers for commercial use. It may or may not have been an error for the zoning authorities not to have foreseen these conditions at the time the map was adopted, and there has been an expansion of commercial facilities in the neighborhood to take care of neighborhood needs for many years. It may also have been error for the zoning autho ties not to have foreseen a subsequent increase for demand of apartment use in residential districts in 1955, and there is presently practically no provision for rental housing in the

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ad area. This was testified to by a number of the wit itioner. Particularly to be noted is the testimony of Mr. George E. Gavrelis, rector of Planning for Baltimore County, who stated that there had been no reali the ancoming need for apartment use in the early 1950's. The comments of his staff, whi vere read into the record by him, state that rezoning generally, as proposed by the petitioner, would appear to be logical for the following reasons:

- Because of its proximity to commercial development as well as to cottage development, use of the parcel for apartments would appear to be appropriately transition
- Recent expansion of nearby commercial facilities has probably been adequate to serve present local needs and the needs of residents of the proposed apartments. Therefore, the present 8.L. zoning of the subject parcel is probably excessive
- c. There is only a limited amount of rental housing in the Ruxton-Riderwood area. In view of trends throughout the metropolition area, there would appear to be some degree of need for apartments here. There is doubt in our minds that the recent apartment development across Bellona Avenue has fully satisfied this need

Other testimony in this respect was that of Mr. Frederick P. Klaus, a qualified realtor and appraiser, who listed certain changes which have been made in the neighborhood since 1955, mostly in connection with some changes in the use and accupar of the roadside business development immediately north of the property, and concerning th ction of a few apartments on the site of the old Ruxton Railroad Station, and the changes in the road patterns. It was his opinion that the proposed use of the subject property would appreciate the surrounding properties and would be a much more appropriate use than the commercial zoning which, in his opinion, would hurt nearby property. He felt that the difference between the number of apartments which could be constructed under th present zoning and those proposed would be minimal, and would allow for a much more itisfactory development of the property, both from an aesthetic standpoint and with resp to its impact on the values of neighboring properties.

Mr. Bernard Willemain, an experienced expert planner, testified that he had been familiar, not only with the property in its present state, but with its previous history. He cited the Acme Store contract under which excavation was started and the the whole project abandoned; the opening of Charles Street in 1961; the Jones Falls Expressway completion in 1962; and brought out the fact that a piece of this tract had been zoned as R-A in April of 1945: that the 1955 map had removed the R-A zoning. the Circuit Court for Baltimore County (Gontrum, Judge) ordered a return to R-A on October 19, 1959 which, in itself, constitutes a change since the adoption of the 1955

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planning calls for a variety of rental types.

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He stated that the zoning authorities recognized what they thought was a need for ditional commercial zoning in 1955 and 1956 which, at this time, is no longer wanted cause of the changes in the traffic pattern, and that the present B-L zoning makes the rea useless for development as a retail area in any manner harmonious with the neighbor hood. He further pointed out that there has been sewer qualibility since the mon war adopted, and that the trend for apartments in this area has continued since 1959 although tence was not recognized in 1955. It was his opinion that the present zoning deprive the owner of a reasonable use of his property; that rezoning the entire property to R-A is a nable solution; and the apartments would not have any adverse effect on the com ity or adjoining properties. He pointed out that the presence of R-10 next to B-L was able, and that the R-A would be a transitional zoning, stating that good land

The Zoning Commissioner who denied the application, according to his did so because he felt that the present zoning of R-A and B-L on the tract could l used for apartments, and that the R-10 might be approved for a parking lot adjacent thereto Under the proposed use, as shown by the plats presented in evidence, the Board feels the use of the entire tract, as planned, would be much more advantageous to the neighborhoo than the present zoning, and in the words of Mr. Gavrelis "would appear to be logical". Incidentally, the proposed plat, as approved by the Baltimore County Engineering Department, would require the widening of both Malvern Avenue and Ruxton Road, as well as Bellana Avenue which, in itself would be an alleviating influence on any traffic problem which might exist, although we do not find, as a fact, that there is ar would be a serious traffic problem as a result of this application as appased to use which might be made of the property under its present zoning. There is no serious dispute as to the availability of utilities, sewer and water, and we have been unable to find anything in the testimony of the protestants to support a decision adverse to the petitioner. The main trend of the stimony was that they would prefer to have this property remain in its preser cant condition, and feel that any use of this land, of any nature or description, would affect some change in the character of the neighborhood which they describe as "bucolic" ears and specifically since 1955, the time of the adoption of the zoning map. unity is taken as the entire area of the Ninth District zoning es have been phenominal during this period. If the area in which changes have ed is the area within a half mile radius of the subject property, the changes have als mercial area in the neighborhood of Bellons and Buxton Roads, the construction of the ats on the site of the old railmod station, and the changes in traffic patte

This is a case, as in many others, where it is difficult to d the facts whether there has been error in the original zoning, or substantial change in the



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Joseph J. Martin - #65-220-R

ter of the neighborhood, or both. The error, if any, would be based mainly upon the llure of the original zoning authority to foresee or expect the changes which have occurre which have made the present zoning obsolete under any view taken of proper zoning under sent conditions. However, even if there were no error the Board finds that the change in traffic, land use, population, and furnishing of utilities, is sufficient almost to require oning, and certainly sufficient to support rezoning. We feel that our decision icts is buttressed by the obvious fact that this land has remained in its present B-L classification for over ten years with no takers for commercial use, and that the logical rezoning a the odd shaped piece of R-10, which could hardly be used for the construction of homes nder that classification, would be the best possible use from any standpoint of planning or penefit to the community. One alternative, of course, possibly could be to leave the Bzone as is and grant a change to R-A on the R-10 tract. The Board has considered this and ecided that it would be to the greater interest of the community to maintain the entire trac for residential purposes, and the petition for change to R-A of the entire area will, therefore, be granted.

ORDER

For the reasons set forth in the aforegoing Opinion, it is this 21st day of December, 1966 by the County Board of Appeals, OR DERED that the reclassification etitioned for he and the same is hereby GRANTED.

Any appeal from this decision must be in accordance with Chapter 1100, subtitle B of Maryland Rules of Procedure, 1961 edition.

COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

CERTIFICATE OF POSTS Date of Prome May 1 1965 Posted for applial of Martin et al.

Location of property. NE Core Bullions & malrim aved. costion of Se N/Smalrem are 502 of Rellma an @ e/s Belona ave 100' N of Walsom are Date of return May 6 1965

PETITION FOR ZONING RE-CLASSIFICATION TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY: County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof. MA to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County, from zm. P.-L. and R-10_zones...... xmm to _zone; for the following reasons: The Character of the area RA has changed since the existing zoning classification was established, (2) there an error made in establishing the existing zoning classification, (3) the proper use 2/4/65 of the property, which is the subject of this petition, is not reflected in the present (NW-108) zoning classification, but an R-A zone is proper. See Attached Descriptio Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations. I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above re-classification and/or Special Exception advertising, ting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning ulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law for Baltimore Joseph Martin Martin Address 2234 Monocacy Road Baltimore, Maryland 21221 Emel Colle Protestant's Attorney ess 6732 Holabird Avenue, (22) oner of Baltimore County, this______l2.th_____day ORDERED By The Zoning Co ... 196 _ 5, that the subject matter of this petition be advertised, as required by the Zoning Law of Baltimore County, in two newspapers of general circulation throughore County, that property be posted, and that the public hearing be had before the Zoning r of Baltimore County in Room 106, County Office Building in Towson, Baltin JAN 12 '65 AM day of February , 1965 , at 1:00 o'clock County, on the_____17tb_

(13) THE OF PURSUES & ZUMBE P.M

> RE: PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION From B-L and R-10 Zones to R-AZone - NE/Cor. Bellona & Mal-s: vern Aves., 9th District -Jos. L. Martin and Kathryn L. : Martin, his wife, Petitioners BEFORE ZONING COMMISSIONER BALTIMORE COUNTY No. 65-220-R

The petitioners in the above matter asked for a reclassification, from B-L and R-10 Zones to an R-A Zone of property at the northeast corner of Bellona and Malvern Avenues, in the Ninth District of Baltimore County, claiming an error in the Baltimore County zoning classification.

This could scarcely be so as the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, Section 230.1 reads as follows:

"Uses permitted and as limited in residential zone immediately adjoining".

The owner of the property owns the land immediately adjoining the R-A Zone, which is now zoned Business Local. There is nothing to prohibit the petitioner from using Business Local land for apartment use. The property currently zoned R-10 may be approved by the Director of the Office of Planning for parking in conjunction

For the above reasons the reclassification should

It is this Blad day of March, 1965, by the Zonin Commissioner of Baltimore County, ORDERED that the above reclassification be and the same is hereby DENIED and that the above described property o

Reid "/14/47

ORDER AND PETITION FOR APPEAL

G. Leiper Carey and J. V. Middendoor, Appellants, by and C. Hurray, their attorney, hereby appeal from the Order and decision rendered by the County Board of Appeals of Baltines rty on Docember 21, 1968; in a proceeding before it entitled "Fotition for Re-classification from R-10 and S. L. somes to an R. A. sone, H. E. Corner Bellone Avenue and Helvern Ave District, Joseph J. Martin, Potitioner", said proceeding also being known as Zoring Case No. 65-270-E before the said Com

The seld Appellants, pursuent to Maryland Rule 9-7 Join with this Order for Appeal their Petition setting forth the action appealed from, the error countried by the County Beard of Appeals and the relief sought, all as follows:

1. The action appealed from in the order and opinion and the County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County Cheroafter od to as the Seard) in Sening Case So. 45-270-2 before Board which Order and opinion under date of hoombor 11, 1968. ted a re-classification of the property therein des from an R-10 and D. L. sense to an R. A. saning electific

0 IN THE G. MEPER CARRY AND CIRCUIT COURT I. W. MIDDENDORF FOR VS. WILLIAM S. BALDWIN. BALTIMORE COUNTY W. GILES PREER and JOHN A. SLOVIK, being and constituting the COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, AT LAW MARYLAND JOSEPH J. MARTIN KATHRYN F. MARTIN 3678/8/160

This is an appeal on behalf of protestants from the grant of an"RA" norting reclassification. It is perhaps the semi-final battle in the long series of skirmishes that have marked the campaign for soning classifications affecting the property bordered by Malvern and Bollons Avenues and Ructos Road. (The northeast corner of Ruston Road and Bellone Avenue excepted). The 6.329 acres of land presently are a hodge-podge of soning classifications, namely: 1 acres 24 2 acros R-16; 3.329 acros BL. McReo v. Raltimoro County, 221 Md. 312, decided in January, 1960, furnishes a history and description of the BL portion of the subject tract. That case upheld the BL reclassification of part of the

property but that coming never was utilized in the intervening years.

MEMORANDUM OFFICEN

It is maintained that there have been both physical and economic changes affecting the property. The record supports the contention. Reclassification to RA and actual construction of apartment buildings have occurred nearby on the site of the former Ruston Rullroad Station. The interaction of newly opened highways and enlargement of the nearby Harrington commercial complex have altered the formerly anticipated need for commercial use of the property. Countervailing contentions by the protestants also are made, also buttressed by impressive

I. The said Board committed error in the following

see upon viewing the whole reased before the Box

(4) That the Board erred in the admission testin

(f) That the action of the Board in greating such posing sciffication assumes to spot soming and is not in ass

(g) That there is no evidence legally sufficient to ablish any error in the sening existing on said pro-

(h) That the evidence was logally insufficient to such change of conditions or change in the neight or basis upon which reclassification would be wer

(1) And for other and further reasons to be presented at

2. That the relief sought in this case is the revercel of the Order and Opinion of said board in said prosending.

METORS, the Appellants pray that the action of the rd herein escended from may be reversed.

evidence. Under such conditions, the resolution of the dispute is for the County Board of Appeals not for the Courts.

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The objection that traffic generated by apartment use would create highway hazaris fells with the factually supported observation of the Board of Appeals that use of the properly authorized under existing seeing would generate more traffle than the proposed change.

Suggested difficulty with sewer connections also was raised as a ground for reversal. Such difficulty, if it in fact exists, would prohibit equally, actual use of the property, under present or proposed classifications

Since it appears clearly from the record that there was substantial evidence of change in the area; that there was substantial evidence of an unsatisfied need for apartment zoning in the area, and that there was substantial evidence that the subject property was a suitable site to provide for that need, it is clear that the issue of reclassification must be left to the expertise of the Board for decision.

W. ALBERT MENCHINE, Judge

The decision of the Board of Appeals is affirmed.

November 13, 1867

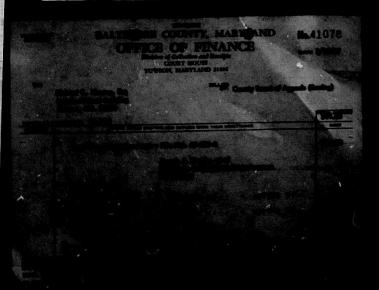
I CHITIFF, that a copy of the afer tion for Appeal was surved upon the County Seare of Ap tany of said Board at the office of said Board this . 1967.

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inning for the same at the end of the first line of the second arcel of land as described in a deed from John McC. Membray, Assignee, to Joseph &. Martin dated June 9, 1961 and recorded among the Land Records of re County in Liber W.J.R. 3851, Folio 349 said point of beginning being also on the centerline of Malvern Avenue, running thence binding reely am all of the said first line of the second parcel and running with and binding on part of the fifth line of the first parcel of land in the above described deed and also binding on the centerline of said Malvern Avenue South 81 degrees 06 minutes 34 seconds West 237.00 feet, thence leaving said Malvers Avenue and running for lines of division the three following courses and distances vis: first. North 8 degrees 53 minutes 25 seconds West 274.82 feet: second. North 80 degrees 39 minutes 10 second East 155.81 feet, and third, North 9 degrees 20 minutes 50 seconds West 280 00 feet to intersect the third line of the third parcel of land in the above described deed at a distance of 79.77 feet from the beginning thereof themes reversely on part of the said third line of the third parcel of land and in the bed of Ruxton Read North 88 degrees 36 minutes 00 seconds East 79.77 feet, thence leaving said Ruxton Road and binding reversely on the second line of the said third parcel of land and binding reversely on the second line of the second parcel of land South 9 degrees 20 minutes 50 second Containing 1.991 Acres of land more or less.

Being parts of the first, second and third parcels of land as described in a doed from John McC. Mowbray, Assignee, to Joseph J. Martin dated June 9, 1961 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber 3881,





IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR SECLASSIFICATION OF JOSEPH J. MARTIN, his wife, NATHRYN F. MARTIN, his wife, R-A ZONE - NE/COR. BELLONA & MALVERN AVES., 9TH DISTRICT

BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF

NO. 65-220-R

11111111 ORDER OF APPEAL

MR. CODDISSIONER:

Please enter an appeal in the above-mentioned case from the Order of Denial passed on the 31st day of March, 1965.

> T. Bayard Williams, Jr., Attorney for Petitioners 6732 Holabird Avenue Dundalk, Maryland 21222 ATwater 2-3450

MICROFILMED

T. SATARD WILLIAMS, JACK M. WILLIAMS

Petitions #65-219-X and #65-220-R (continued)

- Because of its proximity to commercial development as well as to cottage development, use of the parcel for apartments would appear to be appro-priately transitional.
- Recent expansion of nearby commercial facilities has probably been adequate to serve present local needs and the needs of residents of the proposed apartments. Therefore, the present B.L. zoning of the subject parcel is probably excessive.
- There is only a limited amount of rental housing in the Ruxton-Riderwood area. In view of trends throughout the metropolition area, there would appear to be some degree of need for apartments here. There is doubt in our minds that the recent apartment development across Bellona Avenue has fully satisfied this
- With regard to the Special Exception for the filling station, we feel strongly that every effort must be made by the County, the petitioner and the future owner of the station to make the use harmonize with surrounding development if the special exception is to be granted. Particular care will be required to insure that no more of the overall parcel is devoted to this use than is necessary, that all activities which can be conducted enclosed within the building will be kept inside, and that truly adequate landscaping and screen planting will be used. Grading and access points also must be clarified.
- In view of the above, it is requested that a decision on these petitions be postponed until the various problems noted are solved, and also until approval has been secured from all appropriate State and County agencies.

MICROFILMED

G. LEIPER CAREY, J. W. MIDDENDORF

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

WILLIAM S. BALDWIN, et al., being and constitut the County Beard of Appea of Baltimore County and

VS

JOSEPH J. MARTIN and KATHRYN MARTIN

ORDER FOR APPEAL

Mr. Clerk

peal in the above entitled case to the Court of

Richard C. Murray Atterney for G. Leiper Carey and J. W. Middendorf

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that a copy of the aforegoing Order for Appeal was mailed this day of December, 1967, to the County Board of Appeals, ard Williams, Jr., Esquire 6732 Helabird Avenue, Balti Maryland, m 21202, Attorneys for Joseph J. Martin and Kathryn Martin.

Richard C. Murre

Bed dinialis

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My 18, 1965

BALTIMORE COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZGHING COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

land 21222

524.3-6 Reclarationtian From BL and Rado Zame to RA SUBJECT: Zame for Joseph Ja Harda Leanted on the RA of Bellane Are between Malvern and Raytes Rad, 9th Districts the subject petition

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The Zoning Advisory Committee has reviewed NW- 98 KW-108/

STATE ROLDS CONCENTUM: The entrance off Bullens Avenue as indicated is subject to a change of leastiem. This entrance was approved on a province preliminary plan which proposed the development of this property for a shopping center.

Site distance to this treat as it now exists is considerably poor constituting the grades along the freshape of Bullens Avenue, this condition can only be aliminated by the proposed re-alignment and construction of Bullens Avenue as indicated on the potitioners plans.

PTER BUREAU-Plane reviews See attached communic.

THAPPIC HODESETHE: This bureau will make an on-mite inspection and reduct communits at a later date.

Albert Quisby-Office of Planning & Zoning John Duery-State Roads Constacton Lt., Charles F., Norris-Fire Bureau C. F., Hoore-Traffic Engineering

Yours very truly,

JAMES E. DYER

SELECTION OF F

DESCRIPTION OF PART OF this LEGISLATIVE OF LEGISLATIVE in L . MARTIN in L . TO Be REZUNES FROM B-L to P-A

Beginning for the seas described in a deed from dated June 9, 1951 and rece in Liber W.J.R. 3851, Foliformed by the intersection centerline of Malvern Avenu Bellung Avenue and binding

the beginning of the first parces of land McC. Hombray, Assignee, to Joseph J. Martin mong the lend records of Saltimore County NW. aid point of beginning being at the point // ... centerline of Bellona Avenue with the running thence binding in the bed of soid of the first line and part of the second

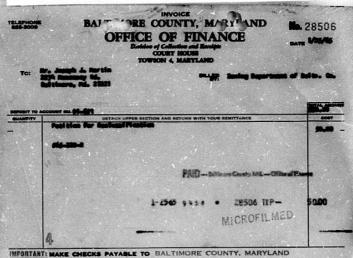
lips of the said first parce, or land the two following courses and distances vis: first, North 15 degrees 38 minutes 26 seconds Vest 346.50 feet and second, North 6 degrees 23 minutes 26 seconds West 30.06 feet, thence leaving the bed of said Bellons Avenue and running for lines of division the two following courses and distances viz: first, North 85 degrees 35 migutes 35 seconds East 160,18 feet and second, North O degrees 39 winutes 45 seconds East 207.57 feet to intersect the fifth line of the third parcel of land in the above described deed at a distance of 163.91 feet from the beginning of said fifth line, running thence binding reversely on part of the said fifth line and in the bed of Buxton Road North H2 degrees 06 sinutes 60 seconds Kest 135.30 feet, thence leaving the bed of Ruxton Road and running for a line of division South 8 degrees 53 minutes 26 seconds East 363.97 feet to intersect the fifth line of the said first parcel of land at a distance of 290.00 feet from the end of said fifth line and also to intersect the centerline of said Malvern Avenue running thence binding on part of the said fifth lime of the first parcel of land and binding also on the centerline of said the place of beginning.

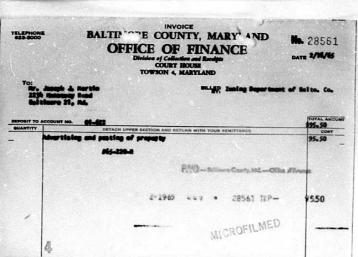
Containing 3,323 Acres of land more or less.

Being part of the first and part of the third parcels of land as described in a deed from John McC. Mowbray, Assignee, to Joseph J. Martin dated June 9, 1961 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.J.R. 3851, Folio 349,

DONALD L. Benner Reg. No. 5423

MICROFILMED





IMPORTANTI MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND MAIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, COURT HOUSE, TOWSO PLEASE RETURN UPPER SECTION OF THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING Inter -Office Correspondence

Date_ Feb. 5, 1965

To: Mr. John G. Rose, Zoning Commissioner From: George E. Govrelis, Director

Subject: #65-219-X - Petition for a Special Exception for a Filling Station - Southeast comer of Bellona Avenue and Ruxton Road

and

#65-220-R - Patition for Reclassification from R-10 and B-L. Zones to R.A. Zone. Northeast comer of Bellons and Malvern Avenues Being the property of Joseph J. Martin and Kathryn Martin. 9th DISTRICT

HEARING: Wednesday, February 17, 1965 at 1:00 P. M.

ning staff of the Office of Planning and Zoning has reviewed the subject petitions and offers wing advisory comments regarding planning factors:

The subject properties are part of a single large parcel. Carrying out the proposals here would con-stitute a subdivision of the land. This office would require that the plans be submitted for subdivision sing and approval.

After preliminary review, we are not convinced that the present plans are entirely satisfactory. There are particular questions regarding the adequacy of present Malvern Avenue to serve any partien of the apartment development and the possibility of widening Malvern while at the same time retaining as many as possible of the tress that now enhance it. Another question relates to the grading of the property; here the staff's principal concern with the plan is the fact that the easterly boundary of the property; here the staff's principal concern with the plan is the fact that the easterly boundary of the property; here the staff's principal concern with the plan is the fact that the easterly boundary of in such a way as to deny the westernment house across Ruxton Road the effect of terrain screening. There are further questions regarding internal circulation. There would appear to be good reason for providing access between the filling station and the apartment development, if such access can be worked out gradewise.

It is proposed to put 101 units on the property and six buildings covering about 37,200 sq. ft. Placing this number of units in buildings of such little coverage poses design problems requiring the submission of more detailed information regarding site planning factors before the stoff could recommend approval of the plan.

Present zoning of the parcel is R.A., R-10 and B.L. That part of the B.L. Zone which adjoins the R.A. Zone would permit apartments. Rezoning generally as proposed by the petitioner would appear to be logical for the following reasons:

MICROFILMED

BAL ORE COUNTY, MA AND No. 30581 OFFICE OF FINANCE PART - Settlement County and - Colored Plan 5-1365 stat . 30581 HP-0.00 MICROFILMED IMPORTANT: MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

MAIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, COURT HOUSE, TOWSON 4, MARYLAND
PLEASE RETURN UPPER SECTION OF THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE BAL P DEE COUNTY, MANY AND Ma. 28654 OFFICE OF FINANCE

TURN WITH YOUR REMITTANCE PAID - School Courty Mid. - Citise of Fin 3-2960 2508 . 28654 TIP-- MICROFILMED

IMPORTANT: MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND MAIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, COURT HOUSE, TOWSON 4, MARYLAND PLEASE RETURN UPPER SECTION OF THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE. ZONING PETITION NO. 65-202-R
Petition of JOSEPH D. MARTIN, et al
Bellona and Malvern Avenues

* BEFORE THE COUNTY BOARD OF

MCMORANDUM ON BEHALF OF PROTESTANTS

This Memorandum is submitted pursuant to leave of the Board at the conclusion of the testimony in the above matter. It is the intention of this Memorandum to outline first, certain general statements concerning the application, secondly, the history of this property, third, a summary of the evidence and finally a discussion of the legal principles involved.

IN GENERAL

The property here involved, hereinafter referred to as the subject property, binds upon the east side of Bellona Avenue, the north side of Malvern Avenue, the south side of Ruxton Road and is bounded on the east by the property of Mr. J. W. Middendorf, one of the Protestants. The subject property, as illustrated by Petitioner's Exhibit No. 1, is said to consist of a gross acreage of 6.329 acres. The entire ownership is, however, somewhat considerably larger since there is carved out of this application the southeast corner of Ruxton Road and Bellona Avenue. This corner is admittedly in the same ownership but is the subject of an additional application for a Special Exception for a gasoline service station presently pending but unscheduled before the Board.

Of the 6.329 acres here involved it was testified that the Bellona Avenue frontage of the subject property is zoned B. L. for a depth of 300 feet and consists of approximately 3.38 acres, that going easterly there is a 1.0 acre parcel zoned R. A. fronting on Ruxton Road and that continuing further to the east and to the south there is a "pan handle" of 2.0 acres zoned as R-10.

The Board's attention is again called to the southwest corner of Ruxton Road and Bellona Avenue where there is pending the application for a Special Exception on a portion of this same

STATEMENT OF FACTS

It is convenient, with this background in mind, to consider in some detail the testimony presented by the Applicants in this proceeding. The first of those was Hr. Joseph S. Keelty, who, over objection, was permitted generally to identify the proposed construction plan as set forth in Petitioner's Exhibit No. 1 and as was explained by him before the Board. The Protestants still insist that any testimony as to projected plans is inadmissible but, having been overruled by the Board, must consider the same. In substance Hr. Keelty referred to the possible construction of six three-story apartment buildings housing a total of 101 apartment units, 18 parking spaces for which would enter directly upon Malvern Avenue and the remainder of which would presumably use a so-called main entrance onto Bellona Avenue.

The next witness was Mr. Donald L. Brown, a surveyor in the employ of Mr. Keelty's company. Mr. Brown was likewise permitted, again over objection, to testify as to general plans which the Board recognized were not binding upon the Applicant. Its submitting that the only factual testimony of Mr. Brown is that Bellona Avenue has 20 feet of paving, that Malvern is only 17 feet wide and that Ruxton Road is only 18 feet wide. Even assuming that changes in road width or construction were admissible, twhich the Protestants likewise deny, it is nonetheless seen that any widening would occur solely along the perimeter of the Applicant's property In other words, no general plans for any major road improvements feasible of completion with reasonable certainty were presented. It must in fairness be noted that Mr. Brown did testify to some limitation on sewer capacity in 1955 and 1956. Against this vague characterization, there must be measured the effect of his admission that he had no idea and made no study of sewer capacity in 1955 and 1955 or indeed at the present time. With respect to water facilities, he readily admitted that he made no study for the

tract for a gasoline service station. This application is known as Zoning Case No. 65-219-X and according to the records before this Board, of which notice should be taken, comprises 0.813 acres.

Still by way of general background, the subject property is presently owned by Joseph J. Martin and under contract with respect to the instant application to James Keelty and Company. There is also an outstanding contract on the above mentioned southeast corner of Ruxton Road and Bellona Avenue to the Texas Company. Hr. Keelty testified basically, that his contract was entirely contingent upon the rezoning here requested and additionally, that he had the option to acquire the southeast corner of Ruxton Road and Bellona Avenue in the event that the Texas Company application for a Special Exception should be denied. To use Mr. Keelty's own terms, he had "the opportunity but not the obligation" to acquire that corner if its use was precluded for a gas station.

The Martin property likewise is in what is generally known as the Ruxton area of Baltimore County. At present it is unimproved except for an old residence situate on the property and which all witnesses stated to be located within the existing R. A. portion of the tract. The land falls generally from the common or Middendorf boundary line toward Bellona Avenue.

requirements for fire flows but (with particular respect to the present R-10 portion) the fire flow requirements for cottages are far less than those needed for apartment construction. Finally, he admitted that any limitation on utilities in 1955 and 1956 were imposed on the outlying areas which were placed in an R-40 zone, which manifestly did not apply to the present property.

The third witness produced by the Applicant was Mr. George E. Gavrelis, the Director of Planning. The nature and extent of Mr. Gavrelis' testimony is best seen by reviewing his written comments. Although he claimed that apartment zoning might be "logical" the following factors appeared uncontradicted from his written report:

- (a) "We are unconvinced that the present plans are entirely satisfactory."
- (b) Questions exist with respect to proposed grading of the said property.
- (c) Questions exist concerning internal circulation of traffic for the property.
- (d) The proposed 101 apartment units crowded on the proposed land coverage pose "design problems requiring submission of more detailed information."
- (e) "A decision on the petitions [should] be postponed until the various problems noted are solved."

Next, testimony was presented by Mr. Joseph D. Thompson concerning traffic conditions. While the Protestants do not dispute his traffic counts, attention is called to his admissions as to traffic hazards. At the intersection of Malvern with Bellona Avenue there is sight to the south of only 100 feet and to the north of 150 feet. At Runton Road, vision is only 200 feet in each direction. Admittedly, no improvements in front of the subject property can increase sight distance either southerly from Malvern or northerly from Runton Road. The witness admitted that Malvern Avenue is a dangerous intersection. The plans call for 18 units using Malvern as compared to 3 or 4 R-10 lots using it. Contrasted with this, the Protestants/Mr. Risa of the Traffic Division who stated that a minimum safe sight-stopping distance in a 30 mile zone is 275 feet. Mr. Risa also noted a hill crest on Malvern

HISTORY OF SUBJECT PROPERTY

The Applicants' vitnesses identified the property as that involved in McBee v. Baltimore County, 221 Md. 312, decided five and one-half years ago. A review of McBee indicates the property was originally in an A residential zone and, as early as 1947, the then owner sought a commercial classification which was ultimately denied. By virtue of the March 30, 1955 regulations the A residence zone automatically became an R-6 zone. As part of the comprehensive map adopted in late 1955 and finally approved in January 10, 1956, the Bellona Avenue frontage was classified as B. L. (Business local) and the balance of the tract was shown on the map as R-10. The following quotation from McBee demonstrates conclusively that the immediate area has remained unchanged from 1955 to the present:

"The . . property in question, containing about four acres of ground, is located on the east side of Bellona Avenue, in what is known as Ruxton, between its intersections with Malvern Avenue and Ruxton Road. To the east, adjoining the property enclassified, the [Applicant owns] property on which is a substantial residence. Just south of the . . . property and across Bellona Avenue is an Esso gas station. Parallel to Bellona Avenue and to the west thereof is the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Harrisburg. Across the tracks and to the west is the L'Hirondelle Club, with its swimming pool and tennis courts. Immediately to the north of the . . . property, separated by Ruxton Road, is an Amoco gas station; next to it to the north, a building used by a cleaning and dyeing concern; next, the Ruxton Pharmacy, and a blacktop parking area. Facing this area are: the Wilmington Country Store, the Ruxton Hardware Store, a snack shop, a dress shop, and a dentist's office. Immediately to the north, across La Belle Avenue, are: a cleaning establishment, a beauty shop, a bakery store, a liquor store, a grocery store and two small parking areas, one in front of and one to the north of these establishments. Existing parking facilities for the commercial establishments described above are inadequate, there being a deficiency, according to one witness, of from forty to sixty spaces . . " (221 Md. at 314).

The above quotation is virtually identical with the

The above quotation is virtually identical with the description given in this proceeding save for the change in use of several stores.

Avenue approximately 60 feet east of the subject property which obscures vision and objected to any traffic increase on Malvern.

The Applicant's remaining witnesses, Hessrs. Klaus and Willemain, can be considered jointly. Each testified to essentially the same alleged "changes" and gave the same adjectival claim of a "need" for anartments.

Five zoning "changes" were mentioned, two of which were special exceptions which the Board indicated would be given no weight in this proceeding. A third was the R. A. parcel on the subject tract which, as noted, was created as far back as 1945, was inadvertently left off the map but restored by way of mandamus. A fourth was the Harrington classification in File No. 5002. Applicant's witnesses agreed this was simply the adjustment of a zoning line to a lot line and comprised a triangular strip 30 feet wide at one end and tapering to zero at the other. This small strip was the <u>rear</u> of the existing commercial area and by virtue of intervening structures must not even be visible from Mr. Martin's land.

The final zoning case was File No. 5559, being the "Ruxtor Township" located on the far side of the railroad and north of the Ruxton Road bridge. It is now improved by 24 units described by one witness as "townhouses" in appearance rather than spartnents. The photographs demonstrate they are not clearly visible from the subject tract. From the file itself it is apparent that rezoning was granted on the basis that existing improvements would be converted for an office and architectural drawings were presented in that respect. After the use was changed, the Zoning Commissioner wrote on April 4, 1965 ". . I know of no other zoning that has distressed me more." On November 11, 1963, he wrote to the original applicant ". . Under no circumstances would I have granted the zoning if I had not believed what you had said (as to conversion for office use)."

McBee also illustrates the basic nature and purpose of

"The appellants' claim that the action of the County Commissioners was arbitrary seems to be based on a contention that factually and legally it was no more than a rezoning of a single tract. We do not agree. The Commissioners made a comprehensive study and revision of a large portion of the Ninth Election District zoning boundaries, as a part of a larger revision of the maps and uses covering the entire county. Indeed, it would appear that more careful consideration was given in 1956 to future needs, in the light of zoning experience and the marked changes in population, transportation, business and industrial needs, than could possibly have been the case in 1945.

The fact that no changes were made in this particular section other than an extension of a commercial area earmarked in 1945, does not establish that the action taken was piecemeal or spot zoning. . . In short, the County Commissioners were here exercising a plenary power, delegated by the General Assembly, to legislate a new zoning for the whole county. . . When such a new map is adopted, it is entitled to the same presumption that it is correct as is an original zoning." (221 Md. 316,337.)

Between 1945 and the adoption of the new map one other application had been considered on this land. This is recited in Misc. Case Number 2112 in the Circuit Court, admitted in evidence herein. The petition filed <u>under oath</u> therein alleged a reclassification of one acre of the tract to an apartment zone on April 16, 1945. It was alleged that the new zoning map "inadvertantly failed" to include this zone (par. 6 of the petition). The answer of Baltimore County, <u>verified by the Zoning Commissioner</u>, admitted this allegation. The property was subsequently placed on the map pursuant to the issuance of writ of mandamus. All witnesses agreed that this area included the improvements which had been converted for multiple-family use.

No other use or change has occurred on the subject property, except for subsequently vacating the improvements. No change has occurred on any adjacent streets save for the construction of four homes on Malvern Avenue in accordance with the R-16 regulations. Indeed, two photographs from the record in McBee were introduced which depict the identical scene today on Ruxton Road and Malvern Avenue as in 1947 saving for the recent R-10 homesites.

The Applicants' planning expert stated that none of the zoning changes have any "compulsive" effect on rezoning in the instant matter.

The remainder of the expert testimony consisted of road changes more than a mile away (Jones Falls Expressway and Burke Avenue) and a claim of need for apartments. As to the latter, no market study was made nor was there even any effort to review census data as to population trends, age categories, earning power or the like. Perhaps of greater importance, neither witness knew or considered apartment vacancies within any given radius of this tract and neither knew or considered the amount of vacant unimproved apartment land available for building.

Without going into detail the Protestants produced testimony to the following effect:

- (a) Traffic conditions in the area are hazardous.
- (b) No changes have occurred except for the modernization of Harrington's and Ruxton Township.
- (c) Ruxton Township, under rental for 1 1/2 years, is one-third to one-half vacant. Ruxton Towers also has vacancies.
- (d) There is no need for additional apartments in the area.
- (e) There is, conversely, a need for further neighborhood shops which could be satisfied here.
- (f) Rezoning here would constitute a major change in Ruxton, directly affect the neighborhood adversely and lead to the threat of a further breakdown in zoning (three or four tracts of similar size were described within a thousand feet of the subject tract).
- (g) B. L. traffic would not coincide with residential peak hours of traffic while apartments traffic would so coincide.

Finally, no claim of confiscation or economic hardship on the part of the owner is claimed. This is demonstrated by the following portion of the Transcript herein:

Q (By Hr. Murray) Now in the event both (applications) were approved, does any part of the purchase price of the Texas Company pass to your company, or does it go directly on to Martin?

MR. SMITH: I object to this.

^{*} It is significant, perhaps, that no evidience was given as to the cost of Mr. Martin's acquisition. Similarly, no testimony is in the record as to the resale prices to Keelty and Texaco.

MR. MURRAY: Unless the applicant wants to stipulate there is no claim of any economic hardship with respect to this property.

MR. BALDWIN: He hasn't claimed that in his case, -unless I misunderstood; in all of counsel's line, I haven't heard anything as to hardship here.

MR. MURRAY: You are making no claim that the present zoning so restricts the use, some reasonable economic use?

MR. SMITH: We are not saying he can't use it.

ARGUMENT

Despite recent comment occasioned by the dissent in McDonald v. Board of County Commissioners, 238 Md. 549, nevertheless the Court of Appeals has consistently adhered to the doctrine that piecemeal rezoning may not be granted except upon a clear showing of original error or a general change in the character of the neighborhood. Likewise, the propriety of the original zoning is still entitled to a strong presumption of correctness and there is a heavy burden upon the proponent of change.

In this case, there seems to be no claim of error.

Indeed, Mr. Gavrelis specifically declined to make any such claim.

In any event the correctness of the existing zoning on the Martin tract is res judicata by virtue of the MoBee case. The doctrine of res judicata has been applied to zoning cases in a variety of contexts. See, for example, Whittle v. Board of Zoning Appeals, 211 Md. 35 and Woodlawn Ass'n v. Board, 241 Md. 187.

This case presents, at most, a rather vague claim of changes in the neighborhood. First, with respect to utilities there was no testimony concerning any change in water lines, althougit must be remembered with respect to the R-10 portion that the Applicant's own engineering witness testified that fire flow requirements would be greater for apartments then for individual homes and he confessed that he made no study along those lines.

Perhaps the most informative cases dealing with the legal sufficiency of evidence of change are those applying the principle of res judicata. This is for the simple reason that to defeat the application of that rule there must be shown a change in conditions between the first and second applications. In Whittle, supra, the property involved was located at 7400 York Road and the intervening "changes" relied upon were:

- Construction of an additional filling station 400 feet south of the property,
- (2) Increased population and, as a result, a "need" for the specific use sought,
- (3) Decreased objection, and
- (4) Attaching additional conditions to the granting of the special exception applied for.

It is significant that with respect to the construction of the filling station only 400 feet away the Court of Appeals observed that this did not "show any <u>substantial</u> change or increase in commercialization between 1949 and 1954." That aspect of the <u>Whittle</u> case was certainly far stronger than the change at Harrington's relied on here.

In <u>Woodlawn Association</u> the Applicant relied, in particular, also on a so-called "need for apartments." It is significant that the Court in rejecting this claim pointed out the "lack of specific testimony in the record as to any greater need in 1963-64 then in 1961-62 and of land already zoned for apartment use and unavailed of." Also in <u>Woodlawn Association</u> the Court rejected as insufficient evidence of "rezoning to commercial of two small road side areas." It was said that these small areas "did not seen to have changed the character of the neighborhood." This observation would likewise apply again to the Harrington application and applies with equal force to the townhouses which for all practical purposes are screened from the subject property and which were not shown to have any effect upon the suitability of its use in accordance with present zoning.

As to sewer capacity the Applicant's planning witness admitted that the property both in 1955 and today could be developed in accordance with its present zoning with the use of septic tanks systems. On the other hand, to develop the entire tract into apartments presumably would require the use of Metropolitan facilities and it was stated that no right-of-way was available to cross the Northem Central Railroad nor is there a construction strip available across the L'Hirondale property. The evidence clearly demonstrates, therefore, a most unusual situation in that the property can be used as now zoned while there is no showing that it can be developed if rezoned!

t is appropriate to recall again the three zoning changes relied upon by the Applicant. One of these, the R. A. existing on the subject property, was demonstrated to be no change at all. It was, indeed, a rectification of an admitted oversight and a confirmation of zoning in existence as far back as 1945.

Much was said of the so-called expansion of the B. L. use at Harrington's. As noted above, this was a strip to the rear of the Harrington complex and merely straightened out zoning boundaries to coincide with lot lines. The file in that case, offered in evidence, also reveals that the area there insolved had also been commercially zoned in 1945 and that the portion under consideration "was inadvertently omitted" from the new map. The effect of this minor adjustment of a boundary is minimal, if not nil. Attention is again called to the quotation from McBee above in which the description given of this area in 1955 is substantially the same today. Moreover, there is no evidence whatever that this insignificant expansion (if it can be called that in view of the 1945 zoning) diminished the need for B. L. uses on the Martin property. There is positive evidence, to the contrary, that the Martin property is usable and adaptable for many B. L. purposes.

In the final analysis, this application is more nearly akin to a request for a variance then anything else. It was shown by the Applicant that the property can presently be used for 81 apartment units, while the requested change is to achieve a higher return by way of constructing 101 units. In substance, this case then is a request for increased density of approximately 20 per cent as expressed by one of the Protestants, if this application is granted, it would make the situation 20 per cent worse and 20 per cent more objectionable. On the other hand there is nothing to show or even suggest that the Applicant cannot proceed to a reasonable use and get a reasonable return from 81 units. Indeed, this would serve the same so-called "need" (if in fact any need does exist), would achieve the same transitional purpose suggested by Mr. Willemain while preserving at the same time the R-10 portion and preventing any change on the zoning map.

Considering the application as analogous to a variance, the following principles are pertinent:

- (a) A change in density will be permitted only on grounds of extraordinary, unnecessary hardship which affects and is peculiar to the property and is not common to the neighborhood. Mayor and City Council v. Polakoff, 233 Hd. 1 and the cases therein cited and reviewed.
- (b) A zoning change to increase density cannot be justified for the sole convenience of the applicant to make it more profitable. Mayor and City Council v. Polakoff, 233 Md. 1.
- (c) Where property is purchased with full knowledge of its zoning classification, an applicant is estopped from claising unnecessary hardship so as to warrant a change in density because his hardship is the result of his own action. Mayor and City Council v. Polakoff, 233 Md. 1. Where one purchases a property with the intention to apply for a variance from the restrictions imposed by the zoning ordinance, he cannot thereafter contend that such restrictions cause his such a peculiar hardship as would entitle him to the special privileges which he seeks. Classon v. Keswick Improvement Association, 197 Md. 35.

In addition to the above, it is submitted that the Applicant's own case demonstrates that the requested rezoning would aggravate the existing hezardous conditions of traffic both

Finally, the Ruxton Township townhouses do not support the change in neighborhood test. It is obvious that these town houses were adapted to a difficult site location not desirable for individual homes. A review of that file, likewise offered in evidence, conclusively demonstrates that the reclassification was predicated on a remodeling of the old station and its conversion to an office. The Zoning Commissioner has gone on record in stating that he would not have granted this zone if he had known the nature of the improvements that were ultimately made. His letter of April 1, 1966, to the Applicant in that proceeding, indicates that the Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association had also been led to believe that the sole purpose of the same was to conver the existing station structure. Laving aside these considerations the fact remains that the townhouses are separated from the subject property by Bellona Avenue, the railroad and the Ruxton Road bridge Indeed, they are not clearly visible from the subject property and cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, affect its use for B. L. purposes. Bearing in mind the premise upon which that zoning was granted, it is well settled that the existence of an ill-advised exception cannot be considered as grounds for granting further exceptions or for repeating the wrong. As said in Easter v. Mayor and City Council, 195 Md. 395, 400: "If that were not so one variation would sustain if it did not compel others, and thus the general regulation would eventually be nullified."

It is submitted that the <u>only</u> conceivable evidence of <u>any</u> change whatsoever in the general Ruxton area is with respect to the Ruxton townhouses, which as noted, were ill-advised, granted on a false premise and which do not affect the subject property. One of the Applicant's own witnesses stated that the townhouses have no "compulsive" effect on rezoning the Martin property.

The balance of the Applicant's case revolves around a general, vague, nebulous claim of a "need". Such generalizations clearly appear to have no weight and no relevance whatever to the

at Malvern Avenue and Ruxton Road. That traffic hazards exist is evidenced from all of the testimony in this case and it is further conceded that apartment traffic would coincide with the peak traffic hours while whatever traffic would be generated from commercial uses would be spread over the remaining hours of the day. These observations apply with even greater force to the R-10 portion which would generate traffic from only three or four residences as opposed to 18 apartment units.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons it is submitted that:

- (1) The Board should deny this application and,
- (2) That it must deny the application because of the evidence produced is legally insufficient to testify piecemeal rezoning.

Respectfully, submitted,

issue of whether there has been in fact a change in the neighborhood with respect to this particular tract. It has already been
noted that no witnesses gave any factual information to support
this claim and no studies were made in connection with it. Such a
claim must be completely rejected for the lack of any factual
foundation given to support it. In <u>Hiller</u> v. <u>Abrahams</u>, 239 Md.
263, 273 the Court of Appeals held an expert's opinion to be of
no greater value "then the soundness of his reasons given therefore.
Here, neither reasons nor facts were given whatsoever.

This case is but another example of a desire to rezone for a more profitable use. The quotation from the transcript set forth above admits that this is not a case of confiscation and furthermore is a concession that the property can be reasonably used under existing zoning. The mere fact that the proposed apartment use would be more profitable is legally insufficient to sustain any change in classification. See: McDonald v. Prince Georges County, 238 Md. 549; Shadynook Improvement Association v. Molloy, 232 Md. 265, 272; Alvey v. Michaels, 231 Md. 22; Rockville v. Cutler, 230 Md. 335; Renz v. Bonfield Holding Co., 223 Md. 34, 43; Hardesty v. Board of Zoning Appeals, 211 Md. 172; Hoffman v. Baltimore, 197 Md. 294.

Beyond any question, there is no substantial evidence in this case of any change in the neighborhood. As has been stated time and again:

"The well-established rule in Maryland is that there is a strong presumption of the correctness of original zoning and of comprehensive rezoning, and that to sustain a piecemeal change therefrom, there must be strong evidence of mistake in the original zoning or in the comprehensive rezoning or else of a substantial change in conditions." Shadynook Improvement Association v. Molloy, 232 Md. 285, 270; Hewitt v. Baltimore County, 720 Md. 48, 57; Trustees of McDonoph, Etc. v. Baltimore County, 221 Md. 550, 580-51; Town of Somerset v. Montgomery County, 229, Md. 42, 48; George F. Becker Co. v. Jerns, 230 Md. 541, 545.

PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION 9th DISTRICT

CALLE & TIME: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1965 at 1:00 P.M.

DATE & TIME: WEDNESDAY, PERRICARY II, 1925 at-100 PUBLIC HEARING: Room 105. Ceparly Office fluiding, 111 W. Chenageake Avenue, 111 W. Chenageake Avenue, 112 W. Chenageake Avenue, 113 W. Chenageake Avenue, 114 W. Chenageake Avenue, 115 Zeolago County, by authority of the Zoning County, will held a public hearing: Present Zoning: R-16 and Preposed Zoning: R-16 and Preposed Zoning: R-16 and Preposed Zoning: R-18 and Heightning, for the same at the sed of the first line of described in a deed from John McC. Mowbray, Assignee, to Joseph J. Morth Gaide June 5, Polia Sta eath point of beginning and the sed of the described in a deed from John McC. Mowbray, Assignee, to Joseph J. Morth Gaide June 5, Polia Sta eath point of beginning the sed of the John Head of Many Land Head of Marker Avenue, rausing themes binding reversely on all of the said first line of what had binding on part of the fifth line of the fifth line of the Hirat line of the on all of the mass the second pose is the second pose in the second pose to the first perceip of the first perceip

ring Date: Wednesday, rusry 17, 1965 at 1:00 Hearing: Room 108, Office Building, 111 napeake Avenue, Tow-ryland.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD. January 28 , 19 65 .

THIS IS TO CERTIFY. That the annexed advertisement was published in THE TIMES, a weekly newspaper printed and published in Bultimore County, Md., once in each of ssive weeks before the

debruary ,19⁵⁵ , the first publication

appearing on the 28th day of January

19 ⁶⁵. THE TIMES. Marta Manager John M. Martin

Cost of Advertisement, \$47.50 Purchase Order A6230 Requisition No. P2606 BAL' PORE COUNTY, MAKY AND

OFFICE OF FINANCE

No. 28653 DATE 3/29/65

H UPPER SECTION AND RETURN WITH YOUR REMA PAID-Misser Com > 2965 2507 . 28653 TIP-550 MICROFILMED

IMPORTANT: MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

MAIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, MAIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, COURT HOUSE, TOWSE PLEASE RETURN UPPER SECTION OF THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE.

BALTIT ORE COUNTY, MARY AND

OFFICE OF FINANCE
Division of Collection and Receipts

28697 4/21/65

irision of Collection and Recei COURT HOUSE TOWSON 4, MARYLAND rd Williams, dray i labird Australia To Haryland 21222

COUNT NO. 01-621 170.00 PAID-MAN 4- 2265 3 8 8 4 . 28697 IIP-7000 MICROFILMED IMPORTANTI MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

AIL TO DIVISION OF COLLECTION & RECEIPTS, PLEASE RETURN UPPER SECTION OF THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE.

T. Beyard Williams, Jr., Esq. 6732 Holabird Ave. Jeltimore, Nd. 21222

January 20, 1965

BALTIMORE COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

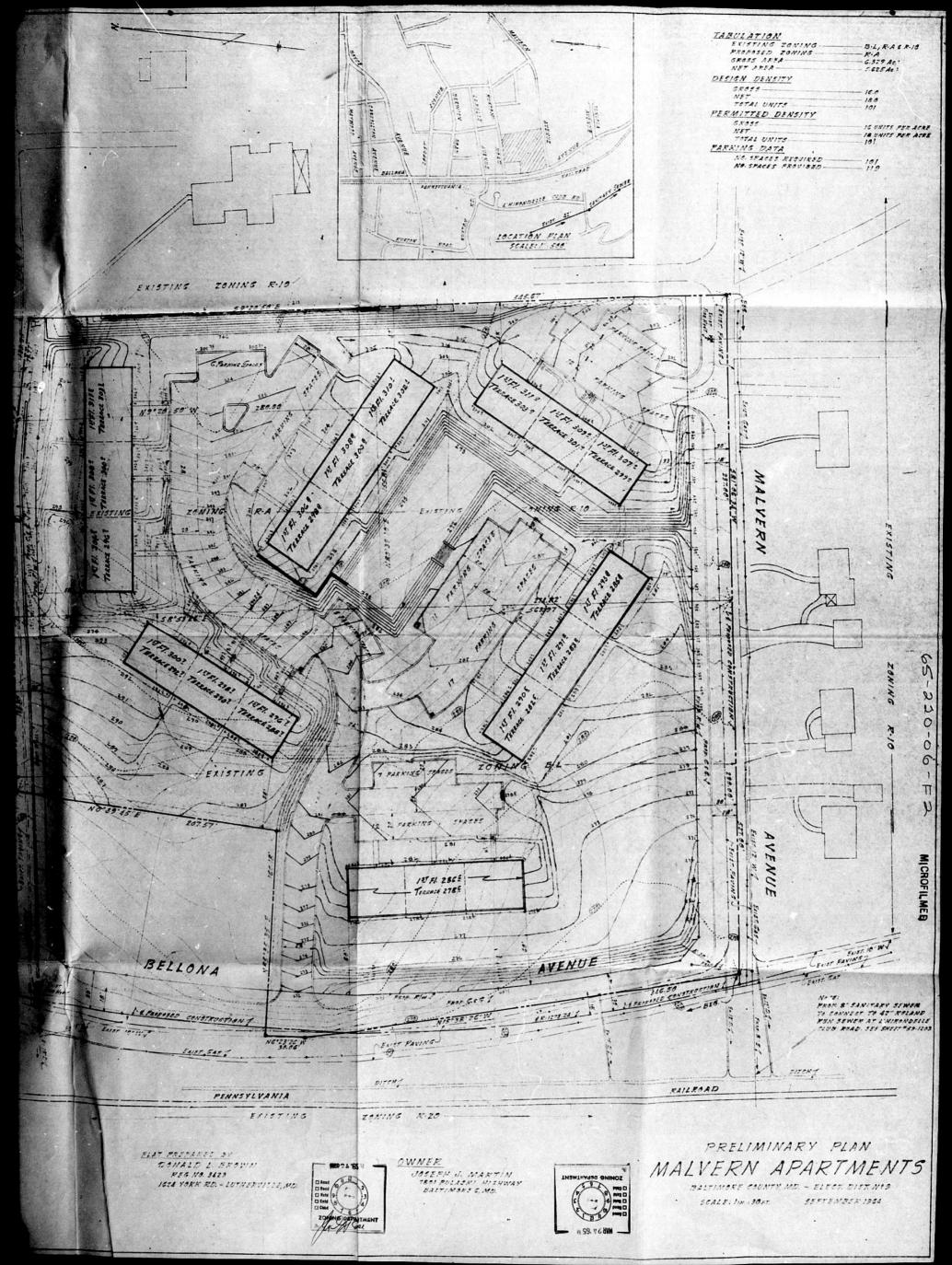
County Office Building 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson 4, Maryland

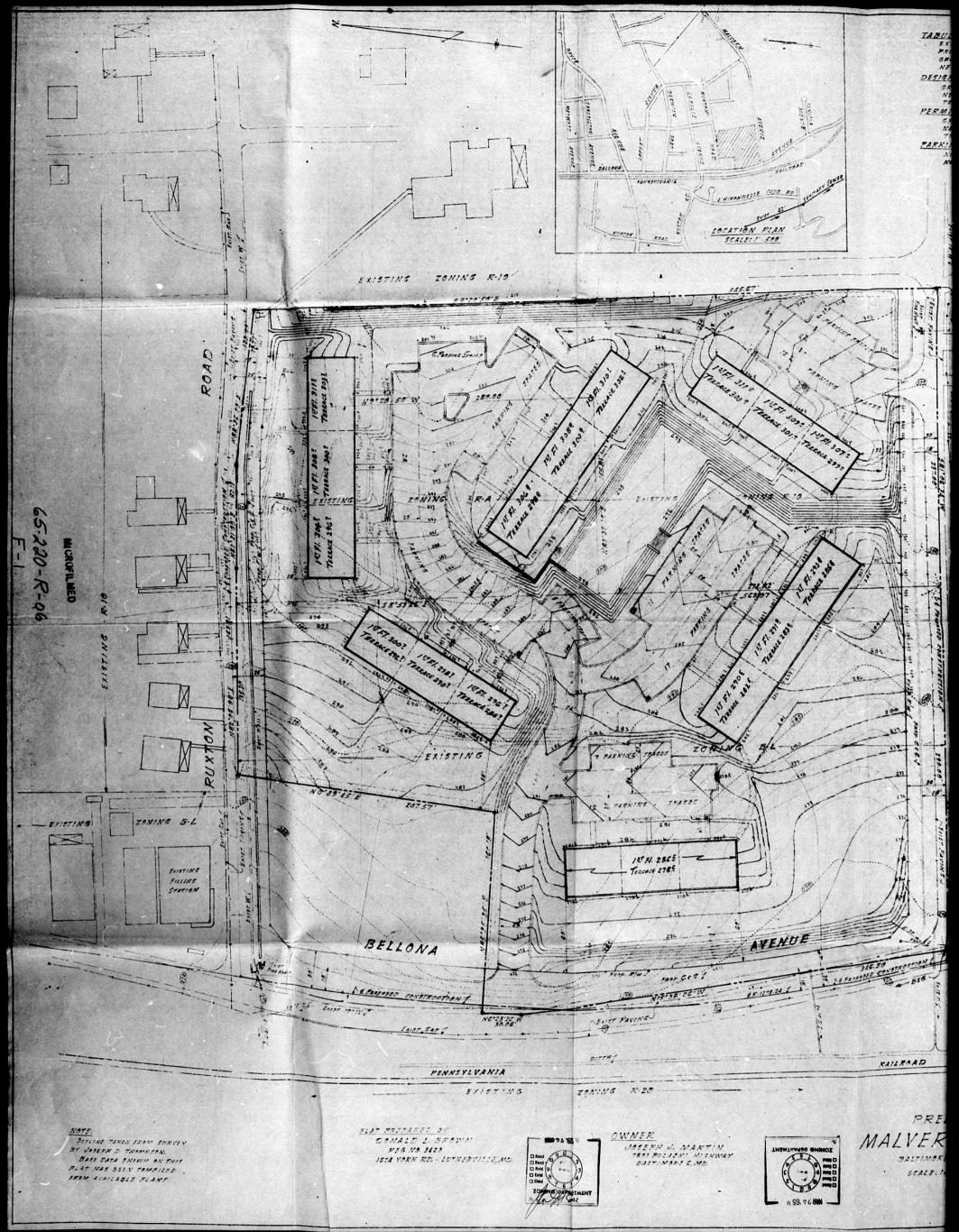
Your petition has been received and accepted for filing this

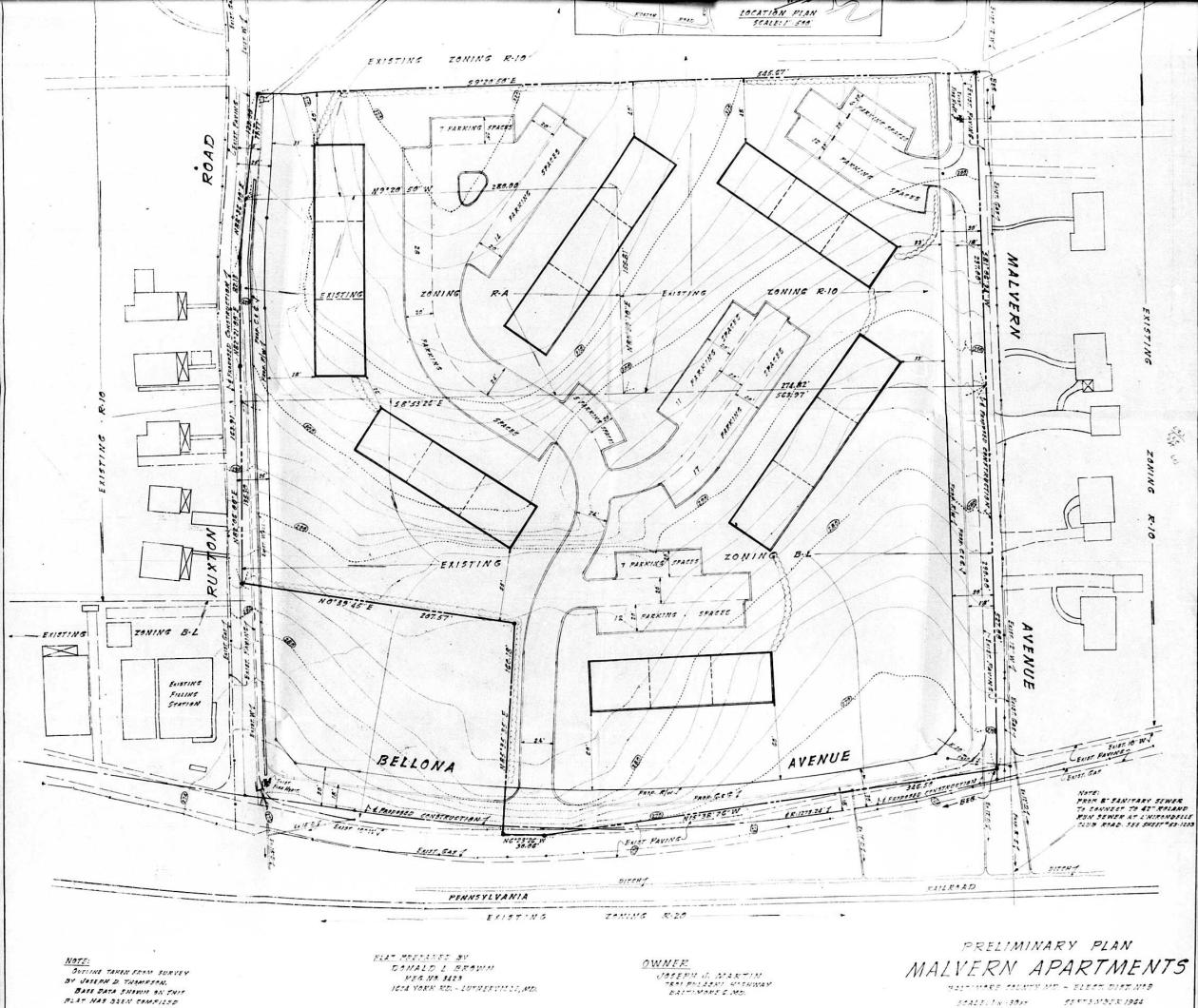
12th day of , 1964.5

OHN G. ROSE Zoning Commissio

Reviewed by: Janus & MICROFILMED







PLAT HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM AVAILABLE PLANS.

> MICROFILMED 65-220-R-07-F1

