

SUMMARY

This ordinance amends Chapter 21, Article II, of the 2019 Detroit City Code by adding Section 21-2-250 to establish the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District, and to define the elements of design for the district.

1	BY COUNCIL MEMBER:
2	AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 21, Article II of the 2019 Detroit City Code
3	by adding Section 21-2-250 to establish the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes
4	Historic District and to define the elements of design for the district.
5	IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF DETROIT
6	THAT:
7	Section 1. Chapter 21, Article II, of the 2019 Detroit City Code be amended by
8	adding Section 21-2-250 to read as follows:
9	Sec. 21-2-250. Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District.
10	(a) A historic district to be known as the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes
11	Historic District is established in accordance with the provisions of this article.
12	(b) This historic district designation is certified as being consistent with the Detroit
13	Master Plan.
14	(c) The boundaries of the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District
15	are as shown on the map on file in the office of the City Clerk, and are as follows:
16	Beginning at a point, that point being the intersection of the centerlines of Ryan Road and
17	East Seven Mile Road; thence south along said centerline of Ryan Road to its intersection
18	with the centerline of Nevada Avenue; thence east along the centerline of said Nevada
19	Avenue to the centerline of Mound Road; thence north along the centerline of said Mound
20	Road to its intersection with the centerline of East Seven Mile Road; thence west along the
21	centerline of said East Seven Mile Road to the centerline of Ryan Road to the Point of
22	Beginning.
23	(d) The defined elements of design, as provided for in Section 21-2-250 of this
24	code, are as follows:
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(1)	Height. The approximately one-thousand-five-hundred and sixty-one
	(1,561) buildings in the district range from one (1) to three (3) stories tall.
	The approximately one-thousand-five-hundred and sixty-one (1,561)
	buildings in the district consist of approximately one-thousand and five
	hundred and twenty-one (1,521) residential buildings that range from one
	(1) to two-and-a-half (2 ½) stories tall, the half stories contained within the
	roof. Garages are generally one-story tall. The Sojourner Truth Homes have
	a total of forty-nine (49) buildings in the development that are two-and-a-
	half (2 ½) stories in height. The district includes approximately forty (40)
	commercial and institutional buildings that range from one (1) to two-and-
	a-half (2 ½) stories tall. The red brick King David Missionary Baptist
	Church at Nevada Street and Sunset Street has a slightly vaulted sanctuary
	section that is two-and-a-half (2 ½) stories tall with a steeple that is an
	additional one (1) story in height.

- (2) Proportion of buildings' front façades. The proportions of individual front façades vary within the district. Almost all of the approximately one-thousand and five hundred and sixty-one (1,561) contributing residential and commercial structures are wider than tall on the front façades. Only a few of the one-thousand and five-hundred and sixty-one (1,561) residential and commercial structures are taller than wide. The approximately forty (40) commercial structures on the major border streets surrounding the district are wider than tall on the front façades.
- (3) <u>Proportion of openings within the façades.</u> The proportion of openings within the district varies considerably but can be categorized by building type. The typical Minimal Traditional style home has a high ratio of solid

1 wall surfaces to openings and is composed of approximately twenty percent (20%) openings in its front, side, and rear façades. The side and rear façades 2 are designed with similar window openings arranged in a similar horizontal 3 plane at each floor. The front façade of the typical Bungalow style home 4 has windows arranged on each side of a center entry, or at the side of a side 5 entry, comprising approximately thirty percent (30%) of the openings. The 6 Tudor Influenced style home has approximately thirty percent (30%) 7 openings in its front, side, and rear façades. The windows and openings are 8 arranged on both the first and second stories, in varying locations. The 9 10 Ranch Style homes found throughout the district are composed of approximately thirty percent (30%) openings in its front, side, and rear 11 facades. Most of the Ranch Style homes have an attached garage at the front 12 façade of the building, accounting for the largest opening in the front façade. 13 The rowhouse residences in the Sojourner Truth Homes have a high ratio of 14 solid wall surfaces to openings and are composed of approximately twenty 15 percent (20%) openings in their front, side, and rear façades. The townhouse 16 residences in the Sojourner Truth Homes have a high ratio of solid wall 17 surfaces to openings and are composed of approximately twenty-five 18 19 percent (25%) openings in their front, side, and rear façades. Window sizes 20 and the proportion of individual windows vary within the district and include fixed aluminum, fixed steel, wood double-hung, and divided, and 22 other types of windows appropriate to the variety of time periods and architectural styles found in the buildings within the Krainz 23 24 Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes historic district.

Rhythm of solids to voids in the front façades. The district has a variety of (4) residential building types with a varying rhythm of solids to voids on front facades. There are distinctive openings on each of the four (4) main residential building styles in the remainder of the district: Minimal Traditional style, Bungalow style, Ranch style, and Tudor Influenced style. The Minimal Traditional style homes have a variety of front window and door arrangements, some with a recessed front entry door, and some with a front entry door at the projecting front façade. A rhythm of solids to voids are irregular on each of the various versions of the Minimal Traditional style. The rhythm of solids to voids in the front façades of Bungalow style residences are arranged both vertically and horizontally at regular intervals, typically with a dormer window centered at the roof. The Ranch style homes have an irregular rhythm of solids to voids in the front façades, although the openings are typically arranged at a consistent horizontal level. The Tudor Influenced homes in the district have an irregular rhythm of solids to voids in the front façades, and the size and location of openings varies on each individual Tudor Influenced home. There are very regular openings on the rowhouses in the Sojourner Truth Homes. The rowhouse buildings have a regular pattern of window and door openings. The townhouse buildings are designed with an irregular pattern of openings; most are mirror images of the adjacent townhome. The commercial/institutional buildings in the district have solids and voids that range in pattern and have no regular rhythm. The solids and voids of Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4900 East Hildale Street) are arranged in vertical bays on

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the historic 1927 structure facing East Hildale Street and Healy Street. The solids and voids in the buildings of the district have no regular rhythm.

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Rhythm of spacing of buildings on streets. The overall character of the (5) district is one of three (3) visually distinct areas. The first area is the commercial areas along the main surrounding streets: Ryan Road, Nevada Street, Mound Road, and East Seven Mile Road. There is no consistent rhythm of spacing of buildings on these streets due to the parking lots and vacant lots on commercial streets. The second area is the Sojourner Truth Homes area, where the rhythm of the rowhouses is consistent. The rhythm of the townhouses is also consistent, and the circular streets create a distinctive rhythm and spacing. The third area is the residential side streets in the interior of the district which have a very repetitive rhythm of setbacks and spacing between the homes in the district. Lot sizes are consistently thirty-five (35) feet by one-hundred and five (105) feet in size. Typically, there is eleven (11) feet between the homes. Occasionally there are exceptions such as the blocks of Eureka Street that contain some larger homes and are constructed on larger lots. Many homesites include an adjacent lot. Most of the buildings in the district on the interior residential streets are spaced at approximately the same distance from each other.

(6) Rhythm of entrance and/or porch projections. There is little uniformity among primary entrances to the approximately one-thousand-five-hundred and sixty-one (1,561) buildings in the district. The residential homes on the side streets of the district have their entrance and porch projections on the front façades of the homes. The entrances and porch projections vary in location throughout the side streets. The Sojourner Truth Homes have

consistent entrances and porch projections on both the rowhouses and on the townhomes. The commercial/institutional buildings have no consistent rhythm of entrance and/or porch projections, the commercial buildings along the major surrounding boarder roads have varying locations of entrances. The Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4900) East Hildale Street) has two entrances on East Hildale Street, an entrance on Healy Street, and an entrance on the Fenelon Street side of the building that is adjacent to the school parking lot. The school's entrances do not create a rhythm.

(7) Relationship of materials. A variety of building materials exist throughout the district, including brick, metal, concrete, vinyl, aluminum, limestone, permastone, and glass. Window frames and sashes are mostly aluminum, some window frames are wood, some are composite metal. Landscape elements include concrete driveways, curbs and sidewalks as well as metal streetlights, fencing, street signs, and fire plugs. Planting areas surrounding the homes of the side streets mostly consist of grass lawns, shrubs, and street trees. There are paved asphalt and concrete parking lots surrounding or adjacent to many of the commercial and institutional buildings in the historic district.

(8) Relationship of textures. On most buildings, textural effects contrast with each other, with textured brick and aluminum or vinyl siding and permastone contrasting with glass windows. The most significant texture in the interior residential streets of the district is the use of both aluminum siding and vinyl siding on the homes of Krainz Woods. The Sojourner Truth Homes are faced with brick creating a predominant brick texture contrasting

with horizontal vinyl siding and shingled roofs. The Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4900 East Hildale Street) has textures that include brick, random range ashlar, and limestone. The commercial buildings and homes on the surrounding roads of Krainz Woods are finished in a variety of materials and have no consistent texture.

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Relationship of colors. On the side streets of the district there are many (9) varying colors used on the homes: white, beige, orange, red, mint green, dark green, brown, and yellow. Natural brick colors, such as red, yellow, brown, or light orange, are used on many wall surfaces. The dominating colors of white, light grey, and red brick, are often contrasted with silver aluminum awnings. Roofs are mainly finished with asphalt shingles predominantly within a dark color range. The variation in aluminum and vinyl siding color reflects a diversity of colors and styles throughout the district. In the Sojourner Truth Homes area of the historic district the dominant colors are dark orange and red brick, brown trim, tan colored vinvl siding, and dark grey shingled roofs. The other common color in the historic district is black - found on the doors, wrought iron fencing, and trashcans. The Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4900 East Hildale Street) stands alone with dark orange multi-colored brick, and beige limestone trim. There are green lawns, street trees, and shrubs throughout the district. Sidewalks consist of slabs of naturally colored gray concrete. The AT&T/Michigan Bell Telephone Building (18862 Ryan Road) has dark yellow brick facing and yellow Mankato stone foundation and surrounds with dark grey spandrels. Surface parking lots are either gray asphalt or larger slabs of naturally colored gray concrete.

Relationship of architectural details. A variety of architectural styles are (10)represented in the district, including Minimal Traditional, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, Ranch, and English Tudor Influenced. Architectural details vary throughout the district, but buildings are generally detailed according to the characteristics of their individual architectural styles. Decorative details on the Minimal Traditional style homes (the most common style structure in the district) include projecting front gables, aluminum awnings, and multipane divided windows. The Minimal Traditional style homes incorporate modern materials and frequently had various colors of permastone used on the front facades in many different locations. The Bungalow style homes notably feature a wide covered porch, side gable ends, and a centered dormer window at the roof. The one-and-a half-story bungalows in the district often have brick piers supporting the front porch, and sometimes on each side of the porch stairs. English Tudor Influenced style homes typically incorporate such details as cross-gable roofs, steeply pitched front façade gables, round lintels on various front façade windows, and decorative brick details. The Colonial Revival style details found on the Sojourner Truth Homes include recessed entry doors, steep gables, and jetty overhangs at the second story. A water table of header bricks at the second-story window level are also common Colonial Revival style details. Ranch style homes in the district have details that include an attached garage, one-story wide structure occupying two lots, wide overhanging eaves, and a large picture window. The Legacy Charter Academy elementary school, the former Edmund Atkinson School, (4900 East Hildale Avenue) is designed in the Collegiate Gothic style and incorporates two towers on each side of the

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main entrance, limestone trim around windows, and water tables and coping. The AT&T/Michigan Bell Telephone Exchange building (18862 Ryan Road) incorporated Art Deco detailing in an otherwise industrial building. It is faced in yellow brick and set on a foundation of Mankato Stone. The original pedestrian entrance door at the north end of the façade on Ryan Road is recessed and has a shallow pediment and surrounds of yellow Mankato stone. The two-part windows also have Mankato stone surrounds and a dark grey granite spandrel are spaced in measured symmetry that reflects the Art Deco style.

(11) Relationship of roof shapes. The majority of residential buildings in the district have side gabled roofs, although exceptions are found throughout the district. The residential homes also have various roof shapes depending on the style of the home. Ranch style homes typically have hipped roofs, while English Tudor influenced homes have cross-gabled roofs. The rowhouses at the Sojourner Truth Homes have side-gabled roofs, and the Sojourner Truth townhouses have multi-level side gabled roofs on each unit. Steeply pitched roofs on the duplex units on Sunset Street are side gabled with two dormers in each building. The commercial and institutional buildings such as Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School) have flat roofs. The Modern style James Europe Post 2233 (18655 Mound Road) has an unusual asymmetrical low-pitched gabled roof.

(12) Walls of continuity. The common setbacks of houses on the straight residential side-streets create strong visual walls of continuity. The Sojourner Truth Homes' streets all have walls of continuity because of the complete and intact multi-family homes of the development. The linear

progression	of	the	homes	and	businesses	on	Mound	Road	creates	an
irregular, bu	t co	ntin	uous wa	<u>ıll.</u>						

(13) Relationship of significant landscape features and surface treatments.

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The flat terrain of the area is divided with principal streets oriented northsouth and approximately fifty (50) feet in width. Three east-west streets (Robinwood, East Hildale, and Stockton Avenues) are also fifty (50) feet in width. Landscape features of the historic district include asphalt paved streets, concrete curbs, driveways, and sidewalks, private lawns, and yards. Sidewalks line each side of the streets in Krainz Woods and are set back from the road by a grass berm. Street trees are sometimes in the grass berm, but not always extant due to their limited lifespan. The residential properties are separated from the commercial lots by an alley. The typical treatment of individual residential properties is that of a dwelling erected on a flat or slightly graded front lawn. The front lawn area is generally covered with grass turf, subdivided by a straight or curving concrete sidewalk leading to the front entrance. The most significant landscape feature in the district is John Krainz Jr. Memorial Park, a rectangular-shaped 9.72-acre public park with pedestrian pathways running around the circumference of the park. The park is accessible from Healy Street, East Hildale Street, and Stockton Street. East of Krainz Park, opposite (east) of Healy Avenue is the grass playfield of Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School). Krainz Park features two picnic pavilions on a concrete slab, two basketball courts, picnic tables, a baseball diamond, and playground equipment. A flagpole erected in memory of John Krainz Jr. is at the northwest side of the park. The eastern side of the district, south of East Hildale Street, on each side of Syracuse Street, is the Syracuse-Hildale Playground, approximately half a block in length with playground equipment, picnic tables, and a basketball court on the eastern side. There are tall metal vertical light standards, street signs, and fire plugs throughout the district. Sidewalks consist of slabs of naturally colored gray concrete. Surface parking lots are found adjacent to the commercial buildings on the district's border streets, and at the Sojourner Truth Homes; they are asphalt-paved parking lots, or concrete-paved parking lots.

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(14)Relationship of open space to structures. The wide border streets bounding the Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes district (Ryan Road, Mound Road, Nevada Street, and East Seven Mile Road) have a large percentage of vacant parcels that range in size. On the interior side-streets, public sidewalks line each side of the street and are set back from the road by a grass berm. Alleys are located between each pair of streets; however, the alleys have been vacated and are covered in grass and vegetation. All houses have ample rear yards as well as front yards. Wider residential lots have side drives with garages at the rear of lots. Where dwellings are located on corner lots, garages face the side street. Garages, when original, often correspond in materials to the main body of the dwelling, but are of modest, one-story simple box design with single or double doors. About half of the original garages in the district have been removed and/or replaced. Fences of metal, wood, or composite vinyl separate individual properties from the alley behind the homes. Backyard fences are common throughout the district. Occasionally there are front-yard fences found throughout the district. Additionally, parking lots, vacant land, and paved areas for

1		vehicular usage create open space on Mound Road, East Seven Mile Road,
2		Ryan Road, and Nevada Avenue in the historic district. The John Krainz Jr.
3		Park provides open natural space between the side streets of East Hildale
4		Street and Stockton Street. The playgrounds at the Syracuse-Hildale
5		playlots are open space for public use. Many homes in the district have been
6		demolished, creating empty lots scattered throughout the district. Also,
7		many homes were constructed on double lots to provide a private side yard.
8	(15)	Scale of façades and façade elements. The approximately one-thousand and
9		five hundred and twenty-one (1,521) residential buildings range from one
10		(1) to two-and-a-half (2 ½) stories tall in scale. The Minimal Traditional
11		style houses erected in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s are generally smaller in
12		scale than those built in the earlier phase of development The façades of the
13		approximately forty (40) commercial/institutional buildings range from one
14		(1)-story tall to two-and-a-half (2 ½) stories tall. Elements and details are in
15		proportion to their respective façades.
16	(16)	Directional expression of front elevations. The directional expression of
17		individual front elevations varies according to the street-front direction
18		throughout the district. The front elevations of the commercial/institutional
19		buildings on the border roads of the district generally face towards the main
20		road. An exception is King David Missionary Baptist Church (18001 Sunset
21		Street), where the front elevation faces east towards Sunset Street. The
22		Sojourner Truth Homes front facades face the direction of the street in all
23		cases. The residential homes on the side streets of the district all face the
24		street-front direction. Legacy Charter Academy's historic front elevation
25		(Edmund Atkinson School, 4900 East Hildale Street) faces north on East

1		Hildale Street. The school's west-facing, five-bay two-story façade facing
2		Healy Street is also a significant entry elevation. The AT&T/Michigan Bell
3		Telephone Exchange building entry (18862 Ryan Road) faces west on Ryan
4		Road.
5	(17)	Rhythm of building setbacks. The generally common setback of the façades
6		of the residential homes in the district creates a consistent orientation on the
7		side-streets. Most residential homes on the side-streets are set back from the
8		sidewalk by twenty-eight (28) feet. The set back of some of the earlier
9		Bungalow-style homes is inconsistent, and the larger homes on Eureka
10		Street are also an exception to this otherwise consistent setback. The
11		commercial/institutional buildings have varying setbacks and sometimes
12		have parking lots or landscaping in front of the structures; therefore there is
13		no typical rhythm of building setback for the commercial/institutional
14		buildings.
15	(18)	Relationship of lot coverages. The lot coverage for single-family dwellings
16		ranges generally from twenty-five (25) to thirty-five (35) percent, including
17		the garage, whether freestanding or attached. The lot coverage for the
18		commercial/institutional buildings ranges generally from fifty (50) to
19		seventy-five (75) percent, depending on the property.
20	(19)	Degree of complexity within the façades. The degree of complexity has been
21		determined by what is typical and appropriate for a given style. Overall,
22		there is a higher degree of complexity in the English Tudor Influenced style
23		buildings, where their façades are frequently complicated by gables, bays,
24		irregularly placed openings and entrances, and irregular massing, than those
25		of other styles. The façades of Minimal Traditional style homes are more

straightforward in their arrangement of elements and details. Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4900 East Hildale Street) has Collegiate Gothic style details on both the north-facing elevation and the west-facing elevation. The west-facing, five-bay two-story façade facing Healy Street is complex and symmetrically arranged; it contains a central, shallow gabled entrance bay with a single-story projecting entrance vestibule on its first floor. The north-facing façade facing Hildale Street is also complex and has shallow gables over the end walls with large blind limestone niches supported on the corner wall buttresses. The Hildale facade consists of a nine (9) bay stretch broken by the seventh bay which is another entrance bay identical to the entrance bay of the Healy façade except it does not have the shallow gable above. The AT&T Michigan Bell Telephone Exchange Building (18862 Ryan Road) has a simplified Art Deco style façade that has a foundation of Mankato stone, and yellow brick above, tall two-over-four multi-paned windows separated by black granite spandrels line the west and north facades. An entry door at the west facade, and the windows have a surround of yellow Mankato stone.

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(20) Orientation, vistas, overviews. The orientation of buildings is generally toward the north-south side streets with the exception of the homes on East Hildale Street which generally face to the north. The primary vistas are created by the landscaped lawns. Because of the standard setbacks and the general lack of front yard fencing, most of the streetscape appears as an unbroken greenbelt. The Sojourner Truth Homes buildings are oriented in a circular and linear pattern creating short vistas. There are broad vistas that are toward the north from the medians at the two entrances on Nevada

Street. The commercial properties on the surrounding border streets have a 1 straight-line vista to their directional orientation. Legacy Charter Academy 2 (Edmund Atkinson School 4900 East Hildale Street) is oriented to the north, 3 facing East Hildale Street. The AT&T Michigan Bell Telephone Exchange 4 Building (18862 Ryan Road) is set back from the intersection at Ryan Road 5 and East Seven Mile Road, making it prominent at that intersection's vista. 6 Symmetric or asymmetric appearance. Front façades of buildings in the 7 (21)district range from completely symmetrical to asymmetrical, but balanced 8 compositions. English Tudor Influenced style buildings are irregular in 9 layout and asymmetrical in appearance. The Minimal Traditional style 10 buildings are generally symmetrical, but many have an asymmetrical gable 11 and entry at the front facade. The Bungalow style buildings are not always 12 13 symmetrical but result in highly ordered compositions. The rowhouses at the Sojourner Truth Homes have a symmetrical composition since they have 14 six (6) units in each rowhouse. The townhouses of the Sojourner Truth 15 16 Homes are asymmetrical in appearance because the units are arranged in 17 mirror images of each other. The commercial buildings on the major roads 18 that border the district have both symmetrical and asymmetrical 19 appearances, depending on the type of commercial property. Legacy 20 Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School 4900 East Hildale Street) is 21 asymmetrical on its north façade (at East Hildale Street), but it is 22 symmetrical on the west façade (Healy Street). The east façade of the school 23 has several additions that were constructed at various times, creating an 24 asymmetrical appearance. The AT&T Michigan Bell Telephone Exchange 25 Building (18862 Ryan Road) is asymmetrical in appearance because its

original 1941 structure is at the north side of the building, and additions were constructed to the south.

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General environmental character. The Krainz Woods/Sojourner Truth Homes Historic District is a solid, fully developed large residential area of approximately one-thousand-five-hundred and sixty-one (1,561) buildings of mostly small-scaled single-family dwellings, built up in the period between 1925 to 1960 and complemented with typical examples of ranch houses from the 1960s. The landscaped features of John Krainz Park and Legacy Charter Academy (Edmund Atkinson School, 4100 East Hildale Street) result in a park-like setting. Located approximately seven (7) miles from the City's center, the surrounding major roads of Nevada Street, Ryan Road, East Seven Mile Road, and Mound Road comprise the commercial areas. The surrounding area to the north, east and west feature several other substantial residential subdivisions; most notably the neighborhood of Conant Gardens to the west. South of Nevada Street are industrial and governmental complexes including the Detroit Police Department Eleventh Precinct (5100 Nevada Street), and the Detroit Reentry Center/Detroit Detention Center (17600 Ryan Road), and warehouses and storage facilities such as Judd Industrial Contracting (17900 Ryan Road).

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, or resolutions, in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance is declared necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the City of Detroit.

Section 4. If this ordinance is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of City Council members serving, it shall be given immediate effect and shall become effective upon

- publication in accordance with Section 4-118(1) of the 2012 Detroit City Charter;
- otherwise, it shall become effective in accordance with Section 4-118(2) of the 2012

3 Detroit City Charter.

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6 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Conrad Mallett Corporation Counsel