RULS-AD- 1981-330 9/28/198/

· Correspondence regarding Order requiring production of information. ~ Copy of Transcript of oral arguments. Re: Doblos v. P. of Bedminster 28 pgr

Notes: There are a serves of dates, I used the most vecent date.

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RULS - AD - 1981 - 330

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

ARTHUR S. MEREDITH JUDGE



SOMERSET COUNTY COURT HOUSE SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876

September 28, 1981



Newark, New Jersey 07102

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Olization (1987) States (1987)

Attention: Alfred L. Ferguson, Esq.

Re: Dobbs v. Township of Bedminster Docket No. L-12502-80

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I have reviewed the objections filed in connection with the form of Order in the above matter and find them without merit. Therefore, the Order which I signed on August 7, 1981, will remain as is.

Very truly yours,

15th

ARTHUR S. MEREDITH, J.S.C.

ASM/jp

CC to Donald A. Klein, Esq. Thomas F. Collins, Jr., Esq. Somerset County Clerk

MCCARTER & ENGLISH ATTORNEYS AT LAW 550 BROAD STREET NEWARK, N.J. 07102

REC'D AT CHAMBERS SEP 1 1 1981 JUDGE MEREDITH

07:02

(201) 622-4444

DOMESTIC TELEX 642929 INTERNATIONAL TRT 178016 TELECOPIER (201) 622-0012 CABLE "MCCARTER" NEWARK

September 11, 1981

Re: Dobbs v. Township of Bedminster Docket No. L-12502-80

Honorable Arthur S. Meredith Somerset County Court House Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Dear Judge Meredith:

In supplementing our letter of September 4, 1981, we enclose a copy of the transcript of the hearing on July 31, 1981.

We call your Honor's attention to the Court's decision on pages 15 through 17 of the transcript. The transcript makes clear that Your Honor merely postponed the <u>in camera</u> review of plaintiff's contract until the stay of proceedings is lifted. Your Honor did not order any other form of protective order at this time. Rather, the Court decided that it would be appropriate for the judge who conducts the <u>in</u> <u>camera</u> review to decide what action, if any, should be taken to protect the contract.

> THE COURT: It seems to me that the suggestion made by the attorney for the plaintiff may be the best here. It will protect all parties and stay the discovery according to the stay order.

With regard to all other matters, once that stay is lifted, the judge handling it at that time view this contract in camera to determine whether it is relevant, what portions of it are relevant, or whether the whole contract should be discoverable, or whether part of the contract should be and other parts be subject to a protective order. Your Honor specifically declined to review the contract and cited unfamiliarity with the issues of the case.

> THE COURT: Well, the difficulty with me at this point, I assume the judge who gets it at a later time, has more background in this case than I.

For me to sit down and read a contract right now and determine what is relevant and what is not relevant, is not merely knowing all of the issues involved in this case. I think it would be difficult and that is my reluctance to do so.

I would think that at a later time, when he gets this case, a judge will be much more familiar with the issues and be able to determine more knowledgeably than I am at this time.

Your Honor did not direct the manner in which the <u>in</u> <u>camera</u> review should proceed, nor did your decision reflect any intent to extend protection to any parts of the contract before the <u>in camera</u> review is conducted. Your Honor's decision intended to leave those matters to the discretion of the Court which will review the contract and which will be familiar with the issues.

We ask that the Order be withdrawn and a hearing scheduled to adopt a proper form of order. In the alternative, we ask that the Court sign the form of Order we submitted with our letter of August 7, 1981. We attach another copy of that form for your consideration.

Very truly yours, Alfred L. Ferguson

ALF:bjg Enclosure cc: Thomas Collins, Esq. (w/enc.) Donald Klein, Esq. (w/enc.) . 2

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WINNE, BANTA & RIZZI

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

25 EAST SALEM STREET

P.O. Box 647

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HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 07602 (201) 487-3800

TELECOPIER (201) 487-8529

BRUCE F. BANTA PETER G. BANTA JOSEPH A. RIZZI ROBERT A. HETHERINGTON III JOSEPH L. BASRALIAN EDWARD H. MILLER, JBU JOHN P. PAXTON DONALD A. KLEIN ROBERT M. JACOBS T. THOMAS VAN DAM RAYMOND R. WISS PHILIP SCALO EDWARD R. KOCH VIRGINIA ANNE GLYNN

REC'D AT CHAMBERS SEP 1 1 1981 JUDGE MEREDITH

HORACE F. BANTA OF COUNSEL

WALTER G. WINNE

NEWFOUNDLAND, N.J. OFFICE (201) 697-4020

September 11, 1981

Honorable Arthur S. Meredith Court House Somerville, New Jersey 08876

> Re: Dobbs v. Township of Bedminister Docket No. L-12502-80

Dear Judge Meredith:

In follow-up to my September 9, 1981 letter to Your Honor, in connection with the objection raised by defendant's counsel to the Order entered by Your Honor in this matter on August 7, 1981, I am enclosing a copy of the transcript of the oral argument and Your Honor's Oral Opinion on July 31, 1981 underlying such Order.

Defendant's basic objection to Your Honor's August 7, 1981 Order, a copy of which is enclosed, relates to the last paragraph of said Order, which reads as follows:

> "ORDERED that in the event the Court, after its in camera inspection, determines that any portions of the Option Agreement are relevant to the issues in this litigation that only such portions of the Option Agreement be excised and produced to the then parties to this action, subject to a Protective Order that such excised portions be used only in connection with this litigation and be disclosed to no one other than the parties to this litigation."

My review of the transcript of the July 31, 1981 transcript confirms the understanding which I had at the time I submitted the form of Order to Your Honor that Your Honor had so ordered on July 31, 1981. At two different points during the oral argument

WINNE, BANTA & RIZZI

on Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for a Protective Order (page 10, lines 14 through 24; page 13, lines 6 to 14), I specifically proposed the relief reflected in the last paragraph of Your Honor's August 7, 1981 Order. Your Honor's response to this proposal is contained on pages 15 and 16:

> "THE COURT: It seems to me that the suggestion made by the attorney for the plaintiff may be the best here. It will protect all parties and stay the discovery according to the stay order.

"With regard to all other matters, once that stay is lifted, the judge handling it at that time view this contract in camera to determine whether it is relevant, what portions of it are relevant, or whether the whole contract should be discoverable, or whether part of the contract should be and other parts be subject to a protective order.

"I think that this would be the fairest situation to both sides, certainly for a businessman who is involved in buying and selling land, contracts, options and what have you, and doesn't necessarily want his whole business run by everybody.

"The claim of confidentiality, obviously, has to give way to relevant use of the contract. But I think that might be the best compromise situation at this time and still protect the interests of the intevenor."

The foregoing leaves no question in my mind that Your Honor's rulings on July 31, 1981, in response to Plaintiff's Cross-Motion for a Protective Order, were totally in accordance with the Order entered by Your Honor on August 7, 1981, including the last paragraph of such Order. Since the transcript is clear on this issue, I do not see how a further hearing is necessary or would be fruitful.

Respectfully yours,

Donald C. Alm

Donald A. Klein

DAK: cmc

cc: Vogel & Chait, Esqs. McCarter & English, Esqs.

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REC'D AT CHAMBERS

WINNE, BANTA & RIZZI

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

25 EAST SALEM STREET

P.O. Box 647

HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY 07602 (201) 487-3800

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BRUCE F. BANTA PETER G. BANTA JOSEPH A. RIZI ROBERT A. HETHERINGTON III JOSEPH L. BASRALIAN EDWARD H. MILLER, JR. JOHN P. PAXTON DONALD A. KLEIN ROBERT M. JACOBS T. THOMAS VAN DAM RAYMOND R. WISS PHILIP SCALO EDWARD R. KOCH VIRGINIA ANNE GLYNN

September 9, 1981

SEP 1 0 1981

OF COUNSEL

WALTER G. WINNE

NEWFOUNDLAND, N.J. OFFICE (201) 697-4020

Honorable Arthur S. Meredith Court House Somerville, New Jersey 08876

> Re: Dobbs v. Township of Bedminster Docket No. L-12502-80

. . .

Dear Judge Meredith:

I am in receipt of Mr. Ferguson's September 4, 1981 letter to Your Honor objecting to the form of Order previously entered by Your Honor in connection with this matter. With respect to the substantive arguments made by Mr. Ferguson, I believe that the form of Order which I had previously submitted and which Your Honor executed on August 7, 1981 is fully in accord with rulings made by Your Honor on July 31, 1981. At the time of the hearing, I had ordered a copy of the transcript of Your Honor's opinion, which I expect shortly. If Your Honor is considering a review of the form of Order previously entered, I would ask to be able to submit a copy of the transcript to Your Honor so that an additional hearing may be avoided.

Very truly yours,

Londo a filin

Donald A. Klein

DAK/kam cc: Vogel & Chait, Esqs. McCarter & English, Esqs. MCCARTER & ENGLISH ATTORNEYS AT LAW 550 BROAD STREET NEWARK, N.J.

07102

(201) 622-4444

REC'D AT CHAMBERS SEP 8 1981 JUDGE MEREDITH

5-7364

DOMESTIC TELEX 642929 INTERNATIONAL TRT 178016 TELECOPIER (201) 622-0012 CABLE "MCCARTER" NEWARK

.

September 4, 1981

Re: Dobbs v. Township of Bedminster Docket No. L-12502-80

Honorable Arthur S. Meredith, J.S.C. Somerset County Court House Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Dear Judge Meredith:

We have received a copy of the Order signed by Your Honor on August 7, 1981 pursuant to a motion argued on July 31, 1981.

The form of Order signed by the Court was the one submitted by plaintiff on August 4 under the five day rule. However, we filed a timely objection to that form of Order in writing on August 7. Mr. Collins, counsel for defendantintervenors also filed timely objection. We assume that Your Honor did not review our objections before signing the Order.

Accordingly, we request that the Order of August 7, 1981 be withdrawn and that a hearing be scheduled to determine the form of Order. We are ordering a transcript to facilitate that hearing. Our records show that plaintiff's form of Order was mailed to the Court and to us on August 4, 1981. We received our copy on August 5. When we contacted your law clerk by phone to advise him of our opposition to the form of Order, he told us that Your Honor would be leaving for vacation after Friday, August 7. We, therefore, hand delivered a letter to the Court on August 7, even though the five day period would not have expired until Monday, August 10. Since our objection was timely, we anticipated a hearing to resolve the form of Order under R. 4:42-1(b).

We enclose a copy of our August 7 letter in the event that it did not reach you before you signed the Order. Our primary concern, expressed in the letter, remains the same: no court has yet reviewed the contract of sale relied upon by plaintiff, so there is no apparent reason to extend any protection to the contract except to stay its discovery until the Court conducts an <u>in camera</u> review. The form of Order you signed goes well beyond this limited protection. It limits the scope of the <u>in camera</u> review and purports to protect the discoverable portions of the contract from publication. We did not understand this to be Your Honor's ruling on July 31, nor would such a ruling be appropriate since the contract has not been produced to the Court.

For the foregoing reasons, we request that the Order of August 7th be withdrawn and a hearing be scheduled to resolve the form of Order.

Very truly yours, aut -Alfred L. Ferguson

ALF:bjg Enclosure cc: Thomas Collins, Esq. Donald A. Klein, Esq. WINNE, BANTA & RIZZI 25 East Salem Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07602 (201) 487-3800 Attorneys for Plaintiff

LEONARD DOBBS,

Plaintiff,

V.

TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER, a municipal corporation,

Defendant

ROBERT R. HENDERSON, DIANE M. HENDERSON and HENRY ENGELBRECHT,:

Defendants-Intervenors:

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: SOMERSET COUNTY

DOCKET NO. L-12502-80

CIVIL ACTION

ORDER

THIS MATTER having been opened to the Court by Vogel & Chait, attorneys for defendants-intervenors Robert R. Henderson, Diane M. Henderson and Henry Engelbrecht (Thomas F. Collins, appearing) on application for an Order requiring production of the Option Agreement entered into by plaintiff in connection with the property which is the subject of the above-referenced litigation, and McCarter and English, attorneys for defendant Township of Bedminster (Joseph Falgiani appearing), joining in such motion, and by Winne, Banta & Rizzi, attorneys for plaintiff Leonard Dobbs

:

:

(Donald A. Klein appearing), by cross-motion for a Protective Order with respect to production of said Option Agreement, and upon consideration of the briefs and affidavits submitted, and the arguments of counsel, and good cause having been shown therefore;

It is on this 7th day of Clug, 1981

ORDERED that plaintiff shall not be required to make production of the Option Agreement as long as the stay entered in this matter by the Honorable Robert E. Gaynor by Order dated July 17, 1981 is in effect; and it is further

ORDERED that after such stay is dissolved, plaintiff shall be required to produce the Option Agreement only to the Court <u>in camera</u> for determination as to whether any portions of said Option Agreement are relevant to the issues in this litigation; and it is further

ORDERED that in the event the Court, after its in <u>camera</u> inspection, determines that any portions of the Option Agreement are relevant to the issues in this litigation that only such portions of the Option Agreement be excised and produced to the then parties to this action, subject to a Protective Order that such excised portions be used onlyin connection with this litigation and be disclosed to no one other than the parties to this litigation.

Arthur S. Meredith,

- 2 -

1 ET OF NEW JEPSEY PERIOR (SOMERSET COUNTY DIVISION: 2 DICUTT NO. L-10502-80 5-7364 3 LEONARD DOBBS ; 4 -Flaintiff. Stenographic Transcript 5 of vs. Motions $(a_{1}) \in \mathcal{A}$ 6 TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER, JUR -ET ALS. 7 ERE Defendants 8 9 Place: Somerset County Courthouse Somerville, New Jersey 10 July 31, 1981 Date: 11 12 BEFORE: THE HONORABLE ARTHUR S. MEREDITH, J.S.C. 13 TRANSCRIPT ORDERED BY: 14 DONALD A. KLEIN, ESQ. 15 APPEARANCES: 16 WINNE, BANTA & RIZZI, ESQS. 17 BY: DONALD A. KLEIN, ESQ. Attorney for the Plaintiff 18 MC CARTER & ENGLISH, ESQS. 19 JOSEPH FALGIANI, ESQ. BY: Attorney for the Defendants 20 VOGEL & CHAIT, ESQS. 21 THOMAS F. COLLINS, ESQ. BY: Attorney for the Intervenors. 22 Charles R. Senders, C.S.R. 23 Official Court Reporter Somerset County Courthouse 24 Somerville, New Jersey 08876 25

FORM 2041 \$0010 , N BAYONNE. ŝ PENGAD

`∙ i	MR. COLLINS: T mes F. Collins, for
2	the defendant-intervanors, from the firm of
3	Vogel & Chait.
4	MR.FALGIANI: Joseph Falgiani,
5	McCarter & English, Township of Dedminster.
6	MR. KLEIN: Donald A. Klein, attorney
7	for Leonard Dobbs.
8	THE COUPT: All right. Whose motion
9	is this?
10	MR. COLLINS: It is my motion, or
11	cross-motion, from the defendant.
12	THE COURT: I will hear you.
13	MR. COLLINS: Judge, the issue is
14	whether or not the plaintiff should be required
15	to introduce the contract of sale referred to
16	in his complaint and whether or not that should
17	be produced in accordance with the pre-trial
18	order of Judge Imbriani, which indicated that
19	it should be produced by April 17. It is
20	nearly three and a half months late and has
21	not been produced as yet.
22	We have made our motion. There has
23	been a stay of the proceedings because of an
24	appeal by all three parties and by another
25	party. But that stay should not affect this

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PENGAD CO. BAYDNNE, N.J. 07002 FORM 2046

to three months and when the judge ordered that it be produced.

Besically, the issue comes down to whether the document is relevant and whether or not it is likely to lead to the discovery of relevant information.

I presented some certain basic reasons for that in my affidavit in support of my motion and also in my affidavit in opposition to the plaintiff's cross-motion.

It is clearly relevant to the standing issue whether a person has a right to challenge the zoning ordinance. They must have an interest in the property.

On that issue alone, the document was relevant. On that issue alone it should have been produced.

If we go to some of the other issues in the case, the plaintiff has raised questions as to the reasonableness of the zoning ordinance and whether or not the zoning ordinance confiscates the property without just compensation.

The plaintiff may not be claiming

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damages as part of that c fiscation claim, but it is clearly a confiscation claim, it is one.

Therefore, the contract, the price and terms of the contract, will directly relate to what the value of that property is.

If, for example, the plaintiff has agreed to an alternative price in the contract for the property, if it is purchased at the current zoning, residential zoning, or if it has another price for alternatives, the purchasers who may be using the property for residential use, then those statements and those indications as to the contract will be directly relevant to both the issue of reasonableness and the issue of confiscation.

There may also be direct admissions on the part of plaintiff indicating that he admitted that the property has value as to the current zoning for residential use. This will go directly to the issues in the case.

It is also important for the defendants to know what the extent of the consent of the owners is.

The owners have, apparently, if they

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have entered into a contr :, have consented to certain things. Have they consented to a site plan application? Have they consented to a variance application by the plaintiff?

Those things go to whether or not the property could be used under its present zoning. They also go to issues relevant in the case.

If the contract may also be relevant, if the property -- if only a portion of the property is covered by the contract, thereby excluding some of the portions which may be directly behind our client's property, our clients are people who live right alongside the tract that the plaintiff is seeking to have rezoned. That is directly relevant to our client and it is directly relevant to the case.

Finally, in opposition to the crossmotion, I would just like to point out that the plaintiffs have not asserted a sufficient basis for a need for a protective order.

There has been no indication what the prejudice or harm would be, what the confidential problem is.

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1	There has been is no reason to	••
2	wait until after the stay of the proceedings	
3	until after the appeal. Because this particular	
4	document was ordered to be produced three and	
5	a half months ago and the plaintiffs have	
6	done nothing to produce it.	
7	Our clients feel that they should	
8	know what the contents of that contract are.	
9	They will assist them in their defense.	
10	It will also assist them in determining	
11	the likelihood of the success on the merits	
12	and determining how long this litigation will	
13	take. That is very important in costly	
14	litigation.	
15	THE COURT: All right.	
16	MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, our motion	
17	is a cross-motion for a protective order.	
18	Our concern is that there are various	
19	aspects.	
20	Many aspects, if not most aspects	
2	of this particular option agreement, which	
2	have no relevance at all to the litigation.	
2	The nature of this action, Your Honor,	
2	is an action whereby the plaintiff is challengin	5
	the validity of the zoning ordinance and master	

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an of the Township of Be Inster as applied to the property which is the subject of dispute.

The only relevance that the option agreement would have with respect to the issues in the case would relate to the standing question.

We have submitted an affidavit of counsel for the owners of the property. In his affidavit, he says that the option to purchase the property, which has been given to Mr. Dobbs, the plaintiff in this case, extends to the entire property which is the subject of the dispute, is in full force and effect at the present time. That this matter is being prosecuted with his consent, with the consent of counsel for the owners.

We submit that these particular terms of the option agreement, consideration, terms, and other items like that, are not relevant to the issues in the case at this point and are at best only cumulative as to the standing question in the face of the affidavit from the owner, counsel for the owner, which is not contested. There is no affidavit

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ir opposition.

2 As far as the question which was 3 raised on confiscation, the only pleading, 4 the only aspect of the pleading that relates 5 to that question at all, is an allegation that 6 the ordinance is unconstitutionally invalid 7 because it is tantamount to an unlawful taking. 8 There is no request for damages, 9 there is no request for relief in the form 10 of damages or confiscation. It is simply this, an example of 11 12 how the ordinance is invalid and unconstitutional. 13 That is the thrust, that is the sole purpose of the litigation, if the ordinance is 14 unconstitutional. 15 There is a reference to Rule 4:18-2 16 which provides that if a document is referred 17 to in the pleadings, that it should be produced 18 19 within five days. There is no reference to this 20 particular document in the pleadings. 21 The only reference in the pleadings 22 is to plaintiff's contract as purchaser, his 23 status as someone having interest in the 24 property. 25

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• 1	THE COURT: Why puld this
2	disclosure really harm you, in what way
3	would it harm you?
4	MR. KLEIN: The contract, as the
5	affidavit of counsel for the owners has
6	indicated, contains many terms which the
7	parties view to be confidential and desire
8	to keep confidential.
9	If there was relevance to issues in
10	the case, that's one thing. But if not
11	related to the issues in the case, there is
12	no way at this point that the consideration
13	is relevant to the issues in this case.
14	There may be other aspects of the
15	contract which have no bearing on the case.
16	We are not saying that we can sit
17	back and not do anything, just ignore the
18	request for the contract.
19	What we are suggesting is that some
20	means be established to accommodate their
21	interest in getting information that they
22	believe to be relevant and that would accommodate
23	the interests of the parties that entered into
24	this contract and preserving the confidentiality
25	of those aspects, which have no relation to

PENGAD CO., BAYONNE. N.J. 02002 . FORM 2048

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this case.

For exemple, with respect to the question of admission, as one of the arguments, then maybe the admission of the contract, to the effect if the property can't be zoned for commercial use, then plaintiff will still take it for residential use.

I suggest that that kind of concern can be satisfied without production of the documents in its entirety.

One of the suggestions that we had would be to submit certifications.

Another possibility would be that we would urge on the Court, that in light of the arguments for relevancy made by the defendants, that we submit the document to Your Honor in camera, with a view to determining whether or not any of the document does, in fact, have any relevance based on the arguments that are made.

To the extent that there is a determination that something is relevant, only that portion of the contract be produced. That it be produced subject to the protective order.

That it be limited for the purposes

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f the litination.

One of the concerns is that these matters will not become a matter appearing in newspapers and other items.

If something is relevant to the protective order, limit it to the application in this particular case.

There have been situations in this case where aspects of this litigation have been the subject of the press, where counsel for defendants have made statements indicating what they view to be the motives of plaintiff in bringing this action, ones which we don't agree with at all, so forth.

Our concern is that the matter, which is relevant, be produced. But that which is not relevant and which is just confidential, not only to the parties in this case but also to the owners of the property.

The stay is important, though, because the present situation is that appeals are being taken with respect to the intervention issue.

There are three different parties that moved to intervene. One was permitted

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to intervene. Even Mr. C lins' clients, too, were denied intervention. That is all before the Appellate Division.

At this point, Judge Gaynor entered a stay about two weeks ago of all of the proceedings in this case.

The effect of that stay is to stay discovery going to the central issues in this case as to the validity of the zoning ordinance.

As to these issues, I would say at this point to require production of the contract, which at best peripheral, which has arguable relevance, in light of the fact that we have submitted an affidavit showing that we have standing to bring this action, at this point would be inappropriate.

The discovery that is being stayed at this point was discovery that was ordered back at the time of the pre-trial order as well. So I don't think this is the central issue in the case.

Your Honor, the only relevance is on the standing question.

The affidavit I submitted certainly for the present status of this litigation,

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ratisfies the standing qu tion.

Our recommendation would be, or our suggestion, with all deference, Your Honor, is in light of the stay, that the document be submitted in camera.

At the time the stay is dissolved or a determination as to whether any of it is relevant to the litigation, to the extent it is relevant to the litigation, which is not going to proceed until the stay is lifted anyway. That whatever portion of the document is either produced or summarized, or whatever, be subject to the protective order, and that there be disclosure.

Your Honor, I think that this is a reasonable request and it can be made without prejudice to their right in the future to seek further relief.

THE COURT: Does the township want to say anything about this?

MR. FALGIANI: Yes, sir.

Judge, you asked a few minutes ago about what the damage to the plaintiff by submitting this contract would be. I don't think we really received an answer.

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The answer that bunsel gave is that 2 eccentially the information is going to hit 3 the press. It may prove to be embarrassing, 4 it may prove to upset the confidentiality 5 that they had between purchaser and buyer. 6 I simply want to point out to the 7 Court that plaintiff has negotiated for several 8 hundred acres of prime land in Bedminster. 9 The development that occurs there 10 and the development that occurs, whether or not 11 we successfully defend our ordinance, is going 12 to have a significant impact on the entire 13 There are significant public policy region. 14 issues. 15 The construction of a 1.2 million 16 square foot shopping center in the heart of 17 Bedminster is going to affect, not just 18 Bedminster, but the entire region. 19 It is simply unfounded for plaintiff, 20 who brings that kind of suit to say that the 21 press ought to be -- that that information 22 of this case ought to be shielded in some 23 way. Public policy litigation ought to 24 25 be in the public light.

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FORM

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BAYONNE.

There is absolu ly no reason is suggested by counsel why any element of this contract should be shielded.

There may very well be relevant evidence in there. We suspect that there is. We shouldn't have to play a guessing game in defending our ordinance.

THE COURT: It seems to me that the suggestion made by the attorney for the plaintiff may be the best here. It will protect all parties and stay the discovery according to the stay order.

With regard to all other matters, once that stay is lifted, the judge handling it at that time view this contract in camera to determine whether it is relevant, what portions of it are relevant, or whether the whole contract should be discoverable, or whether part of the contract should be and other parts be subject to a protective order.

I think that this would be the fairest situation to both sides, certainly for a businessman who is involved in buying and selling land, contracts, options, and what have you, and doesn't necessarily want

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his whole business run by verybody.

The claim of confidentiality, obviously, has to give way to relevant use of the contract. But I think that might be the best compromise situation at this time and still protect the interests of the intervenor.

MR. COLLINS: Might I just ask one question. Would it be possible to have that reviewed perhaps by you immediately, or in the near future, as opposed to waiting until after the stay, because the information may help our clients in knowing how long this litigation will go on?

MR. FALGIANI: One of the reasons for the stay is the determination as to whether or not Mr. Collins' clients will be parties to this case. At the time the stay is dissolved.

That is one of the reasons, although articulated before, it is premature to make the decision of whether information should be turned over or not until the stay question is resolved.

THE COURT: Well, the difficulty with me at this point, I assume the judge who gets it at a later time, has more background

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'n this case than I.

For me to sit down and read a contract right now and determine what is relevant and what is not relevant, is not merely knowing all of the issues involved in this case. I think it would be difficult and that is my reluctance to do so.

I would think that at a later time, when he gets this case, a judge will be much more familiar with the issues and be able to determine more knowledgeably than I am at this time.

If the appeals are involving, among other things, even your status, the intervenor's status, you may well be out. Then your application as far as you are concerned --

MR. COLLINS: That is more of an indication of why there was prejudice to us. Because this particular document was ordered to be produced by Judge Imbriani at the pretrial conference. At the same time that we were both granted permission to intervene.

THE COURT: I have so ruled and we will do it in that fashion.

We will take a brief recess. (Whereupon, the matter is concluded.)

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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISIO SOMERSET COUNTY DOCKET NO. L-21502-80

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4	LEONARD DOBBS, : Plaintiff,
5	vs.
6	: TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER,
7	ET ALS, : Defendants.
8	
9	
10	CERTIFICATE
11	
12	I, CHARLES R. SENDERS, C.S.R., one
13	of the Official Court Reporters in and for the State of
14	New Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and
15	accurate transcript of my original stenographic notes
16	to the best of my knowledge and ability.
17	Call Fred
18	CHARLES R. SENDERS, C.S.R.
19	DATED: 9/5/81
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