

March 6, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Jamilet Baquerizo Vite, Planning Board Clerk
Township of West Orange
66 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052

**Re: Essex County Country Club
Amended Site Plan Application Half-way House – Response to Objector Request to
Adjourn Hearing
350 Mt. Pleasant Avenue - Block 156, Lot 1**

Dear Ms. Baquerizo:

As you are aware, this office represents the Essex County Country Club (the “Applicant”) in connection with an application for amended final site plan approval in order to construct a 620 square foot half-way house building on its existing golf course (the “Application”) located at 350 Mt. Pleasant Avenue and designated as Block 156, Lot 1 on the Tax Maps of the Township of West Orange (the “Property”). The Application was considered at a public hearing of the Township of West Orange Planning Board (the “Planning Board” or the “Board”) held on February 7, 2024. At the February hearing the Applicant closed its affirmative case, and Ms. Micaela Bennett, an objector, began her opposition case to the Application and presented Mr. Peter Steck as her expert professional planner. Due to the late hour of the night, the Application was carried and scheduled to be continued on March 6, 2024.

Yet, late afternoon yesterday, my office was forwarded an email communication from Ms. Bennett to Board Attorney Diana McGovern dated March 5, 2024, indicating that she must finish eliciting direct testimony from Mr. Steck who has another hearing this evening. If available at all, it would be sometime after 9:00pm. To that end, Ms. Bennett inquired whether it would be most prudent to postpone the Applicant’s hearing. The email also indicated that Ms. Bennett intends to file a letter brief in response to the letter brief filed by my office on February 23, 2024.

Please let this letter serve to confirm that as a curtesy to Ms. Bennett and her professional, the Applicant has no objection to the adjournment request provided that the hearing on the Application be continued at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Board to be held on April 3, 2024, with no additional adjournments granted to the objector and with the preservation of notice. Should the Board grant the adjournment request, the Applicant respectfully requests that it announce at tonight’s hearing that:

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the hearing on the Essex County Country Club Application is being carried to a meeting of the Planning Board to be conducted on April 3, 2024, at 7:30pm via the zoom platform. Instructions to join the meeting will be posted on the Township's website, or alternatively, any member of the public who is interested in joining the meeting my contact the Board Secretary for instructions on how to do so.

Further, we respectfully request that the Board instruct Ms. Bennett to submit her letter brief as soon as possible but in no event later than ten (10) days prior to the next hearing or it will not be entertained by the Board. Ideally, given the curtesy the Applicant has extended to Ms. Bennett we believe it would be appropriate for Ms. Bennett to be required to file her letter brief by March 15, 2024 thereby allowing the Applicant to file any responsive brief by March 22, 2024.

Very truly yours

/s/ Lisa A. John-Basta

Lisa A. John-Basta
Member

LAJ:bs

c: Diana McGovern, Esq., Bd. Attorney
M. Bennett