#### KLEHR, HARRISON, HARVEY, BRANZBURG & ELLERS LLP

#### ATTORNEYS AT LAW 260 S. BROAD STREET

ORTON R. BRANZBURG AWRENCE J. AREM RICHARD S. ROISMAN JEFFREY KURTZMAN FRANCIS M. CORRELL, JR. CARL S. PRIMAVERA PAUL G. NOFER BARRY J. SIEGEL STEPHAN L. CUTLER DAVID S. EAGLE\* CHARLES A. ERCOLE GREGORY G. GOSFIELD RONALD J. PATTERSON GLENN A. WEINER IRA A. ROSENAU MICHAEL A. IACONELLI A. GRANT PHELAN JON S. ROBINS IRA C. GUBERNICK MICHAEL P. RITTINGER MARCY N. HART

JOSHUA S. WANDERER††

MATTHEW H. WERTHMAN

ROBERT A. MCKINLEY

LISA A. LORI

WILLIAM A. HARVEY RONA J. ROSEN CAROL ANN SLOCUM MICHAEL K. CORAN JOANNE B. WILLS KEITH W. KAPLAN DOUGLAS F. SCHLEICHER RICHARD M. BECK DENISE M. DAY BRADLEY A. KROUSE WILLIAM W. MATTHEWS III LAWRENCE D. ROVIN SHAHAN G. TEBERIAN DANIEL P. O'BRIEN DON P. FOSTER HEATHER I. LEVINE MARC H. STOFMAN MATTHEW J. BORGER JON M. KATONA LEE R. SUSSMAN WILLIAM R. HINCHMAN DOMENIC E. PACITTI JONATHAN R. FLORA ANTHONY P. TABASSO

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102-5003

(215) 568-6060 FAX: (215) 568-6603 www.klehr.com

NEW JERSEY OFFICE 457 HADDONFIELD ROAD SUITE 510 CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY 08002-2220 (856) 486-7900

DELAWARE OFFICE 919 MARKET STREET SUTTE 1000 WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801-3062 (302) 426-1189

January 23, 2008

SHARON L. SULETA BRETT D. FELDMAN RANDI L. RUBIN CHRISTOPHER A. WARD\*\* WILLIAM J. CLEMENTS KELLY A. GREEN\*\* LAURA KERN DARWIN R. BEAUVAIS JOSEPH P. BRADICA KEITH LORENZE DAWN N. ZUBRICK S. JUSTIN DAVIS ZAL A. KUMAR †† MATTHEW H. CARLSON MATTHEW P. ROSENBERG RENIAMIN SPECIALE KIMBERLY KUPKA MICHAEL P. ZANAN

DAVID J. SANDER FRANCIS X. GORMAN\*\* MICHAEL W. YURKEWICZ† JULIE REDDINGFIELD MARK S. O'BRIEN\*\* WILLIAM T. HILL IAWADH SALAH MARK A. BEAVER TRACY L. HASLETT RYAN A. SILVERMAN ASIM A. ALAM NICOLE R. FAUX JEFFREY D. SPANN DANIEL R. COOPER RANDOLPH C. RELIFORD G. MATTHEW BARNARD BRIAN VRABEL

- \* MEMBER OF NEW YORK & DELAWARE BAR ONLY
- \*\* MEMBER OF DELAWARE BAR ONLY
  \*\*\* MEMBER OF OHIO BAR ONLY
- \*\*\*\* MEMBER OF NEW JERSEY BAR ONLY
- † MEMBER OF DELAWARE & MASSACHUSETTS BAR ONLY †† MEMBER OF NEW YORK BAR ONLY
- MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA & NEW JERSEY BAR ONLY MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA & MINNESOTA, & WASHINGTON ONLY

Direct Dial: (215) 569-1499 -Mail: RDemarco@klehr.com

OF COUNSEL LEONARD M. KLEHR DONALD M. HARRISON PETER J. NORMAN MARY ELLEN O'LAUGHLIN STEPHEN C. SUSSMAN LYNN A. COLLINS MICHAEL C. FORMAN\*\*\*\* KATHLEEN E. TORBIT SHERRY OLIN LEMONICK MICHAEL J. STUTMAN RICHARD C. DeMARCO

Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania Philadelphia Filing Office 990 Widener Building 1339 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19107

> Manayunk Neighborhood Council v. Zoning Board of Adjustment Re:

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for filing is an original and two copies of Appellees' Motion to Quash Appeal. Kindly file the original and return a time-stamped copy to me in the self-addressed, stamped envelope I have provided for your convenience.

Very truly yours.

Richard C. DeMarco

RCD:rg

Henry L. Schirmer, Jr., Esquire cc: Edward Jefferson, Esquire

The Honorable Jane Cutler Greenspan



# IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA C.D. MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL and KEVIN SMITH Appellants; V. ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT And THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA And RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES, L.P. Appellees. MOTION TO QUASH APPEAL

On Appeal from the Order of Court Entered December 4, 2007 by the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania at Docket No. 3448, December Term, 2006

Brett D. Feldman, Esquire (I.D. No. 82689)
Richard C. DeMarco, Esquire (I.D. No. 67676)
Klehr, Harrison, Harvey Branzburg & Ellers, LLP
260 South Broad Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
Philadelphia PA 19102
(215) 569-1499
(F) (215) 568-6603
Attorney for Appellees

#### IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL and KEVIN SMITH  v.	: : : :
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, and RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES, L.P.	: : :
<u>ORD</u>	<u>ER</u>
And now, this day of	, 2008, upon consideration of the Appellees'
Motion to Quash Appellants Appeal, and any resp	onse thereto, it is hereby ORDERED and
DECREED that the Motion is GRANTED, and A	ppellants' appeal is QUASHED.
	BY THE COURT:
	J.

Appellees, Rector Street Associates, L.P. (Appellees) hereby file the within Motion to Quash the Appeal of the Appellants Manayunk Neighborhood Council Inc. and Kevin Smith ("Appellants") due to the fact that their appeal was filed more than 30 days after the Order and Opinion of the Honorable Jane Cutler Greenspan denying their appeal was filed with the Prothonotary and mailed to the parties pursuant to Rule 236(a) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure. Appellees aver in support as follows:

- 1. On November 30, 2006, Appellant obtained variance relief from the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment ("Zoning Board") to construct a residential addition to an existing and obsolete warehouse property in the Manayunk Section of the City. The development was widely supported by the District Councilperson, who is now the current Mayor of Philadelphia, Michael A. Nutter, the Philadelphia Planning Commission, the Philadelphia Preservation Alliance, and the Manayunk Development Corporation. Appellants filed an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas from the decision of the Zoning Board.
- 2. After briefing and oral argument before the Honorable Jane Cutler Greenspan, of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge Greenspan issued an order and opinion denying the Appellants' appeal. The Order was filed with the Prothonotary on December 4, 2007, and the Prothonotary stamped the Order as filed on December 4, 2007. A copy of the order and cover letter of Judge Greenspan is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 3. The Order and Opinion is also stamped with the notation "Copies sent pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. 236(a), December 4, 2007, First Judicial District of PA." The stamp contains the signature of what appears to be a Court employee. See Exhibit "A" (top corner).
- 4. Judge Greenspan also mailed the Order to the parties on December 4, 2007, attaching a cover letter dated December 4, 2007 to the order. See Exhibit "A".

- 5. On January 11, 2008, an appeal was filed by the Appellants with the Court of Common Pleas and the Commonwealth Court. The Notice of Appeal claims that the order of Judge Greenspan was docketed on December 12, 2007. A copy of the Notice of Appeal is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".
- 6. The online dockets and official docket of the First Judicial District reflect that the order was docketed on December 12, 2007, despite the fact that the Judge's Order and Opinion was filed and entered with the Prothontary, and mailed to the parties on December 4, 2007. However, the online docket entry states: "Order and opinion filed. And now, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2007, it is hereby ordered that this court affirms the November 30, 2006 decision of the Board. (See Order and Opinion for full terms and conditions)...by the Court: Greenspan, J. 12-4-07." A copy of the online dockets is attached hereto as Exhibit "C".
- 7. Rule 903(a) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate procedure provides that an Appellant must appeal an order of the lower court "within 30 days after the entry of the order from which the appeal is taken."
  - 8. Rule 108 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate Procedure states as follows:
    - (a) Except as otherwise prescribed in this rule, in computing any period of time under these rules involving the date of entry of an order by a court or other governmental unit, the day of entry shall be the day the clerk of the court or the office of the government unit mails or delivers copies of the order to the parties, or if such delivery is not otherwise required by law, the day the clerk or office of the government unit makes such copies public. The day of entry of an order may be the day of its adoption by the court or other government unit, or any subsequent day, as required by the actual circumstances.

#### [Emphasis added].

9. The order of Judge Greenspan was required to be mailed to the parties by Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 236(a). By the clear language of Appellate Rule

108(a)(1), the thirty (30) day appeal period began to run on December 4, 2007: the day the Order was filed with the Prothonotary and the day which the Prothonotary indicated the Order of Judge Greenspan was mailed to the parties.

- 10. It is clear from the Court documents that a court employee improperly waited 8 days to enter the Judge's order on the online dockets, and erroneously entered as December 12, 2007 the day the order was mailed to the parties. This notation was clearly erroneous, since the Order itself states that notice to the parties was given on December 4, 2007, with a signature of an official court employee.
- 11. Appellants may not claim the additional time to file the appeal to this Court, since the Rules of Appellate Procedure clearly state that the time period for appeal runs on the date the Order is mailed to the parties, and Appellants, who are represented by counsel, were aware of the Rules of Appellate Procedure and aware that the order was mailed and filed on December 4, 2007.
- 12. Therefore, this Court should quash the appeal of the Appellants as untimely, since the appeal was taken more than thirty days after the Order of Judge Greenspan was filed and mailed to the parties.

WHEREFORE, Appellee Rector Street Associates L.P. requests that this Honorable Court quash the Appellants' appeal for failure to appeal the Order of Judge Greenspan within thirty days pursuant to the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett D. Feldman, Esquire

Richard C. DeMarco, Esquire

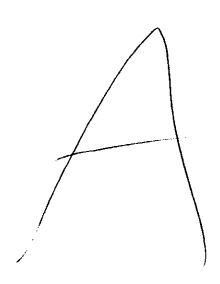
Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg &

Ellers, LLP

260 South Broad Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attormeys for Appellees



# FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUDICIAL CHAMBERS



JANE CUTLER GREENSPAN
JUDGE

December 4, 2007

1206 CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER 1301 FILBERT STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107 (215) 683-7035 FAX: (215) 683-7037

Henry L. Schirmer, Esquire 315 North Main Street P.O. Box 247 Telford, PA 18969

Cheryl L. Gaston, Esquire City of Philadelphia Law Dept. 1515 Arch Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102

Richard C. DeMarco, Esquire Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branbug & Fullers 260 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Manayunk Neighborhood Council Inc. et al. v. Zoning Board of Adjustments
December Term, 2006, No. 3448

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed for you is a copy of Judge Greenspan's Opinion filed today.

Yours truly,

Judicial Secretary

Enclosure /db

COPIES SENT PURSUANT TO Pa.R.C.P. 236(b)

DEC 0 4 2007

#### IN THE

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PA

### COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, Inc. and KEVIN SMITH **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS** PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

**Appellants** 

v.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, and RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES, L.P.

Appellees/Intervenors

**DECEMBER TERM, 2006** 

No.: 3448

07 DEC -1, PM 12: 06 PROPROTHY

#### ORDER & OPINION

GREENSPAN, J.

DATED: December 4, 2007

Manayunk Neighborhood Council, Inc. and Kevin Smith have appealed from the November 30, 2006, decision of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment ("Board") in which the Board granted variances to Rector Street Associates, L.P. to construct a residential addition to an historic industrial warehouse.

The relevant facts are as follows. The building at issue is a warehouse located at 3 Rector Street in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. (N.T. 10/04/06: 3). 3 Rector Street is an historic structure situated along the river and pedestrian tow path. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4). Originally a mill, the building dates back to the late 1800's. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4, 54). Today, the building is a vacant warehouse with G-2 industrial designation. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5, 39, 44, 75). G-2 industrial zoning prohibits residential

<sup>1</sup> N.T. refers to the notes of testimony from an October 4, 2006, hearing before the City of Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment.

use. While zoned for industrial use, the building housed a plumbing and heating supply business (Labov's) from 1946 to 2001.<sup>2</sup> (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-5). Due to the combined effects of the inability to compete with large, super-store competitors and the increasing difficulties resulting from the age of the building, mounting maintenance costs and lack of loading areas for customers and deliveries, the failing business vacated the premises in 2001. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-6, 44). The vacant building was then placed on the real-estate market where, despite the great heights of the economic real estate boom, it remained unsold for several years. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5, 28-29).

The owners of the building were unable to secure a serious purchase offer for the property, which was being sold as is. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5). Several factors contributed to the undesirability of the structure. Significant repairs would have been required in order to operate an industrial or commercial enterprise from 3 Rector Street. Even if the historic building had undergone the necessary repairs, the building still would have been unfit for modern manufacturing as the property lacks a loading dock for deliveries, parking for customers, and room for horizontal expansion. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5-6, 44).

Any debate over the building's fitness for industrial use is irrelevant as, following local and national trends, industry has not returned to Manayunk. (N.T. 10/04/06: 75). The building, and its surrounding neighborhood, is no longer suited for industry. Moreover, the building is ill-suited for a commercial business because the location has no frontage on the main street and substantial renovation would be required for a commercial or retail venture. (N.T. 10/04/06: 8). Finally, the ultimate failure of the prior

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> While the Labov family owned the property and originally owned the business, the business was sold in the late 1990's. Under new ownership, the business continued to operate under the Labov family name. The new business owner relocated the business and vacated 3 Rector Street in 2001. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-5).

commercial plumbing business further demonstrates the lack of commercial feasibility at 3 Rector Street. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5).

Under Pennsylvania law, a reviewing court must affirm an adjudication by the Board unless it finds that the adjudication is in violation of the constitutional rights of the appellant, is not in accordance with law, that statutory provisions were violated in agency proceedings, or that any finding of fact made by the agency and necessary to support its adjudication was not supported by substantial evidence. 2 Pa.C.S. § 754(b). Substantial evidence has been defined as "such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion." Valley View Civic Association v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment, 462 A.2d 637, 640 (Pa. 1983); Direnzo Coal Co. v. Dep't of General Services, 825 A.2d 773, 775 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2003).

Under Philadelphia Code §14-1802, the criteria for granting variances include a determination that a literal enforcement of the provisions would result in unnecessary hardship and that the grant of the variance would not adversely affect public health, safety or general welfare. Unnecessary hardship is found where the "physical features of the property are such that it cannot be used for a permitted purpose or that the property can be conformed for a permitted use only at a prohibitive expense." Allegheny West Civic Council v. ZBA, City of Pittsburgh, 689 A.2d 225, 227 (Pa. 1997). To meet the hardship standard, there are multiple factors relevant for consideration, such as the prohibitive expense of developing the property without a variance, the surrounding neighborhood, the length of vacancy and condition of disrepair, and the economic feasibility of converting the property without a variance. Hertzberg v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment of City of Pittsburgh, 721 A.2d 43, 49 (Pa. 1998). An applicant is not

required to prove that a property is valueless without a variance in order to prove unnecessary hardship. Hertzberg v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment of City of Pittsburgh, 721 A.2d 43, 48 (Pa. 1998). Nor is it mandatory for an applicant to prove that it would be impossible to develop a property in conformity with the applicable zoning ordinance in order to prove unnecessary hardship. Talkish v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Harborcreek Twp., 738 A.2d 50, 52 (1999). Hardship can be established where the applicant demonstrates that the property has no value or distressed value if used only for one of the permitted purposes. Eighteenth & Rittenhouse Assoc. v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment, 26 Pa. Cmwlth. 554, 557, 364 A.2d 973, 976 (1976).

Here, the physical features of the property, namely its state of disrepair, large size, historical significance, lack of loading area, lack of parking and location are such that the warehouse cannot be used for a permitted G-2 purpose without unnecessary hardship. The facility at 3 Rector Street could conform to G-2 permitted uses, but only at a prohibitive cost as conformity would require extensive renovation. Conformity would also require substantial investment in industry or business while local economic trends indicate that such permitted G-2 uses are no longer viable ventures in Manayunk. Moreover, to wait until a buyer for such a limited G-2 use appears would leave this property vacant and hence subject to the many ills that befall vacant properties. Clearly the neighborhood and community would suffer in such an event.

At the hearing below, the property owners established unnecessary hardship by presenting substantial evidence to the Board. Only after consideration of the substantial evidence, the Board granted the variances. The Board recognized that the "as is" sale of the structure presented unnecessary hardship and that the Manayunk neighborhood trend

was against demolition and toward preservation of otherwise unusable historic sites by conversion to residential uses. As such, the Board granted variances allowing for a conversion from G-2 industrial use to residential use.<sup>3</sup> The Board's findings of unnecessary hardship were supported by substantial evidence. As such, the adjudication of the Board is affirmed.

For the foregoing reasons, this Court affirms the November 30, 2006, decision of the Board.

BY THE COURT:

Greenspan, J.

Appellants argue that appellees failed to obtain a height variance, however, appellants waived this issue when they did not make this argument before the Board. Issues that are not raised at the board level are waived and may not be addressed on appeal. Sherwood v. Elgart, 383 Pa. 110, 115, 117 A.2d 899, 901 (1955); Myers v. State College Zoning Hearing Board, 108 Pa.Cmwlth. 624, 627, 530 A.2d 526, 527 (1987). In any event, given the fact that the appellees requested that the Board grant "any other variances, use certificates or special use permits that are necessary," in their original variance application, the claim is meritless; the term "any other variance" necessary includes a height variance.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

	i, Deloies Dales, ii	ereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing
order/	verdict/or opinion w	vas served on the below listed parties in the manner indicated below in
accord	lance with the Rules	s of Civil Procedure.
Re:	Manayunk Neighboren December Term, 2	orhood Council Inc et al. v. Zoning Board of Adjustments 006, No. 3448
Counsel/Pa	urty:	Henry L. Schirmer, Esquire 315 North Main Street P. O. Box 247 Telford, PA 18969
Type of Se	rvice: () Personal	(X) First Class Mail () Other
Counsel/P	arty:	Cheryl L. Gaston, Esquire City of Philadelphia Law Dept. 1515 Arch Street, 16 <sup>th</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102
Type of Sc	rvice: () Personal	(X) First Class Mail () Other
Counsel/Pa	rty:	Richard C. DeMarco, Esquire Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg & Fullers 260 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102
Type of Se	rvice: () Personal	(X) First Class Mail () Other
Dated: Dec	ember 4, 2007	Delores Bates Judicial Secretary



# LAW OFFICE OF HENRY L SCHIRMER JR., ESQ. 315 NORTH MAIN STREET TELFORD, PA 18969

PHONE(215)530-8274 FAX (215)257-8733

#### January 11, 2008

Richard C. DeMarco Esquire Klehr, Harvey, Harrison, Bransburg & Ellers 260 South Broad Street Philadelphia PA, 19102

> RE: Manayunk Neighborhood Council et al. v. Zoning Board of Adjustment Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County December Term, 2006, Docket No 03448

Dear, Mr. DeMarco

Please find enclosed a notice of appeal for the above referenced case.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry L. Schirmer Jr., Esq.



THE LAW OFFICE OF HENRY L SCHIRMER JR. Henry L. Schirmer Jr. (No. 92090)

Manayur 315 North Main Street
Telford, PA 18969
215-530-87274

MER JR. Attorney for Appellants

Manayunk Neighborhood AH J

Council and Kevin Rhith

Council and Kevin Rhith

79

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

COMMONWEALTH COURT

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUCIL et al. Appellants,

Civil Action No. 061203448

PHILADELPHIA ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, et al,
Appellees.

٧.

December Term, 2006, No. 03448

No. 03448

COMMONWEALTH COURT

# NOTICE OF APPEAL

Notice is hereby given that Manayunk Neighborhood Council Inc. and Kevin Smith, appellants above named, hereby appeal to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania from the order docketed on the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2007. This order has been entered in the docket. A copy of the order is attached.

Dated January 11, 2008

BY

THE LAW OFFICE OF

HENRY L SCHIRMER, ESQUIRE

Henry L. Schirmer. (Pa. Bar ID No. 920902)

315 North Main Street

Telford, PA 18969

215-530-87274

Attorney for Appellants Manayunk Neighborhood Council Inc. and Kevin Smith

DEC 0 4 2007

#### IN THE

# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, Inc. and KEVIN SMITH

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Appellants

DECEMBER TERM, 2006

No.: 3448

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, and RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES, L.P.

Appellees/Intervenors

ORDER & OPINION

GREENSPAN, J.

December 4, DATED:

Manayunk Neighborhood Council, Inc. and Kevin Smith have appealed from the November 30, 2006, decision of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment ("Board") in which the Board granted variances to Rector Street Associates, L.P. to construct a residential addition to an historic industrial warehouse.

The relevant facts are as follows. The building at issue is a warehouse located at 3 Rector Street in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia. (N.T. 10/04/06: 3). 3 Rector Street is an historic structure situated along the river and pedestrian tow path. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4). Originally a mill, the building dates back to the late 1800's. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4, 54). Today, the building is a vacant warehouse with G-2 industrial designation. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5, 39, 44, 75). G-2 industrial zoning prohibits residential

N.T. refers to the notes of testimony from an October 4, 2006, hearing before the City of Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment.

use. While zoned for industrial use, the building housed a plumbing and heating supply business (Labov's) from 1946 to 2001.<sup>2</sup> (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-5). Due to the combined effects of the inability to compete with large, super-store competitors and the increasing difficulties resulting from the age of the building, mounting maintenance costs and lack of loading areas for customers and deliveries, the failing business vacated the premises in 2001. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-6, 44). The vacant building was then placed on the real-estate market where, despite the great heights of the economic real estate boom, it remained unsold for several years. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5, 28-29).

The owners of the building were unable to secure a serious purchase offer for the property, which was being sold as is. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5). Several factors contributed to the undesirability of the structure. Significant repairs would have been required in order to operate an industrial or commercial enterprise from 3 Rector Street. Even if the historic building had undergone the necessary repairs, the building still would have been unfit for modern manufacturing as the property lacks a loading dock for deliveries, parking for customers, and room for horizontal expansion. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5-6, 44).

Any debate over the building's fitness for industrial use is irrelevant as, following local and national trends, industry has not returned to Manayunk. (N.T. 10/04/06: 75). The building, and its surrounding neighborhood, is no longer suited for industry.

Moreover, the building is ill-suited for a commercial business because the location has no frontage on the main street and substantial renovation would be required for a commercial or retail venture. (N.T. 10/04/06: 8). Finally, the ultimate failure of the prior

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> While the Labov family owned the property and originally owned the business, the business was sold in the late 1990's. Under new ownership, the business continued to operate under the Labov family name. The new business owner relocated the business and vacated 3 Rector Street in 2001. (N.T. 10/04/06: 4-5).

commercial plumbing business further demonstrates the lack of commercial feasibility at 3 Rector Street. (N.T. 10/04/06: 5).

Under Pennsylvania law, a reviewing court must affirm an adjudication by the Board unless it finds that the adjudication is in violation of the constitutional rights of the appellant, is not in accordance with law, that statutory provisions were violated in agency proceedings, or that any finding of fact made by the agency and necessary to support its adjudication was not supported by substantial evidence. 2 Pa.C.S. § 754(b). Substantial evidence has been defined as "such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion." Valley View Civic Association v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment, 462 A.2d 637, 640 (Pa. 1983); Direnzo Coal Co. v. Dep't of General Services, 825 A.2d 773, 775 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2003).

Under Philadelphia Code §14-1802, the criteria for granting variances include a determination that a literal enforcement of the provisions would result in unnecessary hardship and that the grant of the variance would not adversely affect public health, safety or general welfare. Unnecessary hardship is found where the "physical features of the property are such that it cannot be used for a permitted purpose or that the property can be conformed for a permitted use only at a prohibitive expense." Allegheny West Civic Council v. ZBA, City of Pittsburgh, 689 A.2d 225, 227 (Pa. 1997). To meet the hardship standard, there are multiple factors relevant for consideration, such as the prohibitive expense of developing the property without a variance, the surrounding neighborhood, the length of vacancy and condition of disrepair, and the economic feasibility of converting the property without a variance. Hertzberg v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment of City of Pittsburgh, 721 A.2d 43, 49 (Pa. 1998). An applicant is not

required to prove that a property is valueless without a variance in order to prove unnecessary hardship. Hertzberg v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment of City of Pittsburgh, 721 A.2d 43, 48 (Pa. 1998). Nor is it mandatory for an applicant to prove that it would be impossible to develop a property in conformity with the applicable zoning ordinance in order to prove unnecessary hardship. Talkish v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Harborcreek

Twp., 738 A.2d 50, 52 (1999). Hardship can be established where the applicant demonstrates that the property has no value or distressed value if used only for one of the permitted purposes. Eighteenth & Rittenhouse Assoc. v. Zoning Bd. of Adjustment, 26

Pa. Cmwlth. 554, 557, 364 A.2d 973, 976 (1976).

Here, the physical features of the property, namely its state of disrepair, large size, historical significance, lack of loading area, lack of parking and location are such that the warehouse cannot be used for a permitted G-2 purpose without unnecessary hardship. The facility at 3 Rector Street could conform to G-2 permitted uses, but only at a prohibitive cost as conformity would require extensive renovation. Conformity would also require substantial investment in industry or business while local economic trends indicate that such permitted G-2 uses are no longer viable ventures in Manayunk. Moreover, to wait until a buyer for such a limited G-2 use appears would leave this property vacant and hence subject to the many ills that befall vacant properties. Clearly the neighborhood and community would suffer in such an event.

At the hearing below, the property owners established unnecessary hardship by presenting substantial evidence to the Board. Only after consideration of the substantial evidence, the Board granted the variances. The Board recognized that the "as is" sale of the structure presented unnecessary hardship and that the Manayunk neighborhood trend

was against demolition and toward preservation of otherwise unusable historic sites by conversion to residential uses. As such, the Board granted variances allowing for a conversion from G-2 industrial use to residential use.<sup>3</sup> The Board's findings of unnecessary hardship were supported by substantial evidence. As such, the adjudication of the Board is affirmed.

For the foregoing reasons, this Court affirms the November 30, 2006, decision of the Board.

BY THE COURT:

Gleenspan, J.

) Petronal (X) First

Cherry Leaven Constitution of the Constitution of Plant April 1984 of the Philippe Philadelphia PA Printer

(Personal (M) Pisse Class Mail a While

Richard C. Youthander by Klehr, Harrey Mary 1997 260 Sporter by A. Mary 1997 Philadelphia 1997 the will

review (a Personal (X) First Cit at I dail

Alecember 4, 2007

Appellants argue that appellees failed to obtain a height variance, however, appellants waived this issue when they did not make this argument before the Board. Issues that are not raised at the board level are waived and may not be addressed on appeal. Sherwood v. Elgart, 383 Pa. 110, 115, 117 A.2d 899, 901 (1955); Myers v. State College Zoning Hearing Board, 108 Pa.Cmwlth. 624, 627, 530 A.2d 526, 527 (1987). In any event, given the fact that the appellees requested that the Board grant "any other variances, use certificates or special use permits that are necessary," in their original variance application, the claim is meritless; the term "any other variance" necessary includes a height variance.

Attorney for Appellants

THE LAW OFFICE OF HENRY L SCHIRMER JR. Henry L. Schirmer Jr. (No. 92090) 315 North Main Street Telford, PA 18969 215-530-87274

#### COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUCIL et al. :

Appellants,

Civil Action No. 061203448

v.

December Term, 2006,

No. 03448

PHILADELPHIA ZONING BOARD

OF ADJUSTMENT, et al,

Appellees.

#### Pa.R.A.P. 1911(a) REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT

A notice of appeal having been filed in this matter, the official court reporter, Edna M. Donovan, is hereby ordered to produce, certify and file a transcript in this matter in conformity with Rules 1911 and 1922 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate Procedure

Dated January 11, 2008

BY

THE LAW OFFICE OF

HENRY L SCHIRMER, ESQUIRE

Henry L. Schirmer. (Pa. Bar ID No. 920902)

315 North Main Street Telford, PA 18969 215-530-87274

Attorney for Appellants Manayunk Neighborhood Council Inc. and Kevin Smith

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 11th day of January 2008, I cause a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Notice of Appeal and Request for Transcript to be served by first class mail, postage prepaid on the following persons:

Cheryl L. Gaston, Esquire City of Philadelphia Law Dept. 1515 Arch St 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Philadelphia PA 19102

Richard C. DeMarco Esquire Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branbug & Fullers 260 South Broad Street Philadelphia PA, 19102

The Honorable Jane C. Greenspan Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas 1206 Criminal Justice Center 1301 Filbert Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 Edna M. Donovan Official Court Reporter Land Title Building 100 South Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19110

Commonwealth Court 100 South Broad Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Appeals) Philadelphia, PA 19107

Henry L. Schirmer Jr. Esq.



# **Civil Docket Report**

## **Case Description**

Case ID:

061203448

Case Caption: MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL INC ETAL VS ZBA

Filing Date:

Thursday, December 28th, 2006

Court:

SA - AGENCY APPEAL

Location:

CH - City Hall

Jury:

N - NON JURY

Case Type:

5Z - ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Status:

ORDRF - ORDER ENTERED - FINAL DISPOS

#### Related Cases

No related cases were found.

#### Case Event Schedule

No case events were found.

#### Case Parties

Seq#	Assoc	Expn Date	Туре	ID	Name
1			ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT	A92090	SCHIRMER JR, HENRY L
Address:	315 NOF STREET PO BOX TELFOR 18969 (215)530	247 D PA	Aliases:	none	
2	1		APPELLANT	@5620309	MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL INC
Address:	ST	RMITAGE ELPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	

3	1		APPELLANT	@5620310	SMITH, KEVIN
Address:	ST	MITAGE LPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
4	8		APPELLEE	14916	ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Address:	MSB 140 BLVD PHILADE 19103	1 JFK LPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
5			APPELLEE	@5620312	RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES LP
Address:		ROAD ST ELPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
			-		
6		12-SEP- 2007	TEAM LEADER	J370	GLAZER, GARY S
Address:		ELPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
7	8		APPELLEE	11000	CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
Address:	DEPART 1515 AR ONE PAI	MENT CH ST RKWAY ELPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
	4				
8			ATTORNEY FOR APPELLEE	A51192	GASTON, CHERYL L
Address:	CITY OF LAW DE		Aliases:	none	

	1515 AR STREET FLOOR PHILADE 19102 (215)683	, 16TH ELPHIA PA			
9	5		ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT	A67676	DEMARCO, RICHARD C
Address:		, BURG & S JTH STREET ELPHIA PA	Aliases:	none	
	·	1	1	<del></del>	I
10			TEAM LEADER	J330	GREENSPAN, JANE C
Address:	JUSTICE 1301 FIL STREET	E CENTER BERT ELPHIA PA	Aliases	none	

#### **Docket Entries**

Filing Date/Time	Docket Type	Filing Party	Disposition Amount
28-DEC-2006 03:01 PM	ACTIV - ACTIVE CASE		
Docket Entry:	none.	<u> </u>	
28-DEC-2006 03:07 PM	CMOIS - CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER ISSUED	SCHIRMER JR, HENRY L	

Docket Entry:	none.		
28-DEC-2006 03:07 PM	STAPP - NOTICE OF STATUTORY APPEAL	SCHIRMER JR, HENRY L	
Docket Entry:	APPEAL FROM THE ADJUDIO ADJUSTMENT MADE ON 30-1	CATION OF THE ZONING B NOV-2006.	OARD OF
02-JAN-2007 10:52 AM	CLWSO - WAITING/ISSUE SCHEDULING ORDER		
Docket Entry:	none.		
03-JAN-2007 03:41 PM	SASOI - SCHEDULING ORDER ISSUED		
Docket Entry:	It is hereby ORDERED as followed or Cordered to file its record with Unit, Room 278, City Hall by Order Extraordinary Relief: From the filed with Motions Court (Room any request for continuance shear Extraordinary Relief. 3. Briefs: Appellee's brief is due by 04-Jl Office of Civil Administration, Asserved upon all opponents. 4. appeal will take place anytime date, time and location will be (15) days prior to the schedule and its contents shall be referred Coordinator, in writing via face 03-JAN-2007	th the Office of the Prothonol 2-APR-2007 or risk sanction dates set forth below in this a 296 City Hall) not later than ould also be filed as a Motio Appellant's brief is due by 0 UN-2007. Briefs are to be filed attn: Debbie Dailey, Room 29 Oral Argument: On the legal after 02-JUL-2007. Notice of sent to all interested parties and event. Questions concerning to Ellen Glass, Esquire, Fed to Ellen Glass, Esquire,	eary, 2nd Filing s. 2. Motions for Order should be n 07-MAY-2007 on for 7-MAY-2007. ed with the nerits of this f the scheduled at least fifteen ng this Order Program
			1
03-JAN-2007 03:41 PM	CLLOR - LISTED FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS		
Docket Entry:	none.		
		1	<u> </u>
05-JAN-2007 10:15 AM	ENAPP - ENTRY OF APPEARANCE FILED	GASTON, CHERYL L	
Docket	ENTRY OF APPEARANCE O	F CHERYL GASTON FILED	ON BEHALF

Entry:	OF APPELLEES ZONING BOA	ARD OF ADJUSTMENT & C	ITY OF PHILA.
17-JAN-2007 03:57 PM	PRINV - PRAECIPE TO INTERVENE	DEMARCO, RICHARD C	
Docket Entry:	PRAECIPE TO INTERVENE A RICHARD DEMARCO ESQ O INTERVENORS RECTOR STI	N BEHALF OF AJPPELLEE:	3
17-APR-2007 03:19 PM	MTEXR - MOT-FOR EXTRAORDINARY RELIEF	MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL INC,	
Docket Entry:	38-07041438 MOTION FOR X	-RELIEF FILED.	
		1	
03:20 PM	MTASN - MOTION ASSIGNED		
Docket Entry:	38-07041438 MOTION FOR E JUDGE GLAZER ON 4-20-07.	XTRAORDINARY RELIEF A	ASSIGNED TO
23-APR-2007 03:02 PM	ORDER - ORDER ENTERED/236 NOTICE GIVEN	GLAZER, GARY S	
Docket Entry:	38-07041438 AND NOW, THIS REVIEW OF MOVANT'S MOT ANY RESPONSE THERETO, MOVANTS' MOTION FOR EX EXTENSION OF THREE MOS ORDER TO ISSUE FORTHW	TION FOR EXTRAORDINAR IT IS HEREBY ORDERED T TRAORDINARY RELIEF IS NTHS IS GRANTED. NEW S	Y RELIEF AND THAT GRANTED: AN CHEDULING
23-APR-2007 03:07 PM	RVCMO - REVISED CASE MGMT ORDER ISSUED		
Docket Entry:	It is hereby ORDERED as foldo ORDERED to file its record wind Unit, Room 278, City Hall by O Extraordinary Relief: From the filed with Motions Court (Room any request for continuance st Extraordinary Relief. 3. Briefs: Appellee's brief is due by 03-S Office of Civil Administration, A	th the Office of the Prothono 2-JUL-2007 or risk sanctions dates set forth below in this n 296 City Hall) not later than hould also be filed as a Motio Appellant's brief is due by 0 SEP-2007. Briefs are to be fil	tary, 2nd Filing s. 2. Motions for Order should be n 06-AUG-2007 on for 6-AUG-2007. ed with the

12-SEP-2007 03:04 PM	CLADS - ARGUMENT DATE SET		
Docket Entry:	BRIEF FILED.		
05-SEP-2007 07:22 AM	BRIEF - BRIEF FILED	RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES LP,	
Docket Entry:	APPELANTS BRIEF IN SUPP	ORT OF THEIR APPEAL FI	LED.
08-AUG-2007 03:56 PM	BRIEF - BRIEF FILED		
	CERTIFIED RECORD WITH F OF LAW, FILED.	FINDINGS OF FACT AND C	ONCLUSIONS
30-APR-2007 10:01 AM	CRTRR - CERTIFIED RECORD RECEIVED	ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT,	
Docket Entry:	38-07041438 ANS FILED TO	MOTION FOR X-ORDINAR'	Y RELIEF.
27-APR-2007 07:39 AM	MTANS - ANSWER (MOTION/PETITION) FILED	RECTOR STREET ASSOCIATES LP,	
Docket Entry:	38-07041438 AND NOW, THIS REVIEW OF MOVANTS' REQ THERETO, IT IS HEREBY OF A STAY IS DENIEDBY THI	UEST FOR A STAY AND A RDERED THAT MOVANTS'	NY RESPONSE REQUEST FOR
23-APR-2007 03:15 PM	ENTERED/236 NOTICE GIVEN	GLAZER, GARY S	
	served upon all opponents. 4. appeal will take place anytime date, time and location will be (15) days prior to the schedule and its contents shall be referr Coordinator, in writing via facs 23-APR-2007	after 01-OCT-2007. Notice of sent to all interested parties and event. Questions concerned to Ellen Glass, Esquire, F	of the scheduled at least fifteen ing this Order Program

Docket Entry:	none.		
12-SEP-2007 03:58 PM	CLLOR - LISTED FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS		
Docket Entry:	none.		
14-SEP-2007 12:01 AM	CLNGV - NOTICE GIVEN		
Docket Entry:	попе.		
12-DEC-2007 02:31 PM	ORDRF - ORDER ENTERED - FINAL DISPOS	GREENSPAN, JANE C	
Docket Entry:	1 AFFIRIVIA 1111 (VL) VI WILLEN JU	EBY ORDERED THAT THIS 0, 2006, DECISION OF THE TULL TERMS AND CONDIT	S COURT E BOARD. (SEE
	<u></u>		
12-DEC-2007 02:31 PM	ZR236 - NOTICE GIVEN UNDER RULE 236		
Docket Entry:	none.		
11-JAN-2008 02:58 PM	APCOM - APPEAL TO COMMONWEALTH COURT	SCHIRMER JR, HENRY L	
Docket Entry:	********NOTICE IS HEREBY OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL IN THE ORDER DATED 12-4-07 GREENSPAN.ORDER FOR THE FILED.************************************	INC AND KEVIN SMITH API AND DOCKETED ON 12-12	PEALS FROM 2-07 BY JUDGE

#### **CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I, Richard DeMarco, hereby certify that on January 23, 2008, a copy of the foregoing Motion to Quash was served via first class mail upon the following individuals:

Henry L. Schirmer, Jr., Esquire 315 North Main Street Philadelphia PA 18969 Attorney for Appellants

Edward Jefferson, Esquire
Philadelphia Law Department
1515 Arch Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor
Philadelphia PA 19102
Acting Attorney for Zoning Board of Adjustment and City of Philadelphia

The Honorable Jane Cutler Greenspan Court of Common Pleas 1206 Criminal Justice Center 1301 Filbert Street Philadelphia PA 19107

Richard C. DeMarco

SON, HARVEY, BRANZBURG & ELLERS LLP
Attorneys at Law
260 South Broad Street
iladelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-5003

Henry L. Schirmer, Jr., Esquire 315 North Main Street Philadelphia, PA 18969