TOWNSHIP OF VERONA COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION No. 2024-075

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro that the following resolution be adopted:

DECLARING BLOOMFIELD AVENUE AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-1, et seq. (the "Redevelopment Law") provides a mechanism to empower and assist local governments to promote the advancement of community interests through programs of redevelopment for the expansion and improvement of commercial, industrial, residential, and civic facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Law empowers the Township of Verona ("Township"), by and through its Township Council (the "Governing Body"), to delineate an area within the Township as an area in need of rehabilitation if the area qualifies under one of the criteria enumerated under *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-14; and

WHEREAS, Township Manager directed the Township's planning firm, H2M Associates, Inc. ("H2M"), to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if the Bloomfield Avenue corridor ("Study Area"), as described in the attached boundary map, and which is generally bounded by Sunset Avenue to the east, White Rock Road to the west and an irregular boundary along properties fronting on Bloomfield Avenue, qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A-12A-14; and

WHEREAS, H2M's findings, presented in a revised report entitled "Area in Need of Rehabilitation Study Bloomfield Avenue Corridor" dated March 15, 2024, attached herewith as Exhibit A ("H2M Report"); and

WHEREAS, the H2M report concludes that because (a) more than half of the housing stock were built before 1974 and, therefore, are at least 50 years old and (b) a majority of the water and sewer infrastructure in the delineated area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance, the Study Area qualifies as an area in need of rehabilitation under the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2024, the Governing Body referred the Study Report and this Resolution in draft form to the Planning Board for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2024, the Planning Board returned this resolution and H2M Report with a recommendation that the Study Area be delineated as an area in need of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the property owners and business owners within the Study Area to delineate the Study Area as an area in need of rehabilitation, and that based upon the H2M report and the Planning Board's recommendation, finds that the Study Area meets the criteria of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-14 of an area in need of rehabilitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Verona, County of Essex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Based upon the facts reported in the H2M report and the recommendation of the Planning Board, the Township Council find that the Study Area, consisting of the Bloomfield Avenue Corridor, meets the eligibility criteria of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-14 for designation as an area in need of rehabilitation in that (a) a majority of water and sewer infrastructure in the Study Area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance and (b) more than half of the housing stock in the Study Area is at least 50 years old. The Township Council further find that the designation of the Study Area as an area in need of rehabilitation is expected to prevent further deterioration and promote the overall

development of the Township of Verona in accordance with the requirements of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-14.

- 2. The Township Council hereby delineates the Study Area and all of the properties therein as an area in need of rehabilitation (hereinafter, the Study Area shall be the "Rehabilitation Area"), which delineation allows the Township Council to, among other things, adopt redevelopment plans for all or part of the Rehabilitation Area, enter into redevelopment agreements with redevelopers within the Rehabilitation Area, and adopt an ordinance pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-21, et seq., authorizing short-term tax exemptions and/or abatements to properties located within the Rehabilitation Area. Furthermore, the Township Council may further direct the Planning Board to conduct investigations to determine whether specific properties within the rehabilitation area meet the redevelopment criteria, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-5.
- 3. The Township Council hereby directs the Municipal Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs in accordance with the Redevelopment Law.
- 4. All Township officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.
- 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

NAYS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 6, 2024.

JENNIFER KIERNAN MUNICIPAL CLERK

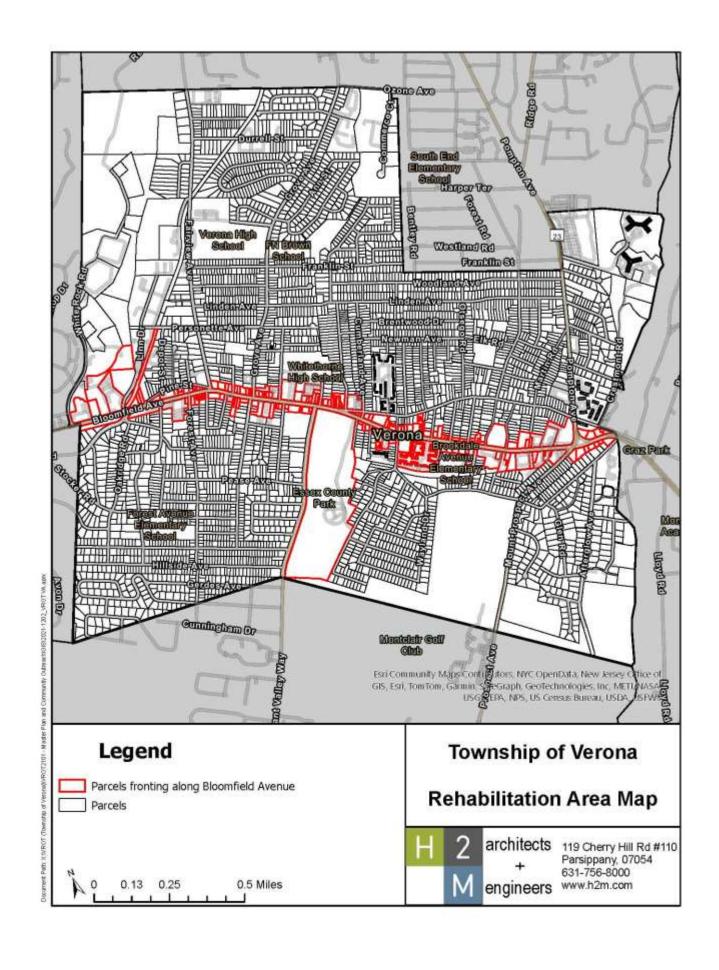


EXHIBIT A