

PRESS RELEASE

PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

I. INTRODUCTION

At the time of the building of the Al-Ahad Islamic Center (the "Center"), South Whitehall Township ("SWT") required that the SIJPA to build 327 parking spaces to accommodate the Center. After negotiations with SWT, they agreed to waive the aforementioned requirement, and only required that the Center build 101 parking spots. SWT, however, stated that the Center must reserve enough land to build 63 additional parking spaces should SWT's Board of Commissioners ever determine it necessary in their sole discretion. Accordingly, the Center has complied with SWT's mandate.

II. PARKING CONCERNS

In the spring of 2010, SWT had received complaints about the overflow of cars at the Center. Shortly thereafter, there was a meeting held between the Center's management and SWT officers. After discussing SWT's concerns, the Center offered to expand the parking by 45 spots. By agreeing to expand by 45 parking spots, the Center could retain a green area for the recreational purpose. The flat green area, will be located to the left of the Madressa. This green area will be used for volleyball, soccer, etc. However, SWT has the right to require that the Center add an additional 18 spots, if it deems it necessary.

As of now, the Center has a permit for the parking lot expansion in order to add the 45 parking spots. In accordance with an overriding state statute, Act 87, *the permit does not expire until July 1, 2016.*

III. THE FUTURE

By trying to address the parking lot situation now, the Center may avoid a situation where SWT's Board of Commissioners suddenly mandates a parking lot expansion. If that would occur, the Center would be financially and logistically unprepared. In addition, the expansion may allow the Center to make the following arguments in favor of the building of a gym on top of the created green area.

First, the Center could argue that the 45 parking lot expansion has relieved any and all parking problems and, therefore, an additional expansion is not needed. Therefore, the Center should be permitted to use the green area for a gym. The Center will also need to convince SWT that only one facility at a time would be used by the

community, *i.e.* the gym, Sunday school and the worship area would not be used simultaneously so that parking overflow will not be an issue.

Second, the Center could try and obtain a lease to use the parking lot at the neighboring legal office. That lot with the combined 45 additional parking spots may be enough to appease SWT. With that many parking spots available, the construction of a gym on top of the green area may be feasible.

Third, SWT has approximately 2 acres of land near the Center that is unoccupied. The land is currently not for sale, but could be in the future. With the parking expansion and possible purchase of that land, the ability to construct the gym and meet all of SWT's requirements becomes more realistic.

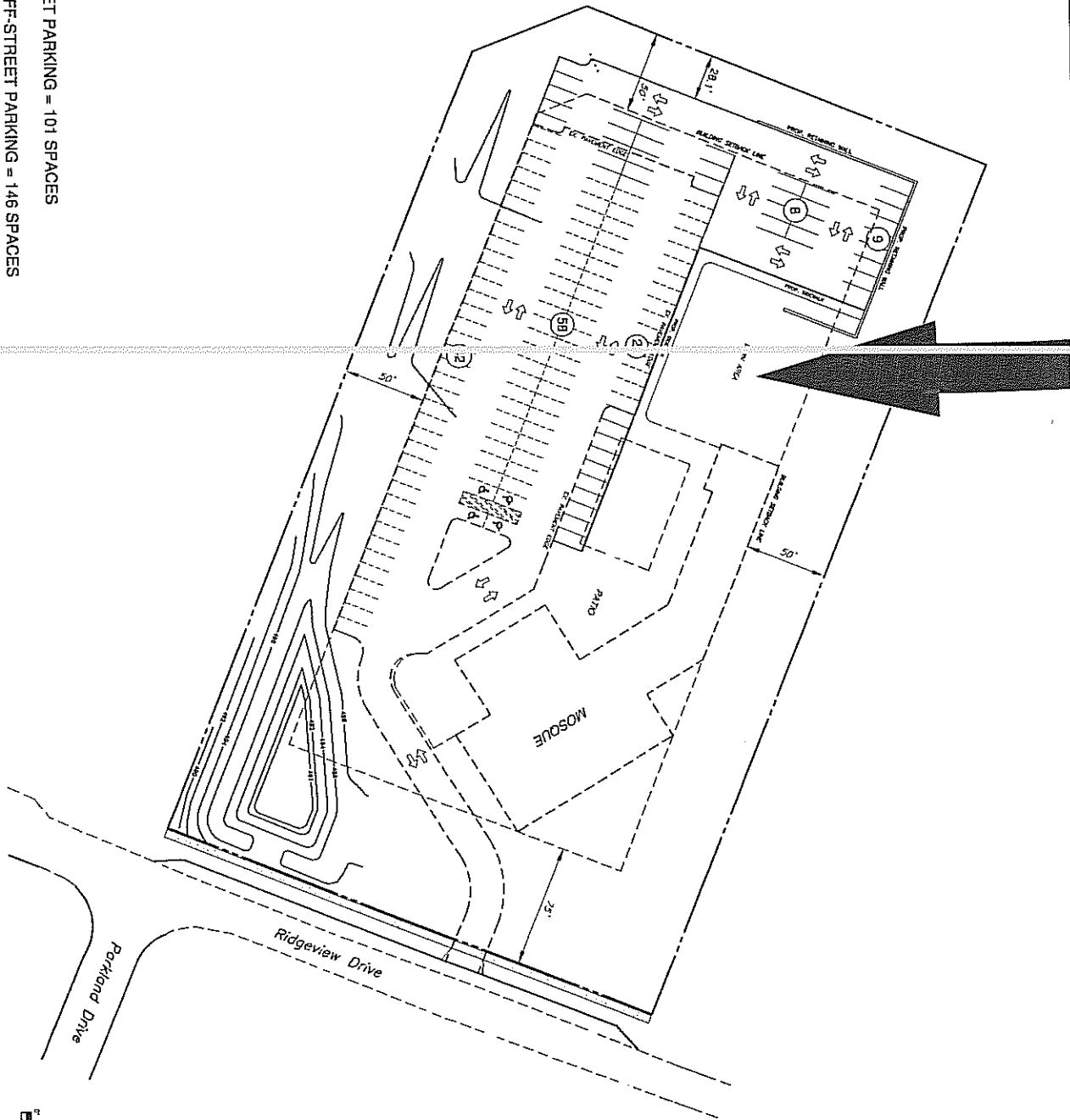
It should be noted that the neighbors on both sides of the Center have been approached about selling their properties. Unfortunately, neither of them is willing to sell their land at this time.

IV. CONCLUSION

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the President Br. Mohammed Khaku or the Hon. Sec Saleem Mawji Esq.

Green Recreation Area

EXISTING OFF-STREET PARKING = 101 SPACES
 PROPOSED TOTAL OFF-STREET PARKING = 146 SPACES



DRAFT PLAN - FOR CLIENT REVIEW ONLY