

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

Proceedings held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 ,
commencing at 3:02 p.m., at the Ed Ball Building,
Hearing Room 1002, 214 North Hogan Street, Jacksonville,
Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in
and for the State of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:
MICHAEL MONTOYA, Acting Chair.
ETHAN GREGORY, Secretary.
JULIA EPSTEIN, Commission Member.
BECKY MORGAN, Commission Member.
MAXIMILIAN GLOBER, Commission Member.
WILLIAM HOFF, Commission Member.
ALSO PRESENT:
ARIMUS WELLS, Planning and Development Dept.
BRITTANY FIGUEROA, Planning and Development.
CARLA LOPERA, Office of General Counsel.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call the meeting to order. This is the June 26th meeting of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission we're calling to order and welcoming each of you for attending today. Thank you.

Let the record reflect that it is now 3:02.

We'll begin with some introductions, and let's start on the right.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Good afternoon.
Becky Morgan.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Max Glober, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Bill Hoff, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Ethan Gregory, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Julia Epstein, commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: Michael Montoya, vice chair, acting as chair today.

MS. LOPERA: Carla Lopera, Office of General Counsel.

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MR. WELLS: Arimus Wells, Planning and Development Department.

MS. FIGUEROA: Brittany Figueroa, Planning and Development Department.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thanks for coming, everyone.

Before we get started with the agenda, there's some business that we need to attend to.
J.C., are you here?

MR. DEMETREE: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Front row, as it should be.
J.C. Demetree has been serving as a commissioner with the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission since, I believe, January 2017.

MR. DEMETREE: Yep.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think I can speak for everyone, although I'd like to hear from others as well, and say that we are going to miss you and you have really served the City well in your position on the Commission, and we just want to thank you for it.

MR. DEMETREE: Thank you.
(Applause.)
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MR. LEUTHOLD: Speech. Speech.
MR. DEMETREE: All right. I will say -thank you. I appreciate everything.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. DEMETREE: I will say, you know, I've enjoyed very much being on this commission. When I started in 2017, these meetings, on average, were three to four hours, sometimes longer. The first year that I chaired, we were down to under two hours. You know, those meetings, everybody had an ego. And I encourage everybody up here to, you know, kind of try and be yourself, but don't have an agenda and, you know, keep your egos low and keep working through it.

So I appreciate everything you guys have done, staff, everybody, it's been an awesome time, so thank you all.
(Applause.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone have a story to tell about J.C.?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll just say, it's been a pleasure, J.C. I loved having you as the chair and serving the City and helping with historic preservation. It's been an honor to

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serve with you here.
MR. DEMETREE: Thank you.
(Applause.)
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Former Chairman J.C.
Demetree and I are personal friends outside of this, and I'm going to miss him up here.

It's been great to kind of see you kind of develop over the years, and you were a very professional and poised chair, and I think you did the City a lot of good in this capacity, so -- love you, brother.

MR. DEMETREE: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thanks a lot, J.C.

MR. DEMETREE: Thank you all.
THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to break from the agenda with one item due to a personal issue. So we're going to move to COA- --

Okay. So before we do that, let's read through the entire agenda.

Please make sure, if you plan on speaking today, that you filled out a speaker card and brought it up to the -- up front for us.

The agenda today -- we have deferred items: Number 1, COA-23-28339, 3664 Richmond

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Street; COA-23-29186, 2799 Selma Street; LM-24-03, 801 Jefferson Street North; COA-24-30688, 3557 Pine Street.

On the consent agenda, we have COA-24-30034, 450 5th Street East; COA-24-30285, 4850 Moncrief Road; COA-24-30587, 1044 Park Street; COA-24-30633, 133 3rd Street West; COA-24-30674, 1928 Morningside Street; COA-24-30830, 3115 Riverside Avenue; COA-22-27451, 2768 Riverside Avenue; COA-24-30132, 1002 Main Street North.

And then we have previously deferred items to be heard: COA-24-30533, 1826 Montgomery Place. We have a historic designation to be heard, LS-23-01, 538 Ellis Road South.

And then we have Certificates of
Appropriateness to be heard: COA-24-30488, 907
Copeland Street; COA-24-30720, 3575 Riverside
Avenue; COA-24-30140, 1920 Montgomery Place.
And that's it.
We'll start with the consent agenda. Is there anyone here -- we're going to go ahead and pull Item Numbers 7 and 8 off the consent agenda and move it to the COA agenda to be heard. That's COA-22-27451, the demolition at

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2768 Riverside Avenue; and then COA-24-30132, the demolition request at 1002 Main Street North.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me. Does that mean that you're not going to be entertaining anything on those items today?

THE CHAIRMAN: We're just -- we're going to hear that. We're going to allow everyone to speak to that, but we're expecting it to take some time --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, sir.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- and so we're moving it ahead of the consent agenda items that might be released --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I understand.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- (inaudible).
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any commissioners who want to speak on any other consent agenda items?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone from the public who wants to speak on any of the other consent agenda items?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
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THE CHAIRMAN: Please come forward.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: And state your name and address and be sworn in by Diane.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hey. I --
THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. I need your name and address, please.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Nathan Ballentine. I'm at 133 West 3rd Street, 32206.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
I am going to swear you in. If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. BALLENTINE: (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. BALLENTINE: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. BALLENTINE: Hey, y'all.
I just wanted to say thanks. I'm excited to get our porch done. I came before y'all five years ago, and we're poor, so it took us forever to get our porch done, but it's almost done. We had all kinds of delays and such

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1 and -- and we're looking forward to having a porch party and celebrating that, so --

Anyhow, really just wanted to say thank you all and keep up the good work.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there's no one else here to speak on this particular item, we'll leave it on the consent agenda.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So having heard no one, do I hear a motion for the remaining items on the consent agenda?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So the consent agenda, items 1 through 6, are hereby approved.

If you're here on behalf of any of those, you're free to (inaudible) and you're welcome to stay as well.

So we're going to jump to the Certificates of Appropriateness section for one particular

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item. That's COA-24-30140, 1920 Montgomery Place.

Could I have a staff report?
I should open the public hearing.
MR. WELLS: Thank you.
This is application COA-24-30140 for the property located at 1920 Montgomery Place, which seeks to replace 20 wood 1-over-1 windows with a vinyl clad, wood, 6-over-1 replacement product.

This property was built in 1922 and it's characterized as being a prairie-style home with an intersecting hip roof form, wood shingle exterior, decorative shutters, and 1 -over-1 windows. As proposed, once again, the applicant is seeking to replace 20 wood, 1-over-1 windows with a 6-over-1 grid pattern vinyl product.

According to the applicant, they believe that 20 wood windows on the structure are nonoriginal because they were (inaudible) in the 1970s, have aluminum side jambs, and have metal (inaudible) --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.
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(Reporter inquiry.)
MR. WELLS: A little better?
During the site -- so staff did conduct a site visit for the subject property, and at that site visit the applicant stated that the windows are inoperable as they have storm windows on the exterior and the windows are deteriorated because of dirt in between the windows and the exterior storm windows.

In recent correspondence, the applicant has stated that no repair attempts have been made. Because of such, staff recommends initiating window repair techniques to remedy the issues of the subject windows being inoperable and dirty.

Once again, the windows did not appear from our site visit to show signs of inoperability or deterioration. As such, staff recommends removing the exterior storm windows, cleaning the exterior of the windows using nonabrasive cleaning methods, and installing interior storm windows, which can all be approved administratively.

Staff does not have an objection towards the proposed replacement material. However, in

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accordance with our Code criteria, deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced whenever possible. The applicant, once again, has stated no repair attempts have been made. And based on the applicant's window survey form, the wood windows appear to be in good or fair condition.

The claim about the aluminum side jambs and having metal spring valances does not necessarily mean that the windows were nonoriginal. However, we do believe that the wood windows in their existing condition have acquired historic significance. And in accordance with our Code criteria and our design guidelines, we are recommending approval of the -- denial of the application, my apologies.

End of staff report.
THE CHAIRMAN: Do any commissioners have any questions for staff?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah. Through the Chair, did you have any objection to the
6-over-1 replacement or did -- was the 6-over-1
okay as far as -- if they were to do a replacement?

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MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, just based on the subject site -- the subject structure itself, there's
been a combination of alterations. And all we could find -- the wood, 1-over-1 windows appear to be the predominant style, but we do recognize that 6 -over- 1 , there is an abundance of that too, so we -- we're fine with the 6-over-1 grid pattern.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Since there are no more questions of staff, we'll hear from the applicant.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Please approach and be sworn in.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Please state your name and address for the record.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Jeff
Thompson, 1942 Hamilton Street.
Can I hand some pictures to you?
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THE CHAIRMAN: She needs to swear you in first.

MR. THOMPSON: Sir?
THE CHAIRMAN: She needs to swear you in first.

MR. THOMPSON: Okay. I'll set them right there.

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

MR. THOMPSON: (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. THOMPSON: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. THOMPSON: So I just submitted three pictures. The windows were replaced in the mid '60s. The house was bought right after Dora, in the early '60s. All the windows were replaced. The house was completely remodeled. These windows are, obviously --

I've been doing contracting in Avondale and Ortega for 45 years. These windows are, obviously, not original windows. They are a

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replacement. Probably (inaudible) sash and door. They have flat glass; they do not have wavy glass. They have springs in the slides, which was not around then. It always had weights inside the jambs. That's the way they were. And there's a picture of one that shows a metal slide, and that's in a 1926 house across the street. So these windows are not original. They're 1960s windows.

The second thing, somehow -- and I don't understand it. They're saying that these have become historical. I don't understand how something that's replaced after 40 to 50 years can become historical. That's something I've never heard of.

There was talk of taking these storm windows off and putting interior storm windows on. That's something I've never heard of in 45 years. What is an interior storm window?

These storm windows are horrible. They're mounted on the outside of the jambs. They are very proud, look like -- look terrible. It's just a bad system. And we're trying to put in a new system, an Andersen window system. We'd like to put in 6-over-1 because that's the --

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that's what is in all the neighborhoods. All the 1920 s houses had 6 -over-1. The old houses across the street, we don't know what was in there original [sic] because they were -they've been gone for 40 years, 50 years.

But these windows, the new windows we're going to put in are Andersen windows, and they come [sic] to all the new specifications.

Any questions?
THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions from the commissioners for the applicant?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
MR. THOMPSON: The pictures show all the mechanical slides, and it allows stuff to get trapped in there. You can't open them very well.

The windows do work, they don't work well and never will, never have, and that's why we want to put a modern, insulated window in that is up to new standards, that look like the old ones. Probably the better -- more like the original ones than what's in there now.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else here to speak on this item?

Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 there more than 50 years. So this is just --

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we're just operating in accordance with our design guidelines.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair to staff, you're saying 50 years. Do we have an exact date of when these windows were installed?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, we do not. It was just according to the applicant that they believe that the windows were replaced in the 1970s. I think on the record they stated the '60s, so this just pushes the mark a little bit higher, but we don't have any permits or anything of the sort.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yeah, because 50 years puts it at '74. And if they're saying '70s -- but you're actually saying '60s, so -okay.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, I'd like to see an attempt at restoration prior to asking for replacement here in these -- they may or may not be the original windows, but they do look like the same style of original windows in that neighborhood. I think that has

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a lot of significance here.
THE CHAIRMAN: I have a question for staff, too, based on the applicant's presentation.

There's a discrepancy, obviously, in the record between the opinion of staff, based on the findings, and the evidence available, and the opinion of the applicant in terms of the age and originality of the windows -the existing -- the windows that are in the structure now.

Is there any -- what's the recourse here? This is an open question because that is -- I know that, as staff, if you're not -- I understand that if you're not presented with real evidence, you have to make -- the staff has to make a decision and a report based on what's available to them.

Does the applicant have any ability or recourse? What would be a way for them to be able to prove to staff that -- their position, if any?

MR. WELLS: To the acting chair, I think the only recourse in this instance would be -because we already opined on the record that

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the windows --
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.
MR. THOMPSON: Speak up.
MR. WELLS: We already will opined on the record that the windows could have acquired historic --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.
MR. WELLS: -- significance. We found from our design guidelines and whatnot that it would be best to -- for the applicant to pursue window restoration practices prior to installing new windows.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you repeat that?
MR. THOMPSON: We couldn't hear what you said.

MR. WELLS: Okay. I apologize.
Is this a little bit better?
Okay. So staff believes that, instead of replacing the windows, it would be more prudent to apply window restoration practices as noted in the report. That would be the best recourse before installing new windows.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think, you know,
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they may not be the original windows, but it does seem like the guidelines that were given to make decisions classify them as historic, and then the course of action sort of speaks for itself there. They're not deteriorated beyond repair. Then that's -- that seems like the way to go is for them to just be repaired.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there's no more discussion, we should go to the vote.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye. THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: The applicant is denied. Okay. Everyone, we're going to go back to the original agenda now. The two items that were on the consent agenda that we moved, we'll hear them with the -- with the COAs.

So we'll start with what was Item Number 7 on the consent agenda, COA-22-27451, 2768 Riverside Avenue.

I'm going to open the public hearing.
Do we have a staff report?
MR. WELLS: Thank you.
So this is application COA-22-27451 for
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the property located at 2768 Riverside Avenue, which seeks to demolish a contributing structure. So this would demolish a two-story -- a two-and-a-half-story residence that's located within the Riverside Avondale Historic District. The property is located on a corner lot at Riverside Avenue and James Street. This structure abuts the subject property to the southwest and a two-story multifamily building abuts it to the southeast.

The City's Municipal Code Compliance Division, or MCCD for short, has condemned the structure and declared it unsafe per Chapter 518 of the Ordinance Code. The property has been subject to enforcement activity by MCCD for 12 years with no habitable result.

In April 2022, the Special Magistrate issued an order to abate the demolition. Because this is a unique situation and the City is acting as the applicant, not the property owner, staff has limited information regarding the condition of the structure.

But according to the Florida Master Site File for the property, this house is one of the most dominant Colonial Revival styles in

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Riverside from the 1900 to 1920 time period. It is characterized by a hip roof with a hip dormer and drop siding.

In accordance with our design guidelines, demolition of the subject property will not have a significant impact on the surrounding property as the structure is currently a blight on the surrounding properties.

The property has been vacant for many years, boarded, and unkept. Furthermore, based upon a visual inspection of the property, staff notes that the lack of weatherizing the structure has led to extensive water infiltration. As a result, this has led to the presence of wood destroying organisms.

In accordance with our design guidelines and Code criteria as well as information provided by MCCD, feasible alternatives to demolishing the structure has been offered to the owner for the last 12 years with, again, no habitable result.

According to the applicant, they do not have an interest in selling the property. And based on staff's findings, no other feasible alternatives to demolition are readily

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apparent. Moreover, the structure does not appear to have enough structural integrity for relocation to be considered.

In an effort to remedy the request, the applicant provided an opinion from an engineer which is attached within the application itself. The engineering report found that the structure was beyond repair and unsafe.

Staff also conducted a site visit on May 3rd of 2022 and May 16th of this year, but did not go into the structure. From an exterior view, the structure appears to be heavily deteriorated, siding and windows are in need of repair, and the roof appears to have collapsed in places or has significance damage based on aerial views from Google.

There are some pictures provided within the report itself that documents the interior of the structure.

Staff was not provided any details regarding the economic return. However, just according to permitting records, the last time a permit was filed for the property was in 1996. Prior to that, the last permits were for mechanical and electrical work in 1987. Staff

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cannot also find any COAs ever being filed for the property.

Therefore, given the lack of routine structural maintenance, coupled with the visible degree of deterioration, there's a strong possibility that the costs to rehabilitate the structure are significant.

Staff was also not provided a claim of undue economic hardship. However, we do believe that the structure, in its current existence, appears to have a majority of its historical and architectural materials no longer present, and we are obligated to forward you a recommendation for approval.

Staff should note that we do have a representative from MCCD here, his name is Ernest Murphy, and he can speak on the enforcement history and the current balance of the administrative liens should you choose.

And with that, end of report.
THE CHAIRMAN: Does the Commission have any questions for staff?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting chair to staff, you mentioned that you found that a significant portion of the historic

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materials were not -- were no longer there. Could you describe what you were referring to? I'm looking at the photos and I don't see much missing from what I can see.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, we are basing our evaluation solely on the windows, and there is a hole in the roof -- there's several holes within the roof itself and some of the siding was removed on certain portions of it. I'll scroll through some of the pictures just to illustrate that.
(Brief pause in the proceedings.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So sorry, I was looking at the photographs. There was a lot.

Any other questions for staff?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. Through the acting chair, you mentioned that the City of
Jacksonville is the owner of this site. Is
that -- I'm sorry, did I misunderstand that?
MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to
Commissioner Epstein, the City is the applicant, so the owner -- because it's been condemned, they are acting as the applicant on (inaudible) of the owner.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Y'all need to speak up.
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AUDIENCE MEMBER: Put your microphone on. MR. WELLS: I apologize, but I'm doing the best I can. The microphone just keeps going in and out.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, so the City wants to demolish this because there's so many liens on it and they think that the property is dangerous is sort of the understanding, then?

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein and to the Commission, so this house -- and MCCD is here. I believe Mr. Murphy is here to talk more on this, but this house has been under enforcement for over a decade. And in 2022, the City, through a Special Magistrate, issued an order of abatement by demolition, meaning to abate the liens and the fines that -- demolition was ordered. So that needed to come before you all for approval, but they already have an order from a Special Magistrate to demolish this.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. That's why it has the ' 22 COA number?

MS. LOPERA: (Nods head.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
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community. I forgot to mention that in my report.

So we did have -- so after we published our report, we did receive a letter from Riverside Avondale Preservation, or RAP for short. They are opposing the demolition. Then there's two other letters from adjacent neighbors who are supportive of the demolition, so I will distribute those letters to you right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: So while the commissioners are reviewing that, we'll go ahead and hear from the applicant.

Is the applicant here?
MR. MURPHY: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: After the applicant, we'll -- or anyone else that wants to speak on this ...
(Mr. Murphy approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You can begin by stating your name and address and she'll swear you in.

MR. MURPHY: Yes, sir.
THE REPORTER: I need your name and address, please.

MR. MURPHY: Ernest Murphy, Code
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Compliance Division, administrator, 214 North Hogan Street.

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

MR. MURPHY: (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. MURPHY: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon.
The building was actually set out for demolition and we actually hired an engineer, outside engineer, to inspect the property. At that time, they determined that the building was not able to be restored at all. All parts of the structural building integrity was gone and there was no other recourse but to demolish the structure because it is truly unsafe at this time.

The administrative liens will be settled once the property is demolished, and that will settle the administrative liens that were originally cited on the property in 2010.
Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 even greater than it was at that time. This

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was only a couple more years after we were initially allowed into the structure.

Chris, would you like to speak?
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the Chair, when you say "allowed into the structure," by the -- by the property owner? You made contact with the property owner who granted you access to the building?

MR. MURPHY: Yes, sir.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for the speaker?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Really one other question was, you know, have there been any attempts and talks with that homeowner to remediate these items?

I'm sure you guys have asked them to, but has there been any willingness on their part or any attempts on their part to -- to do that?

MR. MURPHY: Okay. And I'll let Chris speak on that since he had the last interactions with the owner.
(Mr. Billings approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: She'll swear you in. Give her your name and address.

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MR. BILLINGS: Chris Billings at 214 North Hogan Street. I am the contract administrator for Municipal Code Compliance.
(Reporter inquiry.)
MR. BILLINGS: Yes. It's B-i-I-l-i-n-g-s.
THE REPORTER: Thank you so much.
And if you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. BILLINGS: (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. BILLINGS: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. BILLINGS: So we originally went out to this property. We were -- I met with the neighbors here, who are currently present, and was able to get ahold of the owner. I believe it's Mr. James Con- -- Convoy, Converse? And so we -- I had several discussions with him on every visit when I went out there. His intention in the beginning was that he wanted to sell the property, he was looking to sell it but never made progress on it.

He showed up at the Special Magistrate hearing on several occasions, was trying to give the property away to the City, to let the City take care of it, or try to donate it to St. Vincent's Hospital. St. Vincent's Hospital declined on the offer.

So, basically, he said -- he kept on saying that he wanted to sell the property, and now here we are in 2024 and nothing has been -he never presented any kind of listings, never put it on the market, never made progress with that. The property continually deteriorated.

And when I first went out there -- because the case from 2011 was a residential case. When I went out there, it was already an administrative fine. I noticed the extensive damage to the roof, so we did condemn the structure, notified him, had him meet me on site.

I've walked through the house personally three different times, from the ground floor all the way up to the attic. The basement is completely flooded with about 2-and-a-half inches -- 2-and-a-half feet of water. The roof, you can see skylight.

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descriptors talks about a pier foundation. So when I hear "pier foundation" in an old historic part of town, I don't think "basement." I think of two different things. So is there an actual basement to this house or is it piers that are built up and it's built off grade?

MR. BILLINGS: He -- that is a -- you're making me recollect my memory on this.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Because I didn't see a picture either.

MR. BILLINGS: So -- well, I've got hundreds of them. So he has an actual ground floor, first floor through the front door, and there's actual sub-floor area down there where they had storage down there. So it's a concrete, basement-style --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's not a crawl space?

MR. BILLINGS: No. It --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It is a basement?
MR. BILLINGS: It is a full room that's flooded down there.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I have a follow-up question regarding the lien process. So if the

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property is demolished, there's a lien placed on the property; is that correct, for the cost of demolition?

MR. BILLINGS: So the current rolling fines, the daily fines that have been approved accruing on both cases will stop, but the fines will still be in place. And we can discuss that, but it will stop the occurring [sic] fines from keep- --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: In my experience, when those fines stop, you can remediate them or reduce them -- two different processes with the City; is that correct?

MR. BILLINGS: That is correct.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, one more question. When this -- if this is demolished and the fines are stopped, does the property owner maintain ownership of this property or does it go up to auction? What is the status of ownership?

MR. BILLINGS: We would not be taking the property from him. He would still retain ownership of the property. If he wanted to settle the fines, that would be something that he could do or have a discussion with our

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office, but we're not taking possession of it at this time.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: And an additional question. Who is paying for the demolish? Is the City paying for the demolition?

MR. BILLINGS: We would sub that out for a bid as far as the -- if he's not going to pay to do the demolition, then another lien would be assessed for that demolition as well.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay. So it's not just like he's maintaining ownership, you're tearing down this troubled house, and then he's going to come to you and be like, "I still want this land. How much can I pay you to pay off liens?" And he's left with a clean property in a highly desirable part of town? (Inaudible) property?

MR. BILLINGS: There would be a substantial fine and liens still placed on the property for the demolition and the administrative fines.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Okay.
MS. LOPERA: Mr. Chair, may I --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the
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Commission, so I just want to touch on a couple of things. So there is a current daily rolling fine. And if MCCD -- could you give me -- do you have the fine as of today? Did you --

MR. MURPHY: Yes. As of today, it's \$244,350.

MS. LOPERA: That's a daily rolling fine that continues to accrue. Should you approve this today and the City will have permission to demolish the structure -- they are not compelled to do so. They will just be permitted to do so. And if they decide to go that route to demolish the structure, whatever costs are incurred in that endeavor will be added to -- as, like, a hard cost that the City will attempt to recoup at another time.

THE CHAIRMAN: This may be more of a question, Counsel. If we make a decision -- if it's decided today -- if we approve this demolition, do the rolling fines stop today or do they go on until it's actually demolished?

MS. LOPERA: To the Chair, my understanding -- and MCC can confirm -- is that the fines will continue to accrue until the demolition is complete.

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Is that correct?
MR. MURPHY: That is correct.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for these gentlemen? They have been standing a long time.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: No?
COMMISSIONER MORGAN: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Through the Chair, reading here a letter from RAP about foreclosure and wanted to understand what that process would be like and if that would be possible, or if it's just demolition.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Morgan and the Commission, so the foreclosure process is an option the City has. MCCD and the Planning Department are charged with enforcing these provisions for our Code. And foreclosure is an option. That is a separate procedure from what we're discussing here today. This is just the request to approve the demolition.

The MCCD has made a request to my office,
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1 to OGC, to move forward with the foreclosure, but that's not something that's approved by you or any part of this today.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair to Counsel -- I'm sorry, I think I'm loud enough.

Through the acting chair to Counsel, if we denied this demolition today, is that something that you would -- you and the City would seek, would be foreclosure, to sell to somebody else who may want -- I mean, that's -- you know, I'm just coming up with ideas here, but I just don't know what the process would be if we denied this.

MS. LOPERA: So to the commissioner -through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, the foreclosure process is completely separate. So whether demolition is approved today or not, the foreclosure process can continue should that be the will of MCCD and the administration.

And like I said, even if you do approve demolition, they may elect not to go forward with that for one reason or another and to pursue foreclosure without a demolition with

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the current structure on the parcel.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for these gentlemen?

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

Now I'm going to call people up with the cards that have been turned in. At the end, if you -- if you want to speak on this and you -I haven't called your name, either fill out a card or come up and I can look for it, but I think I have all of them.

We'll start with Suzanne McCrary.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You'll have three minutes each to speak, and start by --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: No problem.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- giving your name and address and she'll swear you in.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Suzanne McCrary. I live at 2756 Riverside Avenue, 32205.

I have lived across the street from this house --

THE REPORTER: Excuse me, ma'am. I have

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to swear you in.
MS. McCRARY: Pardon?
THE REPORTER: I have to swear you in.
I'm sorry.
If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MS. McCRARY: (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. McCRARY: Yes, ma'am.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. McCRARY: As I started to say, I've lived across this -- the street from this house for almost 42 years. I'm very familiar with this house. I'm very familiar with the owners of the property. The house has been vacant for almost 20 years, and the owner has failed to maintain the property. It is now a blighted property, it's a fire hazard, and in a condition of significant deterioration and disrepair. As a result, the health and safety of the neighbors and the neighborhood have been impacted.

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The property is not secure, the gates are open, fences have been knocked down. The windows -- most of the windows in the house are missing. This has attracted vagrants that have littered the property and used it as a public toilet.

There is -- there are huge gaping holes in the roof. During windy and stormy weather, debris, shingles fall off the roof. They come over on my property, so I'm cleaning up James Street, his sidewalk, my sidewalk, my property, with my time and expense.

Vermin have been living in this house for years, and they promote the spread of disease to other animals and humans.

There is significant vegetation overgrowth on the property and on the City right-of-way. Over the years, I have raked and bagged the leaves and trash that has accumulated on the city sidewalks and on James Street. The leaves are so piled up in the driveway of this property that they are obstructing pedestrian traffic. They can't walk by that driveway.

When I asked the last company contracted by the City if they could please clear those

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leaves, I was told, "No, we only do the work inside the fenced area," but if I paid for it, they would do it. I'm not doing that.

This property negatively impacts the property values of the neighborhood and it definitely fails to enhance the heritage and character of what we say is a historic district.

The property has been neglected for so long, it is well beyond repair and needs to be abolished -- demolished, excuse me, abolished and demolished.

But anyway, thank you for your time and for listening to me.

Do you have any questions?
THE CHAIRMAN: No, madam. Thank you.
MS. McCRARY: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Next we have Jane -- I
believe it's -- I can't tell if it's a "u" or
an "n", but -- Chefan?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to pass my turn until after the seller next to the property, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to come on up?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
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THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MS. ECKELS: (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. ECKELS: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. ECKELS: First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for allowing us the opportunity to be here and participate in this hearing today.

I presently reside next door to the subject property. I've lived there since 200- -- the summer of 2000. The time I moved in, my son Davis, who's now 27, was 3 years old. The house was falling down in 2000. The

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house was subject to vermin and disrepair. So in the span of my child's lifetime of turning into [sic] a toddler to a man, nothing has ever been done to the structure of this property.

I do want to make it very clear, my concerns about the ownership of the real estate has nothing to do with the condition of the property and the structure.

I do want to thank Mr. Murphy and Mr. Billings for being here. They have been so helpful over the last 10 to 15 years at helping me keep my sanity through this process.

I understand that the fines are rolling. I understand that's a concern. But as a citizen of this neighborhood, as -- this is my home. Those are of no concern to me.

What is a concern to me are some of the things that Ms. McCrary mentioned, and that is vagrancy. Vagrancy is not just a word thrown out there; it's something I have to deal with, that I have to call the police when I'm home with my children and I hear people in the home at night. That's been a very unpleasant situation and it's made us feel unsafe in our home.

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There is vermin. I'll give you exact examples. There are raccoons living in this house. There are rats. And those rats are 10 feet from my home. So that's a very unpleasant situation.

I'll just show you. This is my home (indicating) next door. You see right here, the Riverside Avondale Preservation sign? I take that seriously. I value historic preservation, and I've employed that in my home for two decades. But my home's value has been affected, my family's safety and well-being is affected.

The engineer hired by the City -- not hired by me, not hired by my neighbors -- made it clear, abundantly and numerous times, it's not that this problem -- this property is just an eyesore, it's not just that it's a detriment to the community, it is structurally unsound and unsafe. Like Ms. McCrary, when the wind blows, I have debris fall on my property.

It is bowing and it is in imminent collapse. This is not something that I've made up. I haven't been in the property because it is unsafe. Even though the case number were

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here on today is '22--
(Timer notification.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead and finish --
MS. ECKELS: Okay. Even though it's

## '22 --

THE CHAIRMAN: -- the sentence.
MS. ECKELS: -- this actually started in 2010.

I know that Riverside Avondale Preservation has an interest in foreclosure, and that's a whole separate proceeding. That has nothing to do with the demolition of the structure and the protection of myself and my neighbors and our health and well-being.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. ECKELS: My --
THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry.
MS. ECKELS: That's okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: I have to stop you there.
MS. ECKELS: I do have my husband here; I think he was going to cede his time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Do I have his card?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Absolutely.
THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead and speak. And make sure you turn in a card. Okay?

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(Audience member approaches the podium.) AUDIENCE MEMBER: What do I need to do? THE REPORTER: State your name and address, please.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Anthony Gerber, 2772 Riverside, Jacksonville, Florida.

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

MR. GERBER: (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. GERBER: Yes, ma'am.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. GERBER: I'd like to cede my time to my spouse.

MS. LOPERA: Sorry. Through the Chair, I'm sorry, but you can't give your time to other people. If you want to speak, you're welcome to, but three minutes is the cutoff.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are a lot of people -- I have a lot cards, so --

MR. GERBER: Okay. I don't know how to -it's not court, it's council members.

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So I was in the military for 33 years, chose to make my home there, and it -- it's atrocious. You can see -- and you've seen the pictures of it. You can see from the floor all the way to the sky. You can see all the way up from the bottom floor. There's an owl that's also taken up residence that swoops down, catches vermin. It's horrible.

I'd just like to say, yeah, it needs to come down. It's just a -- it's just a terrible plight on the town. The bushes come over, through, onto our side of the property, so I have to come through and chop bushes. The bushes are on the opposite side, on the City sidewalk, you can't even walk down the sidewalk down there. If you get a chance, go down there and check it out because you can't walk down the sidewalk. It's insane.

I'd like to say that the -- so our property is negatively impacted by it. It's terrible. So we tried to sell our house at -a few years ago. The main reason people were like "We're not interested" is because of that disaster that is next door. People call it the "haunted mansion" because it just looks like a

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haunted mansion. It's terrible.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think we understand.
MR. GERBER: I'm sorry, I'm not as
eloquent as my wife speaking publicly.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think we understand.
MR. GERBER: But, yeah, you get it. The place is a disaster, it needs to go away.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Okay. Next, Anthony Gerber.
MR. GERBER: That was me.
THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay.
MS. ECKELS: I'm Anthony Gerber.
(Laughter.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Davis Wiggins.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm going to pass.
THE CHAIRMAN: You'll pass?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Nods head.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Are you in opposition, I presume?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Shakes head.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Or you're in support -- or you're in support of the demolition, yes? Just for the record.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. Correct.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Shannon Blankinship. (Audience member approaches the podium.) THE CHAIRMAN: So if you don't mind, state your name and address, and then go ahead and state whether you're in agreement with the demolition or opposed to the demolition after she swears you in.

THE REPORTER: I need your name and address, please, for the record.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Shannon Blankinship, 1071 Talbot Avenue.

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

MS. BLANKINSHIP: (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. BLANKINSHIP: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. BLANKINSHIP: Hi.
My name is Shannon Blankinship. I'm the executive director of Riverside Avondale Preservation.

We're not here in disagreement with the
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impact of this building on the neighbors. And also just want to say a huge thank you to the Municipal Code Division that has been dealing with the impact of the failure to maintain this historic contributing structure for over a decade.

The reason that we're here today in opposition or not wanting to see this property demolished is because foreclosure would be the right remedy for what's happening here, having a new property owner be able to actually undertake and assess the real viability of the remaining structure here. What historic elements could be retained, what the available solutions are, having multiple structural engineer reports, as well as an undertaking of the historic character and value and how that could be put into whatever sort of potential restoration, rehabilitation, or new construction on this site would be the best-case scenario for this prime corner lot in the neighborhood.

Without the ability to transfer possession of the current building into someone else's hands, the City will be on the hook for the

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cost of demolition and then the remaining vacant land until these liens get settled.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Jane -- is it Chefan (pronouncing)?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chefan, yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Chefan, I'm sorry. I couldn't read your handwriting.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Name and address.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jane Chefan, 8834 Walbrook Road.

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

MS. CHEFAN: (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. CHEFAN: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. CHEFAN: Yes, I'm here on behalf of the sellers, who you just heard from. I am currently listing their property. We do have showings, and I will tell you, with every

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single showing that we have at this property, the potential buyer is very, very concerned about the condition of this property. And I do think it's creating a -- besides being an eyesore and I think a tremendous danger -- if any of you have not stood outside of this house, you need to know it's very dangerous, but -- I get nervous in front of people, but I just want to make sure I was here on their behalf because it is posing a problem for these folks to sell their house.

You know, you think about yourself having a neighbor -- neighboring property like this next to your house, and you're -- it's affecting the actual -- you know, they're not able to sell their house. You know, everybody that comes through is saying, you know, "What about this house, what about this house?" There's no clear answer, and we're hoping today that we'll have a clear answer so that they can move on and sell their home. They've lived next to this property for 20 years and I think that's been long enough.

That's it. Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
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I don't have any more cards for this item on the agenda. Is there anyone else here who wishes to speak that hasn't spoken already?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
MS. ECKELS: Mr. Commissioner, I don't want any more time, but if I could just ask the members of our neighborhood that live adjacent to this property that have shown up here today and that are in favor of demolition if they could just stand so that you could have an accounting.

MS. LOPERA: No, ma'am, I'm sorry, we can't do that. This is a quasi-judicial procedure --

MR. GERBER: (Stands.)
MS. LOPERA: -- and displays in support or against are not allowed by our bylaws.

MS. ECKELS: I understand.
Thank you.
MS. LOPERA: But anyone else who wishes to speak could fill out a card or, at this time, identify yourselves.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Are you -- I'm sorry, are you moving because you live next to this house? Like, if this house was demolished

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and something nice was built there, would you stay or are you just moving to move?

MS. ECKELS: Moving --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: It's important because you're leaving the neighborhood, you're here telling me, you know, you want this taken down, but you're leaving the neighborhood, so just a little bit more information.

MS. ECKELS: Sure.
So I moved in this home when -- like I said, when my son was young, and raised my family there. Our two children went to university this week. Okay? So this is my life. It's not just a week or a month or -I've never heard from RAP before. Honestly, in 10 years that this has been going on, this is the first time I've had any sense of their impressions about anything.

But we lived here and we grew our family here, and now our kids have gone to college and we'd like to pay for them to go to college. So my house is pretty much paid off and it's my life savings. We tried to sell the home four years ago when our kids started high school because we didn't want them to come home

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from -- from college in a new house they've
never lived in. That wasn't possible for us, to give them a new home for their high school years because of this property.

I'm not moving because of this property. I was trying to four years ago, but now I'm moving because I would like to take my entire life savings and pay for my kids to go to college. But I respect what -- RAP has a voice here today, so I understand that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
I do have one question for you, just quickly. The statement that you made about 2000 -- the compelling statement that you made about 2000 and your son sitting there, how would you -- in 2000, was it restorable, in your opinion? I just -- for the record, I'm interested to know that.

MS. ECKELS: I believe in 2000, it was. I believe --

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. ECKELS: -- it could have been.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. ECKELS: Thank you, sir.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else here who hasn't filled out a card?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You need to fill out a card, but --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Just make sure you fill it out after and give it to Diane, please.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do it after?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Just go ahead -- for the sake of time, go ahead and state your name and address, and you have three minutes.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Murphy Michaels, 2775 Riverside Avenue.

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

MR. MICHAELS: (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. MICHAELS: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. MICHAELS: Just to hear from a new member of the neighborhood, we bought and

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renovated our house directly across the street from this one in 2022, so a couple of years ago. I plan to be here a long time. I think at the time we were told by our Realtor that the house was already set to be demolished. We were concerned about the house.

I've been in the house. You can stand on the bottom and see the sky above. The whole -there's nothing in that house that's restorable. There's nothing in the house that is of any worth historically.

Our home is a historic home. I understand and appreciate the desire to try to, you know, retain that, but I can't imagine anyone that would buy this house or find anything in there that isn't rotted and -- and just of no use. I mean, it -- it's just going to be mowed over is what someone is going to do, so that's it.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Anyone else? Is there anyone else?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Please come forward.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address
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and she'll swear you in.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Chris LaDew. I'm at 2800 Riverside Avenue.

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

MR. LaDEW: (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. LaDEW: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. LaDEW: Okay. Thank you.
Full disclosure, I'm a City employee. I'm the chief of Traffic Engineering, but I'm here today as a resident. And I, too, moved into the neighborhood about two years ago. And I empathize with my neighbors who have been dealing with this problem for two decades, and I've only been dealing with it for two years.

Shannon Blankinship gives a very good argument. I would prefer a -- somebody to take on this property and restore it. However, I don't think that's economically viable, and I'm very concerned about the time that it would

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1 take for that to happen, so --
So after hearing everything -- and I'm coming in late to this argument, and -- but I have to go on the side of demolishing it. I think that's quickest, best thing for the neighborhood. And I wish somebody could take it on, but I'm not very clear on the process of what happens and how that would take place. It sounds to me like there's just more steps in the process to make that happen, and it's very unsure, it's very unclear that that could ever happen.

I'm also unclear on the steps to get to actual -- demolish the property. This board will vote on this today. And if you vote to allow the demolition, then it goes, I presume, back to the City where funds are allocated and something happens. I guess -- I'm asking the question. I would like to know what is the process and how long will this be. Will we be back here in a couple of years talking about this same thing?

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll defer to Counsel on that.

MS. LOPERA: Okay. Through the Chair to
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Mr. LaDew, so at this point, the MCCD, if they get permission from the Historic Preservation Commission today to demolish the structure, that clears a hurdle for them to get a building permit -- or a permit to demolish the structure. They do not have to. They're not compelled to do so. It just clears that -- for a historic structure, there's that one extra step before demolishing, and that's approval by this body. And so they can, at any time, then, get a permit to demolish.

MR. LaDEW: Okay. Respectfully, I'd like if they could come up later and talk about that process and -- and how that would happen, and how long it typically takes. I would appreciate that, but I'll take that off the air.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. LaDEW: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else? Is there anyone else?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to close the public comment on this -- public hearing on this. We have a -- we have an application for

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demolition. Do I hear a motion based on the staff report?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve demolition, COA-22-27451, at 2768 Riverside Avenue.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion?
COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting
chair, so I am very sympathetic to this situation. There are a number of -- I'm not sure how I would vote at this moment in time, but there are a number of things I think that kind of need to be said or -- I'm trying to think about these things out loud.

So two various comments about this property. Selling the house next to a vacant house that is in bad shape, that is a concern, but I don't think it is necessarily a concern for this commission and the position of this commission.

I live in a historic neighborhood that has had many vacant houses in poor condition over the years and whether someone can get more for the house next door has not been one of the factors to consider when thinking about

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demolishing a house. Demolishing the house would not solve the overgrowth and the leaves. Those are going to be there whether there's a house there or not. It won't solve any animals that are living in that overgrowth next door.

I just have a hard time finding the rationale in my head that removing a historic structure is the solution to a property owner not taking care of it unless, unless it is in immediate danger of failing or renovation is just not realistic in keeping the historic fabric of the house.

From experience and, thankfully, the City does not need a COA approved beforehand to demolish a house in a historic district if it is an urgent situation. They can demolish a house if they deem it an emergency. They will then come back after the fact to get a COA approval. I've seen it happen multiple times.

So those are the things that I'm kind of wrestling with in my mind at this time, and I would love to hear what the other commissioners think.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, I really hate to reward owners with demolition

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through neglect, and I feel that this case has been going on for so long that that's kind of what's happening here, but I -- I don't see a whole lot of options.

The condition of the home, it does seem unsafe, maybe not as urgent as an emergency order that the City would need to tear it down, but it does seem to be unsafe for the neighbors and residents walking down the street.

I understand it would be a lien on the property if the home is demolished that either the owner would have to take care of or a future owner would have to take care of, and the administrative fines would have to be settled, and there is a process whereby an -the owner or a future owner can reduce those fines.

I'm really not happy that we have to make a decision like this to tear down this historic structure that is a beautiful home, but I'm not sure we're left with a whole lot of options here, that it's so far beyond saving by view of the MCCD and multiple reports we have in our -the book here, so I -- I hate to say it, but I don't see much option but to demolish the home

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at this point.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, this is tough. Every architect will probably -- you know, their heart kind of hurts when they see something like this because -truthfully, I've been in buildings that look far worse than this that have been restored, but they have people who want to restore them and they have that energy and everything. And it seems like with this, there's a whole other step that's involved to find somebody with that energy and clear the liens and everything.

But also as an architect, you're asked to, you know, look at the health and safety and welfare of the people around you, not just your clients, but the community around you. So this sort of falls into that realm where we have this wonderful historic building that, truthfully, if somebody really wanted to could definitely salvage this, repair it. It would take a lot of money, it would take a lot of effort. Somebody would really want to -- to do that.

But we are left with that question of what happens until then? It is -- it's definitely a

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quandary, and I don't -- I'm not a hundred percent sure how I feel about it right now. I'm still thinking, mainly because I -- this is -- a big thing with me is, when there are structural engineer reports that are given to us and they talk about, oh, this building is going to fall down any second. And then I look at the pictures, I don't see -- and maybe some of these pictures are older, and maybe there are more pictures that should have been given, but a lot of times I'm always left thinking, they're not really showing me --

You know, I mean, I'm looking at sheathing that -- that's not deteriorated. I know that's holding the walls up here. I know there's a hole in the roof, talking about flooding in the basement and everything, but I'm not seeing the structure looking like it's leaning. You know, there's piers in the front that look good to me, so it's --

It's hard. I feel like a lot of times these reports need to come with better photos that show depth and (inaudible). It might just be because I've been in buildings that are -sorry. I've been in buildings that have been

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in very, very bad condition, so it's probably my optimism as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand.
Max.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the acting chair, I agree with a lot of the sentiments of my fellow commissioners here. We take -- we don't take these matters lightly. This one, you know, it feels like it might have slipped between the cracks a bit at one point. The owner was trying to give it away and could not successfully do that. That was a little bit surprising to me. And if you look at some of these pictures, it really must have been beautiful in its heyday.

I plan to support the demolition, and I thank the staff and the applicant for their diligence in this process. And, you know, I agree with what the previous commissioner said.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You know, I think that one of the people who spoke earlier spoke to the sort of expediency of the decision that's made

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here today, but we've heard from people that this started at least in 2000. So I don't think this is an expedient process by any means. This has been going on for a long time, and I think that's the real failure here, that something like this could go on for such a long time without resolution.

And here we are today being asked to give permission to set things in motion that we -we're here for a reason. As -- Max, as you said earlier, we're here for a reason. This is the Historic Preservation Commission, and these are the worst, this is the worst thing that we have to do, but I think it just needs to -- it needs to be stated. This has been going on for a very long time. Since that young man was a child. It's very compelling. It's a very compelling argument, so I think there are things in play here that we really need to consider as commissioners, and, frankly, beyond the vote on this COA.

This has happened multiple times. Like, we have got to -- this has got to be a discussion we have about some recourse with City Council or City government, about actions

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that can be taken beyond the great job that these gentlemen have done in assessing and letting us know what's happening. We need to be more proactive about our fabric if we really care about it.

I'm not sure that helps you with making a decision, but I want to recognize how tough it is.

We have a motion, so we either need to have more discussion or we need to call it to a vote.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So let's call a vote.
All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Motion is approved, the
demolition is approved.
(Reporter inquiry.)
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, yes, it was unanimous.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm so sorry, unanimous. Thank you, everyone.
Now on to the other consent agenda item
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that was moved to the COAs. It's COA-24-30132, 1002 Main Street North.

Do we have a report?
Pardon me, I need to open the public hearing for this COA.

MR. WELLS: All right. This is application COA-24-30132 for the property located at 1002 Main Street North. You should note that the property has a historical address of 962 Main Street North, but otherwise the request seeks to demolish a contributing structure that's located within the Springfield Historic District. The structure is located on a through lot between Laura Street and Main Street. The subject property is bounded by bodies of water on both -- three sides, so this includes two retention ponds and Hogan's Creek to the south.

The structure is characterized as a masonry vernacular style building with a hip roof, brick sheathing, spiral decorative columns, and a clay tile roof.

A structural engineer's report was -found the structure to be unsafe and beyond reasonable repair. The subject property is

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also located within the AE flood zone. So this flood zone is defined as areas within the 100-year floodplain where flood insurance is mandatory. This partly stems from Hogan's Creek abutting the subject building to the south. Hogan's Creek has been identified as a high-risk area for flooding and storm surge.

Staff does note that since acquiring the property in 1998, attempts to rehabilitate the structure have not been made by the applicant.
According to permitting and archival records, no COAs or permits have been filed for the routine maintenance of this particular structure. There are no open violations associated with this property as well.

Staff does find that although demolition was -- will result in the removal of a contributing structure, its status as a contributing structure can be questioned considering this particular structure, which, again, has a historical address of 962 Main Street, is not listed on the contributing structures list for the locally designated historic district. However, if you look at the National Register District, is it listed as a

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noncontributing structure.
Staff finds the structure unable to properly convey its architectural significance and importance to the historic district which is consistent with our Code criteria.

Once again, we did find that the property is located within the AE flood zone. This AE flood zone is, again, identified as a 100-year floodplain where flood insurance is mandatory. This does not mean that a storm will happen every hundred years, however, there's a 1 percent chance that a storm of this magnitude will occur in any given year. Nonetheless, the current location of the structure is highly susceptible to flooding and storm surge.

In accordance with our guidelines and Code criteria, it is the opinion of staff that the subject structure does not have design elements, such as building, height, massing, and production materials, that will make reproduction difficult or impossible.

In an effort to remedy the existing condition of the site, the applicant has provided an opinion from an engineer, and that report found that the structure is beyond

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reasonable repair.
And based upon our own inspection of the site on May 8th of this year, staff also found the interior of the structure reasonably compromised and requires a significant amount of rehabilitation in order to restore it back to a habitable use.

During the inspection there were substantial areas of water damage, extensive mold and mildew damage and wood rot on the framing piece inside the structure.

There does not appear to be feasible alternatives to demolition, such as relocation, rehabilitation, mothballing, or even reuse by the current owner, prospective owner. The applicant did not provide staff with any feasible alternates given the property's location within the 100-year flood zone.

Based on these circumstances, coupled with the fact of its questionable status as a contributing structure, staff forwards to you a recommendation for approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for staff? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Arimus.
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No? All right. Is the applicant here? AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Please come forward.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address and she'll swear you in.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jennifer Bacmeister, B-a-c-m-e-i-s-t-e-r, 225 North Pearl Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

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

MS. BACMEISTER: (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. BACMEISTER: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. BACMEISTER: Good afternoon.
Somebody had a question?
THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to make a statement?

MS. BACMEISTER: Oh, JEA owns this property. It is within the Springfield lab site currently. It is within the fenced
confines. The property was initially brought to our attention as part of the Emerald Trail improvements. As you come along the Hogan's Creek trail, the -- I guess it would be the -get my ordinal directions correct here. It would be the south end of the building. You can see from the Hogan's Creek trail, this building is in disarray.

We inherited the building, from what I understand, from the City. We've never used the building. It has standing water in the basement. The roof is falling in. It was the Main Street health building, from what I understand, or the Duval welfare building. It's still set up as though it was a medical clinic. It still has little exam rooms where you can't get into the rooms because the ceilings have fallen in. We've never used it. The end of the building is very unsightly. The earth is pulling away from the building. I think we've got pictures in the report.

And the Emerald Trail folks came to JEA and asked us to do what we could to make that more appealing because the Trail will be coming alongside the Main Street lab site.

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So the request is to demolish the building. We will remove the building. We're going to seed that area. The retention ponds that are on the north face of the building, the south face of the building are there to control the water that comes both off of Main Street and for the lab that's right there, which is the original lab site, the water site for JEA.

The building immediately adjacent to this building, we know as the conservation center, is actually a historical reproduction of a building that was part of the original Main Street lab complex that JEA was allowed to demolish back in -- I'm probably getting the date wrong; I think it was '96-- that was a historic structure that was literally being held together with iron rods through the middle of it that was untenable, but we -- we're allowed to recreate that structure with the conservation center.

So actually removing this building will allow people who have come down Hogan's Creek as part of the Emerald Trail to see the actual recreation of the conservation center as kind of an up-sell, which I didn't realize until we

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started looking at one of the -- the up-sells for removing this building.

We have no use for this. There isn't enough parking at the Main Street lab site to -- even if we could save this building, which in its current state we cannot, we couldn't park enough people there to be able to use the site, so we're asking for demolition of this building. We have a contractor lined up, ready to go.

The picture of the water in the basement -- Arimus, could you show them that one?

The brown line that's on the wall is actually how high the water in the basement gets when Hogan's Creek floods, and it has tested positive for arsenic, so we --

And I believe staff -- Mr. Wells was in the building, and you have to mask-up to go into the building. It's -- it's pretty terrible, so -- I know he wasn't very impressed with me telling him he had to be fully ventilation protected to go into the building, so we --

We would really appreciate an approval on
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this so that we can make it go away and make it better for everybody from the viewpoint of the Emerald Trail.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. BACMEISTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions for the applicant?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting chair to the applicant, how long has JEA owned this parcel for -- or this building for?

MS. BACMEISTER: I believe we got it as part of the parcel in ' 96 when we did the expansion of the Main Street lab site and we built the conservation center.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: And do you know what the state of it was at that time?

MS. BACMEISTER: Slightly better than this, but it was still abandoned. We never took any occupancy of the building. It was abandoned when we got it. It hasn't -- I don't believe it's been occupied since the mid '80s by the -- by Duval County. It was empty when we got it. It was -- it's still laid out as a healthcare clinic.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?
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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. Through the acting chair, so when you received this in '96, you're saying it was abandoned, you didn't have any use for it. Was it in this state of disrepair or was it just abandoned?

MS. BACMEISTER: I wasn't here in '96, but I believe it was in some sort of disrepair.
We've never done any maintenance to it. We've never used it for anything. We haven't even used it for storage.

There's no electrical panels in it. The cabinet they're supposed to be in is empty. The HVAC cabinets that are actually on the ground by the retention pond -- in this picture they would be on the bottom left corner -- are under water part of the year. I don't think they've ever been operational since we've had possession of the building, so I don't think this building was functional when we got it.

I've only worked at JEA since 2010, so I -- and the records that I know of prior are -- are historic -- are verbal records that, you know, this guy knows about it because he was here when we got to it, so ...

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: And it's sort of
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brought up as a main course of action here, that you would like to demolish it because the Emerald Trail asked you what you were going to do to fix it up. So --

MS. BACMEISTER: Right.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- was the intent just to leave it there abandoned, and then somebody asked you what you were going to do with it, and you were like, well, I guess we'll demolish it; was it that sort of scenario?

MS. BACMEISTER: It comes up every couple of years on our list of things that we need to look at, removing this building, but it's JEA, budget is always a consideration. So in a year that it's not an issue, it's not an issue.

So in conjunction with working with the Emerald Trail and saying this is something that we need to look at, it comes to the top of the list to say now is the time to make this right and make it -- make it what it's supposed to be.

There was a much larger scale plan that I only saw a very part of back in the early '90s when they were working on the conservation center that -- the conservation center was part

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of a much larger plan that was going to make the Main Street lab part of -- "tourist" is the wrong word, and I only saw one set of drawings that was going to talk about a natural -- there was going to be a house built here that was going to be a reproduction that talked about energy-saving methods, it was going to be historically accurate for the neighborhood. And when $9 / 11$ happened and all the rules changed about how many people we could bring into a water site, because we're a utility company, and all that changed, that plan got abandoned.

So the conservation center got to stay and we used that -- probably many of you have been in that site. We can use that for a meeting space, but all those other plans got abandoned, and I think the plans for this kind of got set aside. But there was never a plan to leave this building there or reuse it for anything else, so --

I think the Emerald Trail coming in, asking us, hey, can we make this more appealing to the public, came back to the -- you know, we had a plan to turn this into something else, we

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need to get rid of this building and make it the greenspace that aligns with the Emerald Trail plan because it's not going to be the building that we were going to put there that aligned with the plan for the overall Main Street lab that doesn't exist anymore, so ...

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: And so that's why no remediation or any kind of repairs or anything has ever been done, because --

MS. BACMEISTER: I believe so.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- there never was a plan for any of that --

MS. BACMEISTER: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I just thought it was interesting. It looks very well landscaped and --

MS. BACMEISTER: They did the land- -- and I said the same thing. I work in facilities capital, so I'm not way up the food chain on the big vision plans most of the time, but I asked the same question, if we're not doing anything, why is there a million dollars worth of landscaping?

And because the view you're seeing here is if you're standing at Main Street looking

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towards the building, all the landscaping had to be brought up when they built the conservation center because you can see it from Main Street. So all of this landscaping was installed in 1996, so -- it's very pretty, it's very lovely, but it came along with the conservation center as part of that permit to do that building, so -- she got a lovely new dress, but, unfortunately, she's -- she's been in hospice for a long time, so ...

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for the applicant?

COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Through the Chair, in your conversations with Groundwork, I understand there's some remediation of the creek as well, and does that plan -- would that resolve any of these flooding issues?

MS. BACMEISTER: From my professional opinion, there's nothing going to fix the flooding issues because of the retention ponds on both sides of it, and the -- the proximity of the creek to the building, we're in a floodplain. I -- and I think that's why they put the retention ponds there.

If you looked at the original drawings
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when the building was built, there weren't any retention ponds there, and actually Main Street was about -- it seems like Main Street was 20 feet further away to -- the whole -- the whole geography of that neighborhood has shifted, and just with the amount of construction and the way the runoff is, I don't think we're ever going to get away from the water issue in the basement there, and it's -there's just so much water seasonally in there. It's bad. It's bad.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any other questions? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. BACMEISTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Anyone else from the public that would like to speak for or against this? AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: With that, we will close the public hearing.

And there's a motion on the table -- or I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting chair, I would like to make a motion to approve COA-24-30132.

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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion?
COMMISSIONER HOFF: So I am going to support this for three reasons. One, the staff found that this is, like, a -- that this is on the noncontributing structure list. I think that that's very important.

Also, it is in a very unique placement, virtually surrounded by water. And there is a plan for the greater good use of that space to be incorporated into the Hogan's Creek renovation.

So those are the reasons why I will be supporting this.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, again, obviously, we don't like to approve any demolitions. We're all here to do whatever we can to save historic infrastructure and the fabric of the city, but I think, for me, the fact that this is a floodplain -looking at how it seems like climate and everything is going, I'm suspecting that it's going to get worse.

I know that the Emerald Trail is specifically acting in some of this mitigation

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with these creeks to create a floodplain so that it doesn't flood buildings. It actually helps that scenario. I think that that's what this would become, would be just a helpful area for flood waters to go so that other buildings don't get put in harm's way.

The arsenic issue also sticks out to me as an enormous problem as well, so I would be in support of taking this down just because of those issues.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the acting chair, I agree with Commissioners Hoff and Epstein. This is a safety issue with the building, it's a flooding issue. I don't see much use in saving this building, even though -- I hate to do it, but it's -- I think it's, as Commissioner Hoff said, in the greater good.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the acting chair, I agree with the previous commissioner's statements on the matter, and I support the demolition because of the kind of unique set of circumstances associated with this case.

Thanks.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think I tend to agree
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with the statements made by my fellow commissioners on this one.

I think also -- if you look at the -- just the elevation, the exterior of the building, it's -- I know it's subjective of me to say, but I'm not sure it's of real significance in an historic way. It's sort of a utilitarian building. If it were of a different kind of architectural style or -- I might be (inaudible), so I think we -- I think we've heard enough comments. We should put it to the vote.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: It's unanimous. We have approved the application, COA-24-30132, for demolition.

All right. We're going to move on. We're going to follow the agenda at this point.
We're just going to move to D, Previously
Deferred Items to be Heard. We have COA-24-30533. This is 1826 Montgomery Place.

We'll hear from staff, a report from
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staff.
MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to the Commission, if you recall, last month, this application was brought in relation to the construction of a two-story brick addition -not addition, but -- I'm sorry, not a brick addition, but just an addition to the primary structure, the application of limewash, and some other scopes of work.

There were some points of concern regarding the driveway, the sidewalks, and the application of limewash on the brick. So since then, the applicant had provided some additional evidence, and so that evidence was presented to staff yesterday. Of course, the book went out last Friday, so we didn't have an opportunity to update our staff report or anything of that sort, but we do not have any objections to the evidence that they applied -or supplied.

The first document is some correspondence regarding the driveway. They wanted to just alter the driveway to show brick pavers and the width piece. Again, we don't have any objections regarding that.

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There was also a condition in our staff report regarding no alteration of the sidewalks. Again, we do not have any objection to that -- striking that condition as well.

Lastly, it's just the limewash, so they provided some evidence regarding just the history of the limewash and how it's consistent with the National Park Service's recommendations on using limewash to -- because it's a fire retardant, anti-septic, anti-fungal, odorless, and nonallergic paint, and it can help slow the deterioration of brick, so --

Coupled with that, they provided permits from the -- from 19--- I would say this is 1925, that shows what the original structure was built as, and it indicates on there that it was built as a two-story, frame, stucco building, so -- last month there was some discussion on whether or not the brick was actually original to the structure or was it a brick veneer.

So, again, we don't have any objections to what they presented, and we're happy to amend our staff report and the conditions

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accordingly.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Arimus.
I'm going to open the public hearing.
Do we have any questions for staff?
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yes. Through the
Chair, real quick. Specifically, which items
are we amending? Which numbers are we amending from their COA here?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, that's a good question. We didn't get that far yet.

I believe, if anything, Condition Number 14. So that relates to the sidewalks. This is sort of stating how it shall not be altered, striking that. I'll have to defer to the applicant on the other pieces, but from my understanding, it would -- I believe 8 and 9 also need to be removed.

THE CHAIRMAN: So 8 and --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: It would be 8 and
9. Do you believe they're requesting -- they can clarify, but -- so you're --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, Arimus was stating that -- 8 and 9 and 14 he believes will be stricken, but the applicant can clarify some

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## others.

Any other questions for staff before we hear from the applicant?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If the applicant -- there you are. Will the applicant --
(Mr. Leuthold approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address and she'll swear you in.

MR. LEUTHOLD: William Leuthold, 2742
Herschel Street.
I'm here representing the owners.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. LEUTHOLD: (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. LEUTHOLD: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. LEUTHOLD: First, I want to thank you
all for looking at the driveway and the
sidewalk and allowing us to go ahead and make changes to those.

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We made a change to the driveway to meet the condition. And the sidewalks, I just showed photographs that showed that they were definitely substandard, especially the one that is near the street that's falling apart and dangerous.

Was 14 the limewash? Are you now striking the limewash or --

THE CHAIRMAN: So 14 is the sidewalk. 8 and 9 --

MR. LEUTHOLD: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- are the limewash.
MR. LEUTHOLD: So I think we're down to the limewash, is the -- the one issue that we have. And we're still asking that we be allowed to put a limewash. It's a very light coating. It hardly changes the brick at all, but it does give us some protection to that brick and it does allow us to tie the new brick to the old brick better than before.

The owner just told me today that they removed some of the inside of the house, around the front door, recently and found it rotted and moisture damaged. So moisture is getting through the brick.

Where limewash is not a -- the best waterproofer in the world, it is a historic element that's been used for waterproofing for years.

I had a -- you'll see in your information that you were sent from the National Park Service stating that it -- you know, by filling the holes and making the brick a little bit more consistent in its -- in its materials, that the water does not go through it quite as easily. It still allows it to breathe, though, to breathe air out, so -- so it works.

So we're here, really, just to -- to try to get you to allow us to put this very light lime coating on the building.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions for the applicant?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I have a question.
So number 8 is the limewash that's in question. Number 9 is any mortar that needs to be repointed shall adhere to the National Park Service. Is there any mortar that needs to be repointed?

MR. LEUTHOLD: There are a few areas that
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do, yes. There's some -- there was an addition put on the back of the building that -- some holes and some torn up work, and then around the front porch currently, the -- where water runs off the roof, it has eroded some of that mortar.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So then as you said --

MR. LEUTHOLD: And there -- oh, there's some other areas where the shutters were installed, they used little sleeves that are in the brick permanently that we want to pull out. We can --

You know, we'd like to make the house really nice. This is a really nice addition on the house. We want to bring it up to real high standards. And if we can pull that stuff out, and if we can put the limewash on it, it helps conceal that and makes it where the -- the structure will be just the -- the high quality that we want.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So I think it's really just 8 and 14 that are in question, to be stricken.

Any questions for the applicant?
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COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: No?
MR. LEUTHOLD: There are --
THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.
MR. LEUTHOLD: I think the homeowner would like to speak too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. We may call you back up.

MR. LEUTHOLD: Thank you.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address and she'll swear you in.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi .
I'm Leigh Long, 1826 Montgomery Place.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MS. LONG: (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. LONG: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. LONG: So I hope I'm not being repetitive. We moved into the house about five

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1 years ago and was told the house was originally stucco and that the brick was kind of added haphazardly in a way that there were some issues -- the windows are deeply recessed and there's parts of the brick that maybe weren't put on in a way that keeps the rest of the wood elements safe. And there wasn't gutters on the house for a very long time, so the front of the house stayed wet for long periods of time. And some brick masons have said there's been spalling, which I'm not totally familiar with, but I believe is the deterioration of brick in spots.

So there will be a lot of improvement that we'll have to do on the bricks, and we're a little bit concerned on matching the brick, especially when we pull off the portico which has -- inside of our front -- all around our front door is rotten, so that will be have to be pulled off and fixed, and we're a little bit nervous about it looking like an eyesore by trying to match the bricks or fixing holes.

There was a large wood patio in the back and a tiki bar that they attached to the house with huge metal rods that left holes in the

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brick the size of, like, maybe an Oreo. And there's just kind of things all around the house that look like that, so we're hoping that a light coating of limewash would right a wrong, we're hoping, and make it look cohesive and kind of -- we're searching for an historically accurate way to make the house look like it makes sense and kind of not compete with the other historic houses on our street, but if you do compare our brick to some of the other houses there's not a lot of the nice, really -- stonework or archways over the window or, you know, some of the elements that you would expect to find in a hundred-year-old house. So we're kind of hoping this would bring it up to speed with the other houses on our -- on our street, make it look like it belongs a little bit more, I guess.

And there was one house in the historic district that -- it actually happens to be my mother-in-law's house that was approved for limewash. If you're curious about the address, it was 2137 River Boulevard. She also came before this committee, and I don't know which year it was, but was allowed to do a light

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limewash on her house, and it turned out well and we were hoping to get the same approval.

So that's it.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. LONG: You're welcome.
THE CHAIRMAN: Questions of the speaker?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. LONG: Okay. Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else here to speak on this COA?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll close the public
hearing. I'll entertain a motion.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Before I make a motion, I'd like to ask a quick question of staff.

So if we are striking Condition 14 and 8 potentially, do we need to add in an approval for limewash or ...

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, yes. So some language needs to be added in.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think we first need to
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make a motion on the COA and then we can amend it during the discussion.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Sure.
Motion to approve COA-24-30533 at 1826
Montgomery Place, approve with conditions.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion?
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'm personally okay
with striking 14 and 8 from the conditions and
adding in the limewash. I think adding in the
limewash will help the consistency of the
brick. With it not being originally a brick house, I think, plays some part in it, not a huge part, but I do think having an historically accurate restoration of the brick with the limewash -- as long as we can be assured it's a light limewash. We don't want a White House over there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right. Pending staff approval --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: That would
be (inaudible) --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm just going to
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say, this was originally a stucco house. I would be okay with even more of a deeper limewash instead of a light -- just in my opinion, if we're -- if we're telling them that they can do a limewash because it was a stucco house, then -- that's just my thoughts.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the acting chair, I agree with Commissioner Epstein. It looks like -- 8 currently reads, "Limewash shall not be applied to the exterior of the building." You could just eliminate (inaudible).
(Reporter inquiry.)
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: And then it would read, "Limewash shall be applied to the exterior of the building." That might be the easiest way to do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. I, frankly, am -I'm impartial to it also because of the history of limewash being used by the National Park Service. I mean, it has a kind of historic nature in its use. And the evidence of the brick home, the bricks falling, you know, brick chipping off the building because of water entering the brick and making it spall, as well

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as the deterioration that's been found by the owner and the architect, I think it's -- it seems logical and also appropriate historically.

Do I hear an amendment?
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll amend the motion, then.

Amend the motion, COA-24-30533, for 1826 Montgomery Place, striking Condition 14, and revising Condition 8 so that limewash shall be applied to the exterior of the building, a light limewash we're going to call it.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, did you say light limewash? Could you repeat that?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Like a light coating. I think they -- they described it in their report that they wanted to do a light coating, so I'm just reflecting what they're -what they've requested, I guess, is my point.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it's -- the implication is that it not be opaque, that it be translucent.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah, correct.
You can clearly see the red brick through
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it. And I believe that's their intention. But I have seen limewashes where it gets almost -it looks almost painted, and that's not what I think they're after and that's not what we're after, I think, either.

THE CHAIRMAN: So I guess we first need to vote on amending the motion.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: That was unanimous.
I'll now entertain a motion to approve with the amended conditions.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve with the amended conditions.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So this COA -- by your action, you have approved, with the amended conditions, COA-24-30533.

MR. LEUTHOLD: Thank you.
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MS. LONG: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
We have pushed to two hours, so we will take a ten-minute break. I'm sorry, a five-minute break, and then we'll hear the remaining items on the agenda.

Thank you.
(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We're going to call the meeting back to order.

We have three -- we have two COAs left on the agenda and we have an LS, a historic designation. The LS is first on the agenda.

Is the applicant here for the LS? It is LS-23-01, 538 Ellis Road South. The applicant is Sons of Confederate Veterans, Kirby Smith Camp 1209, and they're requesting a landmark designation.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Then we will defer -- let the record reflect that the applicant is not here and we will defer to the next meeting.

So we'll move on to the COAs, Item G on the agenda, and we'll start with COA-24-30488.

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of contention with this application.
So other than that, we are recommending approval, but we do ask that the applicant meet the condition of the 9-over-1 wood grid pattern.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Arimus.
Are there questions for staff from the commissioners?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If not, then we'll hear from the applicant.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Please come forward.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Just state your name and address and she'll swear you in.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Earl Williams, 915 Copeland Street, Jacksonville, 32204.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: (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

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truth?
MR. WILLIAMS: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. WILLIAMS: I would like to thank the Commission for the time and opportunity to request an exception to the window pattern approved for replacing some windows at 907 Copeland Street.

The situation is, I bought this property back in September of '23. And upon purchasing it, I had an inspection done, and the inspection pointed out that 27 windows and the transoms in this particular building needed to be replaced. Because of inefficiencies, some of them are stuck and a lot of things like that.

So I came down in November of '23 from Atlanta and I met with Home Depot and I contracted with them to replace these windows, discussed with the gentleman -- he said he was familiar with the historic site. He showed me some 1-over-1 windows in the area that he had replaced. And so he told me that this would be done by the 15th of January, and so I moved down here on the 15th of January, and come to

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find out that the approval hadn't worked out, it had been denied or whatever, but in the meantime, in November I paid Home Depot \$21,000 to replace these windows, at which time they produced them, and so I -- Home Depot told me that I could come get the windows, but that they weren't going to be able to replace them or whatever.

So anyway, that's the situation I have.
The integrity -- I bought a building, I'm living there, I'm a resident. And I certainly plan on improving -- I bought it, it was overgrown, trashed up. I put \$50,000 just in improving the aesthetics and the overgrowth on the lot, and I just hate to be out of $\$ 21,000$.

I was unaware of the process when I purchased the house. I had no idea that this kind of commission ruled over these properties, and -- yeah, so I -- Home Depot was supposed to be here, but they didn't show, so that's the situation I'm working with.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have any questions for the applicant?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yes, sir. So your only item you're contesting with this approval,

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with conditions, is that you have 1-over-1 windows, but the conditions require 9-over-1 for a majority of them it looks like. That looks to be the issue?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I just wanted to clarify. Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, have you spoken with Home Depot to see if there's a way to apply the 9 -grid on the top portion? I know a lot of times that this is something that can just be added to a window as a, you know, addition.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, ma'am, I have.
And for these particular -- this
particular manufactured window, that's not -that's not possible. It's not possible. I'm sorry.

I'll be honest with you, I apologize for being in this situation, but I look around my neighborhood -- and I've got pictures on my phone of houses I took from my backyard that have 1-over-1 windows. You know, I can -there's a school on College Street that they

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just turned into condos, a real historic building, and they put 1-over-1 windows in that, and I'm just -- I'm just amazed that this is even an issue for a noncontributing property. I apologize for it, but I think from aesthetics, it's going to make the property look a whole lot better. I just -- I'm trying to take a property that has been just demolished and -- well, not demolished, I'm sorry. It's just been -- lipstick put on a pig. I'm just trying to improve it, live there, and enjoy the neighborhood. I'm committed to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.
Any other questions for the applicant?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If we have more questions for you, we'll ask you to come up.

Thank you, sir.
MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone else here to speak on this COA?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: No? Then I'll a entertain motion.

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I'll close the public hearing. I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting chair, I will make a motion to deny
COA-24-30488.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Do you want to deny it or approve it with conditions?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: I apologize.
I would like to make a motion to approve with conditions 24-30488.

MS. LOPERA: The conditions -- sorry. One moment.

Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, the conditions as written in the staff report?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: The conditions as
written in the staff report, yes.
MS. LOPERA: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So we have a
noncontributing structure that is -- was
approved for windows, approved with conditions.
I understand the staff's report and that the
windows that are in the structure are 9-over-1.

But as the applicant has stated, there are also buildings in the district that are contributing that have 1 -over-1, and so I think that -- I just want to restate that position as we begin the discussion.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair to the staff, Arimus, can you talk about -- and I know we just went through all these window revisions and everything, but talk about it being a noncontributing structure. I'm guessing that's because the (inaudible) doesn't fit within -- when they established the overlay, it wasn't 50 years old, being a noncontributing structure and then asking them to maintain a historic attribute of a house that's noncontributing.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, we -- as staff, we struggle with the -- why this was listed as noncontributing because -- because it was built within the period of significance, so the master site file that was done for the property in 1985 didn't really give too much detail regarding what was done to the property to convey its lack of significance.

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If anything, staff was left to surmise that it was because of the addition that was -the one-story addition to the right of the structure. But other than that, it -- in accordance with our design guidelines and our Code criteria, there's an opportunity to bring noncontributing structures closer to a degree of conformance. So that's what we strive towards in our staff reports. And so in terms of a historic grid pattern, that's something that we thought could be preserved on the structure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion? Any comments?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the Chair to staff, I'm just kind of talking off the cuff here, but would there be, hypothetically, an opportunity for -- how many windows on the house are not visible from the street? Would you know off the top of your head?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, we need to count. But just keep in mind, this is a corner lot, so --

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Okay.
MR. WELLS: I need to do some math here.
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COMMISSIONER HOFF: So the majority of the windows are highly visible from the street.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the Chair to staff, does the criteria treat noncontributing and contributing structures the same when it comes to the window regulations?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Glober, it does in regard to window replacements. It doesn't even specify in terms of the contributing status. It just refers to the material itself and whether or not that can be preserved or replaced.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I mean, I will say this: I want to be cognizant of our homeowner here having spent over $\$ 20,000$ put into this property -- or these windows, excuse me.

Maybe the applicant can come back up real quick. Can you come back up?

MR. WILLIAMS: Can I say something real quick? I just want to say something. I actually retired. I lived in Atlanta at the time I bought this house and I retired to move down here to be a part of the community. And if I had known that this was the situation, I really wouldn't have done it. I apologize --

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COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I understand that.
MR. WILLIAMS: -- because I'm really trying to -- I mean, my whole point is to live here and improve the area, and I -- again, from an aesthetics standpoint, when I look around the neighborhood at what's going on, I still see this as an improvement. And again, I got a lot of money invested in this.

I apologize, but --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: A couple of questions.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Home Depot, what have your efforts been to try to get them to either return the windows or possibly, like Commissioner Epstein mentioned, have some sort of way to revise the upper part of the windows to include the muntins? Has there been an effort on that part?

MR. WILLIAMS: There's been a significant effort on that part. And, like I said, I could buy some new windows, but these particular windows, there's nothing that can be done with them in the present state that they're in.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Were these
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custom-made windows or --
MR. WILLIAMS: They were made for the 27 -- they were made for these -- I mean, these are not normal windows.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
MR. WILLIAMS: You know, these are --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah, you can't buy them off the shelf at --

MR. WILLIAMS: No, no, no.
And, again, I went through what I thought was a reputable company in Home Depot. I followed their advice, their direction, everything. I didn't -- it wasn't like I went to Joe Shmoe and tried to back-door some windows.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I understand.
MR. WILLIAMS: I really didn't.
THE CHAIRMAN: So there are two things
here, right? I mean, there's the current
approve with conditions, and there's the request to keep the purchased 1-over-1 windows.
And so we can have some more discussion or we
can have a -- propose an amendment to the
condition to vote, or we can vote on it as it
is.
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COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the acting chair, I just have to think in the age of 3D printing that there is a relatively economic solution to creating the 9 on the top of that -- that maybe the manufacturer can't do, but some other --

THE CHAIRMAN: Third party?
COMMISSIONER HOFF: -- provider could --
THE CHAIRMAN: You know, I hear what you're saying, but -- Commissioner Hoff, but that's highly speculative. But following that thread, if we follow that thread, I think that a potential amendment might be to put it upon the homeowner/applicant to provide written confirmation from Home Depot or the window manufacturer that it's either accepting or not accepting of such a thing.

Right now -- and I'm -- I understand the testimony of the applicant, but I think that that's a -- that's something that would definitely sway me to not consider that on as a condition, right?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: So maybe we would defer this one? We'd give him more time to come back with more information?

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THE CHAIRMAN: I think it's -- I think we need to talk about it a little bit more. I think we might be able to amend the COA to provide some conditions, that it wouldn't have to come back before the Commission, that it could work -- if that couldn't be proven -- if we're okay with the 1-over-1 as have been purchased, if that can't be proven, I think we could provide that -- we could make a stipulation in the COA so that he wouldn't have to come back here, he could just do it administratively.

But I think the big question -- there's two things. The big question is, is the 1-over-1 okay? And we can't -- I mean, please, no disrespect to the owner/applicant, but we really shouldn't be considering it relative to what's purchased and in hand. It's really about what we think is acceptable in the district for a non- -- what is deemed currently as a noncontributing structure in a neighborhood, in a historic district that has both 1-over-1, 9-over-1, other window arrangements, is that okay or not okay for this noncontributing structure?

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were -- if this were clearly a historic structure and it was a contributing structure in the district, I would probably be of a different opinion with the evidence presented.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the acting chair, I agree with you a hundred percent.
This coming up as noncontributing, whether or not that decision was based off of -- you know, maybe it is a historic building, but at the time they decided -- because this is a (inaudible) addition, it's not.
(Reporter inquiry.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm sorry.
To me, it's listed as a noncontributing structure, so, in my mind, it opens a little bit more possibility for updating and not exactly matching what's there, but still matching an historic guideline for the neighborhood, which 1 -over-1 is acceptable.

Looking at some of these photos, there are other window lite patterns that are on that little, wonky addition, 6-over-6, 6-over-1 I believe I saw, so -- I know none of them are 1-over-1, but, in my mind, this coming in as a noncontributing structure, it triggers a

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different judgment for me.
THE CHAIRMAN: More discussion or an amendment?

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the acting chair, I agree with the commissioners. I'm kind of surprised that -- I've been on this commission for a long time, and I'm surprised that we hold the same standard for contributing and noncontributing, and maybe at a later time we can address that if we all agree that that should not be the same standard.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the Chair to Counsel, can I withdraw my motion?

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, my recommendation would be to amend your motion if you're still wanting to approve with certain conditions.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Okay. Through the acting chair, I will amend the motion so that 1-over-1 windows could be acceptable with staff approval.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll put it to the vote.
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All those in favor of the amendment?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment is
unanimously approved.
Someone move it as amended.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I move to vote to
approve the amendment [sic] as amended.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. By your
actions, you have approved with the amended
conditions COA-24-30488, 907 Copeland Street.
Thank you.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I just want to say
as an aside, I'm trying to set up a meeting
with Councilman Jimmy Peluso to establish more
of what the National Park Service does for
contributing and noncontributing structures for
Riverside/Avondale, some of these locations
where it's a moving timeline and not just, at

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this point in time we decide what was historic, because I think that creates a huge problem in all the neighborhoods that come with some things like this.

So if any of the other commissioners would like to join me when I set up that meeting, please let me know.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's awesome.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, I'd just like to remind you, if you --

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you all. Have a good evening.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.
MS. LOPERA: I just want to caution you -that's a great idea, I love the ideas here, but if you are going to meet with other commissioners to discuss issues that could potentially come before the Commission, those meetings do need to be noticed and to properly comply with the Sunshine Law.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I will make sure I do that and tell you about it beforehand.

MS. LOPERA: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So moving on, the next COA is COA-24-30720, 3575 Riverside

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Avenue.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: You saved the best for last.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll open the public hearing.

And we'll hear the staff report first.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.
MR. WELLS: All right. Thank you.
This is application COA-24-30720 for the property located at 3575 Riverside Avenue, which seeks to replace 14 wood windows with a Marvin clad -- wood clad replacement product.

This property is a contributing structure located within the Riverside Avondale Historic District. The structure is a Colonial Revival styled home that could be characterized by its gabled roof, portico with the pediment and square columns, wood clapboard siding, 4-over-1 and 3 -over- 1 windows. Based on our records, few alterations have occurred to the structure throughout the years.

Again, this existing structure has a total of 25 windows, so this a partial window replacement. Three windows, located on the

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left side elevation, towards the front, were already approved under a previous COA, which is COA-20-24258. There are no records indicating that the remaining 22 windows have been replaced or restored.

The 14 windows contemplated for replacement are as follows: So that's six windows located on the front elevation; two windows located on the right side elevation, towards the front; six windows on the left side elevation.

Based on our site visit that was conducted on May 15th, 2024, by staff, we concluded that multiple -- we took multiple photographs and examined the 14 windows proposed for replacement. From our analysis and observation, it was evident that the subject windows are in a repairable condition and would need minor repairs to those window sashes, cords, rails, stiles, muntins, sills, and the one glass pane. Staff did not find any significant damage to the entirety of the windows, such as wood rot, broken glass, or termite damage.

Again, staff has come to the determination
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that, after some reasonable repairs, the windows could be restored. We also could not find anything in the permitting system of the 14 windows -- or wood windows ever being replaced; therefore, we find that the windows -- given the condition of the -- in its current state as gaining historic significance, if not being original to the site itself.

Staff would also like to point out the previous COA, which, again, approved three windows on the structure for replacement. If you compare the pictures from those with the current COA, the degree of deterioration is substantially different. There is evidence of wood rot for the 2020 COA as compared to this one which staff did not find a suitable candidate for replacement.

So based on that, we are obligated to recommend denial for the current COA.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Arimus.
Do we have questions from Commissioners on this for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: No? Then the applicant
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could come up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: And state your name and address and she'll swear you in.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Alicia Grant, 3575 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205.

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

MS. GRANT: (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. GRANT: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. GRANT: So there are 14 windows. I
have -- as the application said, there are 25 windows, three had been replaced with the Marvin windows, which I am proposing. They're high-end Marvin windows which I'm proposing to replace these windows with.

There are -- in spite of what the inspector said, there are four windows that indeed have already been replaced at some point in time. There are three in the kitchen, two

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are 3 -over-1s, one is a 4-over-1, and then there was a jalousie window at one time that was part of a porch that was replaced, and it was also replaced with a 4-over-1, so that remains -- of the 22 windows, 18 that would need to be replaced.

Two of the windows are recessed onto a side porch where the windows are protected, so there's not been any significant damage to them, but 75 percent, or 8 , of those windows of the remaining 14 are not visible from the right-of-way. Six are along the same side of the house that the original three windows were replaced under the COA in '20, and there are two that -- and they're not visible because of the close setback of the houses, a brick wall, and shrubbery. And they're at the back corner of the house from where the original three windows were replaced in '20. They're the remaining six windows on that side of the house.

There are two other windows around the corner of the house. You can see the windows there that are on that porch that are not being replaced. They had been repainted and reglazed

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recently. That window was -- has been replaced. That's a replacement window.

And if you go around the house to the next page, on 7, that is actually a false window that's now behind an oven, but -- that was originally a jalousie window, but it was replaced with a 4-over-1. Those two have been rebuilt and replaced and they were replaced with the 3-over-1s. Those have never been replaced, to my knowledge, and the house is a hundred years old. These are part -- three of the six windows remaining on that side of the house which would be replaced, and they do have damage to them.

I was not at the house when was inspector came by. I was actually in Anchorage, Alaska when she went by the house.

So those windows along this whole side are not visible from the right-of-way. And then -that's two on that same side. So those are the six windows on that side of the house. And then there are two around the front corner of the house, the right corner of the house, which are also partially visible but not totally because there's a chimney there and there's a

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brick wall and there's also shrubbery. So those are part of the eight that are not --
(Timer notification.)
MS. GRANT: -- totally visible.
When I bought this house in 1993, I totally removed all of the windows, had them stripped, glazing redone, rehung. There is -contrary to the staff report, there is weather-stripping inside the windows. I had the metal stripping put in for both the sash -the lower and the upper sash.

The ropes are starting to wear and to break and I'm having to take plumbing shims and shove them up the side of the windows on the top sashes to keep them from dropping down, which they're breaking the locks on the windows and creating air space.

There is no room, because I've got over $\$ 20,000$ on plantation -- custom-made plantation shutters on the inside of the house, which you can see in some of these pictures, that -- that allow only an eighth of an inch to remain between the bottom sash and the framing for the shutters, so there's no room to put an interior storm window.

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Putting an exterior storm window, in my estimation, would be tacky. And I've done that on the first house. This is the third house I've owned in the district. The first house, I had to put storm windows because of the traffic along Park Street. It was impossible to sleep at night, and that was before all of this changed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm so sorry, ma'am, but you're over your three minutes, so could you conclude or -- a couple more sentences.

MS. GRANT: Okay. So you've got the pictures. The windows that can be replaced, 75 percent, they're not visible. The ones that we would -- that would remain would be the six on the front. I think, personally, that the Marvin windows are a high-end product. And you've got a picture on Page 13 of the Marvin windows that were replaced in '20, and they are very crisp looking, they match the exact profile of the original windows, and then --

I mean, I've replaced the windows, I've repaired the windows. I'm not replacing, but I've totally renovated those windows when I first got the house. I've had multiple repairs

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done over the years. I'm tired of replacing and repairing. I just want to get it done in my lifetime.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Do we have any questions for the owner/applicant?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If we have more questions, we'll call you back up.

Thank you.
Is there anyone else here to speak on this COA?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If not, then we'll close the public hearing.

I'll entertain a motion.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Motion to deny COA-24-30720.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
MS. GRANT: Is there any way to break up
the 14 windows so that those that are not
visible will be approved?
THE CHAIRMAN: Ma'am, they will have some
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discussion. We'll have some discussion. We may ask you some more questions.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the acting chair, we see cases like this all the time.
Appreciate the staff's diligence in putting this report together, and I agree with their recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any more discussion?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm not sure what else to say. We've been given a report that the windows are repairable, and it seems like they have been repaired previously in the past. And although that doesn't seem like it lasts forever, which -- you know, those (inaudible) clad windows would last a long time. That's -that's the guideline we're given for the neighborhood. If a window is repairable, then we are supposed to act on that.

I would ask, if we do want to break this into maybe the ones that aren't visible, can we replace those? I don't know if that's something you want to talk about deferring and then work with staff on changing the wording of your request.

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may have to defer to General Counsel on this, but from my understanding, as long as the request is different, they can apply for a different COA to include maybe just the street-visible or non-street-visible window replacements.

THE CHAIRMAN: I see your thinking cap on, Counsel.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the Commission, that's correct. I mean, if you were to deny this today, the applicant would be precluded from making an identical request for one year. However, should the applicant wish to change the request and alter it in some way, which might result in something different, she would be able to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: So it may be -- if the applicant is willing, it may be best to defer this and have a -- at least a bit more discussion before a final vote is made on the situation.

MR. WELLS: Through the acting chair to the Commission, just one thing to note too, the reason why we brought this to you all is not because of the proposed replacement product,

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it's because we are -- we are supportive of the material itself, but the last time you all updated the matrix you stated that you can do like for like or a wood-blend product as long as there's evidence of some reasonable -- it has to be reasonable -- beyond reasonable repair, so that's just something to note if we do decide to replace just the windows on the non-street-visible locations.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the acting chair, I mean, I -- in the staff's report, it says they're repairable and they're not so far beyond that they can't be repaired, so I'm not sure if we defer it for a short amount of time that's going to change. And that's the main issue here. Again, it's not the material that she selected; it sounds like a fine product.

THE CHAIRMAN: And that report, a hundred percent of the windows that are in question, the staff believe are repairable?

MR. WELLS: Through the -- or to the acting chair, correct. That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: That would tell me that we should vote, but I'm open to hear more discussion.

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    Is there any more discussion?
    COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
    THE CHAIRMAN: No? Hearing no more
discussion, all those in favor?
    COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
    THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
    COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
    THE CHAIRMAN: So we have unanimously
denied COA-24-30720.
    On the agenda, we -- I see elections as
    the next item, but should we do information
    first and then hold that to the end or --
    MS. LOPERA: It's up to you. We could do
    it now.
    THE CHAIRMAN: We could also --
    COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the Chair,
we've got one more COA.
    (Simultaneous speaking.)
    COMMISSIONER GLOBER: No?
    THE CHAIRMAN: We did that at the
beginning.
    COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I will point out as
    a matter of order, I think we missed approving
    the May minutes. We didn't ever do that.
        MS. LOPERA: You are correct, Commissioner
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Gregory. We did not approve the minutes.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: The task master
over here, so --
THE CHAIRMAN: So before moving forward --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll make a motion
to approve the minutes from the May 22nd
meeting, 2024.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Let's do elections.
I'll make a motion (inaudible).
(Reporter inquiry.)
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I'm sorry.
THE CHAIRMAN: I'm so sorry. Sir, are you
hear for public comment?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, I was asked to
come on behalf of A Plus Construction, to -- if
they had any questions on our COA.
THE CHAIRMAN: Which --
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Could you please come up to
the podium?

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(Audience member approaches the podium.)
(Discussion held off the record.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Robert White?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, that's correct.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, it was 4850 Moncrief Road; is that the address?

MR. WHITE: Could you --
MS. LOPERA: 4850 Moncrief Road?
MR. WHITE: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: That was approved on the consent agenda, so it was approved as --

MR. WHITE: Okay. They had asked me to come and entertain any questions that you may have, and so I said, okay, I'll come, and --

MS. LOPERA: They didn't have any questions and you're all good.

MR. WHITE: Okay.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Sorry, sir. We could have saved you a couple of hours.

MR. WHITE: I -- three hours listening to people talk about windows.

Story of my life. Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the
Commission, as you know J.C. was replaced by
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our new Commissioner Morgan. As such, we don't have a chair. That position is vacant. Our current -- we have vice chair, Commissioner Montoya, and a secretary, Commissioner Gregory, but if you would like to discuss a chair --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I would like to propose a ballot of -- for election, for Michael Montoya to be the chair, Ethan Gregory to be the vice chair, and William Hoff to be the secretary.

Anybody have any thoughts on that?
COMMISSIONER HOFF: What is the role of the secretary exactly?

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, the secretary would act as chair in the event the chair and the vice chair are not present at the meeting.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Very important role. Okay.

MS. LOPERA: So third in line to succession, essentially.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'm flattered you think of me so highly, Julia.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I just have a lot on my plate. I wouldn't mind -- I love being

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on this commission, I wouldn't mind taking on more of a role, but I'm already the AIA president and --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah, I'm happy to be vice chair, and I fully support Commissioner Montoya as the chair.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there's no further discussion --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Bill, you're okay with secretary?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. The current ballot proposed by Commissioner Epstein, all those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it.
Okay. All that's left now is Section M, information, pending legislation, and Public Works improvement projects.

Arimus.
MR. WELLS: And design issues.
THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, and design issues. I'm sorry.

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MR. WELLS: I'll be quick here with the last two items for information.

So we have pending legislation. So nothing moved at the last Commission meeting.

We do have three pending ordinances. The standing one, which is 2023-0876, that hasn't really changed.

We have Ordinance 2024-0420, so this is for the landmarking of that nonresidential building in the Grand Park neighborhood as a local landmark. That will be going to the Land Use and Zoning Committee on July 16th.

Then we have Ordinance 2024-0471. This is an appeal that's been filed by Springfield SOS. I believe in April -- at the April JHPC meeting, you all approved the demolition of 125 3rd Street East, so that will be going to the Land Use and Zoning Committee and City Council for final action. The date has not been scheduled for that, but just be on the lookout. That should be occurring in the next City Council cycle.
(Ms. Lopera exits the proceedings.)
MR. WELLS: For Public Works improvement projects, they have submitted a list of pending

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1 projects, so it mainly pertains to hardscape, apron so they could park a car here and then

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just not really mess with their driveway.
So from an initial standpoint, staff was pushing back and saying you need to preserve the historic pattern, the setting, and et cetera, but we are seeing an uptick in these requests, so we just wanted to get your feedback and -- especially when there's nothing really within the area.

Some applicants are -- they're trying to -- they're referencing other structures and other properties that -- mainly multifamily that have that wider driveway of some sort, but we just wanted some thoughts on it.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, if you're -- from the picture you're showing us here, I don't want to see people's front yards turn into parking lots or just driveways that lead into their house. I'm not sure what's being proposed by some of these people, but that would be out of character.

And multifamily is a little different.
Who knows what was done in the past at some of these homes before it was designated a historic district, but just -- from what you're showing me right here, like -- if you turn that

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front -- on the right-of-way there, essentially, into a parking lot, I think that would be bad for the community and the character of the neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: While we're on the subject, you know, you're going down Pine Street here, I think we have an enforcement issue as well because all of these driveways are full concrete driveways as opposed to the ones with the ribbon pattern with the -- either grass or paver or brick going down the middle.

So it's just -- it's tough for me to sit on this commission and tell people no or penalize people that have done certain things and -- I live one block away from here and I would like to redo my own driveway, and I just think about -- I'm walking around and everyone's got a concrete driveway, so --

And I agree with what Commissioner Gregory was saying, but just while we're at it, I mean, we're not very consistent at all when it comes to driveways.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, as you are now officially the Chair, I think allowing someone to make their apron wider to

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allow an additional parking space is a terrible idea, absolutely terrible. I'll say that louder so you can hear.

Using a multifamily building as a precedent for the fabric that is more of single-family residential, single driveways is a terrible idea. I don't think we should allow anybody to use that as a precedent to set here.

Just allowing people to start parking cars perpendicularly to their homes is just icky.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Is that a technical term, "icky"?

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: I think the key word was -from Commissioner Epstein was "terrible," I think that was --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Terrible, yeah.
COMMISSIONER HOFF: I recall being at an
HPC meeting a long time ago where the possibility of parking pads was also discussed and ultimately, you know, thought that that was not a good idea for the same reasons.

These historic areas just kind of naturally emphasize pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and streetscapes, and widening

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driveways is not typically a part of that.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Yes. The more cars
that you present in an area, the more people aren't going to feel comfortable with walking. Everybody lives in these urban areas to walk around. I know this is America; everybody has got, like, 10 cars and 10 trucks and everything, but that's one of the joys of living in a historic district, is that -there's the walkability, and I think to apply more parking spaces, more availability for people to drive and park around these areas is just going to take away the pedestrian-friendly feel of the neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And if you want some more clarification, if they're adding, like, a foot wider, I mean, that's something that could be considered. You know, we're not so -- too hard on that, I guess I would say. But if you're asking for a whole other parking space, that's a different thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: It's turning the (inaudible) street parking.

MR. WELLS: Exactly.
So there was a -- this isn't the exact
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property, but there was a parking space here that was clearly delineated and marked and they wanted to remove that and add -- expand their apron so they could park literally right here instead of queuing their cars and all that, stacking them --

THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, it ultimately comes down to a consensus on what we consider the urban fabric to be in each particular district, historic district. And I think that's part of our -- this is part of our charge, to steward that, right? We have to -- as commissioners and Historic preservation, the staff, we have to protect that. It's about the integrity of our historic districts.

I think it's legitimate to consider these kinds of things, but I think that it comes down to the -- what we consider the real structure of the urban fabric.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I have no problem considering anything anybody wants to bring to us. I think we're all reasonable people, but no.

THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, the other thing is -- I think this does bring to our

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attention -- things are shifting. ADUs are becoming much more prominent. There are -- a lot of these single-family homes are really, essentially, multifamily, at least, you know, a mother-in-law suite or -- like accessory dwelling units, things are shifting, the patterns are shifting. There are more cars in the neighborhoods because of that.

And it is a -- it is something that -ultimately, I think it's going to have to be addressed, especially in Riverside and Avondale where the streets are so narrow. We basically have to drive (inaudible). I think that's a -if Chris LaDew were still here, I think that would be something he could chime in on.

MR. WELLS: The (inaudible) part about it is (inaudible) recommended approval.
(Reporter inquiry.)
MR. WELLS: You recommended approval. Sorry.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: That's interesting.
I wouldn't think the City would want the easement of this adjusted that much. I wouldn't have thought that they would have allowed that approval.

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THE CHAIRMAN: From a traffic engineer's standpoint, you could understand it, addressing a problem with a solution, but I don't think that's considering the urban nature of the historic district. (Inaudible.) That's our charge.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I think this -especially because in -- you know, this happens so close to the -- Riverside/Avondale, you get flooding with a lot of rain, and I would think maintaining the curb as much as you can to get flood waters out and away from homes and away from parking spaces and everything would be a main priority here. And changing the easement, changing the curb, allowing a lot more curb-cuts for water to kind of rest and find its home away from the drainage would be a terrible idea also.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I think we're all in agreement here.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: (Inaudible.)
MR. WELLS: Well, that helps a lot, so --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: (Inaudible) about how terrible (inaudible).

MR. WELLS: All right. Thank you all.
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