

# City of New Bedford Department of City Planning

133 William Street · Room 303 · New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740 Telephone: (508) 979.1488 · Facsimile: (508) 979.1576

MAYOR
JON MITCHELL
DIRECTOR
JENNIFER CARLONI

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

September 16, 2022

Councilor Hugh Dunn, Chairman Committee on Ordinances 133 William Street New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: WRITTEN MOTION – REZONING REQUEST FOR PARCELS 135-9 & 135-11

CASE #22-35: WS Braley Road Rezoning Request

#### Dear Chairman Dunn:

This is to advise you of the Planning Board's action on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, regarding the request by City Councilors Ian Abreu and Brad Markey for the Planning Board to review and make a recommendation to the City Council for its consideration regarding **The Planning Board does not send a favorable recommendation for the ordinance amendment.** 

At the hearing, Planning Board Chair Arthur Glassman read the request and asked if there was anyone present to speak on the matter. Attorney John Markey introduced himself as the representative of the petitioner. He described how the current zoning created obstacles for a development his client was pursuing in New Bedford. Atty. Markey said that initially his client wished to pursue rezoning to Residential B, however, Planning department staff identified issues with that request relative to the client's stated intentions for development of the site as well as gap in the proposed district by exclusion of parcel 135-45 from the formal motion request.

Atty. Markey made note that after being alerted to the incongruency between the filed rezoning request and his client intended use; as well as the excluded parcel they therefore petition and propose an amendment to the rezoning request. He noted his letter to the City Council President and the City Planner dated 9/14/22, which requests the inclusion of parcel 135-46 in the petition to rezone and modifies the rezoning request from Residential B to Mixed-Use Business. Atty. Markey noted the metes and bounds of the proposed rezoning area were also included with the letter as well as a plan drawing of the proposal.

The Board voted to allow Atty. Markey to present a slide deck at the meeting. Slides included visual renderings of Lots 9, 11, and 46. Atty. Markey described the original and revised request and described the area using the slide visuals.

He described the area for potential to be developed within the lots, and which his client's request is for rezoning as running north-south parallel to Braley Road across all three lots. Atty. Markey described the area as being 200± feet to 299± feet in depth from Braley Road into each property. Atty. Markey stated this is the area they would like to request to have rezoned from Industrial C to Mixed-Use Business. Atty. Markey stated the proponent they are not requesting to change the zoning for the entirety of each of the subject parcels and would not seek to develop the portions of the lots outside of the proposed rezoned area. Atty. Markey pointed out that the adjacent parcels across Braley Road are Mixed-Use Business-zoned, and that this proposal is consistent with that zoning.

Chair Glassman noted that the City Council's written motion was legally advertised as a request for a recommendation to rezone parcels 135-9 & 135-11 from Industrial C to Residential B. Chair Glassman reasoned that the proponent's request for rezoning had been significantly modified, therefore the request should be readvertised. Atty. Markey disagreed.

At the Chair's request, City Planner Jennifer Carloni recommended the request should be readvertised since it has been significantly altered and recommended the Board make a motion to respond to the City Council's motion as dated July 21, 2022. The City Planner further clarified that the Department alerted the applicant but made no recommendations to the applicant regarding the request or modification thereof, the Department simply identified incongruency between the rezoning request and the desired development and the issue of the written motion not including lot 46.

Board member Kathryn Duff then read the letter of support submitted by Council President Ian Abreu dated 9/14/22 and the letter from Attorney Markey dated 9/14/22 into the record.

Board member Duff inquired if the ownership of the lots would remain the same for where the zoning line is proposed. Such that would the lot ownership be the same for the front and rear portions of the lots where the two zoning districts boundary is show crossing over the lot. Atty. Markey indicated the parcels would remain single lot(s) covered by two different zoning districts. Like other areas in the city such as Acushnet Avenue.

Board member Duff indicated she would not favorably recommend the rezoning request for Residential B as presented since the applicant made a good case for revision and coming back before the board again for consideration for Mixed Use Business. She also highlighted there's two parcels with RB zoning adjacent to the area identified for rezoning and wondered if they would be included or excluded from the revised proposal. Atty. Markey noted the observation and described the neighborhood zoning included areas of Residential B and Mixed-Use Business-zoned areas.

Hearing no further comments from the Board, Chair Glassman opened the floor to members of the public wishing to speak in favor or opposition, and hearing none, he asked for a motion.

In response to a question from Board Member Kalife, City Planner Carloni advised that the Board should provide a recommendation to the City Council for the written motion as written for residential B. She

confirmed the board should make the motion in the affirmative whether the Board seeks to make a favorable or unfavorable recommendation on the request.

Board member Kalife made a motion, seconded by Board member Duff, to affirmatively recommend rezoning WS Braley Road, Map 135 Lots 9 & 11, and to include Map 135 Lot 46 in the rezoning from Industrial C to Residential B.

**The motion was denied on a vote of 0-5,** with no board member recorded in favor and board members Alexander Kalife, Peter Cruz, Kathryn Duff, Kamile Khazan, and Arthur Glassman recorded in opposition.

Board member Duff explained her no vote was due to the outstanding questions regarding the proposed zoning changed. Board member Khazan explained her no vote was due the information not all being presented properly.

As such, the **Planning Board does not send a favorable recommendation.** Please find enclosed a copy of the Department of City Planning Staff Report and a copy of the letter received from Attorney John Markey with Exhibit A, and letter from Council President Ian Abreu dated 9/14/22, regarding this matter.

Sincerely, Junifer Carloni

Jehnifer Carloni

Director, Department of City Planning

#### encl.

- Department of City Planning Staff Report, dated 9/9/22
- Letter from Attorney Markey, dated 9/14/22
- Letter from Council President Ian Abreu dated 9/14/22

cc. Jon Mitchell, Mayor

Danny Romanowicz, Building Commissioner
Ian Abreu, Council President

Eric Jaikes, City Solicitor Dennis Farias, City Clerk



# City of New Bedford Department of City Planning

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## **STAFF REPORT**

REPORT DATE
September 9, 2022
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

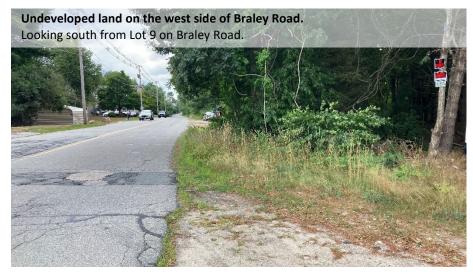
Case #22-35: REZONING REQUEST

WS Braley Road Map: 135 Lots: 9 & 11

#### **Overview of Request**

On July 21, the City Council requested that the Planning Board review and make a recommendation on a request from City Council President Ian Abreu and Ward One Councillor Brad Markey to rezone two parcels on the westside of Braley Road (Map 135, Lots 9 & 11) from Industrial C (IC) to Residential B (RB).

A memorandum from Attorney John Markey, who represents the owner of the subject parcels is attached to the referral from City Council. In the memo, Attorney Markey requests that a portion of the lots abutting Braley Road



be rezoned from IC to RB. The proposed RB areas would extend approximately 300 ft west into the parcels from Barley Road (see Exhibit B & C). Staff note that the request does not include Lot 46, which is between Lot 9 and Lot 11, but it is shown as rezoned on the accompanying plan. The Board may wish to discuss the rezoning of Lot 46 with the petitioner.

**Note:** Staff notes for clarification that the written motion is for of Map 135 Lot 9 and 11 in their entirety. The motion does not reflect the request in the letter from Attorney Markey accompanying the motion.

#### **Existing Conditions**

Lots 9 and 11 are large, vacant parcels north of the New Bedford Business Park and adjacent to the Freetown/New Bedford line. Both parcels are mostly wetlands, except for upland forest and wooded areas along the roadway. A former cranberry bog and a pond occupy most of the land on Lot 9, which is the northern most of the two subject parcels. Wooded swamp land occupies most of Lot 11.

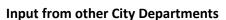
Between the two subject parcels on Braley Road is a recently constructed solar farm on Lot 46, which is also zoned IC. Directly abutting Lot 9 along Braley Road are six each of which contains a single-family homes and are RB-zoned lots.

Abutting to the south is the New Bedford Business Park, which is entirely zoned IC. The Mass Coastal Railroad abuts to the west. Wetlands in the Business Park are beyond the tracks further west.

The east side of Braley Road across from the subject parcels is a mix of zoning districts – RB and RA to the south and Mixed-use Business (MUB) to the north. Accordingly, the east side of the road is a mix of development, with single-family homes and subdivision to the south, and condominium and apartment complexes to the north near the Freetown border. Exhibit B shows the current zoning layout for the area.

#### **Background**

The subject parcels have been zoned IC since at least the 1960s. For much of their history, the subject parcels were used for agricultural purposes. Lot 11, like most of the adjacent Business Park, was owned by the Acushnet Sawmill Company. Much of Lot 9 was used as a cranberry bog by the Sassaquin Cranberry Company. Throughout the 1970s, lots were split off from the subject parcels to create the single-family homes that exist on the west side of Braley Road today.



The rezoning request was distributed to relevant City departments. No comments

have been received as the writing of this memo. Any comments subsequently received will be provided at the Planning Board's public hearing.



The Planning Board has previously relied on the criteria below in its evaluation of other rezoning requests to ensure its action is consistent with case law.

#### Criteria

Uniformity: the extent to which the zoning change would resemble the surrounding zoning.

**Consistency:** whether the parcel is being singled out for a zoning change.

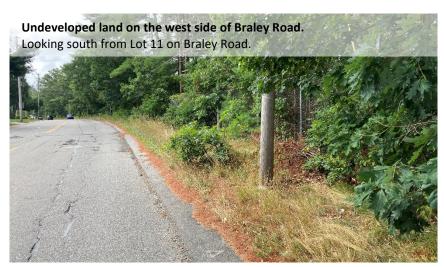
Surroundings: how the proposal would change the neighborhood?

Fiscal Impact: what impact on local/city economic development the rezoning would have?

**Discriminating Benefit:** assess whether the reclassification of a single parcel that allows a use beneficial to the property owner is made to the detriment of the neighbors or community-at-large.

The table below (Exhibit A) compares current IC uses to proposed RB uses. Uses highlighted in **green** will be newly permitted in the subject parcels, while uses highlighted in **grey** will no longer be permitted. **If the proposed rezoning is approved, there will be 10 newly permitted uses**, including single and two-family residences, institutional uses, and lodging. **Rezoning will eliminate 27 uses that are currently allowed**, which include all industrial uses and many commercial uses.

If Lot 46 were included in the rezoning, it would create a uniform RB zoning district along the frontage of Barley Road. The board should consider the proximity of the adjacent industrial park relative to the boundaries of the proposed district and conflicts between industrial and residential uses in close proximity.



### **EXHIBIT A - Zoning Comparison Table**

The table below compares current MUB uses to proposed IB uses. Uses highlighted in **green** will be newly permitted in the subject parcels, while uses highlighted in **grey** will no longer be permitted.

A. Residential	IC	RB
1. Single-family dwelling	N	Υ
2. Two-family dwelling	N	Υ
3. Multi-family townhouse (3 stories)	N	N
4. Multi-family garden style (4 stories)	N	N
5. Multi-family mixed use (6 stories)	N	N
6. Multi-family mid-rise (12 stories)	N	N
7. Multi-family high-rise (18 stories)	N	N
8. Boarding house	N	N
9. Group residence	ВА	ВА
10. Assisted or Independent living facility	ВА	ВА
11. Nursing or Convalescent home	ВА	ВА
12. Trailer camp or park	N	N
13. Hoofed animals	N	N
14. Animals or head of poultry, not to exceed one animal or head of poultry per one thousand (1,000) square feet of net area of the lot(See Ordinance for full text)	N	Υ
B. Exempt and Institutional Uses	IB	RB
1. Use of land or structures for religious purposes	Υ	Υ
2. Use of land or structures for educational purposes on land owned or leased by the commonwealth or any of its agencies (See Ordinance for full text)	Y	Υ
3. Child care facility (in existing building)	Υ	Υ
4. Child care facility (not in existing building)	Υ	Υ
5. Use of land for the primary purpose of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, or viticulture on a parcel of more than five acres in area	Y	Υ
6. Facilities for the sale of produce, and wine and dairy products (See Ordinance for full text)	Υ	Υ
7. Municipal facilities	Υ	Υ
	ВА	ВА
8. Essential services		
<ul><li>8. Essential services</li><li>9. Cemeteries</li></ul>	N	Υ
	N N	Y
9. Cemeteries		
<ul><li>9. Cemeteries</li><li>10. Hospital</li></ul>	N	Υ
9. Cemeteries 10. Hospital C. Commercial	N IB	Y RB
<ul><li>9. Cemeteries</li><li>10. Hospital</li><li>C. Commercial</li><li>1. Nonexempt agricultural use</li></ul>	N IB BA	Y RB BA
9. Cemeteries  10. Hospital  C. Commercial  1. Nonexempt agricultural use  2. Nonexempt educational use	N IB BA BA	Y RB BA N
<ol> <li>9. Cemeteries</li> <li>10. Hospital</li> <li>C. Commercial</li> <li>1. Nonexempt agricultural use</li> <li>2. Nonexempt educational use</li> <li>3. Animal clinic or hospital; with ancillary animal boarding</li> </ol>	N IB BA BA	Y RB BA N
<ul> <li>9. Cemeteries</li> <li>10. Hospital</li> <li>C. Commercial</li> <li>1. Nonexempt agricultural use</li> <li>2. Nonexempt educational use</li> <li>3. Animal clinic or hospital; with ancillary animal boarding</li> <li>4. Adult day care</li> </ul>	N IB BA BA BA	Y RB BA N N BA

8. Funeral home	N	ВА
9. Adult entertainment establishment	CC	N
10. Bed & Breakfast	N	BA
11. Motel, hotel or inn	Υ	N
12. Retail stores and services not elsewhere set forth	Υ	N
13. Grocery stores	ВА	N
14. Big Box Retail (60,000 Sq. ft. or greater)	N	N
15. Health clubs	Υ	N
16. Mixed use	N	N
17. Live /work	N	N
18. Motor vehicle sales and rental	N	N
19. Motor vehicle general repairs	N	N
20. Motor Vehicle body repairs	N	N
21. Motor vehicle light service	N	N
22. Restaurant	SP	N
23. Restaurant, fast-food	N	N
24. Business or professional office	Υ	N
25. Medical offices, center, or clinic	ВА	N
26. Bank, financial agency	Υ	N
27. Indoor commercial recreation	N	N
28. Outdoor commercial recreation	ВА	N
29. Wireless Communications Facilities	РВ	РВ
30. Theatres and auditoriums	N	N
31. Convention Centers	PB	N
32. Marijuana Retailer	РВ	N
D. Industrial	IB	RB
1. Earth removal	N	N
2. Manufacturing	Υ	N
3. Light manufacturing	Υ	N
4. Research, development or testing laboratories and facilities	Υ	N
5. Biotechnology facilities	Υ	N
6. Medical devices manufacturing	Υ	N
7. Fish processing	N	N
8. Wholesale, warehouse, self-storage mini-warehouse, or distribution facility	Υ	N
9. Transportation terminal	Υ	N
10. Water freight terminal	N	N
11. Businesses engaged in the sale, distribution or storage of grain, petroleum products, building materials and industrial machinery (See Ordinance for full text)	N	N
12. Businesses engaged in the sale, distribution or storage of grain, petroleum products, building materials and industrial machinery	N	N

13. Businesses engaged in salvaging, dismantling and reprocessing of scrap and waste materials(See Ordinance for full text)	N	N
14. Junkyard or automobile graveyard	N	N
15. Contractor's yard	N	N
16. Low-level radioactive or nuclear waste facility	N	N
17. Tire recycling & re-treading	N	N
18. Batch asphalt & concrete plants	N	N
19. Craft Marijuana Cooperative	PB	N
20. Independent Testing Laboratory	PB	N
21. Marijuana Cultivator	PB	N
22. Marijuana Product Manufacturer	PB	N
23. Marijuana Research Facility	PB	N
24. Medical Marijuana Treatment Center	РВ	N

**EXHIBIT B – Current Zoning Map with Subject Parcels and Proposed Rezoning Area Identified** 

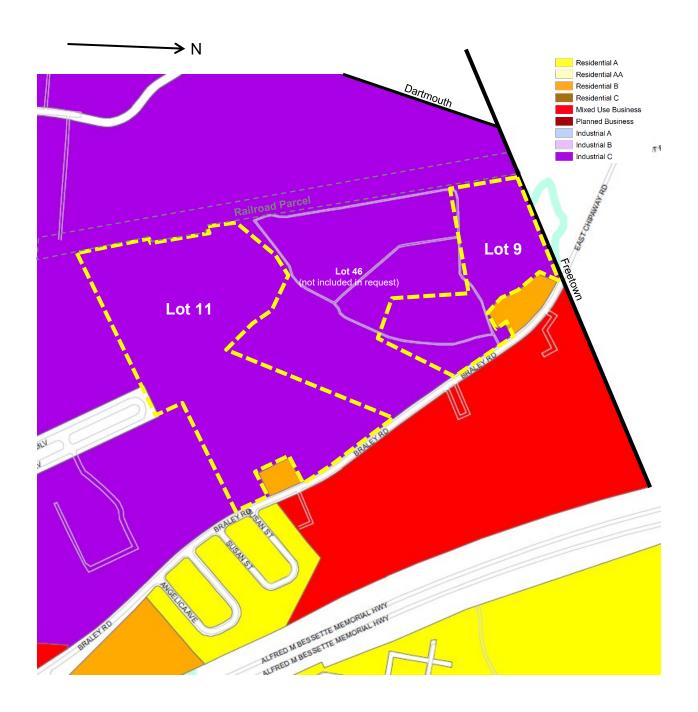


Exhibit C – Aerial Image of Rezoning Request



WS Braley Road Map: 135 Lots: 9 & 11

NOTE: Property lines and zoning districts are approximate; for discussion purposes, only. Image is oriented north.

Planning Boata



## CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

### CITY COUNCIL

July 21, 2022

#### **WRITTEN MOTION**

Requesting that Map 135, Lot 9 (WS Braley Road) and Lot 11 (WS Braley Road) be rezoned from Industrial C to Residential B, this change would be consistent with the Residential B lots which abut these parcels of land.

Ian Abreu, City Council President Brad Markey, Councillor Ward One

IN CITY COUNCIL, July 21, 2022

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board.

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy attest:

City Clerk

JOHN A. MARKEY"
TIMOTHY P. WALSH

Admitted in RI\*CT\*FL\*

OF COUNSEL HON, RICHARD T, MOSES HON, JOHN A, MARKEY WALTER SMITH ROGER STANFORD IRENE B, SCHALL\*

June 22, 2022

Ian Abreu, President City Council City of New Bedford 133 William Street, Room 215 New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Pillar, LLC - Zoning Change Request: Map 135, Lots 9 and 11 off Braley Road

Dear Council President Abreu:

As you know, this office represents Pillar, LLC, the owner of two parcels of land off Braley Road (Parcels 135-9 and 135-11) and NBD Solar, LLC which owns the parcel abutting and separating the two Pillar, LLC lots. All three parcels consist of uninhabited, vacant land with portions of wetland and woodland. In its northwest corner, Parcel 135-9 abuts four small lots zoned Residential B. In its southeast corner, Parcel 135-11 abuts two Residential B lots. All of the parcels owned by my clients have frontage on Braley Road.

I am following up on our conversation. My clients seek to rezone the front portion of all three parcels from Industrial C to Residential B. This change would be consistent with the Residential B lots which abut my clients' parcels and align with the residential neighborhoods located just across Braley Road (Susan Street & Angelica Avenue).

This change will promote the development of this land which is located outside of the Industrial Park and along Braley Road where other residences have been constructed. It will have a positive impact on residents for the reason that it will convert empty industrial land on a main road into residential lots with dimensions equal to the neighboring lots, creating a consistent ribbon of residentially zoned land from the northwest of my client's land to the southeast.

Furthermore, because the lots are of limited depth, any future construction and development will occur directly on Braley Road. The neighborhoods on the west and east of my client's parcels

Ian Abreu, President City Council City of New Bedford June 22, 2022 Page 2

would experience no construction behind them. The new residential lots will be accessible directly from Braley Road; no additional roads or subdivisions are planned or requested here. A site plan which depicts my client's conceptual plan, along with a proposed land swap between and among the lots to allow for more regularly shaped lots accompany this letter.

My client would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposal at a future Public Hearing. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

ohn A. Markey

JAM/mc Enclosure - (Site Plans)

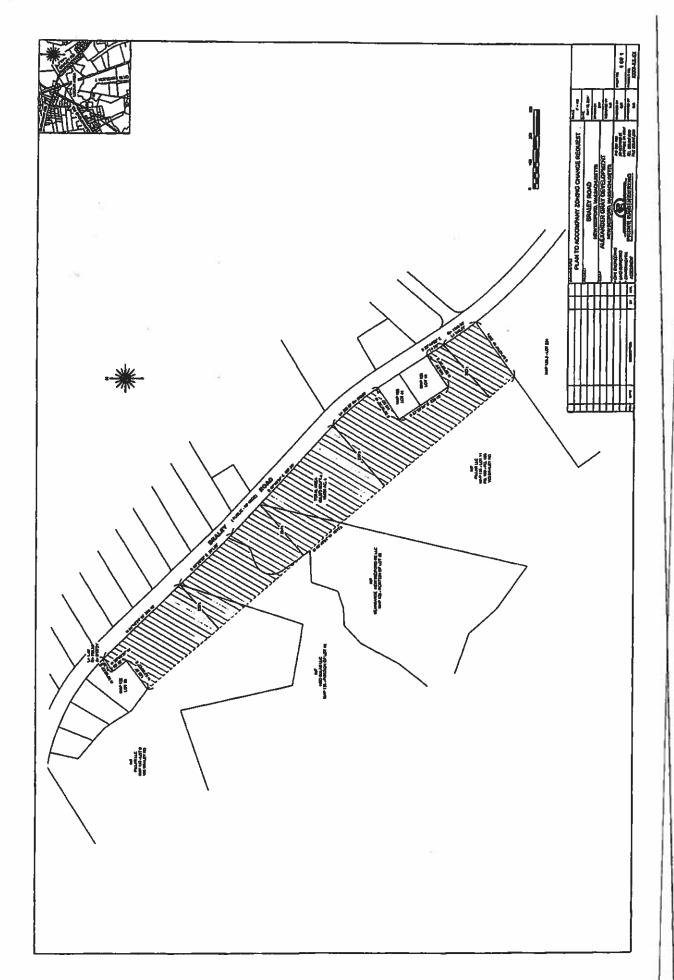
IN CITY COUNCIL, July 21, 2022

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances and the Planning Board.

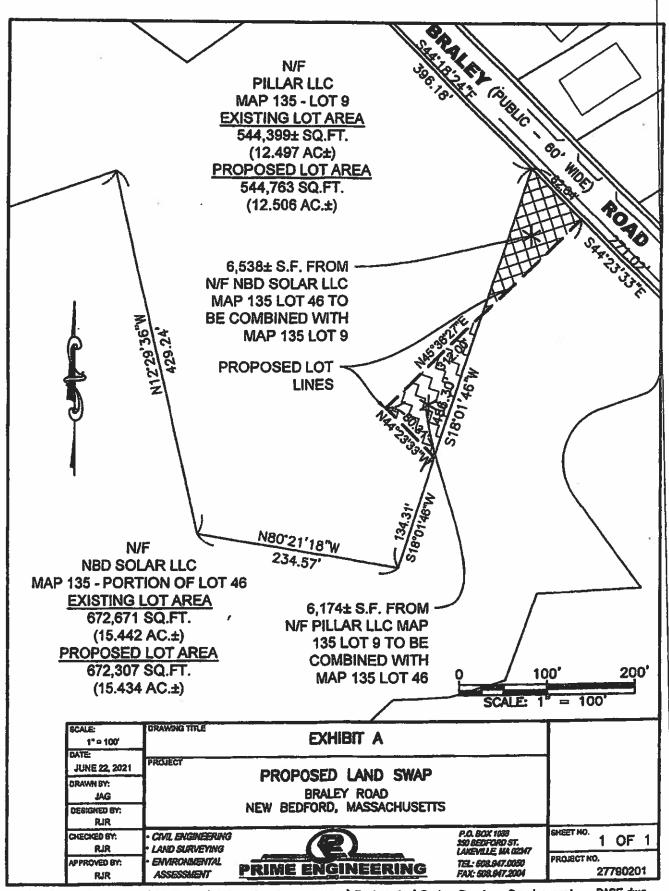
Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy attest:

Citý Clerk



5.3





JOHN A. MARKEY, Jr. \*\*
TIMOTHY P. WALSH

Admitted in RI\* CT\*

OF COUNSEL HON, RICHARD T. MOSES HON, JOHN A. MARKEY WALTER SMITH

September 15, 2022

New Bedford Planning Board c/o Jennifer Carloni, Planning Director City of New Bedford 133 William Street New Bedford, MA 02740

Ian Abreu, President City Council City of New Bedford 133 William Street New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Pillar, LLC and NBD Solar – Zoning Change Request: Map 135, Lots 9, 46, and 11 off Braley Road

Dear Ms. Carloni and and Members of the Planning Board:

I am writing to follow up with the Planning Department and the City Council after my recent meeting of the Planning Board. We respectfully ask that the City Council forward a request to the Planning Board that they advertise this issue and place this new / revised request on the Planning Board's October 12<sup>th</sup> Agenda – if that is possible. If you require any additional fees for the publication notice, my office will deliver a check for that expense.

This office represents both Pillar, LLC, the owner of two parcels of land off Braley Road (Parcels 135-9 and 135-11); and NBD Solar, LLC which owns the parcel abutting and separating the two Pillar, LLC lots. All three parcels consist of uninhabited, vacant land with portions of wetland and woodland. In its northwest corner, Parcel 135-9 abuts four small lots zoned Residential B. In its southeast corner, Parcel 135-11 abuts two Residential B lots. All of the parcels owned by my clients have frontage on Braley Road.

My clients are seeking to rezone the front portion (200' - 299') of all three parcels to **Mixed Use Business**. This change would be consistent with the property directly across Braley Road which is also zoned Multi Use Business.

This change will promote the development of this land which is located outside of the Industrial Park and along Braley Road where other multi-family residences have been constructed. It will have a positive impact on the City's tax rolls because it will permit the use of empty industrial land on a main road into multifamily residences similar to the developments across the street in that area of Braley Road.

Ms. Jennifer Carloni Mr. Ian Abreu September 15, 2022 Page Two

Furthermore, because the proposed zoning change is of limited depth, any future construction and development will occur directly on Braley Road where it would be most appropriate. The neighborhoods on the west and east of my client's parcels would experience no construction behind them. The new residential lots will be accessible directly from Braley Road; no additional roads or subdivisions are planned or requested.

A site plan which depicts my client's conceptual plan, along with a metes and bounds description accompanies this letter.

My client would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposal at a future Public Hearing. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

OHN A. MARKEY

cc: Councilor Hugh Dunn

Councilor Brad Markey

enc: Site Plan

Metes and Bounds

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the lot shown on City of New Bedford Assessor's as Map 135, Lot 11 owned by Pillar, LLC where it meets Braley Road;

thence South 33° 44' 02" East, a distance of seventy-four and 79/100 (74.79) feet;

thence turning North 56° 07' 36" East, a distance of one hundred and forty-three and 31/100 (143.31) feet;

thence turning South 33° 52' 24" East, a distance of two hundred and twenty and 49/100 (220.49) feet;

thence turning South 56° 07' 36" West, a distance of one hundred and forty-three and 83/100 (143.83) feet;

thence turning South 47° 10' 34" East, a distance of five hundred and fifty-seven and 28/100 (557.28) feet;

thence South 44° 23' 33" East, a distance of two hundred and seventy-one and 02/100 (271.02) feet;

thence North 44° 18' 24" West, a distance of three hundred and ninety-six and 18/100 (396.18) feet;

thence turning North 56° 50' 23" East, a distance of sixty-one and 30/100 (61.30) feet;

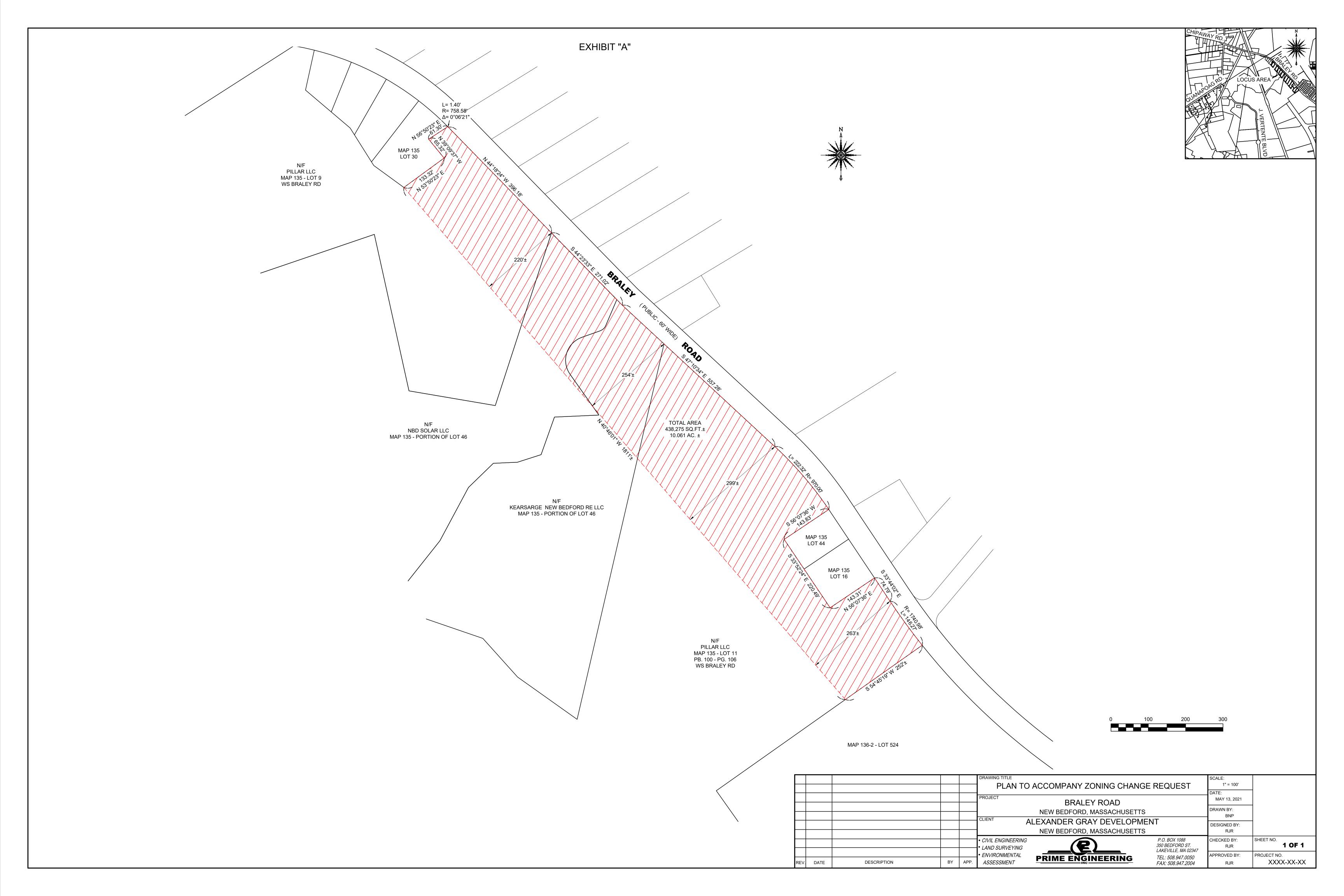
thence turning North 39° 09' 37" West, a distance of sixty-five and 32/100 (65.32) feet;

thence North 53° 50' 23" East, a distance of one hundred and thirty-three and 32/100 (133.32) feet;

thence turning North  $40^{\circ}$  46' 01'' West; a distance of one thousand eight-hundred and eleven and 00/100 (1,811); and

thence turning South 54° 45' 19" West, a distance of two hundred and fifty-two (252) feet;

Being shown on a Plan of land prepared for Alexander Gray Development by Prime Engineering dated May 13, 2021, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".





## City of New Bedford

#### Office of City Council

133 William Street • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

TEL: 508-979-1455 • FAX: 508-979-1451

Ian Abreu
Councillor at Large

September 14, 2022

Department of City Planning 133 William Street New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Planning Board Members:

I am writing to inform you that I will be unable to attend the Meeting of the Planning Board on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, due to a previously scheduled commitment.

I would however, like to state my support for the following Item:

<u>Case #22-35</u>: Rezoning Request – Request by City Council President Ian Abreu and Ward One City Councillor Brad Markey, for the Planning Board to review and make a recommendation to the City Council for its consideration regarding the rezoning from Industrial-C (IC) to Residential-B (RB) of the properties shown on the Assessor's Map as Map 135/Lot 9 (WS Braley Road), and Map 135/Lot 11 (WS Braley Road).

Please read this letter into the record to make my colleagues, those in attendance via Zoom and the public aware of the reason for my absence and of my support of the aforementioned item.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

lan Abreu

Ian Abreu.

City Council President - 2022

IA: rrr

cc: File