

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (LPA)/
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, COMMENCING AT 6:03 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Eibi Aizenstat, Chairman
Luis Revuelta
Venny Torre
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Claudia Miro
Alex Bucelo

City Staff and Consultants:

Ramon Trias, Planning Director
Jill Menendez, Administrative Assistant, Board Secretary
Jennifer Garcia, City Planner
Arceli Redila, Principal Planner
Craig Collier, Special Counsel

Also Participating:

Joe Jimenez, Esq., on behalf of Items E-1 through E-5

1 THEREUPON:

2 (The following proceedings were held.)

3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I would like to call
4 the meeting to order. I'd like to ask
5 everybody to please silence their phones and
6 beepers at this time, if they still have
7 beepers.

8 MR. TORRE: Is that in the script or you
9 made that up?

10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No, I didn't make that
11 up.

12 MS. MIRO: Beepers?

13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Good evening. This
14 Board is comprised of seven members. Four
15 Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum,
16 and the affirmative vote of four members shall
17 be necessary for the adoption of any motion.
18 If only four members of the Board are present,
19 an applicant may request and be entitled to a
20 continuance to the next regularly scheduled
21 meeting of the Board. If a matter is continued
22 due to a lack of quorum, the Chairperson or
23 Secretary of the Board may set a Special
24 Meeting to consider such a matter. In the
25 event that four votes are not obtained, an

1 applicant may request a continuance or allow
2 the application to proceed to the City
3 Commission without a recommendation.

4 Pursuant to Resolution Number 2021-118, the
5 City of Coral Gables has returned to
6 traditional in-person meetings. Accordingly,
7 any individual wishing to provide sworn
8 testimony shall be present physically in the
9 City Commission Chambers. However, the
10 Planning & Zoning Board has established the
11 ability for the public to provide comments,
12 non-sworn and without evidentiary value,
13 virtually. Accordingly, only individuals who
14 wish to provide public comment in this format
15 may appear and provide these comments via Zoom.

16 Lobbyist Registration, any person who acts
17 as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral
18 Gables Ordinance Number 2006-11 must register
19 with the City Clerk prior to engaging in
20 lobbying activities or presentations before
21 City Staff, Boards, Committees and/or the City
22 Commission. A copy of the Ordinance is
23 available in the Office of the City Clerk.
24 Failure to register and provide proof of
25 registration shall prohibit your ability to

1 present to the Board.

2 As Chair, I now officially call the City of
3 Coral Gables Planning & Zoning Board meeting of
4 March 9th, 2022 to order. The time is 6:03.

5 Jill, please call the roll.

6 THE SECRETARY: Robert Behar?
7 Alex Bucelo?

8 MR. BUCELO: Here.

9 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?

10 MS. MIRO: Here.

11 THE SECRETARY: Luis Revuelta?

12 Venny Torre?

13 MR. TORRE: Here.

14 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?

15 MR. WITHERS: Here.

16 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?

17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Here.

18 I'd like to ask, Robert Behar had a medical
19 reason that he's not here, and I'd like for him
20 -- to ask the Board if it's okay for him to be
21 excused. Thank you.

22 Notice Regarding Ex Parte Communications,
23 please be advised that this Board is a
24 quasi-judicial board, which requires Board
25 Members to disclose all ex parte communication

Page 5

1 and site visits. An ex parte communication is
 2 defined as any contact, communication,
 3 conversation, correspondence, memorandum or
 4 other written or verbal communication that
 5 takes place outside of a public hearing between
 6 a member of the public and a member of a
 7 quasi-judicial board regarding matters to be
 8 heard by the Board. If anyone made any contact
 9 with a Board Member regarding an issue before
 10 the Board, the Board Member must state on the
 11 record the existence of the ex parte
 12 communication and the party who originated the
 13 communication. Also, if a Board Member
 14 conducted a site visit specifically related to
 15 the case before the Board, the Board Member
 16 must disclose such visit. In either case, the
 17 Board Member must state on the record whether
 18 the ex parte communication and/or site visit
 19 will affect the Board Member's ability to
 20 impartially consider the evidence to be
 21 presented during the matter. The Board Member
 22 should also state that his or her decision will
 23 be based on substantial competent evidence and
 24 testimony presented on the record today.
 25 Does any Board Member have such a

Page 7

1 message to Jill Menendez stating which item you
 2 would like to speak before the Board and
 3 include your full name. Jill will call you
 4 when it's your turn. I'd ask you to be
 5 concise, for the interest of time.
 6 Phone platform participants, after Zoom
 7 platform participants are done, I will also ask
 8 phone participants to comment on tonight's
 9 agenda items. I will ask you to be concise,
 10 for the interest of time.
 11 Tonight, we don't have any approval of
 12 minutes.
 13 The procedure we will use tonight is,
 14 first, the identification of agenda item by Mr.
 15 Coller, presentation by Staff, then
 16 presentation by applicant or agent. I'll go
 17 ahead and open it for public comment, first in
 18 Chamber, then Zoom participants and the phone
 19 line participants. I will then close for
 20 public comment. We'll have Board discussion,
 21 motion, any further discussion, and a second of
 22 the motion, if necessary, we'll have the
 23 Board's final comments and vote. Thank you.
 24 Mr. Coller, would you read the first item?
 25 MR. COLLER: Okay.

Page 6

1 communication and/or site visit to disclose at
 2 this time?
 3 Swearing in, normally I would ask anybody
 4 in the audience -- do attorney needs to be
 5 sworn in, also?
 6 MR. JIMENEZ: I may also be a fact witness.
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Swearing in,
 8 everyone who speaks this evening must complete
 9 the roster at the podium. For the record, we
 10 do not have any individuals, outside of the
 11 applicant, here tonight. We ask that you print
 12 clearly, so the official record of your name
 13 and address will be correct.
 14 Now, with the exception of attorneys, all
 15 persons physically in the City Commission
 16 Chambers, who will speak on agenda items before
 17 us this evening, please rise to be sworn in.
 18 MR. COLLER: Staff, also.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Staff also, please, if
 20 you would rise. Thank you.
 21 (Thereupon, the participants were sworn.)
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 23 Zoom platform participants, I will ask any
 24 person wishing to speak on tonight's agenda
 25 item to please open your chat and send a direct

Page 8

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 2 MR. COLLER: There are five items
 3 applicable to this particular project, so I'm
 4 going to read all five items in, we'll have one
 5 hearing, and then we'll have separate votes on
 6 each agenda item.
 7 Item E-1, an Ordinance of the City
 8 Commission of Coral Gables approving the
 9 vacation of a public alleyway pursuant to
 10 Zoning Code Article 14, "Process," Section
 11 14-211, "Abandonment and Vacations" and City
 12 Code Chapter 62, Article 8, "Vacation,
 13 Abandonment and Closure of Streets, Easements
 14 and Alleys by Private owners and the City;
 15 Application Process," providing for the
 16 vacation of the east-west public alleyway lying
 17 between lots 1-12 and lots 35-46, Block 10,
 18 Coral Gables Crafts Section, according to the
 19 plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 10, Page 40
 20 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County,
 21 Florida; providing for substitute perpetual
 22 access and utility easement, setting forth
 23 terms and conditions; providing for an
 24 effective date.
 25 Item E-2, an Ordinance of the City

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing 2 for a Text Amendment to the City of Coral 3 Gables Zoning Code by amending Appendix A, 4 "Site Specific Zoning Regulations," Section 5 A-36, "Crafts Section," by removing the number 6 of stories and height limitations for the 7 property legally described as Lots 1-12 and 8 lots 35-46, Block 10, Coral Gables Crafts 9 Section, Coral Gables, Florida; providing for a 10 repealer provision, severability clause, 11 codification, and providing for an effective 12 date.</p> <p>13 Item E-3, an Ordinance of the City 14 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida granting 15 approval of a Planned Area Development (PAD) 16 pursuant to Zoning Code Article 14, "Process," 17 Section 14-206, "General Procedures for Planned 18 Area Development" for a mixed-use project 19 referred to as "Regency Tower" on property 20 legally described as Lots 1-12 and lots 35-46 21 including the public alleyway lying in between, 22 Block 10, and lots 1-4, Block 15, Coral Gables 23 Crafts Section, which is 290, 272, 250, 244 24 Valencia Avenue, 247,297 Almeria Avenue, and 25 2701 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, Florida;</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 including required conditions, providing for a 2 repealer provision, severability clause and 3 providing for an effective date.</p> <p>4 Item E-4, a Resolution of the City 5 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida approving 6 receipt of Transfer of Development Rights 7 (TDRs) pursuant to Zoning Code Article 14, 8 "Process," Section 14-204.6, "Review and 9 approval of use of TDRs on receiver sites," for 10 the receipt and use of TDRs for the Mixed-Use 11 project referred to as "Regency Tower", on 12 property legally described as Lots 1-12 and 13 lots 35-46 including the public alleyway lying 14 in between, Block 10, Coral Gables Crafts 15 Section, Coral Gables, Florida; including 16 required conditions; providing for a repealer 17 provision, severability clause, and providing 18 for an effective date.</p> <p>19 Item E-5, a Resolution of the City 20 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida granting 21 approval for Conditional Use Mixed-Use Site 22 Plan pursuant to Zoning Code Section 2-200 23 "Mixed-Use Districts" for a mixed-use project 24 referred to as "Regency Towers" on property 25 legally described as Lots 1-12 and lots 35-46</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 including the public alleyway lying between, 2 Block 10, and lots 1-4, Block 15, Coral Gables 3 Crafts Section, Coral Gables, Florida; 4 including required conditions; providing for a 5 repealer provision, severability clause, and 6 providing for an effective date.</p> <p>7 Items E-1 through E-5, public hearing. 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, sir. 9 Mr. Trias. 10 MR. TRIAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 11 May I have the PowerPoint, please? 12 The Regency Tower, as the City Attorney 13 explained so clearly, has five requests. This 14 is fairly typical of this large mixed-use 15 projects. There are multiple things that need 16 to be done. And I'll try to explain them 17 briefly, and then the Applicant has a more 18 extensive presentation for you.</p> <p>19 The site includes about half of the block, 20 that is -- I'm sorry -- bound by Salzedo, 21 Valencia and Almeria, and then another parcel 22 that is on the other side of Almeria. So the 23 whole area is within the PAD, and the 24 building -- the mixed-use building is on the 25 northern half of that parcel, and then the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 small parcel south of Almeria is to be a park. 2 That is, in general, the concept.</p> <p>3 Now, in terms of the Future Land Use and 4 the Zoning, they are MX2 and MX3, and the 5 Future Land Use is properly designated also for 6 this type of project.</p> <p>7 The alley vacation, as you can see, the 8 gray area is being vacated, and then the blue 9 is an alternative design for the circulation, 10 and the yellow remains as an alley.</p> <p>11 There's also, in this area, as you well 12 know, a Site Specific that limits the number of 13 stories and the height. This project is a PAD, 14 and is designed to be 18 stories and 204 feet 15 high and 6 inches. You had a chance to review 16 the amendment to the Zoning Code and the Comp 17 Plan that dealt with those issues last time, 18 and this is the project that could take 19 advantage of -- one of the projects that could 20 take advantage of that amendment. So the 21 elimination of that Site Specific would allow 22 the 18 stories and 204 feet in this site.</p> <p>23 The PAD, as you well know, it requires one 24 acre. They have more than an acre. It 25 requires 200 feet of width, a hundred feet of</p>

Page 13

1 depth, and one of the benefits is that it
 2 requires additional open space. So that is one
 3 of the reasons why the Applicant is proposing a
 4 park, plus many improvements along the
 5 sidewalk, that include landscape, et cetera,
 6 and they'll explain that in detail.
 7 Request Number 3 is a TDR, Transfer of
 8 Development Rights, and by that -- the
 9 practical effect of that is that the FAR of the
 10 project can go up to 4.375. There's some minor
 11 issues that are not completely resolved yet,
 12 because that applies to the area in the Central
 13 Business District, and this is a small area, as
 14 I said before, that is outside of the Central
 15 Business District, but I believe that that can
 16 be resolved prior to the First Reading by the
 17 Commission.
 18 The request -- the other request that we
 19 have is the Conditional Use for the Site Plan,
 20 which deals with the design issues, and as you
 21 can see, at the ground level, there's a
 22 courtyard in the building, there's landscape
 23 along the sidewalks, there's that park in the
 24 lower area of the image. So there are many,
 25 many very good, very interesting futures, from

Page 15

1 MR. JIMENEZ: Good evening, Mr. Chair,
 2 Members of the Board. Joe Jimenez, Executive
 3 Vice-President and General Counsel for Codina
 4 Partners, address at 2020 Salzedo Street, here
 5 in Coral Gables.
 6 First of all, I'd like to thank you for
 7 having me here. I know that I've been before
 8 you on a different item that didn't pertain
 9 specifically to me, but that we've always been
 10 open about us intending to apply under, and
 11 that is the Ordinance that you considered the
 12 last time you met and that Ramon mentioned
 13 today.
 14 So if I could please have the PowerPoint
 15 that we provided. I'll take you through a
 16 brief presentation, and obviously I'm here for
 17 any questions.
 18 In order to fully understand this project,
 19 I think it's important to understand the
 20 history of the project. This is not a
 21 standalone building that just came up with an
 22 idea and everything else. This is a year's
 23 long process, between three different property
 24 owners, including the City, that involves four
 25 different properties throughout Downtown.

Page 14

1 an urban design point of view, that the
 2 Applicant will explain in more detail.
 3 The Site Plan information, it shows you
 4 that the project is less than a hundred -- or
 5 is a hundred units per acre, as allowed by the
 6 proposed language in the new Zoning Code, and
 7 parking is provided in the -- provided and
 8 there are 18 stories in height.
 9 The conceptual renderings are here for your
 10 information. The project was reviewed by the
 11 Board of Architects and was awarded Med Bonus
 12 Level 2.
 13 And the review time line include the DRC in
 14 October, the Board of Architects multiple
 15 times, as most projects this size do, the
 16 Neighborhood Meeting that is required, and
 17 Planning & Zoning tonight. Letters were sent
 18 to property owners within a thousand feet twice
 19 and there were three postings at the property,
 20 and three website postings and one newspaper
 21 advertisement.
 22 Staff recommends approval, with the
 23 conditions, and after the presentation, we
 24 could discuss the details.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

Page 16

1 Those four properties are put here.
 2 The Sofia, at 2020 Salzedo, which you see
 3 on the left of the screen, is our current
 4 building, and it is the end -- the north end of
 5 the Central Business District. It's a
 6 mixed-use development, with an office building
 7 and an apartment building, restaurant and
 8 office on the ground floor. At the time that
 9 we built that, we had -- we owned the lot
 10 caddy-corner to us. And that wound up in a
 11 swap, with the City, for the Public Safety
 12 Building, as it used to exist, in order to
 13 build the new Public Safety Building, and then
 14 Mercedes got involved, so why the swap.
 15 And I'll let you know, as we started, this
 16 was the site that we originally controlled,
 17 just to the west -- excuse me, just to the east
 18 of the Sofia. We had fully intended to build
 19 basically a Phase 2 to the Sofia, fewer units,
 20 that fit on the site, but that we could
 21 co-manage with the Sofia, making it perfect to
 22 share amenities, share management. It was just
 23 a good business deal.
 24 Right there, as you can see, to the south
 25 of it was the "L" at grade parking lot that the

Page 17

1 City owned. This was going to be our plan,
 2 surrounded by the City parking lot at grade.
 3 It was a permit lot used for the surrounding
 4 businesses to park their employees and anybody
 5 else who wanted a monthly parking.
 6 So the City came to us and said, hey,
 7 listen, if we combine our lots, we can square
 8 this off, build a new Public Safety Building,
 9 and build a new needed municipal parking garage
 10 on what you see as the non-rectangular piece of
 11 that site.
 12 I think you all know what happened
 13 eventually. Now you have the Public Safety
 14 Building. It's caddy-corner to our office. We
 15 traded. We were going to get the Public Safety
 16 building. The City was able to stay in the old
 17 Public Safety Building all the while, because
 18 it's impossible to move all of that,
 19 considering that Public Works is outside of the
 20 City of Coral Gables. Emergency Management and
 21 everybody else was never going to be able to
 22 stay. We said, "Build it. Go ahead." We
 23 stayed there. We struck a deal. We traded,
 24 essentially, and waited for them to finish.
 25 In the meantime, since we knew we were

Page 19

1 Public Safety Building on, but now another
 2 building that is refurbished and beautifying
 3 Downtown Coral Gables.
 4 So, now as the can keeps getting kicked
 5 down the road, we wind up with the current
 6 Mercedes used car lot. These are the two lots
 7 in comparison to each other. So we move a
 8 couple of blocks to the north. As Ramon said,
 9 now we are inside the CBD. It also comes with
 10 that little lot on Almeria, which has currently
 11 a 1,200 square foot little office building,
 12 surrounded by at grade parking of about maybe
 13 10 or 11 cars. This is where we are proposing
 14 Regency Tower, that Ramon took you through.
 15 The reason that I bring all of this up is
 16 because, especially to a Planning Board, I
 17 think it's important for the history to be,
 18 this is not one project that we think does
 19 improve Downtown Coral Gables. It's about
 20 three projects that have, objectively speaking,
 21 at least the other two, improved Coral Gables.
 22 You have a decades long corporate citizen, that
 23 is now re-investing in the site and beautifying
 24 a headquarter. You have a vastly upgraded
 25 municipal Emergency Management, Emergency

Page 18

1 going to acquire this, we were approached by
 2 Mercedes. Now, you don't -- this doesn't
 3 require your memory. This, you know it now,
 4 the at grade Mercedes used car lot is a very
 5 intense use. They've been there for I think
 6 it's fifty, sixty years. And between the
 7 deliveries and the cars being parked and
 8 everything else, it was a very intense use.
 9 There's no parking on that site, so the
 10 employees are parking all over the
 11 neighborhood, and Mercedes wanted to be a good
 12 corporate neighbor and said, "Wow, this is
 13 actually a perfect solution, because what we
 14 can do is, you guys are going to tear this
 15 building down. It's got a 400-car garage.
 16 It's got what we can turn into a showroom.
 17 It's got everything we need to have a better
 18 facility for our site. So why don't we now
 19 trade?"
 20 So even before we acquired the Public
 21 Safety Building, we entered into a deal with
 22 Mercedes to trade. Now they own this, and this
 23 is what they've planned. This is what they're
 24 in for the City. So now it's a second site.
 25 Not only the at grade lot the City put its

Page 20

1 Services Building, Public Safety Building, and
 2 now we plan to provide a use that, quite
 3 frankly, does not exist in Coral Gables, to my
 4 knowledge, does not exist in Miami-Dade County.
 5 So Ramon took you as to why we're here.
 6 I'm not going to -- some of it is
 7 extraordinarily simple. The site consist of
 8 1.74 acres. It is up to 174 units. I will
 9 tell you now, that is -- for an entitlement
 10 purpose, I think our last Site Plan put us at
 11 about 145, 150. There's over 20,000 square
 12 feet of open space, the courtyard, the loggias
 13 and obviously the park across the street. We
 14 intend to have world class dining, and all I
 15 ask of you is to look at our track record.
 16 Antonio Bachour is established as the greatest
 17 pastry chef in the world. Armando Codina --
 18 I'd be remised if I didn't repeat his joke,
 19 that he chased Antonio Bachour more than he
 20 chased his wife. So he intends to chase an
 21 equally -- and we've got somebody that we're
 22 already talking to for world class dining,
 23 commensurate with this building, and as our
 24 public benefit, we worked with Mercedes to
 25 acquire this lot, and upon approval, this will

Page 21

1 be dedicated as a 10,000 square foot municipal
 2 urban pocket park, which I will tell you, I
 3 lived in the Sofia for four years. I have two
 4 young daughters, who were younger when I lived
 5 there, and I would have really enjoyed a pocket
 6 park, because if it wasn't for the lot on
 7 Minorca and Salzedo, that's -- excuse me,
 8 Majorca and Salzedo, which is private property,
 9 and luckily nobody presses charges, that's
 10 where I could play Frisbee with my kids and
 11 throw it around and let the dog run around.
 12 So, this, I personally believe, and I would
 13 have benefited from it myself, is an excellent
 14 amenity to Downtown, and I hope to see more of
 15 this come around as more residents move into
 16 the area.

17 As Ramon mentioned, the alley, it's a
 18 simple request. It's happened throughout
 19 Downtown Coral Gables. It runs straight
 20 through. What this does not shows you is that
 21 this alley on the east side "Ts" behind
 22 Anthony's Coal Fired and Canton, so it runs
 23 east-west, as you see, but then the means of
 24 egress and ingress are going north and south,
 25 to Valencia and Almeria. We propose to bring

Page 23

1 then, about roughly a 1,500 square foot office
 2 on the corner of Valencia and Salzedo.

3 As you go along Almeria, the valet car
 4 court is there, with a valet holding area,
 5 which will -- that, we intend to be one of the
 6 entrances to the restaurant, so we would keep
 7 all of that internalized. As you see, the
 8 alley coming in from the right of the screen,
 9 from the east to the west, the loading dock is
 10 also internalized to allow services to the
 11 building to not affect neighboring streets, and
 12 then continue north and exit onto Valencia.

13 Just the floor plans, and I'll take you
 14 through them very briefly, the Mezzanine is
 15 nothing but storage lockers and the garage.
 16 This is purposely intended for the style of
 17 unit that we're going for, which I'll take you
 18 more through later. We do feel that storage
 19 will be an important amenity to these
 20 residents.

21 There's the typicals two through six, as
 22 you can see, on the same level as the garage,
 23 as the floors go. The courtyard is open to
 24 below for those units facing the interior of
 25 the building. Once you get to the pool deck,

Page 22

1 it as -- to vacate the west portion of it,
 2 grant the City an easement to turn it to the
 3 north, and exit onto Valencia.

4 The open space, it's well-established we
 5 far exceed everything that the City Code
 6 requires. Obviously, a lot of that has to do
 7 with the park, but that is not the only thing
 8 that we are relying on. Our courtyard, if you
 9 are familiar with the building at the Sofia,
 10 this courtyard is approximately twice the size,
 11 maybe a little less, but right in that
 12 ballpark. There's much more green space on the
 13 west side of this building than there is at the
 14 Sofia or 2020 Salzedo. And all of this, we
 15 would like admitted, just to show compliance
 16 with the Zoning Code.

17 Our ground floor plan for a Mixed-Use down
 18 at the bottom of that screen, on the bottom
 19 left-hand corner, we have approximately a 5,000
 20 square foot restaurant. As you move north, we
 21 have a co-working space, that can be used by
 22 both, the residents of the building and any
 23 guest that come in from the outside. The
 24 entrance, as you go further north, some inner
 25 office -- inner building logistical areas, and,

Page 24

1 we have two pools, a lap pool and a regular
 2 pool, cabanas throughout, green space, as well
 3 as a fitness center and a clubhouse on the pool
 4 deck.

5 As you go up the tower, eight through
 6 thirteen, again, much larger units than are
 7 currently on the market. To put it in
 8 perspective, the Sofia has an average of 950
 9 square foot units and it's 200 and some odd
 10 units. The smallest unit in this building is
 11 in the neighborhood of 1,300 feet, the largest
 12 being in the neighborhood of about 10,000
 13 square feet.

14 As we go up to the higher floors, as the
 15 last floor of the step backs, these two patios
 16 here would have above ground gardens, would
 17 have a yoga area, outdoor barbecues, a Zen
 18 garden and other amenities that would service
 19 the higher floors, starting at floor fourteen,
 20 fifteen through seventeen -- fourteen through
 21 the penthouse, or what we call the sky homes.
 22 At the moment -- and as I told you -- we're
 23 asking for 174 units. That is very much up to
 24 174. At the moment, some of these floors -- at
 25 least one of them, for sure, and probably two,

Page 25

1 aside from the penthouse, will be one unit per
 2 floor. So that floor plate is in the
 3 neighborhood of 10,000, 11,000 square feet.
 4 The goal of this building, and this is why
 5 I was saying I didn't -- I don't think
 6 hyperbolically that this isn't something found
 7 -- when we talk about right sizing, how we're
 8 putting it is what some people mistakenly, I
 9 think, call downsizing. If you have an eight,
 10 9,000 square foot house, on an acre and a half,
 11 on the water, you're not moving into a 1,300
 12 square foot apartment. I lived in a 1,300
 13 square foot apartment. I loved it. I didn't
 14 have that house.
 15 If we can get these people to get out of
 16 those homes that they may no longer need, the
 17 kids are gone, they're advancing in age, and
 18 get into -- this is a rental building, this is
 19 not a condo. This will be professionally
 20 managed. This is not going to be managed by a
 21 condo association, with potential conflicts and
 22 everything else. This is a professionally
 23 managed building, that something -- that now is
 24 a right touch. It's something that you do see
 25 in other cities. It's something you see in

Page 27

1 to the north and the south. The image that you
 2 see on the left of your screen, the reason
 3 there's a dog there is because that would be a
 4 dog spa for the building, not a retail dog spa.
 5 It would be one managed by the building. So
 6 we're able to not only put in a covered paseo,
 7 but actually be able to activate it, as well,
 8 with building amenities that would also be
 9 available to the general public.
 10 And I took you through that, just in
 11 respect for your time, but I know that this
 12 Board typically is engaged and has questions,
 13 so obviously I am happy to answer any that you
 14 may have.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 16 What I want to do, just, Jill, let me ask
 17 you a question, how many people do we have on
 18 Zoom that want to speak?
 19 THE SECRETARY: We have two, but they
 20 haven't indicated they wish to speak.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Let's go ahead
 22 and wait a little bit, then, to close. So does
 23 anybody have any questions of --
 24 MR. WITHERS: I do.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Could you turn your

Page 26

1 cities like New York, where you have the large
 2 penthouses, you have the larger units, that I'm
 3 simply not aware of here, to this level, and
 4 certainly not in a rental -- in the rental
 5 market.
 6 And, then, obviously, the penthouse, being
 7 the last floor, and I think that plate is about
 8 8,000 square feet, with balconies on both
 9 sides.
 10 Again you've seen the renderings of the
 11 building. We've addressed the issues, as Ramon
 12 mentioned. We have gotten approval from the
 13 Board of Architects not only for the
 14 Mediterranean Bonuses, but also for design. A
 15 lot of that -- a lot of the changes that they
 16 had us do are here and we sincerely believe
 17 that a lot of those comments made it a better
 18 project.
 19 From the front, from the street, to show
 20 the activation, this is looking to the north,
 21 along the loggia on Salzedo, that would be the
 22 restaurant. Looking to the south, the
 23 interruption that you see is the lobby going
 24 in. The loggia goes around it, and the paseo,
 25 on the east side of the building, looking both,

Page 28

1 mike on, please?
 2 MR. WITHERS: So how does the park swap
 3 work? Obviously, that's counted in that 25
 4 percent PAD requirement.
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: It's not a swap. It's not a
 6 swap. It's a gift.
 7 MR. WITHERS: I'm sorry, either one. I
 8 don't care who answers.
 9 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, Mr. Withers --
 10 MR. WITHERS: Because you mentioned that --
 11 I thought you said that it helped with
 12 compliance on the green space.
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: It does help with compliance
 14 on the green space. A PAD, under the City
 15 Code, is permitted to have multiple ownership.
 16 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 17 MR. JIMENEZ: So that park is part of the
 18 PAD.
 19 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: And we will deed it to the
 21 City to be managed municipally, programmed
 22 municipally. It will just always be deed
 23 restricted to be part of the PAD.
 24 MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman -- I'm sorry,
 25 Mr. Withers, the Condition of Approval will

1 have to be updated --
 2 MR. WITHERS: Okay. Okay. That was my
 3 question. Okay. I got that squared away.
 4 Okay. So the City will -- they'll be some
 5 kind of deed restricting -- unless the City
 6 releases you from that requirement, that park
 7 will belong to the City, but it will be
 8 controlled, because it's inside the PAD, by
 9 some kind of warranty deed or --
 10 MR. JIMENEZ: To put it on the record,
 11 Mr. Withers, Mercedes --
 12 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: -- the Ussery family and the
 14 current Mercedes ownership are the ones that
 15 sold us that site.
 16 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 17 MR. JIMENEZ: On the condition that it be
 18 deed restricted for a park. So it's not
 19 something that we can even restrict. They
 20 wanted -- they're happy to donate something to
 21 the City --
 22 MR. WITHERS: Okay. So that was part of
 23 that deal.
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: -- but it's a park. It's a park.
 25 MR. WITHERS: Okay. So did we ever look at

1 THE SECRETARY: No. They have not
 2 requested to speak.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So having nobody -- we
 4 don't have anybody in Chambers that wants to
 5 speak, so at this time I'm going to go ahead
 6 and close it for public comment, and open it up
 7 to the Board.
 8 MR. TORRE: I had a couple of questions --
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Venny. Sure.
 10 MR. TORRE: -- just to understand it a
 11 little bit more.
 12 So I'm happy with your project and I think
 13 it's a great asset and I appreciate what you've
 14 done. It's really well done.
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you.
 16 MR. TORRE: A couple of things, just to
 17 make sure that the future -- and I know you
 18 have it all figured out. One thing, the dog
 19 spa, as you walk through, is this for an
 20 amenity to the building or is it for lease to
 21 the public, the dog spa?
 22 MR. JIMENEZ: The plan right now is to have
 23 sort of like an amenity to the building that
 24 also takes clients, and as this Board is much
 25 more aware than I am, sometimes you come in

1 making Valencia two ways instead of one way?
 2 MR. TRIAS: Some of us have, yes.
 3 MR. WITHERS: I mean, does it make sense?
 4 I mean, as that develops --
 5 MR. TRIAS: I believe it does, but it takes
 6 some studying to implement it, yes.
 7 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 8 MR. TRIAS: The long-term vision should be
 9 two-way everywhere.
 10 MR. WITHERS: Because it keeps people --
 11 because otherwise you're going Andalusia,
 12 Valencia and just making a loop and then
 13 around.
 14 MR. TRIAS: Yes.
 15 MR. WITHERS: I think it creates more
 16 traffic probably on Salzedo and on Ponce, I
 17 guess.
 18 MR. TRIAS: That's a very good point, yes.
 19 MR. WITHERS: I was just -- okay. That's
 20 all I have.
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: It's not part of my
 22 application, but I understand.
 23 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Jill, is there anybody
 25 that wants to speak tonight for this item?

1 here with aspirational goals and the market
 2 simply doesn't allow it. So that is the plan
 3 now, because we do want to provide -- and we've
 4 done dog spa areas in less luxurious buildings,
 5 for lack of a better word, I'm sorry, that's
 6 sort of a do it yourself, and here we'd like to
 7 maybe almost provide it, at a cost to the
 8 residents, but also be able to supplement that
 9 with service to the public, in general, for
 10 certain services.
 11 It's a goal, which is why we've activated
 12 it somewhat, and in working with Ramon, at the
 13 beginning of this process, we wanted to try to
 14 activate that anyway.
 15 MR. TORRE: Uh-huh.
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: There wasn't the space to do
 17 it fronting Almeria, so we were able to sort of
 18 do it that way, sort of on the way that the
 19 breezeway between the garage and Miracle Mile,
 20 where the mobility hub is going to go, is sort
 21 of activated -- you know that barber shop that
 22 used to be there, and a few other things that
 23 have been in there, but not something that
 24 requires constant pedestrian traffic, because
 25 you're probably not going to get it.

1 MR. TORRE: And the area in front looks
 2 like a double -- looks like a ramp, a double
 3 ramp. What is the purpose of that particular
 4 slot?
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: It's the ramp into the garage.
 6 MR. TORRE: Into?
 7 MR. JIMENEZ: It's the garage.
 8 MR. TORRE: That goes down or it goes up?
 9 The one in front of the dog spa is the ramp?
 10 It looks like --
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: If you turn it -- I'm sorry,
 12 that's the ramp up into the garage.
 13 MR. TORRE: Okay. I couldn't figure that
 14 one out.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Jill, sorry to
 16 interrupt, but I'd like to make a note that
 17 Mr. Revuelta has joined us.
 18 THE SECRETARY: It's noted.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 20 MR. BUCELO: This will probably be the
 21 simplest question of the night, in regards to
 22 parking for the restaurant, is it simply
 23 valet --
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.
 25 MR. BUCELO: -- is there guest parking?

1 example, we have an office that goes the entire
 2 length of the ground floor, almost, along west
 3 on Minorca. There's one entrance to that, and
 4 then it's window, window, window, window. It
 5 satisfies -- it's all office. We would design
 6 this so that the pedestrian experience feels
 7 like that would be what it is, but we are
 8 planning certain doors, both, so that if
 9 anybody's using that theater, because they've
 10 got a big enough TV upstairs, like a lot of
 11 people do, or whatever, hey, maybe it is a way
 12 to activate the space more.
 13 But from the pedestrian point of view,
 14 there would be no difference if that were a
 15 full on office as opposed to resident
 16 amenities.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Venny, are you --
 18 MR. TORRE: That's it. Thank you.
 19 (Simultaneous speaking.)
 20 MR. WITHERS: Yes. So I'm in the
 21 transportation business, and I'm trying to
 22 figure out how you're going to get anything
 23 larger than a box truck into the loading dock
 24 here.
 25 MR. JIMENEZ: Huh --

1 Simply valet?
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. It would be valet,
 3 which is why we wanted to do such a large valet
 4 area internalized, that not only could it stack
 5 around that circle, but we've put parking in
 6 there, just in case valet is busy, they can
 7 store and avoid the queue to come out onto
 8 Almeria, so -- because we noticed that that was
 9 an issue when we had valet at Bachour, that it
 10 was just that three parking space ramp. So
 11 this would be able to hold ten, twelve,
 12 thirteen cars.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Venny, were you done?
 14 MR. TORRE: I have one more question.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Sorry.
 16 MR. TORRE: So the areas in the Valencia
 17 side that are, I guess, amenities, theater,
 18 library, rooms, could those -- I'm sure you
 19 have these as amenities, as I described, could
 20 these be, in the future, turned the other way,
 21 to become activated as cafes or anything or is
 22 that something you really don't want to do?
 23 MR. JIMENEZ: It absolutely could, and
 24 obviously the market's going to dictate a lot
 25 of things. In our current office building, for

1 MR. WITHERS: I mean, you're not going to
 2 be able to get tractor-trailers or --
 3 MR. JIMENEZ: Well, we don't --
 4 MR. WITHERS: -- to move people in and out
 5 or daytime deliveries --
 6 MR. JIMENEZ: No, a moving truck could,
 7 and, again, having lived in the Sofia myself
 8 and been there on weekends and been there
 9 during the week, because I also work in the
 10 building, that loading dock doesn't hold a
 11 tractor-trailer, either.
 12 MR. WITHERS: No. No. I'm trying to
 13 figure out, what's the access? How do you get
 14 into that? You come off of Valencia --
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: Into the loading dock? You
 16 would come in from the alley, and then, as you
 17 are going out to Valencia, you would back it
 18 out, but you're right, a tractor-trailer would
 19 never get in.
 20 MR. WITHERS: Yeah, it's not going to make
 21 it. So the alley is going to come off of --
 22 you're saying you're going to come down the
 23 alley with a truck?
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: I wouldn't --
 25 tractor-trailers --

1 MR. WITHERS: No.
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: Tractor-trailers don't go
 3 down the alleys in Coral Gables usually, in my
 4 experience.
 5 MR. WITHERS: Yeah.
 6 MR. JIMENEZ: But a box truck and moving
 7 trucks, because -- and I can tell you that the
 8 loading dock at the Sofia is actually lower
 9 than -- if you bring in too big of a moving
 10 truck, it won't fit. The auto turn that we run
 11 here, that Public Works has been very diligent
 12 in making sure that this is a functioning
 13 alley -- and remember something, the alley on
 14 the other side is actually -- I think ours, on
 15 the west side, the one that we're proposing, is
 16 actually easier to get in and out of than the
 17 existing alley on the east side that "Ts",
 18 because it doesn't go straight out to Ponce.
 19 This alley "Ts."
 20 So the condition also lends itself to maybe
 21 a little bit smaller trucks, because they can't
 22 get in anyway.
 23 MR. WITHERS: No, it shows a 25-foot truck.
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: Uh-huh.
 25 MR. WITHERS: I guess, how big are the --

1 and those two gray rooms that are directly west
 2 of the --
 3 MR. WITHERS: I'm looking at A-3. Which
 4 one are you looking at?
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes, I'm looking at A-3, as
 6 well.
 7 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 8 MR. JIMENEZ: So if you go directly west --
 9 if you were a parked truck in the loading
 10 dock --
 11 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 12 MR. JIMENEZ: -- directly west of that --
 13 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 14 MR. JIMENEZ: -- you'll see two rooms.
 15 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: That's the dumpster. That's
 17 the garbage room.
 18 MR. WITHERS: Right. Okay. So are those
 19 little white things the dumpsters?
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.
 21 MR. WITHERS: Okay. So to get to that, you
 22 have to take them out of that door and across
 23 that surface and then onto the loading dock,
 24 right?
 25 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.

1 how big are the Waste Management trucks that
 2 get in there? Do we know?
 3 MR. JIMENEZ: These are specifically --
 4 this alley is specifically designed and
 5 approved by Public Works to accommodate both, a
 6 fire engine and Waste Management truck. Those
 7 are their -- those are their standards.
 8 MR. WITHERS: I'm looking at the resident
 9 trash, is that where the dumpsters are going to
 10 be?
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. The Waste Management
 12 truck would go into the loading dock, yes.
 13 MR. WITHERS: So where is the dumpster
 14 going to be located, and where is the -- I
 15 mean, it's great that it's all interior and
 16 you're not going to hear the clanging and the
 17 banging and beeping and stuff like that, but
 18 I'm just curious to know where the actual
 19 dumpsters are located.
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: Sure. So --
 21 MR. WITHERS: Are all of these little white
 22 things the dumpsters?
 23 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. Yes.
 24 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 25 MR. JIMENEZ: So that little yellow room

1 MR. TORRE: So you're really not going to
 2 have any kind of a big trash compactor in
 3 there? You're just going to have --
 4 MR. JIMENEZ: Those -- we have a compactor.
 5 That's the bottom of the chute, it compacts,
 6 and then it gets rolled up.
 7 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 8 MR. JIMENEZ: That's how we operate our
 9 current building.
 10 MR. WITHERS: So the deliveries for the
 11 restaurant and the other amenity areas are
 12 going to be by the central loading dock here?
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: It would be there, and, then,
 14 if you see, there's a hallway that runs
 15 essentially completely down the middle --
 16 MR. WITHERS: Yeah.
 17 MR. JIMENEZ: -- north to south --
 18 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 19 MR. JIMENEZ: -- that is a covered --
 20 MR. WITHERS: Yeah.
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: -- and blocked hallway and
 22 that would go straight to the back of the
 23 restaurant.
 24 MR. WITHERS: So that trash chute at the
 25 other service corridor, I guess they're going

1 to wheel the dumpsters down that service
 2 corridor to pick them up, I guess, or --
 3 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.
 4 MR. WITHERS: Okay. How about the folks
 5 that want to be dropped off on Salzedo to come
 6 through the foyer entrance there?
 7 MR. JIMENEZ: What we are proposing, and
 8 there's a back and forth -- we would like to
 9 recreate the condition on Salzedo, on this
 10 block, that exists on every block to the south
 11 and many, many blocks to the north, including
 12 across the street. Right now, Salzedo, on this
 13 block, is the first time that Salzedo
 14 northbound is two lanes.
 15 MR. WITHERS: Right in front of the Post
 16 Office there.
 17 MR. JIMENEZ: Before.
 18 MR. WITHERS: I understand. I know where
 19 we're talking about.
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: All right. 'Cause you
 21 have --
 22 MR. WITHERS: I know. I'm following.
 23 MR. JIMENEZ: Right.
 24 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 25 MR. JIMENEZ: So what we would like to do

1 is take that second lane --
 2 MR. WITHERS: And make it a --
 3 MR. JIMENEZ: -- and make it bulb-outs,
 4 green space, street beautification, and parking
 5 spaces. We do not want it for our building.
 6 MR. WITHERS: I mean, that sounds
 7 reasonable. I don't know how the City feels --
 8 MR. TRIAS: It sounds reasonable, and the
 9 final design has to be prepared. It hasn't
 10 been done yet.
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: So we are in discussion with
 12 Public Works about it. Because a traffic study
 13 is not required for this project, because we
 14 are not increasing our peak trips by fifty. We
 15 do -- they may very well want a traffic study
 16 to show that this can work, given that it's one
 17 street that goes for two blocks --
 18 MR. TRIAS: You can make recommendations on
 19 that and I think it will be helpful, because
 20 the final design is still --
 21 MR. WITHERS: It just seems practical to
 22 me.
 23 MR. TRIAS: Sure.
 24 MR. TORRE: Are these the bulb-outs you
 25 show here now? You show them, right?

1 MR. JIMENEZ: We do. We show them.
 2 MR. TRIAS: The way I would describe them
 3 is that they're a placeholder and the final
 4 design is still being worked out. So any
 5 recommendations, any ideas that you have, I
 6 think now is the time.
 7 MR. WITHERS: The last question, so how
 8 does the valet park the car? I'm assuming you
 9 drop it in the drop-off area, right?
 10 MR. JIMENEZ: Uh-huh. It would be a left
 11 onto Almeria and a left back into the building.
 12 MR. WITHERS: It would be a left on
 13 Almeria --
 14 MR. JIMENEZ: So once you come out of that
 15 circle --
 16 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 17 MR. JIMENEZ: -- to the south --
 18 MR. WITHERS: And then another -- and then
 19 another --
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: A left and a left.
 21 MR. WITHERS: So you're going across -- oh,
 22 I got you. And then a left into the parking
 23 garage where Venny was talking about.
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah. If Valencia, whenever,
 25 would become two ways, and traffic were to

1 increase, they would go around the block.
 2 MR. WITHERS: Yeah. Yeah. Go it. Okay.
 3 It's a nice project.
 4 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you very much.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Chip.
 6 Claudia.
 7 MS. MIRO: My question was also on parking,
 8 and thank you for asking the follow-up valet
 9 question. So how many units do you have in
 10 this building?
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: We are asking for approval of
 12 up to 174. We are probably going to wind up at
 13 south of 150.
 14 MS. MIRO: And you had mentioned, how many
 15 parking spaces per unit would be allocated?
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: At least two, but we're way
 17 overparked here from required.
 18 MS. MIRO: I'm sorry?
 19 MR. JIMENEZ: There is at least two, but we
 20 are incredibly overparked here from required,
 21 because then we have the valet.
 22 She is going to get me the exact count and
 23 I'll let you know exactly how many we have.
 24 MR. TRIAS: There were 389.
 25 MR. BUCELO: And guests for the residents

1 would also valet or do they have their own --
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. Guests for the
 3 residents would valet. This would be -- we
 4 would like to keep that garage secured, so it
 5 would be valet.
 6 MS. MIRO: Thank you.
 7 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any other question?
 9 Mr. Coller, could you -- since this is a
 10 quasi-judicial meeting and Luis came late,
 11 would you give an explanation to the Board as
 12 to what the procedure would be, and so forth,
 13 at this time, please?
 14 MR. COLLER: Yes, I've already advised the
 15 member that because he wasn't here from the
 16 beginning of the hearing, because this is
 17 quasi-judicial, that he can't participate in
 18 this hearing and vote on it, and he understands
 19 that. That is different from had this been a
 20 legislative item, then you're not -- then you
 21 don't have the same requirements, but in a
 22 quasi-judicial item, which this is, you do have
 23 to be here from the beginning of the hearing --
 24 the beginning of the testimony.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: When you say he can't

1 he need to be excused from the meeting --
 2 MR. COLLER: Well, he doesn't have a
 3 conflict, so he doesn't need to be excused.
 4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 5 MR. COLLER: But I've spoken with the City
 6 Attorney and she says the member should not
 7 participate.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. It's the first
 9 time that I've seen it and that's why I'm
 10 asking.
 11 MR. COLLER: Right. And so I had reminded
 12 you, in case this occurs in the future, if we
 13 have a situation where we have a quasi-judicial
 14 hearing and it gets continued over to the next
 15 meeting, and one of you were not here, you need
 16 to read the transcript --
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct.
 18 MR. COLLER: -- so that at the next meeting
 19 I will ask you, "Did you have an opportunity to
 20 read the transcript," hopefully you will say,
 21 "Yes," and then I will say, "Then you can
 22 participate, because you were -- although you
 23 weren't present at that meeting, you did read
 24 the entire transcript and can participate," and
 25 we've actually had this happen at the Board

1 participate, can he ask questions, can I call
 2 on him?
 3 MR. COLLER: Actually, I spoke with the
 4 City Attorney and her -- she says he really
 5 should not participate or in any way influence
 6 the proceedings.
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And the last question
 8 on that from me is, seeing as he is the only
 9 architect here today, if any of us have any
 10 questions, then we cannot ask him?
 11 MR. COLLER: I think you have to rely on
 12 your own knowledge --
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 14 MR. COLLER: -- and within the members of
 15 the Board.
 16 MR. REVUELTA: Can I make a statement or
 17 that would be --
 18 MR. COLLER: Well, I think the preference
 19 is that you not participate, since you weren't
 20 here from the beginning. Obviously, the rest
 21 of the agenda -- and some of the items on the
 22 rest of the agenda are purely legislative. Had
 23 we done those first, then there wouldn't have
 24 been a problem, but --
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So, in that case, does

1 from time to time.
 2 MR. REVUELTA: Is it appropriate if I ask
 3 you a question?
 4 MR. COLLER: A general question, not
 5 relating to this item? Sure.
 6 MR. REVUELTA: It's a joke. This is the
 7 205 feet 6 and a half inches building, right?
 8 MR. COLLER: Okay.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 10 A couple of questions, were you --
 11 MS. MIRO: I just want to ask one more
 12 question that just came to mind. I know that
 13 you mentioned earlier that the smallest unit
 14 was going to be about roughly 900 square feet.
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: No. The average unit in the
 16 Sofia is 950. The smallest unit here is in the
 17 neighborhood of 1,200 to 1,300.
 18 MS. MIRO: 1,200 to 1,300, and the largest,
 19 you said, was 10,000?
 20 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah, approximately.
 21 MS. MIRO: Thank you.
 22 MR. TORRE: One follow-up after you.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Sure. Go ahead,
 24 Venny.
 25 MR. TORRE: Okay. My thought is that, one

1 suggestion, and you may have thought about it
2 is, if you can provide a grease trap for the
3 north side, including, you know, even that
4 corner, in the future things change and then
5 you don't have to come back. We're doing that
6 in another property. So I'd like to see this
7 activation happen. In the future, as things
8 progress, you may want to do that.

9 MR. JIMENEZ: And the way that we have it
10 here is that our grease trap is actually in the
11 loading dock. So it actually wouldn't be hard
12 to run a grease trap to that site and then have
13 it come out on the loading dock, which is
14 probably where we're going to run this one
15 anyway. So I will bring it up, because it
16 actually -- you never know.

17 MR. TORRE: Better now than never.

18 MR. JIMENEZ: You never know, and I don't
19 want to put in a grease trap later on. So,
20 thank you, that's actually --

21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: A couple of questions,
22 comments, and so forth.

23 When we were here for this area, we did go
24 to 205.6.

25 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir.

1 habitable. Maybe that wasn't explained clearly
2 enough, but --

3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.

4 MR. JIMENEZ: Unless Ramon corrects me,
5 even without that Ordinance, this tower doesn't
6 even come close to the tallest tower in
7 Downtown.

8 MR. TRIAS: Right. Right.

9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No, I understand.

10 MR. JIMENEZ: So we could do this tower
11 without that Ordinance. It was the habitable
12 space that we wanted.

13 MR. TRIAS: Right.

14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: The other question
15 that I have is, for me, having served, you
16 know, a long time, at different interims, on
17 the Board, this is actually the first project
18 that I'm seeing with a garage that's on the
19 side, as opposed to a pedestal.

20 MR. TRIAS: The Sofia was the same, and you
21 were on the Board.

22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: In this type?

23 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: It didn't stand out
25 like this does to me.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: When I'm seeing this
2 come in at the project, to the top, it's 239.8.
3 I understand that the tower is the difference,
4 but we're now at 239, 8 inches. Can you
5 explain how that's okay based on what we did?

6 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir. The height in the
7 Downtown is measured to the top of the
8 habitable floor. So what happens is that, the
9 top of the habitable floor is 204, 6 inches.

10 In addition, the Med Bonus allows non-habitable
11 decorative towers and other features. So
12 that's allowed already. And the height is not
13 unusual, actually, what's being proposed.

14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I think, when we were
15 discussing this, actually, one of the
16 statements, if I recall, that I made or a
17 question we made was, when we were doing --
18 there was discussion between 200, 205 feet 6
19 inches and so forth, and the 5 feet didn't make
20 a difference, but I think there was a question
21 that was raised at some point, that was, that
22 includes all of the bonuses, the towers and so
23 forth? And my understanding or my impression
24 was that it did.

25 MR. TRIAS: No, sir. That was simply the

1 MR. TRIAS: Same developer, by the way.
2 Same developer.

3 MR. JIMENEZ: The east elevation of this
4 building is actually nicer -- I'm sorry to the
5 current owners of the Sofia, I don't mean to
6 insult you, really, 'cause we've sold that
7 building, but when we went to the Board of
8 Architects, we went with essentially our same
9 east elevation for that -- in that case, it's
10 the west elevation, and they had us do more
11 work to it, but that garage runs from Navarre
12 to Minorca right up against the hotel parking
13 lot. It's an almost identical --

14 MR. TRIAS: But it's a very good
15 observation. It's a very good feature, very
16 unusual.

17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yeah.

18 Can you talk about how you're doing your
19 protection, in other words, not to see the
20 garage or to make it blend in more?

21 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. And we've -- that was
22 also one of the comments from the Board of
23 Architects, and I think that screen will be
24 evolving.

25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.

1 MR. JIMENEZ: We've gone to the Board of
 2 Architects three times. The first -- let's not
 3 count the first time, because there was a
 4 miscommunication there, but the second time,
 5 they brought up the screening. We worked on
 6 it. We came back. We showed them different
 7 examples of screens that we liked and screens
 8 that we were going to try to emulate, and as
 9 you all are more aware than me, the Board of
 10 Architects is an evolving -- as we finalize
 11 that plan, they will go approving or
 12 disapproving, but we have a general approval
 13 for what we're looking to do, based on things
 14 that have already been done elsewhere and our
 15 rendering.

16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Also, just a comment
 17 on the Mediterranean Bonuses. This is actually
 18 one of the first times that I've seen a
 19 building that doesn't have any tile on the roof
 20 or so forth. To me, I like that, because it
 21 makes no sense -- it's a discussion that we've
 22 had -- to put tile at 200 feet or to put tile
 23 at 190 feet. And I just think that, that
 24 process needs to be carried throughout the
 25 City, in all projects, not just, you know, one

1 address that, that just because you don't do
 2 what everybody else did doesn't mean you didn't
 3 legally meet it, and we did.

4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood. That's
 5 the comment I wanted to make, so it's on the
 6 record.

7 Did you look, when designing this building,
 8 at trying to step back at certain points for
 9 the building, from the sidewalk or from the
 10 main street, as opposed to going vertical or
 11 how did you come to the determination --

12 MR. JIMENEZ: We did, and we went with what
 13 the Code suggested. The step backs aren't as
 14 pronounced in the front, but the way we looked
 15 at it was, there is a huge step back from --
 16 when you get out of your car or when you're
 17 walking, there's not only the sidewalk, there's
 18 the arcade, and we can point you to our
 19 building. So, at that level, where there's a
 20 covered arcade right at street level, as you
 21 get out of your car, as you're walking down the
 22 street, you're not going to notice the rest of
 23 that, it was our opinion.

24 So we took it in, at the most impactful
 25 place, for the people that are going to be

1 project or two projects.

2 MR. TRIAS: Sure.

3 MR. JIMENEZ: And I'm glad you mentioned
 4 that, because so far -- knock on wood -- the
 5 only, only, opposition that we've had to this
 6 is one person who submitted a letter to the
 7 Board of Architects saying this wasn't
 8 Mediterranean, and if you look through the
 9 Mediterranean Code, and you don't -- I'm sorry
 10 Mr. Revuelta is not able to participate and
 11 Mr. Behar isn't here, because architects are
 12 valuable to it, but there is the Board of
 13 Architects, but the Code allows Mediterranean
 14 Bonus, given the objective meeting of certain
 15 criteria, and there's a cheap way to meet that
 16 criteria and there is a not cheap way to meet
 17 that criteria, and sometimes it doesn't go.

18 For example, it also doesn't give you bonus
 19 points for exceeding the minimum criteria,
 20 with, let's say, pavers or natural stone, which
 21 this building does. So that just was not the
 22 way we chose to do it. You don't have to meet
 23 them all. You have to meet a certain number,
 24 of a certain number, and that was not --
 25 because we agree with you, but I do want to

1 there. So as you see it from a distance, where
 2 the building literally does -- and there isn't
 3 one up there, but if you look at it from either
 4 the north or the south, it obviously moves
 5 as --

6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct, but not --
 7 what I'm talking about is other projects or
 8 other buildings that are going to be built
 9 eventually around there, they're not going to
 10 see that step back or that setback, and I'm
 11 looking more at that.

12 MR. JIMENEZ: Understood, and if I had that
 13 presentation, I would show it to you. There is
 14 a lot more step back there than you initially
 15 see in these renderings, because it was
 16 exhaustively discussed at the Board of
 17 Architects, because there is that -- and my
 18 associate is an architect, so she can tell me
 19 the word -- what is it?

20 Yes, so -- and I'm happy to admit it into
 21 the record, if you'd like, but if you see the
 22 different colors and -- and I will tender this
 23 into the record, but if anybody wants to see
 24 the video and see it, and it's part of your
 25 submittal --

1 MR. TRIAS: It is part of the record, sir.
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: A3.3.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That was there, yes.
 4 MR. JIMENEZ: So it does -- there is --
 5 that was taken into consideration, from a
 6 general -- I'm sorry to whoever turned the
 7 camera, that I had it up, and now they've
 8 zoomed in on me -- it may be subtle, but it is
 9 there.
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct.
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: And from a distance, what
 12 you're seeing --
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I would like to see it
 14 more from the front part.
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: Okay. And that is something
 16 that we will have -- okay, and whether that
 17 could be done --
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: It's just a comment.
 19 The other question, the FAR that you are
 20 getting on this is, what?
 21 MR. TRIAS: Well, it's 4.375, as proposed
 22 by the Applicant. We're still working on the
 23 final details, but it's nothing beyond --
 24 beyond what's reasonable in this area.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So what is that, 3.5

1 the park across the street. Now, does the park
 2 across the street allow you to have more FAR in
 3 your building because of it or it has nothing
 4 to do with it at all?
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.
 6 MR. TRIAS: It is part of the PAD project,
 7 so all of that is used, yes, sir. Yes, sir.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. So that's used
 9 into this building?
 10 MR. JIMENEZ: It is.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And how many square
 12 feet are you getting based on the FAR? That's
 13 a 10,000 square foot lot?
 14 MR. JIMENEZ: Depending on the final
 15 interpretation, anywhere between 35 or 43,750.
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 17 MR. TRIAS: So that is the only issue that
 18 is still being discussed in detail. I don't
 19 think it's significant enough for you to worry
 20 about the approval.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. So what you're
 22 saying is that this Site Plan can change?
 23 MR. TRIAS: Slightly. Slightly. There's a
 24 very minor discussion that's going on. I think
 25 we're talking about, what, five, six thousand

1 plus TDRs?
 2 MR. TRIAS: Plus the TDRs, yes, sir.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is that the way you
 4 would --
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: The maximum allowed TDRs
 6 takes you -- it's 25 percent of allowed FAR,
 7 with bonus, which equals .875, which equals
 8 4.375.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And the alley that's
 10 being vacated, how much FAR are you getting
 11 based on that vacation of the alley? Do you
 12 have a calculation for that?
 13 MR. TRIAS: I don't. The Applicant
 14 probably does.
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: I don't know the exact square
 16 footage of the alley being vacated.
 17 MR. TRIAS: Staff is going to look for it.
 18 MR. WITHERS: Chip, did you have a comment?
 19 MR. TRIAS: 6,000 times 4.375.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So you're getting an
 21 additional 26,250 square feet based on the
 22 vacating of the alley?
 23 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.
 24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. So what benefit
 25 does the City get? I understand they've got

1 square feet?
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah, but it wouldn't change
 3 with respect to the alley, curb cuts, design,
 4 none of that would change.
 5 MR. TRIAS: I mean, in terms of massing, in
 6 terms of the design, in terms of any of that,
 7 that wouldn't change, no.
 8 MR. JIMENEZ: That wouldn't change. We're
 9 talking about interior floor plans that we'd
 10 have to get rid of some FAR.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And you mentioned --
 12 you made a note of it to say that it's a rental
 13 building.
 14 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is that better, as
 16 opposed to a condo? I'm just curious why --
 17 I'm not asking the business sense of it. I'm
 18 just asking, how does that make a difference in
 19 the project, if it's a rental building or if
 20 it's a condo project?
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: No. No. And let me be
 22 careful here, because I don't want to -- I
 23 don't want to misspeak. I'll start with
 24 Armando's joke, the only thing worse than
 25 living in a building you built is living in a

1 condo building you built, because you've got a
2 few hundred owners, and to the darkest part of
3 what this becomes is, people don't necessarily
4 vote in the best interest of the building, they
5 vote in the best interest of themselves, things
6 are not maintained. We all know where -- I
7 think you know where I might be going with
8 this.

9 There are a lot of exit ramps in between
10 the tragedy that occurred in Sunrise --

11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Of course.

12 MR. JIMENEZ: -- and badly maintained
13 buildings, where the condo association simply
14 doesn't pay the landscaper, doesn't do this. A
15 professionally managed building doesn't have
16 that -- doesn't have that conflict. It's, when
17 you have a vacancy, you want to make sure the
18 place is pretty, because you want to make sure
19 -- and they're spending the money that they
20 collect and they're paying their taxes and
21 they're doing everything else, and it's
22 professionally managed, not politically
23 managed, sometimes. There are very good condo
24 boards, there are some bad ones, and there are
25 mediocre ones.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.

2 MR. JIMENEZ: So that's why we think, in
3 our experience, and given the market as it is
4 today, if you're going to downsize, right size,
5 out of a two, three, four, five, ten, twelve
6 million dollar house, you put that money in
7 your estate, you deal with your estate
8 planning, you rent and you never have to deal
9 with anything again.

10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.

11 MR. JIMENEZ: It's a lifestyle choice, one
12 that I used to live before I got re-married. I
13 enjoyed it, 'cause it was very easy. There
14 were no responsibilities and it was a nice way
15 to be. It's a choice, and it's a choice that's
16 provided, and when you want to leave, you
17 leave. Your lease runs out and you're gone.

18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Right. But whether
19 it's a rental or a condo, it doesn't affect any
20 of our decisions.

21 MR. JIMENEZ: It doesn't affect any of your
22 decisions. I was saying it just to say --

23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's what I
24 wanted -- okay.

25 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah. Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I mean, to me the main
2 thing is that it's going to 239 feet. You
3 know, when I looked at these plans, and I will
4 tell you that, when I got this, this was the
5 first time I've seen the project. I had not
6 seen this project before. And I've seen some
7 buildings that were built, that the Board
8 approved -- and I will be very specific -- it's
9 where the Deel Ford is, for example, that
10 project that's built there.

11 MR. TRIAS: It's the Gables Station, you're
12 thinking.

13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: It's where the living
14 -- whatever it's called.

15 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. That's the name that it
16 was at that time.

17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And that thing is just
18 not right for me.

19 MR. TRIAS: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I think I actually
21 voted against it, but either way, that building
22 is just not right for me.

23 A concern I have is, the discussion that we
24 had was at 205 feet. Mr. Codina is a great
25 developer. The park is great. There's nothing

1 wrong with it. Just taking that about 40
2 feet -- it's less than 40 feet, it could be 35
3 feet, having that feature, to me, you're going
4 past what we spoke about at the meeting where
5 we said, all right, we're going to cap at 205-6
6 or whatever it is.

7 I understand the roof line or the line of
8 the property is 204 and change.

9 MR. TRIAS: And there's a tower in the
10 middle and that's the only area that exceeds.

11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct.

12 MR. JIMENEZ: Mr. Chair, just to be clear,
13 that Ordinance aside, if this was 190.5, we are
14 nowhere near the tallest building in the
15 neighborhood. And to give you some
16 perspective, we were actually at 230 and the
17 Board of Architects made us take it up to 240
18 and elongate the tower. So we actually came in
19 a little lower.

20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No, I understand that.
21 It's just now you're coming in based on what we
22 approved at the last meeting.

23 MR. JIMENEZ: But only for the 205. I
24 didn't need that Ordinance for the 239.

25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Right. But

1 that's where I'm having a hard time. I'm not
 2 speaking for anybody else, any other members.
 3 I'm just voicing what I'm seeing.
 4 MR. TRIAS: Sure. I understand. I
 5 understand.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: You know, and it makes
 7 sense, the rental, all of that is great. The
 8 park is amazing. Do you need to vacate the
 9 alley? I don't know if you do. That would be
 10 more for the Board of Architects' decision.
 11 You know, I'd like to know -- my concern
 12 would be, what benefit is the City getting or
 13 the residents getting for the additional 26,250
 14 square feet. I do see that for the 43,750
 15 square feet, they're getting a park. So I do
 16 see a benefit in that area.
 17 You lived there and you specifically said
 18 yourself, you know, just as a resident, that
 19 would have been amazing to you. So I'm good
 20 with that.
 21 MR. TRIAS: But, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't
 22 underestimate the fact that they're doing a
 23 courtyard in the middle, they're doing really
 24 nice sidewalks. There are many benefits in
 25 addition to the park, I believe.

1 the County, School and City.
 2 I mean, to me, the screening is important
 3 for the garage.
 4 MR. JIMENEZ: Agreed.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And a really clear
 6 example to me is the screening that's being
 7 done, for me, over where The Collection is
 8 doing the Jaguar on US-1 right next to the
 9 building we just discussed.
 10 MR. TRIAS: Sure.
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: That's one you like?
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Well, it's irrelevant
 13 whether I like it or not, but it doesn't look
 14 like it's a garage where they're going to keep
 15 cars.
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: No. No, but we're looking at
 17 different examples.
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I mean, that's more of
 19 -- it's a certain style. I'm not saying that
 20 will fit your style. I don't think it's up to
 21 me or the Board to tell you what style to do
 22 the screening at. I think it's more the Board
 23 of Architects and the City Staff, but I would
 24 just encourage you to really screen that, so it
 25 doesn't look -- you know, that blueprint

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yeah, there are. I'm
 2 not saying --
 3 MR. JIMENEZ: A cynical answer is, ad
 4 valorem --
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I'm sorry?
 6 MR. JIMENEZ: A cynical answer is, ad
 7 valorem, because that is obviously all square
 8 footage -- all square footage that we build is
 9 obviously taxed by the Property Appraiser, but
 10 an optimistic answer is, a building with an
 11 alley running down the middle is not a great
 12 building, and I don't think that that is
 13 what -- as you're walking down that sidewalk,
 14 you want cars -- my girls are currently 16 and
 15 14. They were 10 and 7 when we moved here.
 16 And they will not walk by an alley without
 17 saying, "Alley," because of all of the blind
 18 alleys that you walk through along Salzedo --
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I don't disagree with
 20 you.
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: So that's the optimistic
 22 answer, that it provides for a better product
 23 to improve Downtown Coral Gables, but it does.
 24 Every square foot that we build here will
 25 eventually get taxed and find its way back into

1 doesn't look like a garage.
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: Agreed.
 3 MR. TRIAS: And that's a requirement of the
 4 Code, and the final design usually happens at
 5 the end of the process; however, the
 6 requirements, we're talking about them now.
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Venny?
 8 MR. TORRE: Just a final -- I'm going to
 9 talk about parking. I just want to make sure I
 10 understand, and also for me to learn. You
 11 talked about reducing the unit count from 174
 12 to the 150s maybe?
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: That's possibly. It's
 14 fluctuating every day.
 15 MR. TORRE: Will you be bringing the
 16 parking numbers down if you did or would you
 17 keep it --
 18 MR. JIMENEZ: No. No.
 19 MR. TORRE: You'd still keep the numbers to
 20 the 389?
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. The parking is provided
 22 for up to what I'm asking --
 23 MR. TORRE: To what, now?
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: Up to what I'm asking for at
 25 174 and we are complying with what we're asking

1 for.

2 MR. TRIAS: Keep in mind, also, that it

3 gives more flexibility for future uses.

4 MR. TORRE: I'm going there, and that's why

5 I'm saying to you, you know, the Merrick Park

6 Village has a surplus of parking, maybe it

7 doesn't do so much good over there, but here

8 surplus parking would be helpful for

9 re-development of the area. So are you

10 providing maybe some surplus that may go back

11 to --

12 MR. JIMENEZ: We may have it. I can't

13 speak to that right now. In order to do that,

14 and the only way that it even comes to mind,

15 because obviously security in a building like

16 this would be important, is to do a double gate

17 system, where -- and it would be a retrofit

18 later. That is not in the plan today. Is it

19 something that could conceivably happen later,

20 if half the thing is empty? Sure, a double

21 gate system, with a security consultant, which

22 I am not, but it can certainly be looked at

23 later, but we will have the space. The garage

24 does not get any smaller if we make the units

25 bigger and make fewer units. It doesn't go

1 for. We're not going to build that many,

2 according to our plans today, and I can tell

3 you unequivocally, it doesn't change at all the

4 heights. We're putting the pool there. That's

5 the garage.

6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.

7 MR. JIMENEZ: And those are amenity decks.

8 I mean, it's the garage.

9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Chip.

10 MR. WITHERS: Yeah. The number of units is

11 174. Is that what I understand?

12 MR. JIMENEZ: The proposed number of units,

13 I am saying -- I don't think it says it

14 anywhere in the application, I'm saying it on

15 the record, up to 174.

16 MR. WITHERS: Okay. Because I didn't see

17 it anywhere.

18 Okay. How many could they build? How many

19 units could they build?

20 MR. JIMENEZ: Without this Ordinance?

21 MR. WITHERS: Yeah, I mean, on this site,

22 just regular by Code.

23 MR. JIMENEZ: If it was a normal building,

24 at 190.5, I penciled it out at 313.

25 MR. WITHERS: How many?

1 down.

2 MR. TORRE: In those numbers, you're going

3 to put the valet? So in those 389 unit spaces,

4 you're going to valet those cars in that space?

5 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. Yes, as we now. Our

6 office building and our apartment building now

7 share a garage, and when we had valet, it was

8 all in the same building.

9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And I also would think

10 that they'd want to maintain those parking

11 spaces based on the use on the ground floor,

12 which would maybe require at some point greater

13 parking in order to be able to get that

14 Certificate of Use or that use for that

15 business.

16 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes. And because the

17 City allows you to satisfy that with valet, we

18 have an interest in keeping those spaces

19 available for valet. And there are some tandem

20 spaces in the garage, which are only good for

21 valet.

22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct.

23 MR. JIMENEZ: And like I said, we're way

24 overparked. I think we're overparked -- the

25 numbers can bear me out -- at what we're asking

1 MR. JIMENEZ: 313.

2 MR. WITHERS: 313.

3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Which would create a

4 nightmare.

5 MR. WITHERS: Oh, no, I agree. I mean,

6 that's the reason I -- you know --

7 MR. JIMENEZ: That's what we penciled it

8 out at, at a 950 normal distribution, with

9 studios, ones, twos and threes.

10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Without the Ordinance,

11 sorry.

12 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah, at 190.5. At 190.5,

13 standard -- the Sofia, just on a bigger lot.

14 MR. WITHERS: So ten years from now, this

15 could not be subdivided into additional units?

16 MR. JIMENEZ: Not at 205 feet, it can't.

17 MR. COLLIER: There would have to be an

18 amendment to what has been approved.

19 MR. TRIAS: The approval under the new Code

20 caps it at 100 units per acre, which is 174.

21 MR. WITHERS: Okay. So the last question I

22 have is, because I'm a little confused, the

23 sending site on the TDRs is, what?

24 MR. JIMENEZ: We do not have that

25 established yet.

1 MR. WITHERS: I'm sorry?
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: We don't have that locked
 3 down yet.
 4 MR. WITHERS: You don't?
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: No.
 6 MR. WITHERS: Okay. Don't we have to have
 7 that approved before we approve a TDR transfer?
 8 We have to know the sending site, don't we?
 9 MR. COLLER: I think you have to know the
 10 receiving site. They might get the sending
 11 sites from various different places.
 12 MR. WITHERS: So that's how it is? I mean,
 13 I don't know --
 14 MR. TRIAS: The Commission has approved it
 15 as a condition at least once, prior to finding
 16 out the sending site, so it's been done before
 17 we have known the sending sites.
 18 MR. WITHERS: I'm sorry, I totally didn't
 19 understand what you said.
 20 MR. TRIAS: Ideally you know the sending
 21 site, yeah, ideally, and at least once it has
 22 been approved without knowing.
 23 MR. WITHERS: Okay. So we're allowed to do
 24 that?
 25 MR. TRIAS: Yes.

1 to please confirm --
 2 MR. TRIAS: Keep in mind, you're making a
 3 recommendation. You're not approving the
 4 project tonight.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Say that again, Ramon.
 6 MR. TRIAS: This Board does not approve
 7 projects. This Board makes a recommendation.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood. But it's
 9 unusual -- normally we do have a sending site,
 10 as Chip said.
 11 MR. TRIAS: Yes.
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: It's okay. As long as
 13 the City Attorney tells us, I'm good with it.
 14 MR. JIMENEZ: Just because I happened to be
 15 the only one that was in the room that day, so
 16 I could just -- Miriam, through her Assistant
 17 City Attorney, who was advising the Historic
 18 Preservation Board -- Dona Spain,
 19 coincidentally, sitting exactly where you are,
 20 brought this up and we had a long conversation
 21 about it. The City Attorney gave a legal
 22 opinion. I obviously got that legal opinion
 23 from them before walking out of the room. So,
 24 by all means, you know --
 25 MR. COLLER: Well, he is a Member of the

1 MR. JIMENEZ: I can only tell you what was
 2 said at the Historic Preservation Board, where
 3 this question came up. I discussed this with
 4 the City Attorney, and if you read the Code, I
 5 know I need to get them and I know I need to
 6 get some. I don't need to tell you where I'm
 7 going to get them --
 8 MR. TRIAS: He has to follow the rules and
 9 he has to be able to --
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: What I'd like to do is
 11 actually ask the City Attorney that's here with
 12 us, is it okay for us to approve this project
 13 without the sending sites?
 14 MR. COLLER: Well, I believe it is, but I'm
 15 going to confirm it, so give me a little bit of
 16 time just to go through it.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's important.
 18 MR. JIMENEZ: And if I could just tell the
 19 City Attorney, through the Chair --
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Please.
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: -- if he were to communicate
 22 with Assistant City Attorney -- I don't
 23 remember Gus' name -- he gave the Historic
 24 Preservation Board, I was sitting right over
 25 there, that exact legal advice. So I'd ask him

1 Bar, so it's obviously -- he can't make
 2 representations that are not true.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Of course. I mean,
 4 sometimes there are mistakes made as to what is
 5 said that can be done and then it can't be
 6 done. I just want to make sure.
 7 MR. JIMENEZ: Understood.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's my only reason.
 9 MR. JIMENEZ: This was a very long part of
 10 the Historic Preservation hearing.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I'm not saying he
 12 didn't say it.
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: So it was abundantly clear,
 14 but I'd absolutely defer to Mr. Coller and
 15 Ms. Ramos and Gus. It's been made clear. It's
 16 my onus and my risk to acquire them, to acquire
 17 the TDR certificate, from a sending site, but
 18 once they are approved to be one, my project,
 19 it doesn't matter where they come from, so long
 20 as they are valid when they get to me.
 21 MR. WITHERS: Okay. That's not a hang-up
 22 for me. I was just curious, because I tried to
 23 find it and I didn't see it.
 24 And then the last question I had, and I'm
 25 sorry, I don't have a page, on the art in

Page 77

1 public places, what public art -- or where are
 2 you putting that one percent or that whatever
 3 that --
 4 MR. JIMENEZ: The art in public places, we
 5 have a couple -- we will go obviously go
 6 through the art in public places process. We
 7 have been in conversation with certain people
 8 about, does the City want us to donate that to
 9 the park? So we're waiting to speak to the
 10 Commission on that, when this goes forward. If
 11 they want us to put it on the building, we
 12 will. I have no problem saying that Armando
 13 Codina has often exceeded the minimum
 14 requirements.
 15 MR. WITHERS: Yeah.
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: So while nothing is designed
 17 at the moment, because we don't know if it's
 18 going to go on the building or maybe in the
 19 park, in a truly public place, we will comply
 20 with whatever is approved by the Commission.
 21 MR. TRIAS: So, Mr. Chairman, as far as the
 22 TDRs, you're not making a recommendation to the
 23 TDR process.
 24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Right.
 25 MR. TRIAS: However you're looking at the

Page 79

1 identify who they are. But I also can't be
 2 locked into that, because if I get locked into
 3 that, without having them locked up, they're
 4 going to be like, "Oh, I was going to charge
 5 you a dollar a square foot. It's a thousand
 6 dollars a square foot," and then I've got to
 7 come back.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Of course.
 9 MR. JIMENEZ: What the purview of this
 10 Board is, is to approve me as a receiving site.
 11 The Historic Preservation Board would approve a
 12 sending site. The memorandum and the
 13 maintenance covenants would be -- because, for
 14 example, and I'll tell you why this exactly
 15 plays out, one of the -- a block of TDRs that I
 16 have under contract is a property that has sold
 17 some of theirs. They're approved. Let's call
 18 it, they had ten square feet, they sold five.
 19 I can buy the other five. Where they come from
 20 doesn't make me a better or a worse receiving
 21 site.
 22 So I've still got to go get them. I
 23 understand that. It's my risk. If I can't
 24 find them, I've got to amend this.
 25 MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman --

Page 78

1 project as a whole, in terms of the FAR --
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: But we're looking at
 3 it based on the Site Plan that's provided to
 4 us. Normally --
 5 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. So you don't have to
 6 take action on the TDR if you don't feel
 7 comfortable; however, the Site Plan is what it
 8 is and that's what the Applicant has
 9 recommended -- I mean, has represented.
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: But isn't the Site
 11 Plan based on the TDR?
 12 MR. TRIAS: It is, and if they don't get
 13 it, it will be modified. And the issue is that
 14 when there is a modification of the Site Plan,
 15 it could be a major amendment or it could be a
 16 minor amendment. There's a process to deal
 17 with those issues. And if it's a major
 18 amendment, it goes back to the Commission.
 19 MR. JIMENEZ: And if I may, because this is
 20 very important -- this was very important to me
 21 coming in. TDRs are not abundant, as people
 22 think.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct.
 24 MR. JIMENEZ: If this Board were to tie
 25 me -- I have some under contract. I can't

Page 80

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Claudia had a
 2 question.
 3 MS. MIRO: I have a question for Mr. Trias.
 4 With experience comes knowledge and I'm
 5 definitely trying to gain knowledge here, as,
 6 actually, both me and Mr. Bucelo are new to the
 7 Board, and I apologize in advance for not
 8 knowing the term, so that I can fully
 9 understand what it is that we're discussing.
 10 Can you please clarify to me the sending site
 11 and the receiving site, so that I understand
 12 what it is?
 13 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. What you're really
 14 discussing right now is that this building is
 15 going to receive up to 4.375 in FAR from any
 16 TDRs that the applicant, at some future date,
 17 identifies. So you're looking at the receiving
 18 site. That's the significant --
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: If I may interject.
 20 If I understand correctly, I think what she'd
 21 like for you to explain is the process. For
 22 example, the TDRs come from what type of
 23 properties, as the sending site, if I
 24 understand you, and just a quick synopsis of
 25 what it is. And, then, the receiving site can

1 only be in what district, for example.
 2 MR. TRIAS: Let me try it again.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: At 30,000 square feet.
 4 MR. TRIAS: Let me try it again.
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: Height, not square feet.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Height. Sorry about
 7 that.
 8 MR. TRIAS: We have a process that is able
 9 to transfer square footage from one parcel to
 10 another. Now, that process is only for
 11 historic buildings. So there are some historic
 12 buildings that have extra development rights,
 13 because, let's say, they're only one story and
 14 you could do a ten-story building, for example.
 15 So the extra area can be transferred.
 16 And the issue is that it has to be
 17 transferred to an approved receiving site. So
 18 that's the difference. There's a sending site,
 19 which is a historic building. There's a
 20 receiving site, which is this building, as
 21 proposed.
 22 MS. MIRO: I get it.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Mr. Trias.
 24 Good?
 25 MS. MIRO: Yeah.

1 what number would they get to?
 2 MR. TRIAS: 190.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: With the tower?
 4 MR. TRIAS: No, that's for the habitable --
 5 the tower can be up to a third of the height.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So at 190, what would
 7 the height of the tower be?
 8 MR. JIMENEZ: A third of 266, so it would
 9 be about 256 feet.
 10 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, exactly.
 11 MR. JIMENEZ: Give or take. Call it 250.
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So you could be at 250
 13 feet with Mediterranean Bonuses on this
 14 project?
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: Even though the habitable
 16 space were at fifteen feet lower.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yeah.
 18 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. And that was in the Code
 19 prior to any changes. So the only change is
 20 that the habitable went up another 15 feet or
 21 so, but the upper limit remained the same.
 22 MR. JIMENEZ: And to be clear to anybody
 23 watching, that height didn't increase the FAR,
 24 because that calculation is based on the lot
 25 size.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Any other
 2 questions or comments?
 3 I'm just going to ask one last question, if
 4 you drop it to 150 units --
 5 MR. JIMENEZ: Uh-huh.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: -- down the road or
 7 after you see your -- whether it's a
 8 feasibility study or whatever study you do,
 9 does that drop the height at all?
 10 MR. JIMENEZ: No. The reasons the units
 11 are numbering fewer is because the units are
 12 getting bigger.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Because they're
 14 getting combined? Okay.
 15 MR. JIMENEZ: Yeah. So like the top floor
 16 that I showed you was programmed at five units.
 17 There's a very real chance there's going to be
 18 one. So we didn't lose any, it's just --
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And the 190.5 that you
 20 could do as of right, correct, is that what I
 21 understand?
 22 MR. JIMENEZ: Uh-huh.
 23 MR. TRIAS: Well, yes, with Med Bonus Level
 24 2.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: With Med Bonus Levels,

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.
 2 MR. JIMENEZ: We were very clear, we wanted
 3 the height for this project, for higher
 4 ceilings.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.
 6 MR. JIMENEZ: Because at a unit that's much
 7 larger, a lower ceiling, the geometry didn't
 8 work.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 10 MR. JIMENEZ: So we're not getting more
 11 developable square feet. We could build the
 12 same amount of square feet, fifteen feet lower,
 13 and 300 units, and that just wasn't what we
 14 wanted to do. We wanted to introduce a new
 15 product, which required that.
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Mr. Coller.
 17 MR. COLLER: Just one. On the issue of the
 18 TDRs, the role of the Planning & Zoning Board
 19 is set forth in the Code, and your review is
 20 based on looking at the receiver site. Not the
 21 sending site, but the receiver site, and the
 22 criteria, I can read it to you, if you'd
 23 like -- I've actually read this to the Board in
 24 the past, when we've had these TDR issues, is,
 25 "The planning & Zoning Board review and

Page 85

1 recommendation and City Commission review and
 2 approval by Resolution, the application
 3 satisfies all of the following:" So you make a
 4 recommendation, "(A) Applicable Site Plan
 5 review requirements per section 14-202, General
 6 Development Review Procedures and Conditional
 7 Use Review Requirements per Section 14-203,
 8 Conditional Uses, (B) The extent to which the
 9 application is consistent with the Zoning Code
 10 and the City Code otherwise applicable to
 11 subject property or properties, including
 12 density, bulk, size, area and use and the
 13 reasons why such departures are determined to
 14 be in the public interest, "C" The physical
 15 design and proposed Site Plan and the manner in
 16 which design makes use of the adequate
 17 provisions for public services, provides
 18 adequate control over vehicular traffic,
 19 provides for and protects designated common
 20 open areas and further the amenities of light
 21 and air recreation and visual enjoyment, and
 22 "D" --
 23 MR. TRIAS: Craig.
 24 MR. KOLLER: Yes.
 25 MR. TRIAS: Those are Pages 13 and 14 of

Page 87

1 MR. BUCELO: Yes.
 2 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?
 3 MS. MIRO: Yes.
 4 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 5 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 7 MR. WITHERS: Yup.
 8 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Based on the fact that
 10 you're telling me that at the 190.5 you would
 11 have been able to go higher on the tower, then
 12 I'm, yes.
 13 MR. COLLER: Next item is E-2.
 14 MR. TORRE: I'll make a motion for approval
 15 of E-2.
 16 MR. COLLER: That would be in accordance
 17 with Staff recommendations, correct?
 18 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 19 MR. BUCELO: Second.
 20 THE SECRETARY: Sorry, who made the motion
 21 and who seconded it?
 22 MR. BUCELO: I seconded it.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any discussion?
 24 Call the roll, please.
 25 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?

Page 86

1 the Staff report, by the way, so it's part of
 2 the record.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 4 MR. COLLER: And I'm glad that you had it
 5 in there.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Any other
 7 comments? No?
 8 Would anybody like to make a motion?
 9 MR. TORRE: I'll make a motion for
 10 approval.
 11 MR. BUCELO: I'll second it.
 12 THE SECRETARY: We have five separate
 13 motions.
 14 MR. TRIAS: Yes. Yes, sir, five.
 15 MR. COLLER: Yeah. You have to start on --
 16 Item E-1 would be the first motion. It would
 17 be review and approval per Staff
 18 recommendation. That would be the motion.
 19 MR. TORRE: Motion to approve Staff
 20 recommendation.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a second.
 22 MR. BUCELO: Yes, we do.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any discussion? No?
 24 Call the roll, please.
 25 THE SECRETARY: Alex Bucelo?

Page 88

1 MS. MIRO: Yes.
 2 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 3 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 4 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 5 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Alex Bucelo?
 7 MR. BUCELO: Yes.
 8 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 10 Item E-3.
 11 MR. TORRE: I'll make a motion for approval
 12 of Item E-3, the approval of a PAD.
 13 MR. TRIAS: My Chairman, the condition of
 14 the park would have to be updated, as presented
 15 by the Applicant. That's the only change in
 16 the conditions that I can see.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Explain that, please.
 18 MR. TRIAS: The park is going to be a City
 19 park, donated by the Applicant, and the
 20 Condition of Approval doesn't say that. So we
 21 need to update it.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Oh, okay.
 23 MR. TORRE: So the PAD requires the park to
 24 be transferred, for the approval of the PAD?
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Do we need to make

1 that recommendation to you or --
 2 MR. TRIAS: No. I just mentioned that that
 3 was going to happen. I wanted you to be aware
 4 of the fact that the recommendation that we
 5 have in the Staff report needs to be updated.
 6 MR. COLLER: In this case, I think Staff
 7 has basically amended their recommendation to
 8 include that transfer.
 9 MR. TRIAS: Yes.
 10 MR. COLLER: So if the motion is to approve
 11 in accordance with Staff recommendations, it
 12 will include that modification as given orally
 13 here.
 14 MR. WITHERS: So before I vote on that, let
 15 me just -- you're donating it to the City?
 16 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes, sir.
 17 MR. WITHERS: Do you get a tax write-off
 18 for that, because we're not a non-for-profit,
 19 are we? I mean -- I'm just thinking, there's
 20 another vehicle, partnership, in our City --
 21 MR. JIMENEZ: Honest to God, Mr. Withers,
 22 the park has been the Number One driving force
 23 of this at certain -- at Staff and elected
 24 level. The City and the Administration has
 25 asked for this, and if this is the public

1 that we will absolutely look into, Mr. Withers.
 2 I have a CFO, if he's watching this, that's
 3 going to be like, damn right I'm going to look
 4 at this. So I'm happy that you brought it up.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yeah, but there's a
 6 benefit to it, which is what you're saying.
 7 There's a benefit, meaning there's a dollar
 8 amount --
 9 MR. JIMENEZ: Sure, we get that, and the
 10 City gets 10,000 square feet in the middle of
 11 Downtown.
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 13 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you very much.
 14 MR. TORRE: So the motion is to approve
 15 E-4, which is the -- I'm sorry, E-3, which is
 16 the approval of the PAD, with conditions that
 17 the park be transferred to the City. That's my
 18 motion.
 19 MS. MIRO: Second.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Claudia seconds. Any
 21 discussion? No?
 22 Call the roll, please.
 23 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 24 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 25 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?

1 benefit that the City wants for our PAD, we are
 2 happy to provide it. It's not a tax --
 3 MR. TRIAS: It will be a City park.
 4 MR. WITHERS: No, I understand all of that.
 5 I'm juts talking about the benefit they get
 6 from donating a park.
 7 MR. TRIAS: No, and we haven't finalized
 8 the discussions, and that's why I'm saying that
 9 we need to update the condition.
 10 MR. WITHERS: So I suggest, instead of
 11 donating it to the City, some other verbiage
 12 that says that the City ends up with it
 13 eventually. There might be another vehicle in
 14 which the City can acquire it, which is -- and
 15 I'm not a tax guy, but all I know is,
 16 Commissioner Kerdyk put a partnership in place
 17 just so people would donate land to the City,
 18 'cause they could get a tax advantage.
 19 MR. JIMENEZ: The issue here would be --
 20 and I'm not a huge tax guy, either, but because
 21 we are -- this is one site, and all of the FAR
 22 will be over on the assemblage, this will be
 23 pretty valueless other than -- which is what
 24 made it such a great deal, that it's the one
 25 thing you guys want it for, but it's something

1 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 2 THE SECRETARY: Alex Bucelo?
 3 MR. BUCELO: Yes.
 4 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?
 5 MS. MIRO: Yes.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 7 MS. MIRO: Yes.
 8 Item E-4.
 9 MR. TORRE: I'll move E-4, which is the
 10 review and approval of TDRs for this site as a
 11 receiving site.
 12 MR. BUCELO: Second.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a second.
 14 With Staff recommendations?
 15 MR. TORRE: Yes, sir. With Staff
 16 recommendation, yes.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any discussion? No?
 18 Call the roll, please.
 19 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 20 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 21 THE SECRETARY: Alex Bucelo?
 22 MR. BUCELO: Yes.
 23 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?
 24 MS. MIRO: Yes.
 25 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?

Page 93

1 MR. TORRE: Yes.

2 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?

3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.

4 MR. TORRE: So I will move the last item,

5 with is E-5, which is the approval of the

6 Conditional Use Mixed-Use Site Plan pursuant to

7 the Zoning Code.

8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: May I add a

9 recommendation to look at the screening? Would

10 this be the appropriate place?

11 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir. This is the time,

12 yes, sir.

13 MR. TORRE: I accept.

14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: With the additional

15 screening --

16 MR. TORRE: Additional screening to be

17 reviewed by Staff.

18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: For the parking.

19 MR. JIMENEZ: Absolutely.

20 MR. BUCELO: And I'll second it.

21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

22 We have a second.

23 MR. COLLER: And that's in accordance with

24 Staff recommendations.

25 MR. TRIAS: Yes.

Page 95

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Let's go ahead and

2 read Item E-6 first, so that way we're into the

3 next item.

4 MR. COLLER: Item E-6, an Ordinance of the

5 City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida

6 providing for a text amendment to the City of

7 Coral Gables Official Zoning Code by amending

8 Article 1, "General Provisions," Section 1-108,

9 "Transitional Rules," to clarify that allowed

10 existing uses of property or permitted as a

11 conditional use of property within the city

12 prior to the effective date of the Zoning Code

13 Update Ordinance Number 2021-07 shall remain in

14 effect as a permitted use of property or a

15 conditional use of property upon the adoption

16 of Ordinance Number 2021-07, providing for

17 retroactive application; providing for

18 severability, repealer, codification, and an

19 effective date.

20 Items E-6, public hearing.

21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Ramon, before you

22 start --

23 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: -- Luis wanted to make

25 a comment.

Page 94

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

2 MR. TORRE: Yeah.

3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any discussion? No?

4 Call the roll, please.

5 THE SECRETARY: Alex Bucelo?

6 MR. BUCELO: Yes.

7 THE SECRETARY: Claudia Miro?

8 MS. MIRO: Yes.

9 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?

10 MR. TORRE: Yes.

11 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?

12 MR. WITHERS: Yes.

13 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?

14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.

15 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you for your time this

16 evening. I know it took a while, but thank you

17 for the comments and we will look into it.

18 Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

20 The next item on the agenda is E-6.

21 Mr. Coller.

22 MR. REVUELTA: Can I ask a quick question?

23 THE SECRETARY: Can you speak into the

24 microphone, please?

25 MR. REVUELTA: Can I ask a series question?

Page 96

1 MR. REVUELTA: One quick question, did I

2 hear correctly that one-third of the building

3 height can be added as an ornamental

4 architectural tower?

5 MR. TRIAS: In the Central Business

6 District, that's what -- yeah, that's what it

7 says, the Code. It's been there for a while,

8 yeah.

9 MR. REVUELTA: Essentially this building at

10 205 and 6 inches could have added a tower of

11 about 70 feet? It's the Code, and I

12 understand. Ramon, I'm not blaming you --

13 MR. TRIAS: I think, in theory, yes, but --

14 MR. REVUELTA: My questions are not to put

15 you on the spot. I just happened to be here.

16 And I'm sorry for my ignorance, but that seems

17 way out of line, as an architect.

18 MR. WITHERS: Well, the service part is,

19 what, 20 to 25 feet max, you think? I mean,

20 you guys do this all of the time, with an

21 elevator shaft and --

22 MR. REVUELTA: Normally, other

23 municipalities have like a 30-foot max, and,

24 you know -- and then there's an area for

25 mechanical spaces, you know, so you can go up