
historic preservation
COMMISSION

Proceedings held on Wednesday, September 27,
2023, commencing at 3:05 p.m., at Jacksonville City Hall, Lynwood Roberts Room, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:
JACK C. DEMETREE, III, Chairman.
ANDRES LOPERA, Vice Chair.
JULIA EPSTEIN, Secretary.
OLIVIA FRICK, Commission Member.
MAX GLOBER, Commission Member.
ETHAN GREGORY, Commission Member.
ALSO PRESENT:
ARIMUS WELLS, Planning and Development Dept.
ADRIENNE CHAMBERS, Planning and Development.
BRITTANY FTGUEROA, Planning and Development.
CARLA LOPERA, Office of General Counsel.

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PROCEEDINGS
September 27, 2023
3:05 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We're going to go ahead and kick off the September 27th meeting of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

If we could start with some introductions down there.

MS. CHAMBERS: Adrienne Chambers, Historic Preservation.

MR. ANDERSON: Jermaine Anderson, Historic Preservation.

MS. FIGUEROA: Brittany Figueora, Historic Preservation.

MR. WELLS: Arimus Wells, Historic
Preservation.
MS. LOPERA: Carla Lopera, Office of General Counsel.

THE CHAIRMAN: J.C. Demetree, chairman.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Andres Lopera, chairman -- commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Ethan Gregory, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Julia Epstein, commissioner.

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COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Max Glober, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Olivia Frick, commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We're going to take a break every two hours as needed.

If you have your cell phones on, please silence them. Any conversations, please be had in the hallway.

And we will jump right in. I'll take a motion to approve the August 23rd minutes.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve the August 23rd, 2023, minutes.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you've approved those minutes.

We'll jump right into Section D, deferred items. There's a misprint on this agenda. Number 4, COA-23-29734, has not been deferred. It's actually living in Section G.

So with that, we've got three deferred
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items on the agenda: COA-23-27451, 2768 Riverside Avenue; COA-23-29186, 2799 Selma Street; and COA-23-28972, 2990 Remington Street.

And with that, we will jump into the consent. Let's see. Number 4 on the consent, COA-23-29552, 247 East 4th Street, is coming off of consent.

So with that, the consent today is
COA-23-29220, 1481 West 6th Street;
COA-23-29635, 1526 Avondale Avenue;
COA-23-29321, 51 East 3rd Street; COA-23-29561, 2111 Ernest Street; and COA-23-29617, 2843 Oak Street.

Do any commissioners have any ex parte on anything on consent?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that,
we'll open the public hearing. Is anyone here to speak on anything on consent?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Seeing none, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve
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the revised consent agenda.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any conversation? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, the consent agenda has been approved.

We're going to jump around a little bit today. We're going straight to New Business, Section L, a couple of renamings that we want to knock out real quick. Let's see. Do we want to do the road renamings first?

MR. WELLS: Number 2 and 3.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So we're going to go to Number 2, Section L, it's a building rename. We're going to hear that first.

MR. WELLS: Okay. So in accordance with Chapter 745 of the Ordinance -- in accordance with Chapter 745 of the Ordinance Code on addressing and street naming regulations, requests to rename streets require a review and

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recommendation from the Commission.
So in making the recommendation, the Commission shall address the following criteria. So there's six different criteria that you have to address. And so based on our findings and whatnot -- this is a request to rename the current street, which is West Church Street, to Ray Charles Place. So just renaming a portion of West Church Street. This is to pay homage to famous musician and former LaVilla resident Ray Charles Robinson. And, again, this would only rename a portion of West Church Street.

So while we could not confirm the origin of Church Street, it is widely speculated that it was named after the abundance of churches within the city, successfully within the downtown area. This portion of Church Street appears to have been part of the LaVilla plat. The street can be verifiably dated to at least 1897, based on the attached Sanborn fire insurance maps.

No historic structures or landmarks currently exist along the portion of the street, and the existing road name is not part

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of a common theme of street names in the area.
And based on the best available -- I'm sorry, best evidence available, the Department recommends approval of the street name change from West Church Street to Ray Charles Place.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So we're going to go ahead and do -- this is now Number 1 under New Business. We're going to go ahead and knock that out before we go to Number 2. You just heard Church Street to Ray Charles Place.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Not looking like it.
Do we need the applicant here?
MS. LOPERA: No, you don't.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is anybody -- I'll go ahead and open the public hearing.

Is anyone here to speak on this road renaming?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve
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road renaming of Church Street to Ray Charles Place.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Comments, concerns?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So when driving down what's going to be now Ray Charles Place, will Google maps, instead, play a rendition of "Hit the Road Jack" while we're driving down this road?

THE CHAIRMAN: We can only hope.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Do we know? I guess I'll wait to find out. Lots of changes.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments, concerns?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
approved the road renaming.
Let's go ahead and go to Weaver Street
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[sic] to Charles McClendon Street.
MR. WELLS: All right. So this one is to rename Weaver Road to Charlie E. McClendon Road. This is to honor the life and legacy of Charlie E. McClendon, who is a senior minister of the Northside Church of Christ and president of the Northside Community Involvement nonprofit organization. This will rename the entire portion of Weaver Road.

So similar to this [sic] one, we also could not find the origins of the name, but the earliest usage of Weaver Road can be found in the adjacent Floridel plat which was recorded in 1952. No historic structures or landmarks are present along this portion of the street. And based on our best available evidence, we forward to you a recommendation to rename Weaver Road to Charlie E. McClendon Road.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I'm going to open the public hearing.

Is there anybody here to speak on this?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve Weaver Street to Charles McClendon Street.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any thoughts?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved that renaming.

And then, Arimus, you want to speak on the --

MR. WELLS: The --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: -- (inaudible), please.
MR. WELLS: So for this one, this one will have to be deferred with no report. Based on the request and Chapter 745, the owner or the applicant has to meet the 75 percent threshold for property owner's consent, and they did not meet that, so we'll have to defer until --

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So with that, we will defer that.

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cornice with medallions, rusticated corners, full-height Doric columns, and arched doorway.

Based on these findings, we do consider the building eligible for designation as a local landmark. The subject property does not consist of any locally designated or nationally designated historical structures.

The building, again, does not have a formally designated name. However, when the building was occupied by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement during the 1980s and '90s, the agency did name the building Joseph A.
Carlucci Building. However, when that agency vacated the building, the signage and plaque recognizing his name was removed.

So this -- again, this building would be named after Joseph A. Carlucci, who was born in 1929. At age 17, Mr. Carlucci moved to Florida to attend Florida State University and the University of Miami Law School.

In 1962, he opened his own State Farm Insurance Company office in Jacksonville. And his overall public service began in 1968 when he was elected to the Jacksonville City Council as a Council member at-large for Group 3. He

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would go on to be reelected in 1971 and 1975. And in 1978, he was elected to the Florida Senate, District 8 office, a seat in which he held until his death on February 1st, 1986.

So during his tenure on City Council, Mr. Carlucci contributed to the creation of the City's Consumer Affairs Division and the development of new regulations for the hiring of professional services. And as a State Senator, Mr. Carlucci was known for his contributions to reform Florida's criminal justice system and child abuse laws.

So it's based on our findings that the proposed naming and renaming of the City-owned building located at 711 North Liberty Street as the Joseph A. Carlucci Building will be named after a person that has made significant contributions to development of the city as established in Ordinance 2023-0611.

So we do not have any objections to the renaming.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
We're going to open the public hearing.
Is the applicant here?
(Council Member J. Carlucci approaches the
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podium.)
COUNCIL MEMBER J. CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the -- I appreciate your time today.

I introduced this bill. Obviously, I'm the second, I'm not born in 1929, but this is, obviously, for my granddad. We have, you know, all the historical archives, so we felt it necessary to kind of get this renaming back on the -- on the building, if possible.

And I'll bring up my dad, who is also on City Council, City Council District 5, Matt Carlucci, City -- or City Council, at-large, Group 4, and he'll give just a brief -- a brief background on kind of how the State renamed it, how that kind of came off, and how it's going to, hopefully, potentially go back on.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Council Member M. Carlucci approaches the podium.)

COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Thank you, Councilman.

First, I want to thank my -- my boy for introducing this. It's long overdue. I

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probably should have done it a long time ago, but feeling it might be self-serving, I never did it. Sometimes it takes a grandson or a son to do what needs to be done.

My father was -- just a little more history. How many Seminole fans do we have here first? Because I want to know how many we got on the Commission are voting. I don't see any. But he was on the first FSU football team. Dad was a member of a lot of firsts. He was on the first City Council of the consolidated government in Jacksonville, Florida, elected in 1967, where all of the new Council members took kind of a reduced role until the current City Council left and then they took that place.

He was the first Rules chairman of Jacksonville.

Mr. Chair, nice to see you. Tell your mom and dad I said hello.

He was the first chairman of Rules. He won the first Claude J. Yates award, the first J.J. Daniel award, which were the most coveted awards back in those days because those were the two leaders that brought consolidation

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about here in Jacksonville.
I won't go through the history of consolidation, but let's just say Jacksonville was a huge crisis of many sorts. And as my friend Rick Mullaney says, never let a good crisis go to waste. And the City decided to consolidate, finally after trying since 1932, when Daughtry Towers first made that available to Jacksonville in the Florida Constitution.

So my father went on to have a successful State Farm agency, and I suppose a career -although he never considered him a career politician, but he was greatly involved in City and State government.

And for his efforts, in all of the above, when he died, prematurely, just before heading into his third term on the Council before there were term limits, he died, just like that. And he was quite beloved, and he was -- the family was asked if we'd like 711 Liberty Street, the old police memorial building, before they bought the new monster out on Bay Street, and we said yes, because he was very involved in law enforcement.

My father had the first funeral with
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colors by the Fraternal Order of Police in the history of Jacksonville because of his commitment to law enforcement.

So they named the building after him. We had a big ceremony. And when my son, Joe, grew up a little bit, I said, "Let's see your dad's building" -- "your granddad's building." We went there, and it had a picture on the wall, the marker. There's no name on the building. Where is the name, you know? And so I called the then president of the Senate, who happened to be from Jacksonville. I won't use any names, but I said, "Look, can the State put my dad's name on the building?" I said, "I don't want to sound, you know, self-serving, but when you name a building, the name goes on it." He said, "No, the State doesn't have enough money." Honest to the good Lord above. So I said, "Really?" He said, "Oh, no, no. We just don't" -- well, I won't go into reasons why I think it happened, but, nonetheless, I think it had a lot to do with politics.

But in the day -- I was probably 34 years old -- I emptied my savings and bought four damn signs to put around on posts around each
corner of the building that said the Joseph A. Carlucci Building. And then I went and got my son Joe, and we had our pictures taken by the building with the name on it.

And so it changed hands, though, unbeknownst to me, from the State to the City, and so they took those name -- those posts down that I spent my savings -- by the way, I figured I had more money than the State did at the time, but -- but they threw them out. They didn't know I bought them, so I said, well, what the heck. And it's been sitting like that ever since. And, of course, being a son, it's left kind of a sore spot with me because I know other people that had more money than my daddy could have stroked a check for $\$ 300,000$ and their name is on a building at UNF.

Well, my daddy didn't have that kind of money, but I'll tell you what my daddy had. He had a lot of -- he had a lot of strength, a lot of courage, he had a very fertile imagination. I could tell you stories about him that would make you laugh, some of you laugh, quite a bit. And he deserves his name on that building, unless there's some type of restriction because

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it's locally historic. And I want the local historic landmark to stick, and I think it is a local historic landmark, and I believe in local historic landmarks.

It's a beautiful building, but -- I am very, very proud of my son for renaming the building and for doing that for his grandfather, and I urge you to vote your conscience. Don't base it on any emotional strings I might have pulled along the way, although I've tried to pull a few, and -- and I'd like to know if it passes, is it allowed for him to have his name in some form or fashion put on the building or a sign next to the building and -- because he deserved that. He gave a lot to this city and he grabbed life with a bear hug. I think he grabbed it too hard and he died young, but he got more out of 57 years than most people get out of 157 years.

So that's my background. We had the big dedication and everything looked like it was going great, but then it just kind of fell apart over the years.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for going on so long. I would have never got away

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with that at City Council. They would have cut me off, you know, 15 minutes ago, whatever. But thank you for your indulgence. I really do appreciate it.

You know, the older you get and the more you've been at this, the more you have to tell, the more background there is to tell, and I appreciate your understanding.

THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Yes, sir.
THE CHAIRMAN: Well, thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Yes, sir.
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is anybody else here to speak on this building renaming?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll close the public hearing, and I will entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion for 2023-0611, renaming the building to the Joseph A. Carlucci Building.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second. THE CHAIRMAN: Any conversation, thoughts? COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: You just said --
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okay. You just said -- you didn't say approve or disapprove.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: To approve. COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
MS. LOPERA: If I may, Mr. Chair?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: So on these renamings, whenever there's an ordinance that proposes renaming a public building, facility or park, the Ordinance Code requires Planning to issue a report, which you have received in the book, and then your job as commissioners is to issue an advisory recommendation.

From there, the ordinance that you see in the book will go back to City Council with your recommendation to either approve it or deny it. So it's a motion for -- to recommend approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Motion to recommend approval to the Joseph A. Carlucci Building.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any more thoughts or concerns?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Thank you for all
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your hard work from the father and the son to honor your grandfather in this way.

COUNCIL MEMBER J. CARLUCCI: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have recommended approval for the building -- the Joseph A. Carlucci Building.

And with that --
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Thank you.
MS. LOPERA: If we could do the marina renaming marina, Ordinance 2023---

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's go to Section L, New Business, Number 3, the marina renaming.

MR. WELLS: Okay. So this is Ordinance 2023-0616, and this is to -- for a proposed naming of a new marina at 330 East Bay Street. There's seven criteria that must be met. And based on our findings -- this is the former site of the Duval County Courthouse parking lot, which is now demolished, and so the property is currently an undeveloped body of water.

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consolidated government by providing more job
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The former site of the Duval County Courthouse is a prominent feature, and based on this and our findings, this will be named after Hans G. Tanzler, Jr., which is a Jacksonville native. He was born on March 11th, 1927. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and earned his bachelor's and doctorate degree from the University of Florida.

Mr. Tanzler would go on to practice law for a number of years, both privately and publicly, as a criminal court judge. And in 1967, Judge Tanzler was elected mayor of the city of Jacksonville. And during his time as mayor, Tanzler would navigate the city through his new consolidated government. And as the last mayor of the old city government and the first mayor of consolidated Jacksonville, Mr. Tanzler helped lower taxes, he streamlined public services, and then resurfaces more than 300 miles of streets, and reorganized the city's health and welfare services.

Mr. Tanzler was also instrumental in cleaning up the St. Johns River. And he also served as a beacon of unity in the new
opportunities for black individuals and desegregating various government agencies.

It is based on these findings that we do not have any objections to the proposed naming, and we forward to you a recommendation for approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I'll open the public hearing.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
MS. LOPERA: Council Member Carlucci, did you want to speak on this item? You don't have to, but --

COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: You don't have to, really.

MS. LOPERA: I just wanted to give you the opportunity.

COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Oh, no. I've got a lot of time. Don't worry about it.

What I do want to do is pass out some legislation so you'll have a copy of it, and just give a brief explanation on this, I promise, but I do want to say a heartfelt thank you to the Commission on your previous vote.

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has been named after Hans Tanzler. And what he Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

To the Carlucci family, that means more than you know.

This is the -- there's probably enough to go around. I don't know who-all gets -- we'll make sure the commissioners get it.

Mr. Chair, thank you very much. I've just passed that out. Let me pass this out too.

What I want to do is name a marina after Hans Tanzler.

THE REPORTER: Councilman, can you please speak into the microphone, please? I'm so sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: That's okay. Whatever you want me to do, Diane. You've had me trained for a long time.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: What I want to do is name a marina to be built in a couple of years after Hans Tanzler. It's known to the DIA as the Liberty Marina because it's kind of at the foot of Liberty Street.

Hans Tanzler was our first mayor of the consolidated government of Jacksonville. There has not been one building, not one -- nothing
was famous for -- and I told you earlier, when consolidation happened, there was a conglomeration of a lot of crises, and we didn't want to let that crisis go to waste, but one of the biggest ones, which is not -- it's not dinner time, so I can explain it. But the City of Jacksonville was literally pumping 600,000 gallons of raw sewage every month in the St. Johns River. It was known as the "flowing cesspool" by U.S. World and News Report.

Hans Tanzler had that to deal with, along with the new City Council. He had a government to try to figure out how to run in the new City of Jacksonville. He had to try to pull people together at that time, and one of the great stories is the relationship that he had with Earl Johnson, Jr. -- or Earl Johnson, Sr., whose son is a very dear friend of mine, and that's a story for another day, but it's one of the great stories of statesmanship in the part of Earl Johnson. Earl Johnson has a park named after him. Perhaps there can be more for him later.

But at this point, nothing has been done Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203
man. He was 6'4". And at the end of his term, Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300
for Hans Tanzler. And so the reason I picked a marina was because -- he took office in '68. Actually, he took office in '67, was mayor of the old city, then he ran again to become mayor of the new city of Jacksonville, which is all Duval County, as you know, less the Beaches and Baldwin.

So his first order of business was to clean up that river, along with a whole lot of other things. We cleaned the river up, right? At least for the most part. And to the point where you could go swimming in it if you wanted to. And so to prove this point, one of our local consultants here in town said, "Mr. Mayor, you can't have a press conference over this. You've got to have something spectacular over cleaning up the river after all these years." So they had the first River Day, and Hans Tanzler skied in the St. Johns River. He had these two beautiful girls, you know, on both sides. And it was a Cypress Gardens boat and skiers. And he was always nervous that -- "I'm going to fall." And he managed to stay up. He was a very athletic
when everything was done, he said, "The only thing people ever remember me for is skiing on that damn river." That was his exact quote.

But he cleaned the river up, along with the citizens of Jacksonville, and the City Council and many others, but he -- that was his great legacy, amongst many others, and we've not named anything. So I finally found a location, got it through DIA. I hope I can get it through City Council. And this is somebody who deserves to be remembered.

And anybody that's lived long enough to remember him, he was 6'4", he was a giant of a man, and he was the knight in shining armor that came along to lead Jacksonville to a better place. And the Great City of Jacksonville -- not Jacksonville, we are the Great City of Jacksonville. When you think of everything we've overcome in this city, that's who we are, and we owe a large part of that to Mayor Hans G. Tanzler.

When I -- dad used to poke him every now and then, because that's how my dad was. And when he wanted to get on Hans's nerves, he would call Tanzler -- he'd call Mayor Tanzler

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Mayor Hans Tanzler junior mayor, but his name was Mayor Hans Tanzler, Jr. It was a joke. And I guess it's a nerdy political joke, so -thus no laughter, but -- maybe Paul Harden in the back would have got it.

That's really all I got, but I wanted you to see where the -- did you see where the marina was? And, by the way, it's in front of the courthouse, the old courthouse. And he used to practice as a -- or he was a criminal court judge in that courthouse, before being recruited to run for mayor, so there's that connection too. And then you've got the connection of the Northbank where he skied from to the Southbank.

So I hope you like it, and I'm happy -listen, y'all love history. You can go on and on with stories too, I bet. So I'm going to sit down, maybe while the coast is clear, unless any of the commissioners have any questions.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate it.

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Tell your mom and dad I said hello.
THE CHAIRMAN: I will.
Is anybody else here to speak on this?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: With that, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to recommend approval for the marina renaming to the Hans G. Tanzler, Jr., Marina.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Questions, comments?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have recommended approval.

COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: Mr. Chair?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: I know I'm
like a bad penny, a piece of gum you can't get
off your shoes, but real quick, you know, we passed on City Council -- or maybe you don't

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know, but we passed a bill called REHAB, Restoration of Endangered Historic Adaptable Buildings. And you and I spoke, and I wanted to let you know that that bill passed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Great.
COUNCIL MEMBER M. CARLUCCI: And that bill, I wanted to make sure, would -- any prospect of that would come through this body, because this body exists and y'all are a very -- in my opinion, and a lot of others, a very important commission. When you put your staff of approval on something, it means something.

So just to let you know that the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, which you have probably seen -- anybody familiar with that in Springfield? I just met with them, and they are a soon-to-be prospect for some -- a grant towards their restoration. They're under new ownership now. And so just to let the Commission know -- I hate to say it, but you're going to be seeing more of me, and -- but I don't hate to say that because the more you see me, the more good stuff we're going to do. And we're not only going to love history, but we're

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going to make history.
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
All right. With that, we're going to jump around a little bit today, as I mentioned earlier. I've got a previously deferred item to be heard in Section D that I'm going to hold off on because that is actually paired with COA-23-29734, under Section G. So we're going to come back to that.

We're going to jump straight to Section F, historic designations. So that will be LM-23-06, 930 University Boulevard.

If we can get a staff report, please.
MR. WELLS: Thank you.
All right. So this is LM-23-06 for the property located at 930 North University Boulevard. This is formerly known as the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan building.

So in accordance with Section 307.104 of the Ordinance Code, if the owner or the applicant is in support of the local landmark designation, you only have to meet two of the seven criteria. But if the owner or applicant is in objection, you have to meet four of the

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1 seven criteria. In this instance, there is an 2 objection letter filed with -- or included

Mid-Modern architectural movement, other
Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 within the application package, so that threshold is raised to four.

So based on our findings, we did find that it met four of the seven criteria. The first criteria pertains to its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state or nation. This building is significant as being a part of the Mid-Modern architectural context that defines the built environment of the Arlington neighborhood after the opening of the John E. Mathews Bridge in 1953 and until the early 1970s.

This building broke ground in July of 1961 under Rufus Kite Powell, who was the president of the association. This 6,600-square-foot, one-story building has a precast facade. It was designed by Edwin T. Reeder and built by S.S. Jacobs Company. In later years, the building was occupied by Citizens Bank, Gordon Bank, and Atlantic Coast Federal Bank.

In terms of the significance of this
buildings within the Arlington area can be found pertaining [sic] this architectural style. This includes the Unitarian Universalist Church, Elk Oil Company, as well as the Skinner Dairy drive-thru, and a host of other buildings that are included within the report.

The second criteria pertains to its identification as the work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, state or nation. As once again described, the building was designed by Miami architect Edwin J. [sic] Reeder, who was from the generation of architects that emerged professionally after World War II at the start of the Mid-Modern era. He was known for designing several different buildings, including the Industrial National Bank, Central National Bank, the Dade Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Edison Central Bank, and the Florida State Mental Hospital. His work has been published in Time, Fortune, Interiors, Brick and Tile Structural Clay Products, and House and Garden magazine, as well as holding the position of

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president of the South Florida chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Some of Reeder's thoughts on the Mid-Modern style is revealed in an interview by the Florida Architect, which is from 1956, where he addressed the loss of decorative crafts in Mid-Modern buildings. He mentioned that budgetary restrictions limit the use of decorative arts, but craftsmen will still be necessary to create design elements that will be fabricated by machinery.

In order to avoid a visual clutter from the style, he went on to explain these decorative materials, if used in a judicious manner, could accentuate shadows and lights important in Mid-Modern designs. An example of this is the design of the brise-soleil found in his design of the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan Association building.

So the third criteria pertains to the building being recognized for the quality of its architecture and retaining sufficient elements that convey its architectural significance. The outstanding design of this building is once again from the Mid-Modern era,

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which is from the 1950s to early 1970s.
The design of this Mid-Modern building did not reflect a particular style, but represented more of a national movement in the use of different architectural trends, technologies, and materials used in a variety of building types.

Only in recent decades has the significance of Mid-Modern buildings been appreciated as part of a unique era in architecture and construction. However, the importance of Mid-Modern architecture in Jacksonville was clearly acknowledged as early as 1958 when well-known Mid-Modern architect Robert Broward stated that this style of architecture could be found and fitted into the framework of requirements for significant architecture. It is only works that appeared in the city since the end of the war that is important in this respect.

It also should be noted that this particular building was featured in the Bicentennial Edition of Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage Landmarks for the Future, last year. And in this publication,

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Wayne Wood, the author, described the building's facade as a "kaleidoscopic array of triangles and diamond shapes regulated by strong vertical fins." He goes on to state that the "brise-soleil ranks as one of the most inventive concrete structures in Jacksonville, and the series of vertical openings topped by pointed arches translates into a modernist abstraction of a Venetian Gothic place."

The brise-soleils, as found on three facades of the building, are defined as a significant character-defining feature of Mid-Modern designs.

The fourth criteria relates to its suitability for preservation or restoration. Basically, on this criteria, we evaluate pretty much that the building should be -- is -- or should be suitable for preservation based on some type of site visit. Because we were not able to -- granted the opportunity to inspect the property by the owner, we just had to base our findings on the description from the right-of-way and permit records. And based on these findings, we believe that major additions or significant alterations did not really occur
the first Mid-Century architectural style that you would be recommending potential approval on.

So, again, I just want to underscore that point. And based on our findings altogether, we forward to you a recommendation for approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the public hearing.

Is the applicant here?
MS. LOPERA: So in this case, through the Chair to the Commission, you-all sponsored this application for landmarking at the request of some community members, so you-all are technically the sponsors.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
(Mr. Harden approaches the podium.)
MR. HARDEN: So what you're saying is the judges are my opponent as well?

May I hand these out, Mr. Chairman, before we start?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
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MR. HARDEN: Mr. Chairman, there are some photos that I'm going to reference, and then there's a copy for each of you of the reports that I'm going to reference as well.

While you're passing those out, I'll go ahead and start because Councilman Carlucci got us behind schedule a little bit.

My name is Paul Harden. My address is 1431 Riverplace Boulevard, and I represent the folks who own this building.

I apologize, Chuck Tower is not here today. It's not -- he's not here not because this isn't important. It's very important. Chuck actually fought in Iraq and was sprayed with nerve gas and for the last two years he's been on a list for a liver transplant, and they transplanted it on him Friday, so he's out of action for a good period of time.

However, the significance of this designation is very important to him. He's only owned this building, his company, for a couple of years. They've tried to have folks come in and renovate it over that two years. No one's been able to come up with a plan to do it. If you add on this designation on top,

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from a pretty cursory review of the -- of the photographs of the area.

More significantly, the building can't be cleaned or pressure-washed. You can see the facade has the dark mold on there. Even the slightest pressure on those make them crumble and fall. It's -- turns into sand very, very quickly.

More importantly, the brittle nature of the concrete -- and that's addressed in the report that I've provided to you -- makes it not possible to renovate or restore the building. We've engaged an engineer and a general contractor to give us an opinion on those matters. I passed the reports on to you.

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to need a little more than three minutes. I'll try to not -Diane is going to yell at me if I speak too fast, but I'll go as quickly as I can.

The first thing I'd like for you to review is the engineer's report. He describes in great detail the brittle nature of the concrete that was used prior to 1977, and the -- the lack of suitability for restoration because of the brittle nature, just simple, basically,

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touching it.
(Timer notification.)
MR. HARDEN: And I've been out there a couple of times, and if you hit it with your finger, it disintegrates. He did several tests, used a seismometer -- that's probably not the way you pronounce it, but -- to show the strength of the building, and indicates in there that it's very, very poor; and that, as a result of that material that they've used in there, it's not suitable for restoration or preservation on the site. He also did some other tests to indicate that.

The main thing he determines is that, prior to '77, they didn't use steel in the interior of the concrete. And because there's nothing to hold it together, it doesn't have the strength to undergo a preservation or renovation activity on the site.

Likewise, the general contractor went out and she tried to determine if they could renovate it because they've had at least ten people come in to look at it to renovate the building to use. It's basically just a square office building, and nothing architecturally

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significant about the square office building. The facade is the part that's the important -but none of the ten people that have come in have been able to renovate it. We asked her to go in and do that same designation to see if there was some way that it could be renovated and used. As you can see from Ms. Bahri's report, she determines that it's not suitable for renovation or preservation at the site.

It's a failure of -- of just simply -Criteria G means that there aren't four criteria that meet the -- the threshold.

Again, respectfully, I'd like to -- I think the inquiry ends at determining it's not suitable for restoration, but I'd like to comment, briefly, on the staff report.

Again, with all due respect to Mr. Reeder and the staff, Criteria A, while there's a lot of information listed in there, the information doesn't go to the criteria. The criteria requires a finding that the building be a significant reminder of the architectural heritage of the city or the state or the country. I think they're relying this case on the city.

Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 don't think his individual work, which in this

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particular case, in the city, this one building out by the Mathews Bridge, influenced the development of the city of Jacksonville. While, again, his career was prolific, obviously, and he did some important things, I don't think it's fair to say that he meets the bar of his individual work influencing development of the city of Jacksonville. And, again, no disrespect, but it's a high bar to meet and he doesn't meet that standard.

So concluding, I'd suggest that the designation is not fairly put on the property that my client's only owned for about two years. It was in poor repair because it had been foreclosed, as you can see from the report that Arimus has provided.

The impact on Mr. Tower -- this designation is significant, and I'd ask you to thoroughly review the criteria before putting that burden on him with this property.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Diane, sorry I talked so fast.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on
this designation?
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(Audience member approaches the podium.) THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Steve Matchett, 1005 Rio St. Johns Drive, Jacksonville, 32211, in Arlington.

I'm president of Old Arlington, Inc., which is why we're here today. Back in May, I appeared before you and brought up the situation of the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan building and looked to this commission as to whether it might consider the construction of an application for landmark designation. And you responded very enthusiastically. The application was prepared. The staff report was excellent. I could almost make a case for five of the seven criteria. The response being that the study -- it was the same criteria, just being repeated almost, and -- if somebody wanted to study it. Well, somebody would probably want to study this one.

OAI was founded about 30 years ago with a dual vision of historic preservation and community revitalization, and one of our first orders of business was commissioning a historic

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building survey, which we did. These would be pre-World War II buildings at that time, but it resulted in the identification and preservation of Norman Studios, which, at that time, was saved from demolition, but today stands as Duval County's only national historic landmark that's above water. We got the Maple Leaf that sunk down there in Mandarin.

OAI's mission is to enhance and preserve the architecture, culture, and history of the community. Those efforts today involve Mid-Century Modern architecture, a style that's not only popular, but it's now historical and it's protectable.

As was mentioned earlier, this represents the first application for Mid-Century Modern architecture in Jacksonville, and it certainly won't be the last, out of Arlington anyway. It's a -- it represents the -- it possesses -Arlington possesses the city's best inventory of Mid-Century Modern architecture. It's reflected in its homes, its churches, its businesses, and schools that were built after the Mathews Bridge opened in 1953.

The staff report identified several
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1 nonresidential examples, including major
2 buildings -- most major buildings on JU's
Arlington campus, and we hope a lot of those eventually appear before you in designation applications as well.

We believe that this building, the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan building, stands as a most significant example of Mid-Century Modern, and it's worthy of its protection.

I appeared before this commission in May, after a zoning exception and administrative deviation application had been filed which sought demolition of the building and construction of a car wash. At that time, the protected status was afforded after your application, and we've enjoyed that respite for the last couple of months and here today.

That report that came out, and as it was addressed by Mr. Harden a few minutes ago --
(Timer notification.)
MR. MATCHETT: Could I have a few extra moments too? I think we'll --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MR. MATCHETT: That application goes
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into -- or the staff report goes into great detail, very good detail, both on the Mid-Century Modern movement, Mr. Reeder himself as the architect, but what is probably not as well-stated in there, in what was referred to earlier, was the heritage of Mid-Century Modern. It's new, but its heritage goes back. And in Arlington, this is going to be our signature architecture, just like Riverside, just like Springfield, just like RAP, and SPAR then, OAI is leading the charge to have Mid-Century Modern recognized as Arlington's signature architecture.

Not only that, it's been recognized in its CRA redevelopment plan; the Renew Arlington Redevelopment Plan encourages Mid-Century Modern architecture as a basis for facade renewal, along new construction, and that's evidenced by College Park across the street, that large -- probably the most major redevelopment project in Arlington under the Renew Arlington program is that College Park project across the street. This building is directly across the street from it. College Park is being built in Mid-Century. We

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should -- it would be a travesty to tear down this one, a real one, a genuine article.

I'm going to mention just a quick rebut to the criteria concerns that Mr. Harden had. One, the -- the reuse of the building. Karen Nasrallah, who's the CRA manager, is in continuous contact with people that are interested in this property. It was designated in the CRA plan as a redevelopment project. It was listed in the building's commercial real estate listing. Okay? It didn't say you had to tear it down and do anything. It was actually saying this beautiful precast concrete building with its unique fixtures can be redeveloped to a shopping center, medical, dental, convenience store, any other uses, including a 60-foot-high multifamily building. That was their advertisement when this went on the market.

It does not preclude -- and with incentives, like Councilman Carlucci's new funds, that's the kind of -- this is the kind of project those funds would be made available to, outside the downtown limits, with a landmark designation.

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We have a couple of other speakers that I'll yield to. Appreciate the time and certainly your consideration in making this the first Mid-Century Modern designation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Whoever can come next, yeah.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Bill Bishop, 246 Noble Circle West.

I would tend to agree only tangentially with Mr. Harden's comments about some of the criteria. All of the criteria in the historic designation are subjective. With all due respect to Mr. Harden's verbal talents, I suspect he could probably create an argument why this building is beyond salvage and not to be torn down.

As an architect that fixes buildings like this, I can tell you -- I will dispute anybody that says it is beyond salvage. It is not beyond salvage. It is in perfectly good structural condition. All of that concrete panel work on the outside is in very good

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1 shape. If you touch it, it will not fall down.
There's a lot of hyperbole going on around that building. That building is perfectly fine to be reused for any number of things.

It is a classic example of Mid-Century Modern architecture. Arlington is a Mid-Century Modern part of the city. There are more Mid-Century Modern structures in Old Arlington than probably any other -- certainly any other part of Jacksonville, and probably any other city in the southeast. This city is known as a birthplace of great world-class Mid-Century Modern architecture.

The architect that designed this building happened to be in Miami. He did a lot of this stuff all over the place. He was honored by being a fellow in the AIA. The guy was really good and did a lot of really good work, and this is a great example of that good work. This is one of those buildings, like the -what is now called the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation [sic] Center downtown, which is the old Haydon Burns Library that has been salvaged and repaired for generations to come.

Once buildings like this are gone, they're
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gone forever. People don't build stuff like this anymore because it's too expensive, quite frankly. And if we lose it, it's gone forever. And I just caution you very carefully to think about that. This is our future history that we're talking about here, and I think we need to make every effort possible to save it.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hey, there.
I'm Wayne Wood, 2821 Riverside Avenue.
It's good to see you.
I appreciate the staff quoting my new book on Jacksonville architecture in this because when we did the first book back in 1989, the criteria -- I believe the building had to be 50 years old to go in the -- in the book. And, of course, all these Mid-Century Modern buildings were not.

This -- the biggest advent in this book is the addition of the Mid-Century Modern. They're incredibly important. Some of our greatest architects have participated. And the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan is one of

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the most significant Mid-Century Modern buildings in Arlington.

Mid-Century Modern, a hundred years from now, we'll look back and see that it's one of the most important architectural movements. When historians come to Jacksonville a hundred years from now, they'll want to see four buildings: The St. James building, the Haydon Burns Library, the Gulf Life tower, and the Chart House, and then they will want to go to Arlington.

Because the Mathews Bridge was built in the early 1950s, just as this style was coming into being -- and Bill Morgan and Bob Broward and architects like Edwin T. Reeder were championing this style.

Arlington has more buildings of this style than any other neighborhoods perhaps in Florida, and this building is particularly important because it is the keystone building. As you come into the Arlington neighborhood, this is the first building you see, so -- in developing the Mid-Century Modern -- it's eligible for a thematic group in the National Register, in Arlington, the neighborhood, and

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this building is one of the keys.
I was the first chairman of the Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission. And in 1978, I wrote the first historic preservation ordinance. It didn't get passed during my tenure, but the whole point of this ordinance was to save buildings like this. This is exactly the intention of what we had in mind, where you have a building that is precious in value to the city culture and heritage, as this building is, and you have an owner that is not -- is putting financial gain ahead of his stewardship for saving our culture. This is one reason that we have this commission, is to save buildings like this when there's a threat.

Now, as Bill pointed out, there are so many buildings in this city that are in ten times worse shape that are being restored. You look at the Laura Street Trio -- this very building was in horrible shape, much worse than this building.

And Mr. Harden said that Mr. Reeder may have been a better architect than he was a lawyer. I don't know, but I know that

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the Arlington Federal Savings and Loan was added to that list. How come?

Jacksonville is a huge, sprawling, complicated city, and as is the case with any big city, one of the -- one of the most comprehensible ways to conceive of it as a place with its own identity is a constellation of neighborhoods, and Arlington has emerged within the past few decades as one of those neighborhoods, not with its own geospatial identity, but with its own visual, optical identity, and that identity is anchored in the recognizable and distinctive Mid-Century Modern architectural style that characterizes it.

Arlington has emerged as a place that stands on the Mid-Century Modern style. And the Arlington Federal Savings building is elemental to that identity because of its unmistakable association with that style, its construction at the time when that style really emerged with the chronology of Arlington's neighborhood growth and because of the prominence of the location of the Savings and Loan building at what amounts to the gateway into the neighborhood.

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We added the building to our list because it is threatened in part by physical obsolescence, driven in part by age, lack of modernization, to a certain extent perhaps by neglect, but also because, as is the case with many endangered buildings, there is some question as to its economic sustainability.

And one of the things that -- that local government can do through such a thing as the ordinance that this commission and the staff administers is to protect those buildings and create a pathway and some opportunities and encouragement and support for finding a sustainable economic use for the property.

And for all those reasons, we support the landmark designation. We encourage an affirmative vote by the Commission on the staff's recommendations.

Thank you very much.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak? AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.) MR. HARDEN: May I respond briefly? THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, sure. MR. HARDEN: Thank you.
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Again, for the record, Paul Harden, 1431 Riverplace.

I understood what Mr. Bliss said and what Mr. Wood said. They've got to speak to the criteria that you have to look at. This is a legal proceeding. The criteria are the only things that you can consider. And in all due respect to Mr. Wood, we've got a report from an engineer and a general contractor who don't agree with what his opinion is, and he's -he's neither. And so I ask you to look at the competent, substantial evidence you have in front of you. It's clear there's no rebuttal to the comments with regard to Criteria G.

The other thing I want to point out, based on what Mr. Matchett said, you're not to consider what's going to go here down the road. There is an application for a use. If that application is rejected, that's where -- and there's different criteria that you would consider, or the Planning Commission and the LUZ Committee would consider on that, so what -- what are the --

There may be better things to go here than what somebody applied for, but it's strikingly

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obvious that until -- this building sat here even for ten years after it was longer than 50 years old, and no one attempted to add the designation to it, and now that there's a proposed use don't -- don't approve that proposed use. What you're to consider are the criteria. And in all due respect, the only competent, substantial evidence that you have with regard to Criteria G are the expert opinions that I've placed into evidence, not someone else's opinion, who is not necessarily qualified as an expert.

So I guess the point I'm trying to make is, please focus on the -- on the criteria that you have before you and in the ordinance. And I think it's clear, based on the criteria, at least -- and I'm not sure whether it was Steve or Bill who said -- Mr. Bishop or Mr. Matchett who said it's subjective. The -- most of them are subjective, but Criteria G is not subjective based on the evidence you have.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Mr. Wood approaches the podium.)
MR. WOOD: I'd like to comment on the
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previous comments.
In my opinion --
THE CHAIRMAN: Quickly.
MR. WOOD: I'm Wayne Wood, 2821 Riverside
Avenue.
The building meets seven of the eight -seven of the seven criteria. I mean, let's look at it. Number [sic] B, which the staff did not recommend, it's -- the location is the site of a significant local, state or national event. The whole development of the Mid-Century Modern movement in Arlington -this is the premiere building and the location that is the gateway to Arlington, so I -- I think it meets that.

It is identified with a person -- or a person who significantly contributes to the development of the city, state or nation. Edwin T. Reeder was one of the most significant architects of the time. There was a full page in the --

THE CHAIRMAN: Wayne --
MR. WOOD: -- Florida State Architectural Magazine [sic] supporting him.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, we don't need to
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go through the whole staff report again. I mean, our staff has walked us through --

MR. WOOD: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- has walked us through all the individual things.

MR. WOOD: Thank you very much.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is anybody else here to speak on this?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Motion to approve the landmarking of 930 University Boulevard.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second.
MS. LOPERA: It's officially to
recommend approval, but --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Motion to recommend
to approve 930 University Boulevard.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Conversation?
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Can I get a clarification from staff on something from their report? You said you were not allowed access to the property or the building; is that

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correct? And there was an attempt made to?
MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to commissioner Gregory, that is correct. We reached out to the owner, and -- twice, and we were not -- we were denied entry to the property.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'd like to speak
on Item $G$ as a registered architect with almost
20 years of experience working in Jacksonville, with a particular -- obviously, I'm on the Historic Preservation Commission -- with a particular pointing towards restoring historic buildings.

I don't know if there's other pictures that show this in worse shape, but this does not look like it's -- you guys don't even want to know what the basement of the Trio looks like, at all. It is absolutely terrifying.

My husband, when the tower fell down in South Florida, he was like, "Did you see the pictures of what that pump room looked like?" And I was like, "You do not want to know what the basement of the Bisbee building looks like." And we are going to work to save that,

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1 so I just -- I can't look at these pictures --
2 I don't see any cracking, I don't see any kind
(Discussion held off the record.)
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of -- anything, really. I know you're talking about the aggregate maybe falling off. And I know there will probably be -- Commissioner Lopera here speaking about the structural integrity, reviewing that.

But as an architect, as somebody who's restored buildings around town, it does not look like it's in any kind of shape that would not be beyond repair, in my professional opinion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I have written quite a few of these reports, and these are designed to be stand-alone. Anyone reading these reports, including laymen, other engineers or architects, should be able to draw evidence from these reports, and there should be conclusions that are supported by the evidence.

So as I'm reading through this, I'm reading Ms. Carla Bahri's report. She's a certified general contractor. She mentions that the --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Let me start over again.

She writes that the exterior of the building is failing from corrosion. Well, looking at that sentence, where is the corrosion? Where are the photographs? How much corrosion? How was it quantified? Was it on a column or a beam or was it the roof? Well, we don't know based on this report.

Furthermore, she claims that the structure shows significant deterioration. At which point did she define what "significant" is? Well, she did not. And, again, did not define where this deterioration was occurring because nonstructural deterioration of concrete is very different from structural deterioration of concrete. And, typically, what we do is we look at the structural columns, structural beams, the roof system and structural wall panels, if needed, and we quantify how much of the building is deteriorated with photographs. This report has none of those things.

Furthermore, she claims that the concrete structure is not capable of holding its own position, to which I would ask, well, how is it

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standing? How has it stood for the last six, seven years or more?

Let's see. And then at the end, somehow, without any supporting evidence and without any sort of analysis or any quantification of anything that she claims, comes to this conclusion that the property is not suitable for preservation or restoration.

So this report, since it cannot stand on its own merit without supporting evidence or any sort of documentation showing where she got her evidence from or any sort of documentation for anything, I would not put any value into that report.

And then I read the report by RGM Engineering, a two-page-long report, quantifying the structural nature of a commercial building. And, again, there are no photographs of this building. There's no evidence showing what they used as a basis for their conclusions, how did they collect evidence, what sort of testing.

I did see some evidence for testing, but right here it shows that the evidence -- that the exterior shows failure from fatigue or

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corrosion. Well, which one of those is it?
And where was the fatigue or corrosion? Where was that happening? How much of it was happening? Was it on a beam, column, roof, or wall panel? We don't know any of those things.

The next line, "Concrete deterioration and degradation has occurred in the loss of materials and decreasing the integrity of concrete." Again, where is this loss happening? How much of it is happening? There's no quantification of this on any of the structural elements of the building.

Again, even the next line, "The structural integrity has been reduced." Okay. Well, by how much? What's the original structural integrity?

And then, finally, on the next page we get to some testing where the engineer claims that, "Most concrete building built before 1977 are non-ductile concrete." Okay. And we get a definition of what that is.

And that, "These older buildings may not safely resist forces caused by nature." Again, there's no evidence to support that. There's tons of buildings out there that are concrete

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that are completely resisting the forces of nature in Florida.

And then, again, we go to the hammer test. So they performed the hammer test. We have no idea where they performed this test. Was it on the roof columns, beams? We have no idea. We just don't know, so I took that line and I basically ignored it because we don't know anything about it.

So the next line, it says the following readings were performed. "The lowest reading was 9.52 megapascals. The highest was 28.66 megapascals. Anything below 20 megapascals is fair to poor condition." Again, where was any of this happening? Where was the testing done? What members was it done on? How much of the testing was done? We don't know any of those things.

And then, again, further down it claims that the building has no reinforcing steel. Let's see. Was that on this one? Hold on. I'm reading.

Well, in one of these reports -- right here. Yes, it is in this report. Item 1 says, "Due to a lack of reinforcing steel in
buildings" -- again, ground-penetrating radar would have been used to determine whether there's reinforcing steel. What the depth of that reinforcing steel is, what the condition is, and where it's located, that testing doesn't -- it doesn't look like that testing was performed.

And then -- now we get to thermal conductivity. Regarding hot spots -- again, we have no idea where they did any of this hot spot testing. They could have been on a nonstructural portion of the building, which would not have affected the structural capacity of the building, yet somehow we get to this conclusion that the building is not suitable for preservation or restoration.

So I would not put any value on either of these reports as there is no document- -there's insufficient documentation or insufficient testing to -- for anyone to draw any sort of reasonable conclusions from these.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other commissioners have thoughts, comments?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, I would just like to say that I do believe that

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the Mid-Century, Mid-Modern type of architecture is predominant to Arlington. Arlington even has an organization that holds a walk through their neighborhoods that people can attend, buy tickets to, to look at the Mid-Century Modern architecture. It is looking at -- you know, Bill Morgan and Bob Broward, very influential architects. That was one of their main styles here.

I would tend to even argue that looking at the actual building stock in Jacksonville, it is a very substantial amount of buildings in this city. I think a lot of people don't think about it. A lot of people don't think about it as historic because it has recently fallen into that historic designation because of the timeline. And I think because of that, we have and may continue to lose very substantial Mid-Century Modern buildings in the city. And this, to me, as an architect, knowing what's here looks to be a very substantial, well-designed form of that.

I know there was some [sic] brought up about some of these other elements not being directly [sic] to Jacksonville. Some of these

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go beyond Jacksonville and say Jacksonville, city, state, or nation, but, in my opinion, having done architecture and knowing about architecture here, I think that the Mid-Century, Mid-Mod typology of buildings is kind of a diamond in the rough here for our stock that we have in town, and I think it should be preserved.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you. Any other thoughts?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Well, speaking from my point of view, it's hard to argue with my house architect over here and my house engineer.

Speaking on these reports, I think Commissioner Lopera gave some things to think about, that's for sure, because I do not read it as an engineer, and -- and it is a bit of a lack of evidence for me. A more detailed report along with pictures would have been helpful.

So that's kind of where I'm at on the reports at the moment.

With that, I don't know, anybody else --
nobody else has thoughts?
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Mae Boren Axton, stated to Elvis that, "I will write your first million-dollar seller." That same year, she co-wrote a song with guitar player Tommy Durden, who was -- which was basically Elvis' first national hit and rock and roll classic known as "Heartbreak Hotel." The song was composed in the living room of Axton's small concrete block house in the Murray Hill neighborhood, which is southwest of downtown Jacksonville.

Experiencing a bolt of inspiration, the song was written in just over 20 minutes in the living room of Axton's 1949 residence. Excited about its possibilities, the team composed a song on Axton's piano in less than a half an hour and immediately contacted local rockabilly performer and disk jockey Glenn Reeves to come to the house and record the song as a demo for Elvis's consideration. Once Elvis heard it, he was thrilled with the song, that he shouted, "Hot darn, Mae, play it again." Released as a single on January 27th, 1956, Billboard magazine reported that over 300,000 copies of the single had been sold by the end of March and broke into the Top Ten at Number 9. So by

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COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, we'll call for a vote, then. All those in favor? COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye. THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved the landmark -- well, recommended the landmark designation for 930 University Boulevard.

And with that, we'll move on to LM-23-07, 3239 Dellwood Avenue.
(Brief pause in the proceedings.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Dellwood Avenue.

MR. WELLS: Okay. So this is LM-23-07 for property located at 3239 Dellwood Avenue. We found that it met three of the seven local landmark designation criteria. The first criteria relates to its location being of a significant local or state or national event. During one of the first Elvis Presley concerts in Jacksonville in 1955, promoter, song writer and mother figure for the young singer known as

May 5th of that year, it had become number one in the Top Ten, where it remained until the end of June.

With the success of the song, Axton moved to Nashville, starting her own label, as well as continuing song writing.

Based on this particular song, "Heartbreak Hotel," it elevated Elvis' stardom to the high heavens nationally, as quoted in a book.

The second criteria relates to it being identified with a person or persons who has significantly contributed to the development of the city, state or nation. So, once again, this is directly tied to the career of Mae Boren Axton, who, once again, was a song writer and concert promoter.

Although the composing of "Heartbreak Hotel" was her most noted achievement, she also co-authored over 90 songs which were later recorded by artists such as Patsy Cline, Hank Snow, Jerry Lee Lewis, Perry Como, Willie Nelson, Glen Campbell, and even Tanya Tucker. In addition to that, Axton also did public relations work for Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, and young Tanya Tucker as well.

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The third criteria relates to its suitability for preservation or restoration. Constructed in 1949 for J.M. Hannah, the one-story residence had been continuously occupied. It shows no evidence of deterioration. The front facade appears to have been significantly altered. Although no photos of the original front elevation have been found, the 1977 Sanborn map depicts the house as having the same basic footprint as the one next door at 3243 Dellwood Avenue, which appears to have its original design.

The porch on the structure was enclosed recently and the gable roof was removed. A side doorway remains but goes out into a new porch extending to the east corner of the residence. Also under the main roof line, this porch is supported by four round columns.

Based on building permit records, the only construction besides the original 1949 permit, were for mechanical upgrades, reroofing, and interior work. The rear addition and changes to the front elevation were not permitted or nor were they recorded in the building permit records. However, as viewed from the public

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right-of-way, the residence still reflects the
basic scale and placement as found on
surrounding homes which are one-story concrete
block structures with primarily side-facing gable roofs. And, once again, this -- this structure has been -- appeared to have been altered to varying degrees.

And based on our findings, this -- the structure appears to meet three of the seven criteria, so we recommend -- forward to you a recommendation for approval.

And then one other point, so just note that the application has been sponsored by the Jacksonville Historical Society, which their letter is included within the application itself.

End of report.
THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for staff? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the public hearing.

Is the applicant here?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you would just state your name and address for me.

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So just (inaudible), I am not an Elvis fan. I moved to this house with my wife a couple of years ago, and we had no idea of the history inside. It belonged to this house. We had neighbors telling us the story, which we thought was just an urban myth until, slowly but surely, the facts started to lay on me, and which kind of prompt me to make a research, and that's when I reach out for the Jacksonville Historical Society, which they kindly helped me with research. I am very grateful to Dr. Bliss.

And I was able to prove that, yes, Mae Axton live in the property for about eight years. And even though there's a lot to talk about Elvis, it's -- this is really about her. She was a remarkable woman for the time considered. She was a teacher, she was a writer for Time magazine. She was a promoter, single -- I'm sorry, she was a promoter and -and a writer. And for back then -- and -- you would not find many female figures with that, you know, level of responsibility and projection.

And the fact that she basically found out
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Elvis and wrote one of his major iconic songs on that house baffles me, but what baffles me the most is that not a single owner prior to me, my wife, seem to care about this history. And I figured, well, I would die one day, she will die one day, this house will remain. And it will be nice to keep the history attached to it.

Thank you for having me.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on this application?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll close the public hearing. I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to recommend for approval LM- -- Landmark Designation 23-07.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any thoughts, concerns?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you've recommended approval for LM-23-07.

And with that, we're going to swing back to Section D, previously deferred items be heard. That will be heard along with COA-23-29734, which is Number 1, under Section G, as they go hand in hand, so --

Is the applicant here?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll call you up in just a second, after we hear the staff report.

Thank you.
MR. WELLS: So through the Chair to the Commission, we have two COAs on the agenda. The first one is COA-23-29140, which is for the demolition of the retaining wall at 3022
St. Johns Avenue.
We previously opened the public hearing on this item and the applicant was told to gather some more evidence, a structural engineer's report, which is included as the last couple of pages within the approval package itself.

And then the second COA pertains to --
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which is COA-23-29734. This pertains to the installation of a 6-foot-tall, aluminum-style fence along the St. Johns Avenue property line.

So just -- I know it's a little
complicated, so I just want to walk through what occurred here.

So, initially, the property -- the applicant came in to do a COA for the installation of a new wall or a new fence. The Commission approved that. So they approved via COA-23-8795 [sic] for the installation of that wood fence -- or wrought-iron fence, but with a condition that the fence be installed behind the existing retaining wall.

It was later discovered that the applicant also had plans for the installation of an inground swimming pool, which was via an administrative COA, 23-29253. Because the installation of that pool would be highly street visible, because he wants to place it in the front yard along St. Johns Avenue, we conditioned for that -- we conditioned that COA to be placed with a visible wooden fence or some type of 85 percent opacity.

Because of that, the applicant submitted a
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minor modification, which was MMA-23-29315, to have that original COA amended to change the proposed fencing from aluminum to board on board. However, because the demolition of the retaining wall application was still under review, the approval of that MMA was conditioned to have the installation of the fence -- of that wood fence be installed behind the existing retaining wall. So, therefore, the -- everything is really contingent on the swimming pool being street visible.

So, once again, we have the original COA, which is for the demolition of that retaining wall, and then we also have the new COA, which they're looking to install a 6-foot wrought iron fence in its replacement of the retaining wall.

Just a couple of other points too, so when you're measuring the fence, just be mindful that it should be measured from the sidewalk. So, inially, you-all approved the fence -- the wrought iron fence to be placed behind the retaining wall. But because of the slope and the change in grade, it would read visually from the sidewalk as a 4-foot fence. But

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because it will potentially be replaced with the retaining wall, it may increase the height of the fence to 6 feet.

But for the first COA -- so, again, this is the demolition -- they provided a new structural engineer's report. We don't have any defensible argument to suggest that it should be retained. However, our only point is that, if it should be demolished, it should be replaced with something similar, something that mimics the international style architecture of the building, so something with concrete columns or a solid wall similar to one that's existing.

So we're maintaining our recommendation for denial.

And then for the second COA, which, again, pertains to the installation of a wrought iron fence, we feel as if increasing the visibility of the swimming pool will be -- which was, again, going to be located in that front yard -- the pool will be readily visible from the street, which is inconsistent with our Code criteria and our design guidelines on setting by inviting the opportunity for a pool, which

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1 is a nonoriginal feature, so -- installation of
2 a pool within a front yard invites the
3 opportunity for the pool, which is a
4 nonoriginal feature with no historical
5 significance, to detract from the features of
6 the -- the residential structure.

Again, based on our design guidelines, fences and walls delineate property lines and serve as a barrier to distinguish between yards, sidewalks, and streets. As such, new fences and walls should respect the material's design and scale found within the same block and streetscape.

Based on the approval package -- or the denial package, we found other fences along St. Johns Avenue. So if you look at the supplementary photos, you'll see that most of the fences highlight the predominance of masonry retaining walls, cast concrete walls with coping, and masonry columns with wrought iron fencing along St. Johns Avenue.

Based on our findings, again, we're just obligated to recommend denial of both applications.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for
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staff?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I believe there was some -- I feel like I heard something that was confusing to me. You read the engineer's report and you said that you agreed with it because you couldn't see any evidence to go against it, the report from Baker Design Build?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
Yeah, so, in this instance, I mean, because the report -- well, the engineer's report was presented to us after we initially published our report --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Oh, I see.
MR. WELLS: -- we don't have any objections to what they're stating within the report itself, so -- because we don't have the opportunity to rebut, we're just going to concur with their findings.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, do you -- so then -- I guess you have an opportunity now to rebut. Would you concur with their -- with Tamara Baker's design [sic] findings?

MR. WELLS: I mean, what we're stating is that the findings seem to appear that the

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structure cannot be salvaged.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Thank you.
MR. WELLS: So we're stating -- the reason
why denial is still a denial is because we
believe that the -- the wall, if it's going to
be demolished, it should be replaced with something that mirrors the existing style of it.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Perfect.
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Sorry. Could I get a clarification on the -- the pool you guys were talking about there? So is -- is that the -- the pool is already there is what you're telling me?

MR. WELLS: Yeah, so -- through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, yeah, the second COA shows a picture of the --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: So I was looking at -- I was looking at the other one.

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MR. WELLS: Yeah, so there's the pool (indicating). And then the wall is in the bottom left corner.

THE CHAIRMAN: Page 435.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We're going to open the public hearing.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello.
Bryce Krampert, 12724 Gran Bay Parkway, here on behalf of Charles Sessa, and that is 3022 St. Johns Avenue.

We are here today on two Certificate of Appropriateness applications. I believe that there appears to be some consensus that the report done by Baker Design Build, which has partnered with the Jacksonville Historical Preservation [sic] Society, has determined that the wall is irreparable, that it is a danger.

I also understand from reading some comments from neighbors that people like to pose for pictures on this wall. And I have cautioned Mr. Sessa that that can lead to some

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liability because, as cited in this report, there is significant leaning and deterioration of the wall.

Now, this fence, of course, would need to be replaced. And that is the question that we're attempting to resolve here today. Mr. Sessa has submitted an application for a 6-foot aluminum fence.

Now, as previously stated, there is a significant drop-off from the sidewalk to the property because of the slope of the land, and that -- that slope is about 2 feet. Therefore, a 6-foot-high fence from the sidewalk would appear to be 4 feet.

I also understand that the Historical Society would like to have it replaced with something similar. The neighbor to the south, southwest of Mr. Sessa, has a fence that is only a black aluminum fence. The neighbor to the northeast of Mr. Sessa has a black aluminum fence with pillars in between.

Mr. Sessa seeks to have a 4-foot -- or a 6-foot aluminum fence that would be 4 feet; however, he also would not object to including pillars if that is what the Society would

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prefer. Certainly we believe that that would meet the requirements for the remainder of the buildings cited by the Historical Society.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is anybody else here to speak on either of these COAs?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
MS. LOPERA: If you could just read that into the -- that Angela Schifanella --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I would like to read something into the record --

MS. LOPERA: -- position or --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yep.
Angela Schifanella with RAP, "Rap supports the preservation of the Bourbon Alley piers" --
(Discussion held off the record.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
Angela Schifanella with RAP, 1352 Avondale Avenue. "RAP supports the preservation of the Bourbon Alley piers. Any replacement, slash, repair work should be compatible with the existing."

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
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All right. With that, I'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Are we doing both these together or do we want to -- do we need to separate them is the question for OGC.

MS. LOPERA: Yes. Through the Chair to the Commission, you need to handle these separately, so -- in your discussion, it really deals with both. But when you make a motion, I'd like you to do those separately.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So let's do COA-23-29140.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Oh, sorry. I have a question.

If we motion to demolish the base off of -- well, I'm not saying we are going to, but if we do motion to demolish this and then motion to deny that -- and I'm not saying we're doing either of those -- could there [sic] possibly be left with nothing here at all?

MS. LOPERA: No. Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein and all the commissioners, so, in this case, he -- the applicant would be left with what he currently has, which is
approval for a pool, which is behind a fence that was approved in MMA-23-29315, which is required to be behind the existing wall. That's what he would be left with if you deny both of these things.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Motion to approve the demolition of the complete wall, columns, and everything there, COA-23-29140.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. The columns. Is that including -- let me go back.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: While we're looking at that, can I get staff's opinion on the -RAP's -- Ms. Angela's recommendation? She's requesting the piers be left; is that -- is she referring just to the columns and not the middle section of the fences?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I thought that was strange too, that she just said "piers."

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I think by "piers," she's referring to the columns.

MS. LOPERA: If I may, through the Chair to the Commission, so this is just a public speaker's card. She couldn't stay to speak.

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So we just read into the record what she wrote here, and I don't -- I don't think we should add anything to that.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, looking at this wall -- and, you know, it does appear to be unreinforced.

And also looking at the Baker Design Build report, which included photographs and -- and a thorough review of the wall, I believe that the wall is not salvageable, and neither are the columns.

The problem with leaving any aspect of the wall there is that, if any of it is leaning, putting anything on top of it, including any sort of concrete caps, will be -- will cause an additional problem, so --

And as far as the columns there and the piers there, those are not difficult to reconstruct to make something that looks exactly like that. This is concrete masonry, you know, construction or poured-in-place concrete, so -- and the caps are -- you know, would be a custom product. So I don't see any issue with either rebuilding the wall or

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just -- I don't see any issue with demolishing the wall.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We can come back and say, on the next item, we would like --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right. Exactly.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So this is just for the wall demo.

THE CHAIRMAN: Strictly demo?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Uh-huh.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I only have one question. So the -- the column that lists that it's Bourbon Alley is --

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll bring that back in the next --

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Okay. That will be --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: That was my thought as well.

MS. LOPERA: Mr Chair, if I can interject one thing?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
MS. LOPERA: So through the Chair, when
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talking about the demolition, if you're at all entertaining a requirement that the wall be rebuilt, I think you should include that as a condition of the demolition because, once we get to the fence COA, what he's asking for is not a wall; it's a fence. So if you're at all concerned that --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. LOPERA: -- (inaudible) we should do that with this one.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: So through the Chair, he's asking for a fence that would occur behind this wall in question?

MS. LOPERA: No. The fence COA on -- that you'll entertain next is a request for -- after the wall is demolished, he would like a 6-foot fence in place of --

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Got it.
MS. LOPERA: -- the wall.
THE CHAIRMAN: So we can just talk about that now, not sidestep it. I mean, in my opinion, I'm okay with the aluminum fence with concrete pillars and including the -obviously, the Bourbon Alley pillar. That, to me, fits well with that.

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COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And -- the 4-foot or 6-foot you're proposing?

THE CHAIRMAN: Six foot, because I do think -- I mean, you can see in the pictures, the wall looks awfully short from the one side and then awfully tall from the back side, so I do -- if y'all remember when he came in -- it was probably four or five months ago, but he kind of showed -- showed the measurements. And, I mean, looking at the pictures, I believe the measurements are true.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, if we ask him to rebuild the piers and he can have the fence in between, the piers are going to have to be a new height that matches with the new fence height.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is true.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I mean, would they?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: You -- I mean, how would you -- would you just have a gap between? Like, would you --

THE CHAIRMAN: That would be odd.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: What would you do where the piers -- I mean, like, you -- you'd have your fence, and then you'd have, you know,

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kind of like your -- your pier here
(indicating), and then you'd have your fence like that (indicating). You'd have -- you'd have a space above it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, yeah, the concrete column would have to be --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, we could put the -- the top of the concrete column would have to be at the top of the fence. And then on top of that, a pier cap would have to be installed on top of that that matches the existing so that way we ensure that --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- at least the pier cap would be sticking above the fence height.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah, I -- I wanted to bring up the fact that we're -- we're saying -- we're possibly saying that you can rebuild these columns and piers and have fencing in between them, but they are not being -- they're being built back as a completely different height and size than what's there.

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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, the rectangular dimensions would stay the same as what's there. We're just changing the height --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: The height.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And the concrete and the pier caps, those would be matching what's already there, and they would be -- the bottom of the pier -- well, the top of the column would be at the top of the fence. So the pier cap -- the bottom of the pier cap would start at the top of the fence.

THE CHAIRMAN: So the -- the cap would be over 6 feet is what you're taking about?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I mean, what -what I'm kind of envisioning -- you're saying is -- yeah, like this (indicating) is doing -like, the --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I guess the biggest thing to me is that that's such a drastic change to the columns and piers that are currently there, that are -- 2-and-a-half feet tall; is that --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, I mean --
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THE CHAIRMAN: If you look at them on the back side, I think they're taller than that.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, that's -- you know, we're demolishing something and, you know, we're rebuilding back something new, so I don't -- I don't think it's going to make a difference.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So they're going to be 6 feet -- I know we go back and forth on this. They're to be 6 feet tall from the sidewalk. The sidewalk is the finished floor or the --

MS. LOPERA: Okay --
THE CHAIRMAN: It's 6 feet tall from the lot because the --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: The lot.
THE CHAIRMAN: It would be, like, 4 feet
from the -- from the sidewalk.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. From grade.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, if I may?
THE CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh.
MS. LOPERA: To the Commission, if you
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could, in -- in your motion, specify a height from the height of the sidewalk. So if he's saying I want a 6-foot fence, but I'm going to put 2 feet -- I'm going to bury 2 feet of it below the sidewalk, that's fine. But if you could specify so that when staff tries to determine compliance, they can measure from the sidewalk, and whether he's added infill dirt or taken some away won't matter. They'll just measure from the sidewalk how high it's supposed to be.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
MR. WELLS: And through the Chair to the Commission, so if I could just add to -- so if you look at the image on the screen right now -- and just to backtrack when they originally were approved for the -- the wrought iron fence to be placed behind the retaining wall, the applicant stated that, because of the change in grade from the sidewalk, the -- the 6-foot fence would visually read as a 4-foot fence. So now that it's going to be placed right along the sidewalk, that may make it read as a 6-foot fence. So I just want to throw that on the record.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Again, I mean, to me, if you look at that picture and then look at the picture right before it, I mean, there's a pretty clear drop-off to me because that looks pretty short. If you look at it from the back side, it's clearly a lot larger than you would think. So, I mean, as long as we specify from -- a measurement from the sidewalk, that shouldn't matter, so ...

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, I have some concerns that -- I'd like to hear from our structural engineer about taking this wall away from the sidewalk where there is such a drastic height change, what would happen to the sidewalk over time?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, I don't think anything because the thing is we're going to have a brand-new footing that's not going to impact the foundation below the sidewalk, so the footing is going to have to be a -- like, what we classify as a cantilever footing, so -but that's going to be designed --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: For the walls in between, they're being removed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So if you -- if you remove that -- that's essentially acting as a retaining wall.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, temporarily.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes, but when it gets taken out and demolished and you have just a -- just a standard rail fence there, what -what's holding the sidewalk and the -- what's underneath the sidewalk from caving in on that side?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, that -- that's a fair point. What we would have to do is design -- have -- basically to the top of the sidewalk, that would have to be a retaining wall. That would have to be a structural retaining wall, and anything above that could be the aluminum fence that the owner desires.

So that would have to be -- yeah, so we would have to specify because, yeah, you're -you're right, because if we do take that wall out, that is a structural support. That's the foundation support for the sidewalk.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: So would we want to recommend something similar to one of the

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pictures, where it does maintain the wall, I don't know, 6 to 8 inches above the sidewalk, and then the aluminum fence between the columns --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That's a good idea.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: -- similar to the
pictures --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That's a good idea because there's a -- there's a photo --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, there's a photo of something across that, so we could just call it a foot above the sidewalk, and then that will -- you know, any engineer looking at that will design that as a structural retaining wall. And then above that, we would have the aluminum fence, but the total height of that entire structure would be 6 feet from the sidewalk -- or 4 feet, right?

Four feet from the top of the sidewalk would be the top of the aluminum fence, which is also going to be the top of the columns. And then above the columns there's going to be a concrete -- a pier cap that matches the existing pier caps. I can draw this in my

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head.
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll tell you what, let's -- let's go ahead and structure ourselves correctly. Can we go ahead and take a vote on the --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: Are you going to condition this at all? Because it was a motion to approve demolition. Will there be any conditions --

THE CHAIRMAN: It's an all new build, correct?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think the -- the motion for demolition needs to have a stipulation that it needs to be rebuilt in the -- in what -- accordance with the additional COA that we will be talking about next, is -- is designed in accordance with --

MS. LOPERA: Okay. So through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, if you want to maybe amend the motion to require replacement with a fence under COA-23-29734 --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Wait. Is it --
MS. LOPERA: -- that will kind of pair
those together so they can only tear down the
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wall if they replace it with said fence
approved under that COA.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, did you just give away my motion? Because I thought it was mine.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: He can do it. It's a little more complicated, so --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I just want to make sure I can keep my motion temporarily.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: You've got your motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Wait. So I've already -- I thought I already had a motion on the table for the demolition. I'm just amending this, right?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah. You need to amend it with the condition that they --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Oh, I see. I got it.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: We don't want to tell them they can demo it and then they demo it and --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right. And leave nothing.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And leave -- yeah -(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: (Inaudible.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Basically leave free access to the pool for anybody to just walk in and use their pool.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Somebody trips and the City gets sewed and --

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Quick question on that -- on the westernmost side of this wall is the column that marks Bourbon Alley, would we want to condition that they keep that column? The column --

THE CHAIRMAN: Or rebuild it, one of the two. It needs to be --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: (Inaudible.)
If you look at (inaudible), that column doesn't look damaged. I live a few blocks away and that sign looks really cool. They have a matching one on the other side. So maybe condition that they keep that and kind of build the new wall to run into that Bourbon Alley column and keep that original sign. It doesn't

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look damaged to me.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Is there a photo of it actually running into that Bourbon Alley sign? Because this --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: That's across the street.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I mean, that's a completely -- like, that -- that's a completely different size and everything.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah. I mean --
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: That's their property. I don't know if that's part of their wall or --

THE CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, I saw that.
Through the Chair, I think that they could just remove that sign and put it on a new column.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: But you -- don't you want to match -- because there's a -there's a pier on the other side that matches

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that. I would --
MS. LOPERA: It's not on his property.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's not on his property?

MS. LOPERA: The one on the right side, the very top of the photo, is not on the applicant's property. The one on the left, attached to the wall in question, is at issue and it's on the applicant's property.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: That's on his -so --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That's going to be --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I would almost say that that needs to stay, and then another pier can be built within a certain tolerance to it that meets Code, that ends up being the end point for that new wall to terminate into. I don't think that you should take one of them down when they match like that, and --

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- and put -- build something else different there.

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COMMISSIONER GLOBER: It's such a unique feature --

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right, but through
the Chair, now we're going to have a fence that's going to be taller than that column.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: What she's saying is --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm saying that --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: (Inaudible.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah. I'm saying that, before the column, within a certain tolerance that nobody can slip through, maybe like four inches clearance, you have a new pier next to it that this system terminates into.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Oh, so you have a
new column right next to that?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: It's taller.
THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: And not --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Is it going to be taller? Because we're saying we want this to

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be 4 feet tall. How tall is that?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. That's pretty tall, yeah. That's taller than the other --

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Also, where is the -sorry, through the Chair, where is the property line? So how far is the fence going to be demolished? Is it going all the way to that column?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: I believe so.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So -- so I need to make a bunch of -- well, at least two of them --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's tricky because --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I like the --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I don't -- don't
think -- my own opinion, I don't think that that pillar should be able to be demolished.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I agree.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So -- yeah.
THE CHAIRMAN: And I like -- I liked your idea of ending it a few inches before because that pillar definitely looks taller than the

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other pillars, so --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: And --
THE CHAIRMAN: -- I don't think it's going to be --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- I don't -- I'm
sorry -- and I'm -- I'm speculating here for
the new, but I would almost want to use the height of that as the height that we do as the standard for kind of the pillars across and make sure that it doesn't go above that so that that maintains some hierarchy, like it does here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So are you saying --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I don't know what the --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- that the columns should be all the -- the max height of the columns should match the Bourbon Alley column?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: They should match, or I -- they should -- truthfully, they should be less than, to maintain a hierarchy. I could maybe be talked into them matching, but I think they should be less than.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I can talk you into
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having them match. It should be -- because that would create just a symmetry across the board. And the thing is, if the new columns -we could actually even stipulate that the new columns matches the width of the Bourbon Alley columns. That way they're all symmetrical.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah, and then you can --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That way when you're looking at it --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Then you don't have to put a pier next to it. You can just terminate into it with (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right. Exactly.
Exactly. So, basically --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Let's do it.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- we're going to take the Bourbon Alley column as our guinea pig --

THE CHAIRMAN: So --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- and then make copies of it across --

THE CHAIRMAN: Just real quick. Can I argue the same width? Because that Bourbon

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Alley column is --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's pretty wide.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- exponentially wider than the columns that are currently there.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm okay with --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I don't -- I'm okay
with that.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm okay with it not being the same width. Like I said, it -it establishes a hierarchy as an entry point --

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- so I think the rest can be smaller.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I don't mind the -- I don't mind they're the same height. I'm opposed to the same width because I think if they're skinnier, then you still have that hierarchy in place.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And we're saying that the fence terminates at the top of the column, at the height -- at the base of the cap?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. It needs to
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be enough underneath the cap that you have some clearance between the two.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I -- well, okay.
That's the part that I disagree with.
I think that -- okay. I can be talked
into the reduced width so we have columns that are --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: No, I'm okay with the same height. I --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right, right, right. The same height. Okay. So same --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- just we're -okay.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm talking about the fence.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I will compromise with you.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: (Inaudible.)
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes. If you agree with me.

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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I agree with you. No, you talked me into it, now that I'm -yeah.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And you talked me into reducing the width.

Okay. I think I like this. Can you just write down what's in my head and call that a motion?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: All right. So I think I need to -- I need to amend my motion -because we're going to discuss this in the next COA. I want to amend my motion that the new -the new construction of a new wall is to be determined via COA-23-29734. That's the first amendment.

I need to amend it again that the column labeled the Bourbon Alley column is to remain and not be modified in any way.

And I believe that's the end of my amendments. And then the rest of it we'll deal with in the next COA.

MS. LOPERA: Did that get a second?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
MS. LOPERA: If I could just rephrase the
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amendment so we're all clear before you vote on the amendment?

The amendment to the motion to approve demolition is to not demolish the Bourbon Alley column and to require construction of a wall and/or fence that is approved under COA-23-29734?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That's correct. THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor? COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take a vote on the motion as amended.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved COA-23-29140.

And with that, we're jumping to Section $G$ and COA-23-29734, 3022 St. Johns Avenue.

And I don't think -- we can open the public hearing. Is anyone here to speak on this COA?

Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 match the height of the Bourbon Alley pier with

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the aluminum fence being allowed to be installed within each one of those piers to the maximum height of the Bourbon Alley pier, just underneath the --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Top of the column.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, we'll use top of the column.

MS. LOPERA: Any caps on those columns?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. Caps on the
columns to match what is existing, the -- the prefabricated concrete caps.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: That's a motion. I think we need a --

MS. LOPERA: Yeah, that's a motion.
Was there a fence in between --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. There is the aluminum fence as requested, but to the maximum height of the column, which is below the top of the pier cap.

MS. LOPERA: Okay. So the fence is the design as requested. The height shall be no higher than the Bourbon Alley cap?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: No. COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: No -COMMISSIONER LOPERA: The top of the column.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: The top of the column. The caps need to be -- I did a crude drawing here. So they need to be below that -that cap (indicating.)

MS. LOPERA: Okay. So the height of the fence is no higher than the caps on the new columns?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: The height of the top of the column --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Top of the -MS. LOPERA: Top of the column -- the new --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes --
MS. LOPERA: -- columns --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- which are
matched with the Bourbon Alley column.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: The height.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: The height, yes.
MS. LOPERA: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: The only thing I
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would like to maybe add to that is -- looking at that retaining wall at the bottom there, is it required to be a foot above the current sidewalk? Because I'm looking at some of the photos of other ones that have these low retaining walls, which I think is a good idea, but should we give him some leeway on the height of it? Because -- I mean, having a full foot there is -- I mean, this is only 4 foot tall altogether. You're going to have a 4 -- a 1 -foot retaining wall and then a 3 -foot fence. I just want it to look okay, I guess, is my point.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's the --
THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think it's going to be 4 feet anymore.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Well, that's true.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I don't know the height of that Bourbon Alley thing.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, it's tricky because some of that's going to
need to be engineered to help with the
retaining, but --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
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COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah, (inaudible) --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- I mean, that's probably a foot right there. Once you talk about the, you know, appropriate amount of masonry to go above the sidewalk -- and then it does need to have a prefabricated concrete cap on top of it to match the columns. I did not have that in my condition.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes, you did.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I did?
Okay. So once you factor in the height of all that, that -- that cap itself is probably, like, 3 or 4 inches tall, so then, you know, if it's 4 -- if you say it's 4 inches, you have a -- just a standard 8-inch, you know, lock right at the sidewalk, I don't -- whatever is underneath it for the -- the retaining. I think a foot is not a -- I don't know if anybody else --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: All I -- my concern is -- I don't know the height of that Bourbon Alley sign --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I can't tell you if
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it's going to look silly or --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I mean, we can specify max one foot.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah. There you go.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah, max one foot.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Max one foot --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- and then that way they can -- you know, based on how it looks aesthetically, they can determine --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I like that.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And also one more thing. What sort of finish do you want on this?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I want the finish to kind of match what is there, which is, like, the stucco -- it's like a stucco; is that --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Well --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Add that --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Add that.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes, it needs to be a stucco finish to -- to match what was previously there, and the caps need to be a prefabricated -- like, precast concrete cap.

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COMMISSIONER FRICK: Would the final design be approved by the Commission or staff? Maybe we --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Staff.
MR. WELLS: Yeah, that's fine.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Let's add that too.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Is there a color that we would like to add?

THE CHAIRMAN: We got all that?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: This is the most convoluted fence --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: It's going to take them, like, three years to build this thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: It'll be beautiful.
I don't revote on the motion as amended, do I?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER FRICK: (Inaudible.)
MS. LOPERA: We do, but I think there have been additional amendments.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, there were, yeah. That's what I'm asking.

MS. LOPERA: Yeah.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Because this was -- this was just the straight motion initially, but then --

MS. LOPERA: You're right.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- they were amended.
So I need you to amend your motion for those last, like, three points.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. Motion to amend COA-23-29734 to approve a retaining wall and concrete retaining wall and piers and aluminum fence. The retaining wall being at a maximum of one foot above the finish [sic] of the sidewalk and having a concrete -- precast concrete cap to match what is existing. The piers being the same width of what is existing on the site -- I'm sorry --

MS. LOPERA: What's being demolished?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes, what's being demolished. And matching the height of the Bourbon Alley pier and the column and the precast caps as well. The aluminum fence not going above the height of the Bourbon Alley column.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: The finish?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: And the finish
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needs to be stucco to match what was demolished. And I don't think we have any say on paint color.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: No.
Final approval, then? And --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Final approval to be reviewed by the staff.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: And we will take a vote on the motion as amended.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved COA-23-29734.

With that, we're going to take a quick ten-minute break. I'm sorry, I know you all have been waiting a long time, but Diane needs a quick break. We will reconvene at 5:25.
(Brief recess.)
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THE CHAIRMAN: We're back. We pulled Number 4, COA-23-29552, 247 East 4th Street, off of consent earlier. We're going to backtrack there, and that is our next COA.

MR. WELLS: Okay. So this is COA-23-29552, located at 247 East 4th Street. This is for the new construction of a two-story single-family home as well as driveway installation and fencing installation.

Overall, we found that this structure, which they're proposing to -- which is going to consist of a gabled roof with a nested gable at the front elevation and a covered two-story half-width front porch with architectural shingles, fiber cement shake siding for the gable ends, decorative shutters, and vinyl one-over-one windows, to be generally consistent with the Riv- -- I'm sorry, Springfield design guidelines.

The only qualm with this -- which we conditioned it -- is that the front elevation have additional sidelites and transoms along the first floor front elevation. That is Condition Number 11. But other than that, we forward to you a recommendation for approval.

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THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, why did this get pulled off of the consent agenda?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, this is for -- this pertained to Condition Number 11 so that --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. There is an objection to that. Okay. Sorry, I missed that.

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll open the public hearing.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Marianna Singareddy, 1651 Walnut Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206.

THE CHAIRMAN: Marianna --
MS. SINGAREDDY: So I have a question for

THE CHAIRMAN: -- real quick, she's going to swear you in real quick. I'm sorry.

MS. SINGAREDDY: Okay. Sure.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MS. SINGAREDDY: (Complies.)
THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MS. SINGAREDDY: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. SINGAREDDY: Question about the -Condition Number 6, was that the casement window, was it changed to the picture window, just to clarify. That's something we requested by email.

MR. WELLS: So through the Chair to the applicant, there was a -- and to the Commission as well, there was some disagreement about the language in Condition Number 6. It referenced how all windows should be a one-over-one window design with the exception of the casement on the rear second floor. Just based on the plans

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they submitted, we assumed that it was a casement window; however, it's a fixed window, but the main gist of that condition is that all the remaining windows be one-over-one. So if that needs to be changed, we don't have any objection to it, but ultimately it's really (inaudible) design.

MS. SINGAREDDY: Okay. Okay. I just want to clarify. I wasn't sure.

So I'm here to speak for (inaudible) Homes, and we did accept all the conditions except Condition Number 11. We requesting to consider taking that condition out. It's regarding the two sidelites and the transom above the front door.

We did have already constructed two of the same models in the Springfield neighborhood. I wanted to show you what that looks like. It's better than that -- that -- just picture on the screen.

This should be enough.
(Tenders documents.)
So you can see in the Exhibit A1 through A2 --
(Discussion held off the record.)
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MS. SINGAREDDY: Can you hear me?
THE REPORTER: Yes. Thank you.
MS. SINGAREDDY: Okay. So A1 through A2, those are actual structures that are already constructed in Springfield with the addresses, and they did not require additional sidelites and the transom. I just wanted you to see what that may look like on the actual building.

And then I was driving by the 4th Street, which is going to be proposed new site for the model, same model, and I took some pictures, what some of those houses look like, and it wasn't hard to find -- some of them didn't have transoms or sidelites, so I snapped some pictures to show you. And then I went around to see what the other streets look like and I took more pictures.

It doesn't seem to be that all of them have some kind of glass, but they did all have some sort of -- like a glass door, I would say, and the -- our model does have a glass door.

So we just want to request to reconsider that.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for our applicant at the moment?

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    COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Just --
    COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah --
    COMMISSIONER GREGORY: -- thanks for
providing all these detailed photos.
    MS. SINGAREDDY: Yeah.
    COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So through the
    Chair, what exact kind of door would you like
    to -- or what --
    COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Ma'am?
    MS. SINGAREDDY: Oh, come back?
    THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
    (Ms. Singareddy approaches the podium.)
    COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So through the
    Chair, is there a style door that you do want
    to put on there or are you just --
    MS. SINGAREDDY: The same -- same door as
    the new construction picture A1 through A2
    exhibition [sic].
    COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay.
    MS. SINGAREDDY: It's mostly glass.
    COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I see. Thank you.
    THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call you back up if
    we --
    MS. SINGAREDDY: No more questions?
        Thank you.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
All right. Is anybody else here to speak on this COA?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I motion to approve COA-23-29552 minus Condition Number 11.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Conversation?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through -- go ahead.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair to the staff, I wondered if you could speak on that condition, especially with, you know, so many photographic -- similar house styles that do not have that. If there's something in the -- the preservation standards and Code that stipulates that ...

MR. WELLS: So -- through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, so in regards to the photos that were provided, I know Exhibit B and Exhibit C pertain to homes within the
Springfield area. Most of these -- these are
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historic homes. So, yes, the majority of them don't have any sidelites.

And pertaining to the two structures that are under construction, we -- again, we were just presented this evidence, so we didn't have time to look into them, essentially.

But in terms of our conditions, we just want to see additional openings along that front elevation with the wall space. I mean, we -- we appreciate the lite pattern on the door, but ultimately we just -- we just feel as if sidelites and a transom would complement it a little bit more. Even though that structure has been built before, we don't go off of precedence, but we continue to try to raise the bar in terms of design guidelines.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for staff?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I do agree that it would look better with the side lite and transoms because it would denote the front door as separated from that door that's directly above it on the second floor and give it a little more gravitas, I guess you could say, to the entry, but I -- I mean, I agree, over in

Springfield there's not a requirement there be a transom and sidelites either. So, I mean, I would like to see it, but I may not say it has to be any type of requirement.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, I tend to agree. And I believe, you know, one of the major markers for openings is the 20, 25 foot, and -- and this is in keeping with that, having the -- the door centered there. Within that wall there's ample openings.

So, I mean, it would look -- everything would probably look better with a side lite and a transom, you know? But I tend to agree that -- I don't know that we have a -- a ruling here besides it would look nicer.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody have anything else?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved COA-23-29552.

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And we will move on. Number 2, under Section G, COA-23-29241, 2103 Oak Street.

MR. WELLS: So this is COA-23-29241, for the property located at 2103 Oak Street. This is for a series of different work, but mainly for window alterations and parking lot improvements. The rest can -- of this scope of work can be approved administratively.

This is for alterations on a noncontributing structure within the Riverside Avondale Historic District. It's a unique lot because it's a corner lot that's addressed as Oak Street, but the actual building itself is located on the corner of Herschel and Goodwin.

The property contains a two-story, Prairie-styled office building that's characterized by its full-wall-length windows, stucco exterior, and flat roof -- I'm sorry, flat roof form.

As designed, the scope of work for the property includes installing new awnings, replacing the front door, parking lot improvements, window alterations, fencing, and signage.

So based on our findings, overall, the
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applicant's proposed scope of work is consistent and compatible with the design guidelines and the Ordinance Code criteria. Our only condition that we wanted to emphasize within our report pertains to Condition Number -- Condition Number 1. Yes, I'm sorry, so Condition Number 1, that all the windows that currently exist shall be -- remain -- or shall remain. The applicant is proposing to delete four different window openings on the front elevation. We just want to maintain the rhythm and balance in accordance with the second floor windows.

So we forward to you a recommendation for approval with conditions, but, again, the applicant is in objection to Condition Number 1.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the public hearing. If the applicant can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.) THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name
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and address for me.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Good evening.
Steven Breslin, 1404 Belvedere Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.

THE CHAIRMAN: Steven, she's going to swear you in real quick.

THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. BRESLIN: (Complies.)
THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MR. BRESLIN: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. BRESLIN: First of all, thank you for your time and consideration on this project.

Like the moderator said, we are looking to close up some of the windows on the ground floor. The real -- the reason why is -- the building itself -- it's built in 1977, and the windows that are in place -- for the most part, we're -- well, we are, we're updating, repairing, replacing any damaged glass on those windows.

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The building is going to be occupied by Southeast Orthopedic Specialists. They're a rehab- -- rehabilitation clinic. They have -currently occupy the third floor on the MOB. That's on the corner of Park and Riverside, and they'll be utilizing this facility for their new rehabilitation gym.

We're -- the -- how we have the drawings and how the plans are laid out right now, we have some very expensive imaging equipment that's going to be going adjacent to that wall, where that existing window is. The existing windows now are non- -- first of all, they're not insulated. They're not thermally broke.

On a new building, we could actually keep a -- keep the -- keep a window like that that has insulated glasses, that's thermally broke, and we could build a partition behind it to keep the look but protect the equipment. In this case, the glass is noninsulated. If we built something there, we're going to have a -serious issues with connotation [sic], water intrusion and damage. And the equipment that's going there is quite expensive.

So we really have that -- if we look at
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the -- at the elevation, the one that we're closing up on the far right, that's really the one we've got to close. The one in the middle, we can go back and leave as is. Okay? So the door -- the existing door that goes to that suite actually has -- if you look on the elevation, that has a larger piece. We can keep that, I think, and work with you and maintain that kind of rhythm that you're talking about.

The one on the bottom there, that's the only one we're looking at closing. And if -if we -- I'm worried if we leave the glass there and we try to do a partition, I know we're going to have issues with (inaudible) because we have thermodynamics. We're going to have condensation building up in there. We're going to get mold and we're going to get water and potentially damage in some very -- very pricey equipment that the owner's installing.

So I'm hoping for lenience that we can do that one. We are looking to repaint the building. Right now -- has kind of a three-parti scheme, and we want to clean that up. We're going to take all the old awnings

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out --
(Discussion held off the record.) MR. BRESLIN: I'm trying to look -- I'm trying to look at the thing as I'm talking.

But what we're really trying to do is, you know, limit the amount of exterior work that we're doing at this building. What we're trying to do -- improve and repair anything that's damaged, and -- which is actually already ongoing.

And, you know, we understand that the -it's a unique facility, unique building. It is a newer building in the -- in the historic district, and sometimes these kind of live in that weird space of what do we do with it; you know, can we do this, can we do that. But I think what we're trying to do is maintain what's there.

The parking improvements we're doing are all surface. We're not really changing anything. We're just going to resurface, restripe it, make it a little more accessible for handicapped by moving this handicapped space to the other side where the rest of the spots are and then, like I said, paint, clean

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up, get rid of some of the older awnings, and then try to, you know, make this facility operate and -- for not just the clients, and hopefully for, you know, the -- the community.

And right now, it's a vacant building, and, you know, we'd like to see things in that area get utilized and not torn down and, you know, something put in its place.

The owner's a good steward. They've been in -- like I said, they've been in Riverside for a while now. And, you know, if there's any questions or anything I can help with ...

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for our applicant at the moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call you back up if we need you.

MR. BRESLIN: Okay. Great.
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is anybody else here to speak on this COA?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve COA-23-29241 with staff conditions, striking Condition 1.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Conversation?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: This is kind of going back into -- I think this came to us, but -- through the Chair, I'm sorry. I think this is coming to us because it's a predominant corner lot, but this is a noncontributing building. And kind of going back to what I said before, this is -- this is a historic building, if you think about how the historic pieces fit within what the National Park Service describes as one now. But because of our overlay, it's a noncontributing building.

The overall elevation parti really kind of needs these windows. I understand what they're saying. I'd be accepting of allowing the -the window in the front entry to maintain as it is, and I'd be accepting of allowing that window to be infilled to the right side if it did not have the same language as the rest of the walls around it.

If it did some sort of -- you know, some
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other, you know, setback, some other kind of material or something that was in keeping with keeping that similar parti, I would be interested in seeing an attempt of -- of something like that happening so that it can still maintain that elevation appearance.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's a good idea.
I don't know exactly how to -- what that looks like, but ...

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think it's something we could maybe ask staff to look at.

I just think there needs to be an effort made to differentiate that -- that it was some kind of opening at some point in time and it's sort of being honored to maintain that -- that elevation that's there.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: So I think what we're getting at here is, we're okay with -- if the -- if the property owner kept the glass at the entry door, that full glass that's currently there. We'll allow them to delete that window, but add in some sort of, like, a decorative feature. Like, sometimes (inaudible) stucco, like, around the front of a -- like, a -- a raised stucco around it or

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something to delineate that it was --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: You're scaring me, what you're -- so -- and this is, again, just my opinion as an architect, but I would want to see something recessed. They could put a false window there. I don't know if that's monetarily, you know, impossible to do. They could do some -- I mean, I'm just throwing out ideas here -- like, a wood -- some kind of, like, dark -- I'm saying dark because the windows are tinted and appear dark, just something that --

And if I'm being crazy over here, just let me know, but, like -- kind of like a wood panel infill with sort of like a -- like, a Fiberon or something that is kind of keeping that -really, I'm more interested in keeping the appearance of that parti there, like they're -it's not part of the walls that are around it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right. I think that's a good idea. I don't -- nothing is coming to me that would look good. I'm trying to think of, like, what -- what would look --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: From my opinion, I --

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THE CHAIRMAN: -- appropriate.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: From my opinion, I -- I'm okay with it since it's -- being a noncontributing structure. If they're keeping that entryway window, leaving that one window where this equipment is going, if we want to compromise on that one point, even though it may not be the best look. I don't know. I know you're --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: No, it's -- it's --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: -- looking at me, but --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It is a noncontributing structure based on the overlay, so, I mean, that -- that's a fair point. I'm just trying to see what else we can get out of it because I think just kind of infilling it and making it look like the rest of the walls around it is going to look awkward to the rest of the building. And it's a nice street, corner lot that's -- you have a pedestrian, you know, kind of access there. It's -- it's very -- it's very visible and available.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: We could tell people to ignore it because it's noncontributing. So

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we could put a sign out, "Don't look at this building," and then they'll just walk right by.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: This building is a great example of what I was talking about earlier, about how there are substantial buildings in the neighborhood that have no -- I mean, if -- if this wasn't a substantial corner lot, we probably wouldn't even be looking at this at all, and somebody could probably tear this down, and -- I think it's a nice building.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Forgive the nontechnical language, but is there something that we could sort of surface apply that mocks the window above; is that -- not surface apply, but --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER FRICK: -- (inaudible) --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Technically, you could paint it -- you set it back and paint it to kind of match with the window tint. It wouldn't -- you know, it -- as sort of the minimum kind of thing you could do.

I'm interested to hear what the applicant thinks about --

THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on back up.
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(Mr. Breslin approaches the podium.) MR. BRESLIN: Sure.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any ideas to where we're headed here --

MR. BRESLIN: Well, I -- I think -- I think all your comments are very appropriate. I think -- the fact that we're looking -- you know, kind of kept that awning there for a reason allows for, I think, us to go back in there and change the material texture there. Maybe we have -- because the rest of the -- the facade is very -- you know, it's kind of a rough stucco. We could recess that, you know, the width of a -- you know, the -- of a board and finish, but that -- give it a -- give it a smoother finish and a different color paint, and that way we've got the -- the silhouette of what was there remaining. We've got the awning there keeping the rhythm down, and then --

Yeah, because -- the -- it does have a very -- you know, the rhythm of the windows is pretty evident. It's one of the only thing [sic] the building has going for it, but there are things I think we can do to mitigate that. And we can go ahead and sketch something up

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and -- and send that back for review. And I think those -- all those comments can -- take things -- take into consideration, and you know, I think there's a solution there.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I would appreciate the attempt, so --

MR. BRESLIN: No, it's a great -- it's a great -- like -- you're right, it's a great street. And, you know, if -- you know, it's -like you said, it's one of these things we don't -- it's in the -- in the middle, right? Because it's not a historic building that we all can agree on, so that's fantastic, we want to keep that, and it's not something brand new that's trying to mimic. It's living in that kind of middle space.

THE CHAIRMAN: I've walked by this building every day for the last six, seven years, so -- I live right across the street from it. No, I think it's great.

All right.
MR. BRESLIN: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I
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want to stay out of this one.
THE CHAIRMAN: How about an amendment to the motion?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah. You guys can amend my motion, just annihilate it, because -yeah, I mean, this is -- the way I look at this, you know, the building is -- you know, like the applicant said, it's -- in my mind, it looks pretty plain and simple with not a -- not a lot going for it. So whatever excuse we can have to get rid of those windows, whether it's equipment or --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Look at that parti. Look at that up there, you know? Look at that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Perfectly aligned.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, go ahead and annihilate my motion.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You're (inaudible) --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Are we going to require staff --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think, yeah.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Are we going to require -- require staff approval of
whatever -- you know -- you know, a false
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window, we'll call it, we're putting there?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think it needs
to -- yes, it needs to have staff approval.
And, you know, they -- they can submit it, but
I think it needs to be something that is set
back from the existing facade adjacent to it so
that it still has the appearance of a void and it has a distinguishing finish from the adjacent facade around it, again, so that it distinguishes from the -- the rest of that -and they did say they'd put the whole windows [sic] back in the front, so --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: For the entry door.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah, for the entry door. So -- give me a second. I'm --

MS. LOPERA: If I could just restate -the original motion was to approve with all conditions except for Number 1. That's what you would be amending.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. So I think, then, the motion is to approve with the amendment to Condition 1, that the front window entry be maintained as it is, and the window on the front elevation to the right can become enclosed as long as it is recessed back from

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the adjacent facade to mimic the window parti above, and has a distinguished materiality different from the facade adjacent to it.

MS. LOPERA: To be approved by --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: To be --
MS. LOPERA: -- staff?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- approved by staff.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take a vote on the motion as amended.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved COA-23-29241.

And with that, we're moving on to Section H, work initiated or completed without a COA, CAO-23-29677, 1764 Greenwood Avenue.

MR. ANDERSON: COA-23-29677 is for the
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after-the-fact wholesale window replacement on a contributing structure within the Riverside Avondale Historic District.

The primary structure on the property is a Colonial Revival style, two-story, single-family residential structure. The residence can be characterized by its brick finish, shingled hip roof, 6-over-1 windows, and small covered entry porch.

Based on the submitted window form, 35 windows on the structure were replaced with vinyl windows with interior muntins. Six of the windows were stated to be metal windows, while the remaining were stated to be wood windows.

As proposed, the applicant is seeking approval for the after-the-fact replacement of all 35 windows with interior muntins, vinyl windows on a contributing structure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for staff? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the public hearing.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name
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and address for me.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Cary Grimm.
I'm with CG Consulting and Design.
The -- one of the property owners is here as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. And she's going to swear you in real quick.

THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. GRIMM: (Complies.)
THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MR. GRIMM: Yes, ma'am.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome.
MR. GRIMM: All right. So we did -- we were -- we approached the homeowners. They -they needed the windows. Their windows were dilapidated, they had rotting, water infiltration to the house, and some -- in some areas, and so there was a great necessity for new windows.

So we took care to get windows that
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actually matched the grids or the -- the muntins in the windows that are, you know, from -- an eye's view from the street, look exactly the same as the other ones. The other -- the original windows were of a square contour with a glazing bead that was -- that has a contour, of course, to the glass. These windows are exactly the same, so you cannot visually see a difference in these -- in these. The only difference you can see is you don't see wavy glass as you would in an antique window. So, I mean, we took the care to do that.

I, personally -- I've -- I've done over 1,500 historical homes. I was on a preservation [sic] in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. I've been a contractor for 36 years. So, I mean, we took care in -- in taking care of this. Their -- the paperwork was an oversight, so it was not an intentional thing, so --

We have walked the neighborhood, looked at several different properties, and there's -which I have colored pictures of here if anybody wants to see them. And there's one, Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300
two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight -I've got nine different properties that I just -- I brought pictures to, but there's several more that do not have the original windows in the house that are -- that are within the last five to fifteen years.

Now, the society itself has only been keeping record of these things, I think, from 2008.

So, with that, you know, we believe that it's in the best interest for the homeowner. Wood windows -- you have seven different wood window manufacturers that will -- that will manufacture a window that -- normally, throughout the country, work for a historical society. In the state of Florida, you have three of reputable -- that are anywhere near reputable. The difference is, is that those windows are anywhere from 2,900 to \$3,500 a piece. They are 30 percent less efficient than a vinyl window. They are not carbon neutral. They do not have the same air infiltration ratings.

Our windows are 15 times better than any wood window that could be put in the house. So

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it saves them money, better on energy. They're -- they're never going to have to replace them again. They visually look like the windows that came out of the house.

So in doing this, overall, for the -- for the home, for the neighborhood -- these folks have taken time to fix up the yard, fix up the house. The house next door is dilapidated. You have several in the neighborhood that are a straight eyesore to the neighborhood. These folks are taking time and money to fix up the house. And if you stand back and look at the windows, you can't tell the difference.

There's a couple of houses in the neighborhood, they have windows very similar to theirs, what they had. And I held the pictures right there. You stand in the street, you cannot tell the difference.

So we're not -- we're upgrading the neighborhood. We're maintaining the integrity of the view. So we are conscious of that. We're just asking that these folks can do that without having to drop \$200,000 in inferior windows.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll call you
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1 back up if we need you.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I did have one comment, through the Chair. I guess considering that you had been on commissions, historical commissions before, and considering you've done this in multiple states, you know, we -- I would, you know, hold that to a higher standard than I would when homeowners do this and they are not aware of the permitting process.

So that's something that -- having done this nationally, that you would have known about window muntins, you would have known about the materials of original windows compared to newer windows. You would have known about wood clad windows. That's all information that you would have known as a contractor. So I, you know, would take that into account when -- you know, as we're discussing this matter.

MR. GRIMM: Yes, sir. I mean -- by all means. We -- it was a complete oversight on our part, we're aware of that.

You know, in trying to keep the integrity of the house -- now, when we -- you know, as

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folks that are very familiar with this industry as well, you know, when you pull these windows out, when you do a wood window, you -- you harm the integrity of the -- you know, you have fluted trim, you have beveled trim, you have all kinds of trim that is associated with a house of this age. There's -- you actually harm much less of the house doing this type of installation than you would with a wood installation.

So, I mean, it's -- wood windows are painted with a semi-gloss, like a satin paint. Standing back, you're -- it's going to literally -- it looks exactly the same.

I -- it was my understanding as well that -- I mean, in my experience as well, that -- you know, it's the front preservation that is normally the focal point. You know, I would -- I would think that everybody in this room could stand back at the street and look at it and go, you really can't tell the difference.

I mean, you have -- when you have the wood -- wood grids that are actually -- that stand outside of the glass, the first thing to

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be bug-infested, the first thing to rot. This is just -- I mean -- and as time goes on, wood windows -- I'm -- like I said, it would -been -- we've probably all been around this industry for a little bit. Wood windows are going to be something that are not going to exist forever, so there's --

THE CHAIRMAN: I do understand that, but, unfortunately, that's -- that is our standards. I mean, we go through windows every single meeting. And every single meeting, we tell people, sorry, you can't replace them. Every single meeting, it's, hey, you've got to get them repaired. And we have no evidence at all of what was there, which really kind of puts us in a tight spot because our position on this issue has to be, would we have approved it, not --

It's unfortunate for us sometimes because we have to try and take the homeowner into consideration, but we're not supposed to -- our situation is strictly, hey, would you have approved this from the (inaudible), and we have -- with zero evidence of what the windows looked like, it's impossible, just about, for

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us to say, no, we wouldn't -- you know, we would have, so -- but we'll call you back up.

MR. GRIMM: Sure. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair to the applicant --

MR. GRIMM: Yes, ma'am.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- I'm interested, because of any historic project I've worked on or historic district, they do not allow the mullions in between the glass. They always will require an exterior applied. Is that something, in your previous experience where you've worked, that they allow?

I just -- I have not heard of that before. That ends up being a big poo-poo because -- you can see exactly here with the reflection from, you know, the glare on the glass and the tint of the glass, it does not look like your standard, you know, 3D --

MR. GRIMM: To create the shadow line.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
MR. GRIMM: So, yeah, in my -- in my past experience I had out of -- out of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, where I did the majority of my -- of my professional work, you had places

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in -- in historic Detroit, places in historic
2 Grand Rapids, some places, you know, in Toledo
3 that -- because the way they divide things up
4 homeowner some grace, some mercy on it. I

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mean, obviously, we'll -- we do what we have to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any more questions at the moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll call you back up.

MR. GRIMM: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you will just state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Mark Protheroe. My nickname is Marcos. And I'm the owner of 1764 Greenwood Avenue.

THE CHAIRMAN: She's going to swear you in real quick.

THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. PROTHEROE: (Complies.)
THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MR. PROTHEROE: I do.
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sealing -- you could walk around -- walk by
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some windows and they had a gap, and you would have to break the window to close that gap, and a lot of alligator texture to lead paint, and -- but we wanted to correct that situation.

The wood was unfinished in these windows. If you go into the RAP house, they went back and they stained and varnished the -- their windows on the interior. But on these windows, that wasn't the case. In three instances -- in the breakfast room and then in the kitchen, there weren't wooden -- wooden windows. There were jalousie windows that were popular during the '50s and '60s. And if you've ever grown up in a house with jalousie windows, it's cold, particularly in the -- in those rooms.

You can see on picture 2, there is extensive wood glue on one of the windows, to give you at least a little idea of the damage we were -- we were facing.

We contracted -- on Page 3, we contracted with the aforementioned company, and -- it's highlighted -- you have the clause, "We will provide permits and call inspections as required by Code."

We were also proactive on -- upon
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1 contracting the present company of reminding 2 them of the historic commission. We -- hey, we get letters from them; there's regulations that have to be followed.

The new windows are in the style of the neighborhood. It's a -- I think the Commission calls it a -- six-one [sic] lites, where you have six smaller panels up top and a big panel on the bottom. And there are several houses within walking distance that are of that same style, old and new.

We agree with the initial inspector, Shonnenberg [sic]. I know I'm slaughtering his name, but he found that there was no malice or deception on the part of the homeowner, and his goal was to make the owner whole again. We -we agree. And we implore the Commission not to excessively punish the homeowner.

We were proactive in reminding the company, that, hey, there are rules and regulations about this. And it would just seem unfair that we'd be -- we would be personally slapped with a fine or -- in order to rip out the windows and have to go through -- our lives being turned upside down again about another

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installation. And, plus, we don't have the money.

And so I -- I thank the Commission for its time. If you have any questions, I would certainly welcome them, and -- but as far as my presentation, I yield -- Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. PROTHEROE: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for the applicant before he leaves?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on this COA?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We will close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to deny COA-23-29677.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: To staff, I mean, we're supposed to rule on this as if they are asking for this, and we don't have any evidence

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of what -- I mean, this picture -- this picture doesn't paint the whole story. It doesn't look even that bad, that -- what we've seen, we've denied, even similar.

You know, I always -- we always have, you know, sympathy for owners who go out and request for windows to be done, and -- and they're not entirely sure of the permitting process. I don't know how replacing windows doesn't trigger -- in the neighborhood, doesn't trigger a permit to come up with -- if they don't have a COA, but it seems like it happens all the time.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I agree with Commissioner Epstein. It does -- it seems like it's happening just as much as it was before. You know, we bring up the same issues every time it does happen. And, unfortunately, the homeowner is, you know, left at --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there a way --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I'm sorry?
MS. LOPERA: He closed the public hearing.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: So, unfortunately, the homeowner is left to accept the

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consequences for something that was not their actions. The homeowner here entrusted the contractor to know about the building permits. And it clearly says here, "We will provide permits and call inspections as required by Code." And that's their responsibility.

And, yes, I agree with Commissioner Epstein that we would not approve this final product with the -- with the embedded muntins within the glazing, and -- yeah, with no evidence of what was there before. You know, usually we'll get, you know, a package with dozens and dozens of photos of every single window.

And regarding the general contractor's stance that we only care about the front of the -- the front elevation, that's not entirely correct. You know, when we do window replacements, we're looking at every window on every elevation.

So that being said, that's -- those are the -- that's what I would provide for why we would deny this COA.

THE CHAIRMAN: I really have nothing to add. I mean, that's what I would have said to

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1 the applicant, what you guys have said as well.
2 That's exactly how I feel, so --
Anybody else?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
MS. LOPERA: Before you vote, it sounds like you're moving in the denial direction, could you opine on what you would like to see, to give staff some direction in working with the homeowner?

MR. WELLS: If I may, too, I just want to interject here. So through the Chair to the Commission, one thing we've gotten into the habit of doing for denials, especially after-the-fact work, if you all decide to deny it, we're going to start applying corrective actions to this -- the staff report. So on Page 1 we have a list of different conditions that the applicant would need to perform in order to correct their violation, essentially. So, hopefully, that helps add to the discussion for what you would like to see.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, thank you. That's -- I read through the corrective actions, and those are perfect. I

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wouldn't even add a period to any of that.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. There's a motion on the table, so all those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have denied COA-23-29677.

And with that, we're on to Section L, New Business. It's marked 5. It should be 4, but what are we going to do?

MR. WELLS: So through the Chair, I believe we're on our last item of new business, the --

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.
MR. WELLS: -- LM-23- -- so this is -this pertains to Landmark 23-04, located at 411 Liberty Street. So just a little preface here. This structure was a part of two other structures, back in December, where the applicant sought to demolish all three. At that time, you-all voted to allow demolition for the two structures. The applicant was going to withdraw his demolition permit for the third structure to seek landmarking status.

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As of right now, the application has been -- the staff report has been written. You're not necessarily taking a vote on this item, but we're just looking for you-all to sponsor the landmark so we can take ownership and control of it. We've been having some complications with the applicant responding. So, ultimately, again, the application is written; we just need some action to be taken.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So you just need us to say we sponsor --

THE CHAIRMAN: Sponsor. And it's just a -- at the end of the day, it's a fact-finding mission because -- as always, so --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: You said the applicant has been nonresponsive. Are they -do you know if they're still in favor of the landmarking?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, yes, they are in favor. We're just having some issues with payment of some advertising fees, so -- that's it.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So I move to sponsor the landmarking of LM-23-04.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second.
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THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor? COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
sponsored the potential landmark.
With that, we're up to information.
MR. WELLS: So through the Commission, the last item is the 2024 JHPC's planning. So I just want to give you all a heads-up, that we, as staff, are going to start planning in terms of dates, room reservations, COA matrix updates, et cetera. So I just want to put this on your radar in terms of if there's any preferences or any concerns that you may have when we start charting out dates. So as of right now, we're going with the same schedule routine of doing the fourth Wednesday at
3 p.m., most likely in one of these rooms, or
if our new room is available, but just get with
me, please, if you can, for next month, pending dates, drafting of it.

MS. LOPERA: Public Works?
MR. WELLS: And then nothing from Public
Works.
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3 STATE OF FLORIDA)


COUNTY OF DUVAL )

I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this 11th day of October 2023.

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter

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| \$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1961[1]-33: 16 \\ & 1962[1]-12: 21 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 164:20, 172:19 } \\ \text { 3-foot [1] - 120:11 } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 100:24 } \\ & \text { 6-foot-high [1] - 89:13 } \end{aligned}$ |  |
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