

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (LPA)/
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MEETING
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020, COMMENCING AT 4:04 P.M.

Board Members Present:
Eibi Aizenstat, Chairman
Robert Behar
Rhonda A. Anderson
Venny Torre
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Rene Murai
Maria Velez

City Staff and Consultants:
Ramon Trias, Planning Director
Craig Collier, Special Counsel
Jill Menendez, Administrative Assistant, Board Secretary
Jennifer Garcia, City Planner
Ana Restrepo, Principal Planner
Arceli Redila, Principal Planner

ALSO PARTICIPATING:
Mario Garcia-Serra, Esq., On behalf of Items E-1 - E4
Eduardo Vera, Architect
Hector de los Reyes
Matthew Martinez

THEREUPON:

(The following proceedings were held.)

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Good afternoon.
Welcome, everybody.

This Board is comprised of seven members.

Four Members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of four Members of the Board present shall be necessary for the adoption of any motion. A tie vote shall result in the automatic continuance of the matter to the next meeting, which shall be continued until a majority vote is achieved.

If only four Members of the Board are present, an applicant shall be entitled to a postponement to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure. Any person who acts as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral Gables Ordinance Number 2006-11 must register with the City Clerk prior to engaging in lobbying activities or presentations before City Staff, Boards, Committees and/or City Commission. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk. Failure to register and provide

1 proof of registration shall prohibit your
2 ability to present to the Board.
3 I now officially call the City of Coral
4 Gables Planning and Zoning Board Virtual
5 Meeting of August 12th, 2020 to order. Due to
6 COVID-19, Zoom platform is being used, along
7 with a dedicated phone line. The time is 4:04
8 p.m.

9 Jill, will you please call the roll?

10 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?

11 MS. ANDERSON: Here.

12 THE SECRETARY: Robert Behar?

13 MR. BEHAR: Here.

14 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?

15 Venny Torre?

16 MR. TORRE: Here.

17 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?

18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Maria, if you can
19 unmute yourself, please.

20 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?

21 MS. VELEZ: Yes. Here.

22 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?

23 MR. WITHERS: Here.

24 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?

25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Here.

1 Notice of Ex Parte Communications. Please
2 be advised that the Board is a quasi-judicial
3 Board, which requires Board Members to disclose
4 all ex parte communications and site visits.
5 An ex parte communication is defined as any
6 contact, communication, conversation,
7 correspondence, memorandum or other written or
8 verbal communication that takes place outside a
9 public hearing between a member of the public
10 and a member of the quasi-judicial Board
11 regarding matters to be heard by the Board.

12 If anyone made any contacts with a Board
13 Member regarding an issue before the Board, the
14 Board Member must state, on the record, the
15 existence of the ex parte communication and the
16 party who originated the communication. Also,
17 if a Board Member conducted a site visit
18 specifically related to the case before the
19 Board, the Board Member must also disclose such
20 visit.

21 In either case, the Board Member must
22 state, on the record, whether the ex parte
23 communication and/or site visit will affect the
24 Board Member's ability to impartially consider
25 the evidence to be presented regarding the

1 matter. The Board Member shall also state that
2 his or her decision will be based on
3 substantial competent evidence and testimony
4 presented on the record today.

5 Does any Member of the Board have such a
6 communication and/or site visit to disclose at
7 this time?

8 MR. BEHAR: Mr. Chairman, I am involved in
9 Items E-1 through E-4, so, probably, at this
10 point, it's good if I recuse myself from the
11 meeting. Item E-5 is one that I could
12 participate for. So I don't know how we want
13 to address that. Maybe this is the time to do
14 so.

15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Well, since we're
16 having a Zoom meeting and we're starting at
17 four o'clock, unless there's a Board Member
18 that sees otherwise, I don't know if we have
19 any -- Jill, are there any participants that
20 are going to be speaking on Items 1 through 4?

21 THE SECRETARY: I haven't received any
22 request to speak, unless you want to make an
23 announcement. If they want to speak, they
24 could send me a direct message through the
25 chat.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's fine with me.
2 Does any Board Member have an objection?

3 MS. ANDERSON: No.

4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No? Having no
5 objection -- first, I'd like to point out that
6 Rene is with us.

7 Rene, you can unmute the microphone
8 yourself, if you go to the bottom -- there you
9 go.

10 Jill, you made a note that Rene is with us?

11 MR. MURAI: I had a little trouble getting
12 into it, but I'm in now.

13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Not a problem.

14 Let me continue with my statements.

15 For Zoom platform participants, I will ask
16 any persons wishing to speak or testify on
17 specific agenda items to please open your chat
18 and send a direct message to Jill Menendez,
19 stating the agenda item you would like to speak
20 about and include your full name. We're going
21 to call you, when it's your turn. Depending on
22 the number of speakers, I ask you to limit your
23 remarks, please, to three minutes.

24 People that are on the phone platform
25 participants, after the Zoom platform

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I will. I will.
2 Robert, would you be opposed, I think, if
3 we just put you on mute and I don't know what
4 the City wants to do about you being on
5 visually, and then we come back to E-5?

6 MR. BEHAR: No. I mean, I don't have a
7 problem. I'll leave my computer. No, I'll
8 turn it off -- I'll have my video off, if it
9 needs to be.

10 MR. COLLER: Yeah. I think,
11 Mr. Chairman --

12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. COLLER: -- I was advised -- he stated
14 his conflict, and he needs to absent himself
15 from the room, the virtual room. So the other
16 alternative is to --

17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: To move E-5 forward?

18 MR. COLLER: To move E-5 forward, which
19 might make more sense.

20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Agreed.

21 MR. COLLER: Get that out of the way --
22 Ramon, unless you have some concerns about
23 handling that item first --

24 MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman, I recommend that
25 we move it to the first item.

1 participants are done, I will ask phone
2 participants to comment on the agenda item. I
3 will also ask you to limit the remarks to three
4 minutes, and you can notify us that you would
5 like to speak by pressing *9. Once again, it's
6 *9 for phone participants.

7 Jill, you went ahead and stated that you
8 had received one e-comment?

9 THE SECRETARY: Yeah.

10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Why don't you go --
11 Mr. Coller, is it appropriate if she reads it
12 now, even though we're taking E-5 first?

13 MR. COLLER: The comment is not regarding
14 E-5, another application, right?

15 MR. TRIAS: It's regarding the other
16 application, sir.

17 MR. COLLER: Okay. So why don't we hold
18 off on that.

19 Also, how many members are we at, at this
20 point? Are we at seven?

21 THE SECRETARY: Yes, the Board is here, the
22 entire Board.

23 MR. COLLER: Okay. So, Mr. Chairman, one
24 slight modification from your remarks, and I
25 know -- I think you were using your remarks and

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1 you actually had modified them, and I know
 2 you're not at your home, but with a tie vote,
 3 it doesn't automatically go to the next
 4 meeting. That's what it used to be. It goes
 5 without a recommendation. However, there's an
 6 opportunity for the applicant to request a
 7 continuance to the next meeting to try to get a
 8 recommendation. So it's just a minor
 9 amendment. I only mention it now, because
 10 we're going to be shortly at an even number of
 11 members. So just a minor --
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you very much.
 13 MR. COLLER: -- comment on your
 14 introductory remarks.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 16 MR. COLLER: And, also, since this is not a
 17 quasi-judicial item, Item E-5 is a legislative
 18 item, we don't have to be concerned about
 19 swearing in witnesses for this particular item.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.
 21 Understood. Thank you.
 22 What I'd like to do first thing is the
 23 approval of the minutes. Do I have a motion?
 24 Has everybody had a chance to read the minutes?
 25 MR. BEHAR: I make a motion for approval.

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1 have brief questions or discussion by the
 2 Board, and then I'll go ahead and open it to
 3 the public for comment.
 4 Once again, first I'll open it to Zoom
 5 participants. I ask you to please send a chat
 6 to Jill with your name and the item you want to
 7 speak about. And then the phone line platform,
 8 and, again, it's *9, if you would like to
 9 comment.
 10 We will also go ahead and read any
 11 e-comments or e-mail into the record, and we'll
 12 go ahead and close the public comment for Board
 13 discussion. Then we'll have a motion, any
 14 discussion further with the Board, and if we
 15 have a second, and a motion, if so, we'll take
 16 a vote.
 17 Mr. Coller, if you'd please read the first
 18 item into the record.
 19 MR. COLLER: Sure.
 20 Mr. Chairman, for the record, Craig Coller,
 21 Special Land Use Counsel for the City of Coral
 22 Gables.
 23 Item E-5, an Ordinance of the City
 24 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida granting
 25 approval of proposed amendments to the text and

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1 MS. ANDERSON: Second.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a motion. We
 3 have a second by Rhonda.
 4 Any comments? No?
 5 Having heard none, call the roll, please.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Robert Behar?
 7 MR. BEHAR: Yes.
 8 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 9 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 10 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 11 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 12 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 13 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 14 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 15 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 16 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 17 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 18 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 20 A little bit about the procedure tonight
 21 before we begin, please. The identification of
 22 an item will be read by Mr. Coller. The
 23 presentation will then be made by Staff. Then
 24 we will have, on Item E-1 through Item E-4, the
 25 presentation will be made by Applicant. We'll

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1 Future Land Use Map of the City of Coral Gables
 2 Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to expedited state
 3 review procedures Section 163.3184, Florida
 4 Statutes, and Zoning Code Article 3, Division
 5 15 (Proposed reorganization ordinance: Article
 6 14, "Process," Section 14-213), "Comprehensive
 7 Plan and Text Amendments;" to clarify density
 8 and height in certain land use classifications
 9 in the Future Land Use Element, and to change
 10 the name of the "Mixed Use Overlay District" in
 11 the Future Land Use Map to the
 12 "Design/Industrial District," and adjust the
 13 boundary of such district, providing for a
 14 repealer provision, providing for a
 15 severability clause, and providing for an
 16 effective date.
 17 Item E-5, public hearing.
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you very much.
 19 Mr. Trias, would you like to start?
 20 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir.
 21 May I have the PowerPoint, please?
 22 We're all familiar with the Industrial
 23 District or the area that historically has been
 24 called the Industrial District, and this is the
 25 plan that originally Merrick was able to file

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1 back in the '20s, and it has changed a lot.
 2 And through the years, we have had some
 3 discussions about changing the focus of the
 4 area, and I think that Mr. Torre, for example,
 5 at some point, suggested calling it the Design
 6 District.
 7 So I think that now that we're going
 8 through all of these updates of the Zoning
 9 Code, we think it's a good idea to also make
 10 some minor changes to the Map and the name of
 11 the area, and then also correct some things
 12 that are already in the Zoning Code, and that
 13 probably should be in the Comp Plan in the same
 14 exact way, so there's no confusion.
 15 So that is what we're doing tonight. We're
 16 making some changes to the Comp Plan. The only
 17 change of substance is the name. The other
 18 changes are simply cleanup, for consistency
 19 with some other regulations that we have in the
 20 Zoning Code.
 21 Next, please.
 22 The area, as you can see, is no longer
 23 industrial, and I think it should be best
 24 described as a Mixed-Use District.
 25 Next.

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1 to 120 feet, and also allow the 125 units per
 2 acre which is currently the regulations that we
 3 have in place. We're simply making everything
 4 consistent.
 5 Next.
 6 And the policy, as you can see, is a very
 7 simple policy. It simply creates the
 8 opportunity to have some Zoning regulations.
 9 Next.
 10 But, more importantly, some economic
 11 development strategies that will promote the
 12 retail activities, such as galleries and design
 13 uses, and some other innovative uses, such as
 14 financial services, biomedical, pharmaceutical,
 15 the kind of things that economic development
 16 strategies could really help with, particularly
 17 at the ground level, which is focused on the
 18 pedestrian quality and Mixed-Use compatibility
 19 with the rest of the District.
 20 In addition, we may have some design
 21 standards for signs and so on, and some
 22 branding strategies that try to promote the
 23 overall idea for the area.
 24 Next, please.
 25 We have sent letters to the property

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1 You can see many, many projects have been
 2 built there recently. In fact, one of the
 3 projects the we are -- the only project that
 4 we're dealing with tonight is also in this
 5 area, in this area that we are dealing with.
 6 Next.
 7 The Zoning and the Land Use are going to
 8 probably change as a result of the update to
 9 Mixed-Use, but right now they are Commercial
 10 and Industrial.
 11 Next.
 12 And what we are suggesting is an amendment
 13 to the Map and also some minor Text Amendments
 14 to the Comprehensive Plan.
 15 Next.
 16 So the Map basically changes the name.
 17 Next.
 18 And we call this area, Design and
 19 Innovation District. That's the final name
 20 that we finally decided that probably expresses
 21 the idea.
 22 Next.
 23 And the Text Amendment will create the
 24 District, with some objectives and some
 25 policies, and, like I said, correct the height

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1 owners. We've also posted the request on the
 2 website, and we also have had newspaper
 3 advertisement.
 4 Next.
 5 And Staff recommends approval to the
 6 amendment to the Map and also the Text
 7 Amendments, as they do follow the standards of
 8 review in the Comprehensive Plan.
 9 And that's the end of my presentation, and
 10 if you have any questions, I'll be happy to
 11 answer them.
 12 MR. BEHAR: Mr. Chairman, can we start
 13 or -- you're muted.
 14 MS. ANDERSON: You're muted.
 15 MR. BEHAR: Okay. There we go. Sorry, I
 16 was not able to unmute myself.
 17 THE SECRETARY: Excuse me.
 18 We're allowed to have ten hosts and I think
 19 someone is on two devices; therefore, I cannot
 20 make the Chair cohost.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Has anybody signed in
 22 from the Board on their phone and their iPad or
 23 maybe their computer and their iPad?
 24 MR. MURAI: Possibly.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is it possible to take

1 one off?
 2 MR. MURAI: If I could find out whether --
 3 THE SECRETARY: Mr. Murai, you're on your
 4 iPad right now. Can I disconnect your other
 5 one?
 6 MR. MURAI: I am in another one?
 7 THE SECRETARY: Yes. You have two
 8 connections.
 9 MR. MURAI: I think somebody is hacking me.
 10 I'm being hacked.
 11 MR. BEHAR: So long you don't get on the
 12 bicycle yet.
 13 MR. MURAI: Okay. Agreed.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Let's continue.
 15 Robert, you wanted to say something?
 16 MR. BEHAR: Do we need to open it up to the
 17 public before we speak or --
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's what I was
 19 going to go ahead and do --
 20 MR. BEHAR: Okay. Go ahead. Then I'll
 21 wait for that.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: -- because it's a
 23 straight-forward item.
 24 Jill, do you have any members of the public
 25 that have contacted you that would like to

1 speak on this item?
 2 THE SECRETARY: No. No. No one.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Nobody on the
 4 phone platform, either?
 5 THE SECRETARY: None.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. At this time,
 7 I'm going to go ahead and close this item for
 8 public comment.
 9 Board discussion. Robert.
 10 MR. BEHAR: Yes.
 11 MS. ANDERSON: Did you say, Robert or
 12 Rhonda?
 13 MR. BEHAR: Go for it.
 14 MR. MURAI: It could be Rene, too.
 15 MR. BEHAR: You guys go first.
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Rene, why don't
 17 you start?
 18 MR. MURAI: Okay. If I understand what
 19 we're doing, we're changing the name of the
 20 district and changing text, without substance,
 21 just to conform to existing regulations or
 22 Ordinances?
 23 MR. TRIAS: Yes. And the only additional
 24 thing is that we do have a category now called
 25 the Design District in the Comp Plan, that may

1 be developed further in the future, with
 2 economic development strategies and those kinds
 3 of things.
 4 MR. MURAI: Okay. I still don't understand
 5 your response to my question. We're changing
 6 the name of this district, and we're conforming
 7 some -- I guess, the regulations in this
 8 District, to existing regulations? We're not
 9 changing anything?
 10 MR. TRIAS: We're not changing anything
 11 that regulates development. We're not changing
 12 height. We're not changing density. We're not
 13 changing those things. Even though they're
 14 included in the item, they are the same as the
 15 regulations we have in the Zoning Code.
 16 MR. MURAI: But you said, we're not
 17 changing development. What is it that we're
 18 changing?
 19 MR. TRIAS: The name of the district.
 20 MR. MURAI: I understand that.
 21 MR. TRIAS: And possibly, possibly, the
 22 emphasis on the economic strategies in the
 23 future, but, you know, that's just opening up
 24 those opportunities. That's all we're doing.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda, would you --

1 Rene, I'm sorry, are you done? Was your
 2 question answered?
 3 MR. MURAI: You know, sort of. I guess so.
 4 Maybe. I don't know.
 5 MR. TRIAS: If I can explain it better, I
 6 will, but really there's nothing more of any
 7 substance that I can speak of. We're creating
 8 the district. We're changing the emphasis, but
 9 we're not changing any of the development
 10 standards. The same uses apply. The same
 11 Zoning regulations apply, et cetera.
 12 MR. MURAI: Okay.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 14 Rhonda.
 15 MS. ANDERSON: Ramon, the only comment I
 16 have, and it really dovetails in with 250 Bird
 17 that we're going to consider next, the maximum
 18 height of buildings in this area as originally
 19 passed by or designed by Merrick in the
 20 beginning was what height?
 21 MR. TRIAS: I don't know what Merrick's
 22 original proposal was. I don't know.
 23 MS. ANDERSON: And the existing Zoning Code
 24 right now --
 25 MR. TRIAS: I mean, what I know is that

1 ever since I've been working with the City,
 2 it's been 100 feet. And then it changed to
 3 120. So those changes were made some time ago,
 4 years ago -- some years ago, and it is better
 5 if that is reflected in the same exact way in
 6 the Comp Plan.
 7 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. I have no other
 8 questions on this item.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 10 MS. VELEZ: I have a question.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes, go ahead.
 12 MS. VELEZ: So, right now, the way it is,
 13 we have 120 feet maximum and in the Low-Rise
 14 and Mid-Rise, we have a limitation of ten
 15 floors, but then -- in the Design District.
 16 MR. TRIAS: Yes, but the edge of the Design
 17 District, along Bird Road, et cetera, there's a
 18 further limitation of the 45 feet. So there's
 19 a couple of limitations already in place.
 20 We're not changing any of that.
 21 MS. VELEZ: I don't understand the
 22 difference between, for instance, in Commercial
 23 Mid-Rise, we have up to 70 feet maximum with no
 24 limitations on floors. So I guess that should
 25 be stories now with the new language that we're

1 MS. VELEZ: Okay. Thank you.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Venny.
 3 MR. TORRE: Okay. I support this item. I
 4 spoke about it earlier. I have been supporting
 5 this from a long time. If you think about this
 6 district, which is anchored on one side from
 7 Merrick Park Village, the other by The
 8 Collection, Ferguson's, the Stein -- the piano
 9 place, this is really already a destination for
 10 retailers. There's a lot more opportunities on
 11 Ponce for the smaller retailers to come in and
 12 put their standalone buildings. This kind of
 13 takes it over towards this -- to the west, but
 14 it's primarily meant to be, like Mr. Trias
 15 said, an economic driver for the ground floor
 16 retailers, and to have an area that we can call
 17 and define as our Design District, as far as I
 18 can tell.
 19 So I support it under that premise, and I
 20 don't think what happens above is in play here,
 21 so I'm for this item.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Thank you.
 23 Robert.
 24 MR. BEHAR: I mean, I was a little bit also
 25 confused, because it was just a name, but

1 using.
 2 MR. TRIAS: Yes. Yes.
 3 MS. VELEZ: That's up to 70 feet maximum
 4 with no limitation on stories or up to 97 with
 5 a maximum of two additional. But, then, if
 6 it's developed pursuant to the Design
 7 Industrial District regulations, there is a
 8 limitation of ten floors.
 9 So if the project that we're going to be
 10 discussing later would have come up under this,
 11 they still would have to come in with a PAD
 12 application?
 13 MR. TRIAS: Yes.
 14 MS. VELEZ: Okay. And why is there no
 15 limitation on the number of stories on
 16 Commercial Mid-Rise up to 70 feet, but if
 17 developed within the Design District, there's a
 18 limitation of ten stories?
 19 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, when the Commission
 20 allows or approves the 120 feet, the Commission
 21 chose to limit that to ten feet -- ten stories
 22 at the time.
 23 MS. VELEZ: That's the way it exists now?
 24 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, that's the way it exists
 25 now.

1 there's a lot of changes that have gone on in
 2 this area. I look out my window and I see that
 3 there was a project approved, which is the
 4 Gables Station project -- Ramon, maybe you
 5 could give us a little more insight. That was
 6 either 160 height -- because this whole area
 7 has changed, evolved, over the years
 8 tremendously.
 9 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
 10 I assume you're in your office looking
 11 across the street. So it is Gables Station,
 12 yes. Is that where you are?
 13 MR. BEHAR: Yeah.
 14 MR. TRIAS: Okay. So, yeah -- no, that was
 15 approved by the Commission under the Mixed-Use
 16 Land Use, with some specific limits on the
 17 height. So I don't remember exactly, but it
 18 was about 160, as opposed to 190, for example,
 19 which would have been had it been changed the
 20 Land Use to High-Rise. So those that are the
 21 subtleties and the complexities that we deal
 22 with.
 23 We're not touching any of that. All we're
 24 saying is -- and partially it was because of
 25 your comments, that it made me realize that we

1 had to clarify the height, the 120, and the
 2 density, so it would be very clear in the Comp
 3 Plan, as it is in the Zoning Code. That was
 4 it.
 5 MR. BEHAR: And, Ramon, I think what you're
 6 doing, I support it. I think you're absolutely
 7 correct. It makes it a lot cleaner, clearer,
 8 for everybody to understand. So I also support
 9 it.
 10 You know, with that in mind, if there are
 11 no other -- any other Board Members that are
 12 going to speak, I'll make a motion to approve.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Well, I wanted Chip --
 14 Chip hasn't gone yet. If you don't mind, I'd
 15 like to go ahead and hear Chip's comments.
 16 MR. WITHERS: What's the strategy for
 17 hospitality in that area?
 18 MR. TRIAS: I don't know of any strategy at
 19 this point, but certainly economic development
 20 could focus on that, also, if you believe that
 21 is an important issue.
 22 MR. WITHERS: I guess my next question
 23 would be, you know, the whole Merrick Park
 24 concept came into play, there's a vacant lot
 25 across from Nordstrom, and (unintelligible) put

1 called the Apartment District, and not --
 2 seriously. I mean, you look at -- it's just
 3 amazing what's happened between -- behind, I
 4 think, is Villagio -- whatever the restaurant
 5 is across from Gables High School, Villagio,
 6 all of the way to The Collection, it's just
 7 nothing but a mass of apartments in there or
 8 condos.
 9 Has there been any effort to try to expand
 10 retail into that area as far as the first
 11 floor?
 12 MR. TRIAS: This is the effort, and that's
 13 exactly the issue. The issue is that the
 14 ground level, even though it's designed nicely,
 15 it's not that successful. So our thinking was,
 16 if we were to focus economic development and
 17 branding and merchandise and strategies towards
 18 design and innovation, we will probably be able
 19 to further develop the area, from an economic
 20 point of view.
 21 MR. WITHERS: How are you going to
 22 discourage the apartments from buying large
 23 swaths?
 24 MR. TRIAS: Well, you can only do
 25 Mixed-Use. You're not allowed to do just an

1 a boutique hotel up there, and so that leads to
 2 my next question. Have we reviewed the Merrick
 3 Park agreement, how many more square feet they
 4 can build, that they're allowed to do in the
 5 existing parcels they have? So will this
 6 conflict with any of their parcels in the
 7 City's agreement with Merrick Park?
 8 MR. TRIAS: I haven't reviewed the
 9 agreement recently, but, like I said, we're not
 10 changing any of the regulations. So there's no
 11 conflict. All we're doing is, we're changing
 12 maybe the emphasis of merchandising and
 13 marketing and economic development toward the
 14 Design and Innovative District, which I think
 15 is compatible with the existing development
 16 there.
 17 MR. WITHERS: So there's no Land Use
 18 change?
 19 MR. TRIAS: No.
 20 MR. WITHERS: You know, if you can have
 21 this as a destination, and, you know,
 22 hospitality is important, you know, we should
 23 encourage the City to look at that direction.
 24 But I guess my other question, which is, you
 25 know, it seems the whole area now should be

1 apartment building. So the ground level is
 2 always going to be Retail or Commercial.
 3 MR. WITHERS: I mean, instead of just a
 4 ten-story high ceiling on the ground floor, you
 5 know, Venny -- you know, you architects chime
 6 in here, I mean, I think if you really want to
 7 try to develop some nice retail looks, you
 8 know, you need to have, you know, taller
 9 ceilings on the ground floor.
 10 I mean, to me, you're going to get the nail
 11 salon, you know, you're going to get the yogurt
 12 company. You're going to get -- when you start
 13 going with the apartment buildings, you don't
 14 get the five and ten thousand beautiful spaces
 15 bringing in, you know, high end retailers.
 16 MR. TRIAS: I understand your question
 17 better. We have included design guidelines for
 18 height and transparency, et cetera, in the Code
 19 Update. I'll go into more detail next week, if
 20 you want to, but that's already there. There's
 21 a minimum height, and then there's also a
 22 requirement for transparency at the ground
 23 level, which encourages retail and so on.
 24 MR. WITHERS: Well, I'm not talking about
 25 encouraging it. I'm talking about, people want

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1 to do Mixed-Used under the guidelines that we
 2 want them to. And, again, it's not, this is
 3 retail and this is what you have to do --
 4 MR. TRIAS: No, it's a requirement. You
 5 have to go Mixed-Use. It's not that it's an
 6 option. You have to do Mixed-Use if you want
 7 to do any kind of residential.
 8 MR. WITHERS: But the design requirements
 9 for the Mixed-Use is, what?
 10 MR. TRIAS: The design requirements for the
 11 Mixed-Use, as they relate to the ground
 12 level --
 13 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 14 MR. TRIAS: -- are included in the update
 15 that we're working on. They're not in the Code
 16 yet, but we are including 17 feet for the
 17 height, which we need to discuss, and we're
 18 also requiring 80 percent transparency,
 19 meaning, glass, at the ground level. So those
 20 are the things that a Zoning Code can do.
 21 Okay, great. In addition, we can do some
 22 economic development strategies and branding
 23 and other things, such as signage, et cetera.
 24 So the idea is that all of those things
 25 eventually will make the place much more

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1 Mr. Withers, and what I'm doing here today,
 2 simply, I'm creating the opportunity. In other
 3 words, we're creating that Design/Innovation
 4 District in the Comp Plan, so the vision can be
 5 implemented as it's developed.
 6 MR. WITHERS: Okay. Look, my last comment
 7 is, this is probably one of the last areas that
 8 we really have an opportunity to put a real
 9 handprint on, and really do it the way we think
 10 it would be real cool for Coral Gables. If
 11 not, it's just going to be developed as
 12 developers come in and can assemble properties
 13 and make money.
 14 There's nothing -- listen, we're all for
 15 making money, but I'm just thinking, if we
 16 really want to take that area and make it
 17 signature, none of those inner streets are
 18 signature streets at all. Maybe the one
 19 pass-through in Merrick Park is a signature
 20 street. Everything else is just a basic city
 21 street, and Le Jeune is never going to be a
 22 real signature street with a high school there,
 23 but if we really want to make a signature
 24 street in South Gables, Ponce is our last
 25 opportunity, and we really ought to take a look

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1 successful, if we all work together and come up
 2 with effective rules.
 3 MR. WITHERS: So what's the vision on both
 4 sides of Ponce? What's the vision on the east
 5 side of Ponce? What would you like to see
 6 there?
 7 MR. TRIAS: What I would like to see there
 8 is, ground level retail, that is consistent
 9 with Design and Innovation, and then two or
 10 three stories of apartments or office space
 11 above.
 12 MR. WITHERS: So you don't want to see
 13 eight stories on Ponce?
 14 MR. TRIAS: That would be my preference.
 15 Now, if you're able to assemble 20,000 square
 16 feet, the development regulations allow more
 17 than four stories.
 18 MR. WITHERS: So do we, as a Board, want to
 19 look at a visioning along the Ponce corridor
 20 and develop it? I mean, now is the chance to
 21 do this. If we have concurrency that we don't
 22 want more than three stories or we want a step
 23 back, like it is on Miracle Mile, then we ought
 24 do that now.
 25 MR. TRIAS: That's a very good suggestion,

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1 at visioning both sides of the street, east and
 2 west.
 3 You know, the east side -- the west side,
 4 with The Collection, we don't have a lot of,
 5 you know, opportunity there, but on the other
 6 two -- the rest of the block, we have some
 7 great opportunities, and that's all of my
 8 comments.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Ramon, let me ask you
 10 a question. What is the percentage that's
 11 required now when we do a Mixed-Use to be
 12 Commercial or to be stores with a project?
 13 MR. TRIAS: You have to do eight percent,
 14 which means basically the whole ground level as
 15 retail.
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: You said, eight
 17 percent?
 18 MR. TRIAS: Yeah, eight percent of the
 19 project, at a minimum, yeah.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: At a minimum.
 21 Did Staff or the Zoning Re-Write look to
 22 change of any that or does that stay the same?
 23 MR. TRIAS: Well, that stays the same, and
 24 it's in the Comp Plan, also, and if we look,
 25 for example, at the project that we're looking

1 at today, it's 8.4 percent retail. So it seems
 2 to be a reasonable number.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 4 MR. TRIAS: If we need to look at anything
 5 in more detail, we certainly could.
 6 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. I basically
 7 echo the same sentiments that were expressed by
 8 my fellow Board Members. The points were well
 9 made.
 10 Are there any other comments anybody would
 11 like to make?
 12 MR. BEHAR: Let me address Chip's comment a
 13 second, because in every successful community
 14 that incorporates Mixed-Use, and for the
 15 retail, whether it's galleries or restaurants,
 16 you need to have Residential support in order
 17 for it to be successful. And that's why -- I'm
 18 in this area. I am actually walking distance
 19 from Merrick Park. And what's great about, now
 20 you see, the restaurants are being more
 21 successful, maybe not the last four months,
 22 five months, but prior to that. When you start
 23 putting Residential in an area like this,
 24 that's when you have successful restaurants and
 25 shops, because you need to bring people to

1 Design District name is meant there to be able
 2 to be promoted as such, to bring in high end
 3 designers, to bring in high end furniture
 4 stores, to bring in high end architects and
 5 interior designers to sell high end fabrics.
 6 So the idea is to, yes, promote it as such,
 7 and try to get the designs to follow that, with
 8 the high ceilings and the better storefront
 9 designs. So how we do that in the future, how
 10 do we qualify that the designs are better,
 11 that's something I'm not sure we can do in the
 12 new Code changes, but that's something we
 13 should be exploring, how to improve that
 14 streetscapes.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Venny.
 16 Would anybody like to make a motion?
 17 MR. BEHAR: I'll make a motion to approve.
 18 MR. TORRE: I'll second it.
 19 MS. ANDERSON: I'll second.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Who said, second,
 21 please?
 22 MR. TORRE: I did, but I think somebody
 23 else did, as well.
 24 MS. ANDERSON: It doesn't matter.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a motion and a

1 them.
 2 And I think, Ramon, you will agree with me
 3 there, that's why you see a lot more
 4 apartments, you know, whether it's condo or
 5 rental apartment, in this area.
 6 MR. TRIAS: I agree. I think that the
 7 issues that we're talking about, qualitative
 8 issues, is how well can we do this, but I think
 9 the big idea is very sound.
 10 MR. TORRE: Another point. Can you all
 11 hear me?
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 13 MR. TORRE: The point that you just made,
 14 Robert, is exactly correct. I mean, I went to
 15 Midtown two or three weeks ago, just to see how
 16 they were faring compared to Miracle Mile, this
 17 is measure of the BID's performance, and they
 18 were busy as could be. And the reason is, for
 19 those apartments above, Midtown was busy, and
 20 there's a lot of people downstairs and those
 21 retailers were actually active.
 22 The idea is, again, not to bring in the
 23 hair salons and the nail shops and the, you
 24 know, Subway shops or Subway sandwiches. It's
 25 to bring in better retailers, and then the

1 second.
 2 Any comments?
 3 THE COLLER: That would be done in
 4 accordance with Department recommendations?
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is that correct,
 6 gentlemen?
 7 MR. BEHAR: Yes.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. That is
 9 correct, Mr. Coller.
 10 Having heard no comments, call the roll,
 11 please.
 12 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 13 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 14 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 15 MR. TORRE: Yes. Here.
 16 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 17 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 18 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 19 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 20 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 21 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 22 THE SECRETARY: Robert Behar?
 23 MR. BEHAR: Yes.
 24 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.

1 At this point, let it be noted for the
 2 record that Robert is going to sign off.
 3 MR. BEHAR: Thank you, folks.
 4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Say that again,
 5 please, Robert.
 6 MR. BEHAR: Thank you, and I'll leave. You
 7 all have a good evening. Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Robert.
 9 So, for the record, Robert signed off at
 10 4:41 p.m.
 11 MR. COLLER: Mr. Chairman, as he previously
 12 noted, that he had indicated a conflict on this
 13 item and he's unable to participate.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That is correct.
 15 Mr. Coller, since we're taking on E-1
 16 through E-4 at this time, would you like for
 17 the comment, the e-comment, to be read into the
 18 record?
 19 MR. COLLER: Why don't we read everything
 20 in and then we'll read the comment into the
 21 record.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Please proceed.
 23 MR. COLLER: Okay. So all of these are
 24 connected, so I'm reading all items in.
 25 Items E-1, an Ordinance of the City

1 Review," Division 5, "Planned Area Development
 2 (PAD)" for a proposed mixed-use project
 3 referred to as "Merrick 250" on the property
 4 legally described as lots 1 through 11,
 5 inclusive, less the south 7.5 feet thereof, and
 6 lots 32 through 42, inclusive, less the south
 7 7.5 feet thereof, Block 3, "Coral Gables
 8 Industrial Section," together with that portion
 9 of the 30 foot platted alley lying north of the
 10 north line of the south 7.5 feet of said lot 11
 11 projected westerly and south of the north line
 12 of said block 3, 250 Bird Road, Coral Gables,
 13 Florida; including required conditions;
 14 providing for a repealer provision,
 15 severability clause, and providing for an
 16 effective date.
 17 I think I'm going to refer to this as the
 18 legal description, since we are repeating it
 19 multiple times and it may shorten this.
 20 Item E-3, a Resolution of the City
 21 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing
 22 the Mixed-Use Site Plan and Conditional Use
 23 review pursuant to Zoning Code Article 4,
 24 "Zoning Districts" Division 2, "Overlay and
 25 Special Purpose Districts", Section 4-201,

1 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida approving
 2 receipt of Transfer of Development Rights
 3 (TDRs) pursuant to Zoning Code Article 3,
 4 "Development Review", Division 10, "Transfer of
 5 Development Rights", Section 3-1006 "Review and
 6 approval of use of TDRs on receiver sites", for
 7 the receipt and use of TDRs for a Mixed-Use
 8 project referred to as "Merrick 250" on the
 9 property legally described as lots 1 through
 10 11, inclusive, less the south 7.5 feet thereof,
 11 and lots 32 through 42, inclusive, less the
 12 south 7.5 feet thereof, Block 3 "Coral Gables
 13 Industrial Section," together with that portion
 14 of the 30 foot platted alley lying north of the
 15 north line of the south 7.5 feet of said lot 11
 16 projected westerly and south of the north line
 17 of said Block 3, 250 Bird Road, Coral Gables,
 18 Florida; including required conditions;
 19 providing for a repealer provision,
 20 severability clause, and providing for an
 21 effective date.
 22 Item E-2, an Ordinance of the City
 23 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida granting
 24 approval of a Planned Area Development (PAD)
 25 pursuant to Zoning Code Article 3, "Development

1 "Mixed-Use District (MXD)" for a proposed
 2 Mixed-Use project referred to as "Merrick 250",
 3 legal description previously announced;
 4 including required conditions; providing for a
 5 repealer provision, severability clause and
 6 providing for an effective date. Mixed-Use
 7 site plan. Legal description on file.
 8 Item E-4, a Resolution of the City
 9 Commission of Coral Gables, Florida approving
 10 the Tentative Plat entitled "Alta Strategic
 11 Gables" pursuant to Zoning Code Article 3,
 12 Division 9, "Platting/Subdivision", being a
 13 re-plat of 61,548 square feet (1.41 acres) into
 14 two tracts of land on the property legally
 15 described as lots 1 through 11, inclusive, less
 16 7.5 -- less the south 7.5 feet thereof, and
 17 lots 32 through 42, inclusive, less the south
 18 7.5 feet thereof, Block 3, "Coral Gables
 19 Industrial Section," together with that portion
 20 of the 30 foot platted alley lying north of the
 21 north line of said block 3 (250 Bird Road)
 22 Coral Gables, Florida; including required
 23 conditions; providing for a repealer provision,
 24 severability clause, and providing for an
 25 effective date.

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1 Items E-1, E-2, E-3 and E-4 public hearing.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Mr. Collier.
 3 Before I ask Jill to read the e-comment
 4 into the record, I'd like to remind everybody
 5 again, anybody that wishes to speak on any of
 6 these four agenda items, if you're on Zoom, to
 7 please go ahead and send a chat to Jill, and if
 8 you are on the phone platform, it is *9.
 9 Jill, would you please read the e-comment
 10 into the record?
 11 THE SECRETARY: "Hello, I would like to
 12 submit the following questions and comments.
 13 "(1) Isn't Coral Gables supposed to be the
 14 City Beautiful and not --"
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Jill, could you state
 16 the individual who sent that header?
 17 THE SECRETARY: Sure. Andrew Porter,
 18 received today, August 12, 2020, at 2:49 p.m.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 20 THE SECRETARY: I will start over.
 21 "Hello, I would like to submit the
 22 following questions and comments.
 23 "(1) Isn't Coral Gables supposed to be the
 24 City Beautiful and not the City Skyscraper?
 25 Views are being obstructed. Communities are

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1 traffic capacity/infrastructure for any future
 2 buildings in this area. There are already a
 3 plethora" -- I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing
 4 that correctly -- "of delivery trucks that
 5 block entrances, exits, and intersections on a
 6 daily basis.
 7 "(4) Buildings need to have their height
 8 capped at three stories or less to make it feel
 9 like Coral Gables.
 10 "(5) This part of the city needs additional
 11 parks and green spaces. If construction
 12 continues it is just going to be a strip of
 13 ugly concrete towers that are built too close
 14 together.
 15 "(6) Many of the roads in this area are
 16 starting to smell like garbage because of the
 17 tight alleyways and increased population
 18 without significant infrastructure development.
 19 "(7) Areas of Merrick Park, Merrick Circle,
 20 and Douglas already smell like sewage, this
 21 will make it worse.
 22 "Thank you, Andrew. Andrew Porter, Ph.D.,
 23 Assistant Professor of Public Health, School of
 24 Health Studies University of Miami."
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

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1 being decimated. We do not need another
 2 high-rise in Coral Gables. Merrick Manor, the
 3 Henry, Laguna Place and Gables Ponce are
 4 already too much. They make driving more
 5 complicated. They make driving more congested.
 6 The proposed projects do not include an
 7 increase in utilities or traffic capacity and
 8 this is especially problematic when school is
 9 in session with Coral Gables High School pickup
 10 and dropoff and busses. Also, there are no
 11 parks or green spaces in this part of Coral
 12 Gables which further demeans our title as the
 13 City Beautiful. Future buildings in this area
 14 should be capped at three stories to prevent
 15 the destruction of communities, sight lines,
 16 property values, and a truly beautiful city
 17 instead of an ordinary one.
 18 "(2) The proposed buildings are far too
 19 close together. Instead of being the City
 20 Beautiful, we're looking like a grungy
 21 Manhattan/Brickell building scape. If these
 22 are built as planned, there will be dark alleys
 23 and traffic congestion, which will lead to
 24 decreased property values.
 25 "(3) There needs to be an increase in

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1 THE SECRETARY: The address is 5053 (sic)
 2 Brunson Drive, Coral Gables, Florida 33146.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Jill.
 4 At this time, I'd like to ask the
 5 applicant --
 6 MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman --
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 8 MR. TRIAS: -- I'll have the presentation,
 9 Staff presentation.
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Sorry about that.
 11 That is correct.
 12 MR. TRIAS: Thank you. Thank you, sir.
 13 May I have the presentation? Thank you.
 14 We have one project in the area that
 15 happens to be in the area that we just
 16 discussed, in the Design/Innovation District.
 17 The project is a Mixed-Use project. It
 18 incorporates an existing building, so it's a
 19 very interesting architectural solution that
 20 the applicant will explain.
 21 And the request includes four topics. One
 22 is TDRs, also a PAD, a Conditional Use Site
 23 Plan for Mixed-Use, and a Tentative Plat.
 24 Next.
 25 The four requests are very

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1 straight-forward. They're very typical of
 2 projects in the area. And the only unique
 3 thing is, maybe that the TDRs are those special
 4 TDRs that resulted from a settlement some time
 5 ago, and that's about 4,900 square feet of
 6 additional square footage, beyond the 3.5 FAR
 7 that is allowed. That's what the settlement
 8 allowed. And the rest of it is a way to
 9 maximize the benefit, the public benefit, and
 10 the quality of the pedestrian areas at the
 11 ground level, and that's done through the PAD
 12 and the Conditional Use Site Plan.

13 The plat allows for a more clear division
 14 of land. As of today, all of the existing
 15 buildings, that were one and two stories, are
 16 demolished, except for one, so what happens is
 17 that the block is going to be developed in a
 18 more unified fashion.

19 Next.

20 That is the area of the block, and you may
 21 remember that some time ago you looked at the
 22 southern half of that block. So the current
 23 project faces Bird Road, Aurora and Salzedo.

24 Next.

25 And as has been mentioned in today's

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1 special requirements. The PAD is significant,
 2 as I mentioned before today, because the
 3 project has more than ten stories. That's only
 4 possible because there's a PAD, and there's an
 5 opinion from the attorney that explains that,
 6 but it is within the 120 feet, the maximum
 7 height that we discussed earlier in the meeting
 8 today.

9 Again, the discussion today was about the
 10 Comp Plan. Those regulations already exist in
 11 the Zoning Code.

12 Next.

13 So Number 3 is the Mixed-Use Site Plan,
 14 which usually is the most interesting aspect of
 15 the request, because it deals with the physical
 16 design. I won't go into great detail. The
 17 applicant is going to explain the project. But
 18 you can see that the ground level tries to
 19 maximize the pedestrian experience. And in the
 20 yellowish color, you have the existing
 21 building, the existing building that is being
 22 incorporated into the project.

23 Next.

24 The summary of the Site Plan information,
 25 which was included in your Staff report, goes

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1 meeting, there are many large projects that are
 2 Mixed-Use all around, and the ground level
 3 ideally should be a much more pedestrian
 4 oriented retail and innovation environment.

5 Next.

6 Some time ago, last May, was the last
 7 hearing. We reviewed and the Commission
 8 adopted the Belmont ALF, which was also
 9 Mixed-Use. The ground level, you may recall,
 10 was retail and the sidewalks and public spaces,
 11 and that's the southern half of this block.
 12 Now we're dealing with the northern half.

13 Next.

14 The Land Use and the Zoning remain. So
 15 that's not being changed today. It's the
 16 existing conditions.

17 Next.

18 And the Request Number 1, as I said, has to
 19 do with the special settlement that was made
 20 with some of the TDRs, which allow additional
 21 FAR.

22 Number 2 -- next.

23 Number 2, the second request is the PAD,
 24 which, when one has one acre of land, and some
 25 other requirements, it's possible to do some

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1 into some detail about the scope of the
 2 project, but basically it's 215 units, about
 3 8.4 percent of ground level Commercial or 8.4
 4 percent of the total project. So, as you can
 5 see, that is consistent with the regulations we
 6 have. And the landscaped open space, the
 7 minimum for a PAD is 20 percent. They are
 8 providing 21 percent.

9 The important aspect of this is not
 10 necessarily the percentage, but the actual
 11 design and the way that it works with the
 12 building. I think that's much more
 13 interesting. So they've done a very successful
 14 job with that. And they also have additional
 15 parking.

16 And Ms. Anderson pointed out that they were
 17 one disabled parking space short, so they're
 18 changing that. So they're going to provide
 19 eight, instead of the seven.

20 But the applicant can explain the project
 21 in their presentation in more detail.

22 Next.

23 And the existing configuration, the
 24 existing is actually already in the past,
 25 because most of those existing buildings have

1 been demolished, except for the one in the
 2 front.
 3 Next.
 4 And this is the proposal. The proposal has
 5 the Belmont building in white and the proposed
 6 building in gray. As you can see, the
 7 regulations along Bird Road cap the height and
 8 then the height is allowed 100 feet back from
 9 that point.
 10 Next.
 11 This is the facade from Bird Road, the
 12 front of the building, and the building on the
 13 right is the remodeled three-story building or
 14 the remodeled existing building, and then on
 15 the left is the brand new construction.
 16 Next.
 17 The last request, the Tentative Plat, has
 18 two tracts, because the Zoning is different.
 19 It's just a technicality. But basically it
 20 allows for the development to make more sense,
 21 in a consistency point of view, with the
 22 plating of the block.
 23 Next.
 24 The project has been reviewed by DRC last
 25 year in August, the Board of Architects in

1 October, the neighborhood meeting also in
 2 October, and then today at Planning & Zoning
 3 Board.
 4 Next.
 5 Letters to property owners were sent within
 6 a thousand feet, as required.
 7 Next.
 8 Public notice was sent twice, in the form
 9 of letters. The posting of the property was
 10 done three times, three times in the website,
 11 and one newspaper advertisement for tonight's
 12 meeting.
 13 Next.
 14 Staff recommends approval with conditions
 15 that are listed in the Staff report.
 16 And now I would encourage you to listen to
 17 the applicant's presentation. Thank you.
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Mr. Trias.
 19 The applicant, Mario -- if we please unmute
 20 Mario.
 21 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Okay. Good afternoon,
 22 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, Mario
 23 Garcia-Serra. Am I coming through on the
 24 audio?
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes. Thank you. Yes.

1 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Okay. For the record,
 2 again, my name, Mario Garcia-Serra, with
 3 offices at 600 Brickell Avenue, and I am here
 4 today representing the property owner and
 5 co-applicant on this application. The property
 6 owner is Baptist Health of South Florida, and
 7 the co-applicant, which is also the contract
 8 purchaser for this property, is Alta
 9 Developers, LLC. Alta Developers is
 10 represented today also by one of their
 11 executive team, Mr. Juan Carlos Freyre, who is
 12 with us, joined us in the meeting, also, and
 13 we're also joined by one of our project
 14 architects, Mr. Eddy Vera, and our traffic
 15 consultant, Juan Espinoza, and my colleague
 16 here from my law firm, Lauren Kahn.
 17 Okay. Arceli, I think, is controlling the
 18 slides. If we could go to the first slide of
 19 our presentation. There we go. Just stay
 20 there for now.
 21 Ramon did an excellent job of providing you
 22 with some background information on the site,
 23 with the basics being that it is a 1.4 acre
 24 site, consisting of the north half of Block 3,
 25 in the Industrial Section, and it is located

1 within the City's Mixed-Used District.
 2 If you could go to the next slide now.
 3 What I would like to talk about here on
 4 this slide a little bit more is the vision plan
 5 and the existing context for this area. The
 6 transformation of this area from the
 7 semi-industrial almost forgotten area, which it
 8 was previously, to the vibrant Mixed-Use area
 9 which is developing today, is one of the City's
 10 great lining successes.
 11 The development of the Shops at Merrick
 12 Park was the first step in that direction. The
 13 site, of course, within all of our memories,
 14 used to be the City's Public Works yard, and
 15 now it's a vibrant Mixed-Use area anchored by
 16 significant and high end retail.
 17 An equally big test along this process of
 18 realizing what's in the process of being built
 19 today in this area, was the adoption of a goal
 20 in the Comprehensive Plan in the late 1990s to
 21 have a Mixed-Use Village in this area. In
 22 other words, the area surrounding the Village
 23 of Merrick Park has, for a long time now, been
 24 envisioned to be a Mixed-Use village, with
 25 people living, working, shopping and

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 entertaining all within a walking distance in 2 this area of the City.</p> <p>3 Twenty years later, we're now realizing the 4 results and benefits of that planning effort.</p> <p>5 As you can see from this exhibit in particular, 6 going from left to right, Merrick Manor, The 7 Henry and One Village Place are all projects 8 which were built pursuant to the Mixed-Use 9 regulations. Belmont Village, which we 10 reviewed or the Board reviewed back in 11 February, and is going through the permitting 12 process now, is the project that is on the 13 south half of the block that we are discussing 14 today, with the project under consideration, 15 250 Merrick, being the north half. The 16 Collection, then, office building and car 17 dealership, on the far east, sort of anchors 18 this particular area of the City with 19 relatively new development.</p> <p>20 The one missing piece to complete the plan 21 in this area of the City is the site which we 22 are discussing tonight, which is the north half 23 of the same block as Belmont Village, Block 3 24 of the Industrial Section.</p> <p>25 Merrick 250 would be a 12-story Mixed-Use</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 building, 215 rental apartment units, 33,500 2 square feet of Commercial and Retail space, 3 with much of that office space coming from the 4 existing 250 Bird Road office building, which 5 is located in the northwest corner of the site, 6 and you can see it on this aerial photograph. 7 That existing office building is proposed to 8 remain, be modified, and continue to be used as 9 office with ground floor retail.</p> <p>10 This, I consider very significant, because 11 as opposed to some of the other recent 12 Mixed-Use projects in this area, the office 13 component of this project is very significant. 14 It's about 33,000 square feet, and it is higher 15 in proportion, as compared to other projects. 16 So it really has more of an emphasis on the 17 work component of the live, work, play, as 18 compared to other projects in the area.</p> <p>19 The next slide please.</p> <p>20 This image here basically has the existing 21 built projects in the area, and also adds in a 22 rendering of Belmont Village, as well as the 23 proposed 250 Merrick project, and as you can 24 see from this slide, as far as height and 25 massing, 250 Merrick will fit in very well in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 comparison to the other buildings in the area, 2 at pretty much the same height and the same FAR 3 and the same general sort of building form as 4 is already provided for with the other 5 buildings that were either recently constructed 6 or recently approved.</p> <p>7 Another significant factor of this project, 8 and one that we touched upon previously when 9 reviewing the Belmont Village project, is that 10 both projects are combining their crossblock 11 passages to create a uniform paseo.</p> <p>12 If you can go to the next slide, it will be 13 a Site Plan, which is going to show how that 14 paseo would work. So you can see here, here is 15 the ground floor Site Plan for the building. 16 You'll see that it has an arcade on its south 17 end, and that arcade, plus about five feet of 18 additional width of open space paseo, connects 19 with the other paseo that is being proposed by 20 Belmont Village, to the south, on the north 21 side of that building.</p> <p>22 This unified paseo, which at its narrowest 23 would be 37 feet in width, and at its widest, 24 would be about 50 feet in width, will bring 25 about an almost sort of landscaped park like</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 passageway between the two buildings, at mid 2 block, which is very unique for a new 3 development in this City, and I think could be 4 an example of future development, when you have 5 two projects side by side on the same block.</p> <p>6 With that said, I'll hand over the sort of 7 presentation of the more architectural features 8 of the proposal to Eddy Vera, who will then go 9 through a few more slides.</p> <p>10 MR. VERA: Thank you, Mario. 11 Can everybody hear me okay?</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes, thank you. And 13 just, before we take you, Mario, I assume you 14 want to reserve some time for rebuttal and so 15 forth after?</p> <p>16 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Correct. Once Eddy is 17 finished, I'll still have a few more comments 18 to make, and then I reserve some time to 19 rebutt, and even when Eddy is making his 20 presentation, I might chime in on a few things.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.</p> <p>22 MR. COLLIER: Mr. Chairman --</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes, sir.</p> <p>24 MR. COLLIER: -- before the architect 25 speaks, because he is viewed as a witness,</p>

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1 we're going to need to get him sworn in.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Could you
 3 please raise your right hand?
 4 (Thereupon, the participant was sworn.)
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you. Please
 6 continue.
 7 MR. VERA: So, for the record, my name is
 8 Eddy Vera. I'm representing Behar Font and
 9 Partners. Our address is 4533 Ponce de Leon
 10 Boulevard. And, first, I'd like to thank the
 11 Board, again, for taking the time to listen to
 12 our presentation today.
 13 As we've stated before, Merrick 250 is a
 14 true Mixed-Use project, consisting of
 15 Residential apartments, Commercial retail and
 16 office space. And I kind of want to take a
 17 moment to talk about how relevant the project
 18 is to today's discussion with the Design
 19 District and everything.
 20 Our site is very centrally located, and we
 21 wanted to make sure that this project fully
 22 addressed the pedestrian realm by activating
 23 all four sides of the building, basically
 24 having no rear to the building, and we did that
 25 by having Commercial spaces on all three

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1 important factor to point out here is, you'll
 2 see that there's a blue dotted line that runs
 3 maybe a third of the way into the property
 4 through the property. That blue line is
 5 indicating the 100-foot setback point at which
 6 the project, since it's located on the south
 7 side of Bird Road, across from Duplex Zoning,
 8 cannot be any higher than three stories or 45
 9 feet in height.
 10 It's a unique constraint to this site,
 11 compared to others, such as the Belmont Village
 12 project, where they did not have that height
 13 constraint or any of the other projects in this
 14 area, which ran the whole length of the block,
 15 which were able to have more area, that they
 16 could go to the maximum height of the 100 or
 17 120 feet. So that's something that might be
 18 relevant to the discussion later on. I just
 19 wanted to point out that sort of constraint,
 20 which I think the design team has successfully
 21 designed around, but I wanted to point it out.
 22 MR. VERA: Yeah. And, actually, let me
 23 just add something, just to take this
 24 opportunity to address two comments.
 25 One was from the e-mailed in comment about

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1 streets, and a Residential use along the paseo,
 2 on the south side. We've intentionally placed
 3 our curb cuts on Aurora, across from the
 4 loading and service areas for The Collection,
 5 to maximize the pedestrian realm.
 6 With that, we internalized all back of
 7 house areas to hide them from the street as
 8 best we can. All of this, Bird Road and
 9 Salzedo is a continuous pedestrian experience,
 10 with an L-shaped paseo that wraps around the
 11 existing office building. We've lined the
 12 paseo, on the south side, with residential
 13 amenities and the lobby, to activate that
 14 entire side.
 15 We worked closely with Belmont, the project
 16 on the south side, to really incorporate their
 17 paseo with our covered paseo, and so we did
 18 that from the design of the paver pattern, to
 19 the design of the landscape, in conjunction
 20 with a covered walkway, bringing the entire
 21 block together as a continuous pedestrian
 22 experience.
 23 If you could go to the next slide please.
 24 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Before you leave that
 25 slide, if you can go back to the last one, one

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1 the service. We've actually internalized all
 2 of our service on the inside. So all of the
 3 trash pick up, everything is done inside.
 4 There would be no service done on the street.
 5 The other comment we got before the
 6 presentation from Ms. Anderson, about the
 7 handicap parking space, and we looked at it.
 8 Our plan is to add another handicap space
 9 across from the existing handicap space, so we
 10 can cross it and just you go out that door into
 11 the L-shaped paseo.
 12 Okay. We can go to the next slide now.
 13 So here we see the typical parking on
 14 Levels 2 to 4. Basically it's a typical
 15 parking layout. What we've done here, though,
 16 is we've lined -- we've put liner units along
 17 Bird Road, to hide the parking from the street.
 18 So it's perceived as three stories, instead of
 19 four.
 20 We've also separated the garage from the
 21 existing building, from the existing office
 22 building, so that that L-shaped paseo can be
 23 open to the sky all of the way through.
 24 Next slide, please.
 25 On the fifth level, in the residential

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1 amenity deck, here's where we had to set back
 2 that hundred feet, that required a hundred foot
 3 setback, from the Residential Zoning across
 4 Bird Road, and as far as the deck, what we did
 5 is, we separated it into two components. We
 6 put the pool above the garage and liner units,
 7 to get maximum sun exposure in that area and to
 8 have an interior courtyard on the other side.
 9 Next slide, please.
 10 The typical floor designed in a U-shape to
 11 open up the building and lessen the impact of
 12 the massing of the building fronting Bird Road.
 13 Next slide, please.
 14 So this is the existing office building as
 15 it is today. Originally, its design was
 16 limited to no transparency to the outside, and
 17 it has a three-foot encroachment to the public
 18 right-of-way right now. Our proposal maintains
 19 the existing encroachment, but it completely
 20 opens up the street, as well as removes the
 21 solid walls on the ground floor, to replace it
 22 with storefronts. That is meant to incorporate
 23 it into the new design to activate and enhance
 24 the pedestrian experience.
 25 Next slide, please.

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1 Next slide, please.
 2 So this view is from Bird Road, similar to
 3 the view that Ramon had shown earlier. Here
 4 you see the retail office space on the
 5 left-hand side, with the liner units above, and
 6 I think this is kind of interesting, because
 7 this is the entrance to that L-shaped paseo,
 8 and the L-shaped paseo is really activated on
 9 both sides of it, with the existing office
 10 building on the right.
 11 Next slide, please.
 12 So this is the view from Bird, looking down
 13 Salzedo. This is a good view of how we've sort
 14 of readapted the facade of the existing office
 15 building. We used what was existing and
 16 incorporated it, so that it would look like it
 17 was intentional in the incorporation of our
 18 design to our new building. We removed the
 19 decorative screen completely, and we removed
 20 the solid walls on the ground floor and really
 21 opened up the facade, making this building look
 22 like a real Class A office building.
 23 Next slide, please.
 24 So here we're looking at the entrance to
 25 the residential lobby on Salzedo, as well as

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1 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Let me add to that, that
 2 the only encroachment in this project is that
 3 condition. In other words, the existing sort
 4 of architectural features of the existing
 5 building that encroach over the right-of-way on
 6 the second and third stories of that building,
 7 are the only right-of-way encroachments that
 8 are part of the project, and they are part of
 9 an existing condition, which we're trying to
 10 improve, but nonetheless remain and encroach,
 11 and will be part of our request to the City
 12 Commission of the approval of those
 13 encroachments.
 14 MR. VERA: So, the renderings we're going
 15 to see are a little bit -- they're a little bit
 16 updated, in comparison to what we saw earlier.
 17 This rendering is a view from Bird Road,
 18 looking down Aurora. Here you see the liner
 19 units facing Bird Road, above the office space.
 20 Again, now we've activated both streets, by
 21 opening up the ground floor completely with
 22 storefronts. You also see that we further
 23 refined the screening of the garage, to really
 24 incorporate like a three dimensional artistic
 25 screening, that enhances the facade completely.

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1 how we introduce and integrate the crossblock
 2 paseo.
 3 Next slide.
 4 So you can see how we were working with the
 5 Belmont project on the south. We've integrated
 6 the design of the paver pattern and the
 7 landscape to work with our covered paseo.
 8 Go to the next slide, please.
 9 And, you know, we kind of went down to like
 10 the very specific details, where the lines of
 11 the paver pattern, the lines of the planters,
 12 kind of meet with our colonnade and go up. So
 13 it's very intentional.
 14 Next slide.
 15 Here I kind of wanted to show how, if
 16 you've noticed, on all of the other slides, our
 17 entire paseo was storefront. So there we have
 18 uses like the fitness center, the lobby, things
 19 like that, that can complete activate the paseo
 20 on our side.
 21 Next slide.
 22 So this is the entrance of the paseo from
 23 Aurora Street, and here you can see how, even
 24 on Aurora, we've activated the sidewalk with
 25 habitable space to really create a continuous

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1 pedestrian friendly experience throughout the
 2 entire site, all of the way around.
 3 Next slide.
 4 So this is a view just from above, and it's
 5 just another view, just to show how we
 6 incorporated both designs into one, so it feels
 7 like one continuous paseo.
 8 Next slide.
 9 Okay. So the next few images are going to
 10 show further the relationship, with the
 11 massing, with the existing building -- with the
 12 existing buildings in the area. Obviously,
 13 this is our building in the front. You can see
 14 a little bit of the Belmont building in the
 15 back, and then you can see all of the way down
 16 to Merrick Manor on Le Jeune.
 17 Next slide, please.
 18 So this is from across Bird Road. Here, it
 19 shows that, you know, the 120-foot height that
 20 we're proposing of the building, it fits
 21 seamlessly into the existing landscape of the
 22 surrounding buildings, and that 120-foot height
 23 is, you know, 100 feet back from Bird Road. So
 24 it's set pretty far back.
 25 So here you see, The Collection Residences

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1 the public comment, and, if necessary, we have
 2 other plans and exhibits which we can show you
 3 to address particular questions or respond to
 4 particular comments or objections.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 6 Jill, do we have speakers for this item?
 7 THE SECRETARY: Yes. We have two speakers.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Are they by Zoom
 9 platform or by telephone?
 10 THE SECRETARY: Via Zoom.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. What I'd like
 12 to do is, I'd like to call the speakers first,
 13 before the Board starts making comments, and
 14 then we can go into this.
 15 Who is the first speaker?
 16 THE SECRETARY: Hector de los Reyes.
 17 MR. DE LOS REYES: Hi, my name is Hector de
 18 los Reyes. My wife Ana and I live nearby --
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We'd like to swear you
 20 in, please.
 21 MR. DE LOS REYES: Sure.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: If you could please
 23 raise your right hand. His hand is raised.
 24 (Thereupon, the participant was sworn.)
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you. Please,

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1 on the left, One Village Place on the right,
 2 and then The Henry to the right of that.
 3 Next slide.
 4 And, then, finally, in this image, we also
 5 include the aerial of the massing of the
 6 Belmont project, and how the scale of the
 7 massing of our project is compatible to the
 8 surrounding area and fits right in.
 9 Thank you.
 10 And, Mario, if you have anything else, you
 11 can --
 12 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Thank you, Eddy.
 13 The project has been very well received by
 14 the previous City Committees and Boards that
 15 have reviewed it. Staff is recommending
 16 approval, as Ramon mentioned during his
 17 presentation, approval with certain conditions.
 18 Those conditions are acceptable to us. And so
 19 we would ask that you follow that
 20 recommendation and vote to recommend approval
 21 of this project with those conditions.
 22 With that said, that's the conclusion of
 23 our main presentation. We do reserve time, of
 24 course, to rebutt anything that might come up
 25 as part of the Board discussion or as part of

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1 again, just state your name and address, for
 2 the record.
 3 MR. DE LOS REYES: Yes. My name is Hector
 4 de los Reyes. My wife, Ana, and I live at 611
 5 Andora Avenue. We're a few blocks from this
 6 proposed project. We support this project.
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you very much,
 8 and thank you for taking the time to be at this
 9 meeting. It's much appreciated. Thank you.
 10 The next speaker please.
 11 THE SECRETARY: Matthew Martinez.
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: If we could please
 13 unmute Matthew.
 14 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes. Hi, my name is Matt
 15 Martinez --
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I'm trying to look for
 17 you, so you can raise your right hand.
 18 MR. MARTINEZ: I'm not currently in a place
 19 where I can -- it took a little bit longer than
 20 expected, so I'm driving.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Craig, how do
 22 we proceed with that?
 23 MR. COLLER: Okay. Well, because he can't
 24 be seen, he can't be sworn in. So this is kind
 25 of how we handled this issue at the last

1 meeting. We can accept his testimony, but it's
 2 not sworn testimony, and it can be considered
 3 in light of other admissible testimony, but it
 4 can't stand on its own.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood. Matthew
 6 you're okay with that?
 7 MR. MARTINEZ: I'm okay.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Go ahead and
 9 proceed, please.
 10 MR. MARTINEZ: Hi. I am a trustee at One
 11 Village Place. I own also an office space in
 12 the building at 4100 Salzedo Street, that looks
 13 directly at 250 Bird.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Are you still
 15 there, Matthew?
 16 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, I'm here.
 17 You know, I'm definitely in favor of this
 18 project. I've analyzed it in great depth and I
 19 know the Belmont people, who are building to
 20 the south. I think it would be a tremendous
 21 addition to the area. I think it would
 22 activate certainly an area right now that's
 23 been -- you know, hasn't had a lot of attention
 24 for a number years, really, since I've owned,
 25 which is sort of dating back to four years now,

1 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Right-of-way
 2 encroachments, there is a process for them to
 3 be approved, but they go straight to City
 4 Commission. So, when this project moves
 5 forwarded to the City Commission, aside from
 6 the request that you guys are reviewing
 7 tonight, there will be one more request, that
 8 will be for these right-of-way encroachments.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Thank you on
 10 that answer.
 11 Let me go ahead and start with Rene.
 12 Rene, if you can unmute yourself, please.
 13 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Mr. Chair, I don't know
 14 if you want me to maybe just do the brief
 15 rebuttal. There was only one --
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: If you'd like to, go
 17 ahead, please.
 18 Sorry, Rene.
 19 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: There was only one brief
 20 e-mail that was received earlier this
 21 afternoon, at 2:49, and was read into the
 22 record earlier today.
 23 And it appears that the objector's concerns
 24 really have more to do with sort of what the
 25 Code and the plan permit in this area of the

1 and architecturally I think it's a sound
 2 project. I think it's aesthetically very
 3 pleasing.
 4 I think the -- you know, a lot of people
 5 talk about parking issues. I think the parking
 6 ratio is like three to one thousand, which is
 7 ample parking, and I look forward to the
 8 project being built. I'm very supportive of
 9 it.
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you very much.
 11 Jill, do we have any other speakers at all?
 12 THE SECRETARY: No one else.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No one else.
 14 At this time, I'd like to go ahead and
 15 close the floor.
 16 I'd like to ask a question to Mario, if I
 17 may, please.
 18 Mario, I noticed that you were talking
 19 about the encroachment, and I understand that
 20 the whole area has the encroachment, and you're
 21 going to do the same design for the new area
 22 that goes along Bird Road. As such, do you
 23 need to go before the Board of Adjustments or
 24 any venue for that encroachment? I'm not sure
 25 how that works.

1 City, which we were talking about earlier. In
 2 other words, there's objections raised alleging
 3 that this is a sort the skyscraper, that it's
 4 just too big of a building, that the right
 5 height here would be three stories, 45 feet,
 6 and that's just not consistent with what's
 7 permitted by the Code today, and indeed what
 8 the City's vision has been for this area for
 9 some time and what they've been wanting to
 10 implement.
 11 Similarly, objections to traffic. The City
 12 traffic engineer reviewed this project, and
 13 confirmed compliance with the relevant levels
 14 of service for traffic, I believe. He's
 15 available if you want to hear further from him.
 16 And each of these projects, inclusive of this
 17 one, and, in particular, this one, I think
 18 they're doing their part to try to provide
 19 appropriate open spaces and public spaces in
 20 this somewhat urban area.
 21 And, remember, there's also the overall
 22 effort being done by other projects in the City
 23 to improve the underlying area around -- the
 24 area under the Metrorail as a bike, pedestrian
 25 path and park area.

1 So I think, really, the City's vision is
 2 being realized here. Their plan is being
 3 realized. It's a step in the right direction
 4 to fulfilling that vision and consistent with
 5 what has been stated is City policy for a while
 6 and even the as-built condition of this part of
 7 the City.

8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Mario.
 9 Rene, would you like to start?

10 MR. MURAI: No comments.

11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No comments from Rene.
 12 Venny.

13 MR. TORRE: I really like the project. I
 14 think it's really, really nice. I like the way
 15 the back of house is really hiding most of
 16 what's going in that realm, and I really have
 17 just one question, which may have been
 18 answered. If it was, I apologize.

19 In the small office building on Salzedo and
 20 Bird, the first floor is being called office.
 21 Is there a particular reason why that wouldn't
 22 be retail? If it was answered, I'm sorry, I
 23 missed it.

24 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: It could potentially be
 25 retail. You know, the permitted ground floor

1 you know, encouraging pedestrian traffic and
 2 activity there. You know, it is South Florida.
 3 It rains. It's hot. What do we have in the
 4 way of covered space for people to walk?

5 MR. VERA: So we have five feet underneath
 6 the office -- the existing office, and we have
 7 a little bit more -- I want to say we have ten
 8 feet under the new retail, close to it.

9 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. And on that side,
 10 I've seen some differing variations of the
 11 drawings, some of them with no trees, some of
 12 them with palm trees, some of them with leafy
 13 trees that provide some shade. What is the
 14 plan?

15 MR. VERA: Yeah. So the plan is provide
 16 shade trees all along there. Unfortunately,
 17 you know, in front of the existing office
 18 building, there's no room, but in front of the
 19 retail space, it's going to be all shade trees.

20 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Now, in front of the
 21 -- this area is bordering Bird, and I have done
 22 my share of walking along Le Jeune Road after
 23 it rains, and you will get a cloud of moisture
 24 there splash back on pedestrians. The design
 25 that we have on Ponce, with these little hedges

1 uses right now in the Mixed-Use District
 2 include both, retail and office. It should be
 3 labeled something to the effect of
 4 commercial/office.

5 MR. TORRE: It has such a great storefront
 6 design, that I just felt it should definitely
 7 be selling something from that passer by type
 8 of opportunity. But I have a positive response
 9 to this project and I'm in favor of it.

10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you very much.
 11 Rhonda.

12 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. A few questions. I
 13 have some comments, as well.

14 I'm pleased that you're reusing the
 15 existing building. That's kudos to you all for
 16 the way you've incorporated that.

17 One of the questions I have is, you know,
 18 how much covered area do we have underneath
 19 that what appears to be somewhat of an overhang
 20 that exists?

21 MR. VERA: Are you referring to the
 22 existing office building or to the new
 23 retail -- Commercial retail space?

24 MS. ANDERSON: Both of them, the ones that
 25 are facing Bird Road. And my concern is for,

1 that are along the side near the road, helps
 2 with that, because it stops that splash back
 3 from hitting the pedestrians.

4 Do we have some space to put in a minimal
 5 amount, at least along that side, to help out
 6 with the pedestrian traffic?

7 MR. VERA: Right now we have about 20 feet
 8 of sidewalk in front of the new Commercial
 9 space, and -- I mean, there's room. I think
 10 that's something we can look into.

11 MS. ANDERSON: Oh, I think Condition 13 on
 12 the package, I think it's Page 87, requires
 13 planting a strip of shrubs along Bird Road with
 14 the width --

15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda, if I may, is
 16 it possible to go ahead and put that slide up,
 17 so everybody can take a look at it, that Rhonda
 18 is talking about, that area?

19 But go ahead. While they do, Rhonda,
 20 please proceed.

21 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah. I see that there's a
 22 requirement in the package. It's Page 4 of 6
 23 of Resolution 2015-86, that requires a strip of
 24 planting material. Maybe that little ficus --

25 MR. TRIAS: Ms. Anderson, that was done

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1 recently in the paseo and on US-1 very
 2 successfully.
 3 MS. ANDERSON: Correct.
 4 MR. TRIAS: Those are very -- it's a hedge
 5 that DOT approved. So I think it's a great
 6 idea and a very good suggestion.
 7 MS. ANDERSON: Correct.
 8 MR. TRIAS: I think that that's -- there's
 9 enough room to do it and there's a precedent
 10 that it has been done in a State road, so we
 11 can probably follow up very easily.
 12 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: That is acceptable to
 13 the Applicant, also.
 14 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. On the parking, can
 15 you explain to us, Mario, how that tandem
 16 parking is going to work? I mean, one of the
 17 pictures showed this lift that had a car at an
 18 angle and it looks precarious to me. Is this
 19 one, is it just for the Residential units? How
 20 does this operate?
 21 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: I'll tell you what the
 22 Code permits and requires and then Eddy will
 23 tell you how they are thinking of actually
 24 doing the project.
 25 The Code permits a certain percentage of

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1 MR. VERA: Yeah. The lift, it's a product
 2 by Klaus, that exists, and it's basically a
 3 button that you press, that lifts the car and
 4 then drops it a little bit, but it locks in
 5 place.
 6 MS. ANDERSON: And does that also
 7 accommodate, you know, your standard SUV?
 8 Because, I mean, at that angle that it's
 9 pictured at --
 10 MR. VERA: Well, so it comes at an angle
 11 specifically for that.
 12 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. All right.
 13 All right. I was just a little curious
 14 about that.
 15 Now, in the submission, it says you have an
 16 expanded sidewalk width. In the front, I think
 17 you said you had, how many feet, on the Bird
 18 Road side?
 19 MR. VERA: 20 feet.
 20 MS. ANDERSON: 20 feet. And on the other
 21 sides, do you also have 20 feet?
 22 MR. VERA: On the other sides -- so we
 23 have -- if you were to include the arcades
 24 we're -- yeah, we would be at 20 feet.
 25 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. And the arcades are

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1 spaces to be tandem spaces or lifts, with the
 2 requirement that those tandem spaces be
 3 assigned either to the same Residential unit
 4 and/or Commercial unit. In other words, it
 5 can't be two separate owners of two separate
 6 units that have to rely on each other for the
 7 use of those spaces. There has to be some
 8 common unit that's using those spaces, so that
 9 presumably there's coordination between husband
 10 and wife or whoever it is that's living
 11 together as to who gets what space or, in the
 12 case of a, you know, Commercial unit --
 13 MR. TRIAS: Ms. Anderson, that's Condition
 14 11. It says it exactly --
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Can we mute whoever is
 16 talking in the background?
 17 MR. TRIAS: Condition 11 of tandem parking
 18 spaces also says exactly the same thing that
 19 the attorney has explained.
 20 MR. VERA: And that's exactly correct. Our
 21 plan is to assign those spaces to two-bedroom
 22 units and specifically to the Residential.
 23 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. And how do they work?
 24 Is it electric? Is there a switch? Is it
 25 really at an angle as it is shown?

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1 how wide?
 2 MR. VERA: I think the shortest arcade is,
 3 I think, 12 feet wide.
 4 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. And the landscaping
 5 plans, I noticed were changed between what you
 6 did and what was presented, and I clearly have
 7 a preference for as much shade as possible,
 8 largest caliber of trees that you can be
 9 putting in there. I know there's Bridalveil,
 10 which have a nice wide canopy on them, and do
 11 that well.
 12 But you only have nine, I believe, pictured
 13 in the submission package that was provided to
 14 us. Has that increased since we last --
 15 MR. VERA: Yes. The answer is, yes. If
 16 you were to compare the landscape plan that was
 17 submitted, compared to the latest proposal,
 18 yeah, we're adding quite a few more trees.
 19 MR. TRIAS: Ms. Anderson, that was one of
 20 the issues that the architect worked very hard
 21 at fulfilling their requirement of the Code for
 22 20 percent or more open space and better
 23 landscape. So they did that relatively
 24 recently. So the latest proposal, the one they
 25 showed in their presentation, I think reflects

1 the things that you would like to see.
 2 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Well, while we're
 3 still on landscaping, one of my concerns is, we
 4 have Residential units and we have people that,
 5 you know, want to walk dogs, and naturally the
 6 dogs need to be able to be taken fairly close
 7 by, especially if you're talking about late at
 8 night. You don't want to have to go all of the
 9 way down to US-1 to find a patch of grass.
 10 What is the City's vision here for having
 11 some sort of little park or area for these
 12 units -- these Residential units to be able to
 13 go to, to relieve their dogs?
 14 MR. TRIAS: At this point, there's a dog
 15 park that is being planned relatively close by
 16 at the -- in front of the Gables Station
 17 project, the Underline. I think that's --
 18 that's the one --
 19 MS. ANDERSON: That's blocks away. People
 20 are not going to go --
 21 MR. TRIAS: That's a couple of blocks away.
 22 Yeah, that's the only one that I can think of
 23 immediately that deals specifically with that.
 24 Beyond that, I think that the Underline is not
 25 that far away, and it's a significant public

1 MR. VERA: Yes, that's something we'll
 2 definitely -- I think we can look into.
 3 MR. TRIAS: Well, within the context of the
 4 PAD approval, you could make that
 5 recommendation as a condition, if the Board
 6 decides to go that way, certainly.
 7 MS. ANDERSON: I would recommend going that
 8 way. I think it would be an overall benefit
 9 for the entire area, as well as, you know, the
 10 Belmont behind the facility, which also is
 11 going to allow, I understand, some pet
 12 ownership, too.
 13 As far as these Residential units, for
 14 large items that they need to dump, whether it
 15 be cardboard, furniture and so forth, how is
 16 that being accommodated?
 17 MR. VERA: So all of that is being
 18 accommodated internal. If you look on the
 19 ground floor, I don't know if you can put that
 20 slide up --
 21 MS. ANDERSON: If you could put the slide
 22 up, it would be helpful. It's time consuming
 23 getting this thing to change pages.
 24 MR. VERA: Yeah. So, on the ground floor,
 25 to the left of the -- sorry, of the ramp to go

1 space, with multiple park opportunities.
 2 MS. ANDERSON: I think you need to vision
 3 something a bit closer. You know, I mean, I'm
 4 not talking about, you know, a huge park to
 5 play in, maybe just a corner area where the
 6 dogs can go relieve themselves quickly and
 7 people can pick it up, as opposed to being
 8 dropped on the sidewalks, in these paseos.
 9 You're asking a lot of these animals to make it
 10 all of the way down to US-1, and of people, you
 11 know, trying to do that last walk before they
 12 go to bed to relieve their dogs.
 13 So I think we need some sort of park
 14 facility within walking distance of a block of
 15 all of these Residential units that we're
 16 putting in. So that's my thought on that.
 17 I see you have a green that's to the
 18 southeast of the building. Is there an
 19 opportunity there to add some more green space,
 20 because, I mean, we're barely squeaking through
 21 here on the landscaping requirements and the
 22 public space requirements? It's a significant
 23 building, it's a beautiful piece of
 24 architecture, but I think we need to do a
 25 little bit more for the community.

1 up, all that is dedicated to service area. So
 2 we have a trash chute, but we have plenty of
 3 space to put recycle bins, stuff that can
 4 either be managed by the building or brought
 5 down by the tenants.
 6 MS. ANDERSON: Can you make that a little
 7 bigger for us who are over 55?
 8 MS. REDILA: I can't make it any more
 9 bigger. Sorry.
 10 MS. ANDERSON: No? Okay.
 11 MR. VERA: So the loading area, just as
 12 a -- at the service area, goes from where the
 13 ramp is horizontal on the screen, it goes, the
 14 bottom wall, all of the way down, really, to
 15 the outside. So there's a lot of room to
 16 accommodate all of that recycling.
 17 MS. ANDERSON: Can you point to that spot?
 18 That right there? Okay.
 19 Is that like a big open space, where
 20 somebody wanting to pull down a bed, they're
 21 not going to leave it outside of the building?
 22 MR. VERA: Correct. Correct.
 23 MS. ANDERSON: All right.
 24 MR. VERA: There we go.
 25 MS. ANDERSON: Much better. Thank you.

1 Oh, tremendously better.
 2 MR. WITHERS: Where do the trucks back in?
 3 MR. VERA: So the trucks actually wouldn't
 4 back in. What will happen is, the truck will
 5 go on through the two lane drive. They'll turn
 6 into the loading area, and then just exit out
 7 straight. So they never actually have to
 8 maneuver. They never have to turn into a
 9 parking space and turn out. So it's actually a
 10 lot easier for the trucks to go through.
 11 MS. ANDERSON: Okay.
 12 MR. WITHERS: But not a tractor-trailer?
 13 MR. VERA: Well, I mean, no. But this does
 14 accommodate the turning radius for a trash
 15 truck, for example. So where you see, in the
 16 loading area, where you see that 12-foot
 17 dimension, there's a dash line there. What
 18 that is, is actually a hole in the slab, so
 19 that the trash trucks can do all of their
 20 maneuvering to get the bins and put them
 21 overhead all within that space.
 22 MS. ANDERSON: The tractor-trailer is a
 23 good point, Chip. I mean, for people moving
 24 in, moving out.
 25 MR. WITHERS: They'll be in the street.

1 already done that study.
 2 MR. WITHERS: So where is the service
 3 elevator? Sorry, Rhonda.
 4 MS. ANDERSON: No, go ahead.
 5 MR. WITHERS: Where is the service
 6 elevator?
 7 MR. VERA: Zoom out a little bit. Go up in
 8 the drive --
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda, are you done
 10 or --
 11 MS. ANDERSON: No. No. But Chip is
 12 bringing up some good points. We're on topic.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
 14 MR. VERA: The moving truck would drive
 15 into this loading area. You would unload. And
 16 then there's a little service corridor here to
 17 the service elevator that takes you up to all
 18 of the floors.
 19 MR. WITHERS: So the egress of that is at
 20 the bottom of the screen?
 21 MR. VERA: Correct.
 22 MR. WITHERS: So where are your FedEx and
 23 UPS and folks like that going to do their pick
 24 ups?
 25 MR. VERA: So they would basically do it

1 They'll be blocking the street.
 2 MR. VERA: Well, a trash truck, I mean, is
 3 35 feet long. You know, the space is 12 feet
 4 by 35, which is what we're accommodating for,
 5 which is typical of all of the moving trucks
 6 and things like that.
 7 When you say, "Tractor-trailer," I think
 8 eighteen wheeler, you know.
 9 MR. WITHERS: Correct.
 10 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, for people moving
 11 in --
 12 MR. VERA: People are usually, you know,
 13 using moving trucks, which require a 12 by 35
 14 foot space, which is what we've accommodated
 15 for.
 16 MS. ANDERSON: Where is that space?
 17 MR. VERA: Right there. If you zoom in a
 18 little bit more, you see 12 by 35 loading bay,
 19 and then there's another one above, here, which
 20 has access directly to the elevators for
 21 moving. So we never have to go through the
 22 lobby or anything like that.
 23 MS. ANDERSON: So they can make that
 24 radius?
 25 MR. VERA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, we've

1 within that loading area or service area, and
 2 then we give them access -- right, we give them
 3 access to the lobby and straight into the mail
 4 room which --
 5 MR. WITHERS: Okay.
 6 MR. VERA: So all of that service will be
 7 all hidden within -- internalized within that
 8 area.
 9 MS. ANDERSON: Which I assume has great
 10 valve ventilation.
 11 MR. VERA: Yeah, of course.
 12 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. All right.
 13 Chip, are you done with the trucks, since
 14 you're the expert on trucks?
 15 MR. WITHERS: Yeah. Thank you.
 16 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Van accessible spots,
 17 let's assume that there is a resident that
 18 needs a van accessible spot. Is there a way
 19 for them to have it reserved?
 20 MR. VERA: We have more than eight feet
 21 four clear on all of our parking levels. So
 22 all of our handicap spaces will be van
 23 accessible.
 24 MS. ANDERSON: Problem solved. Done.
 25 The roof over the older section, what do

1 you plan on doing with that?
 2 MR. VERA: Okay. So do you mean like the
 3 elevator override and all of that stuff?
 4 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, on top of the
 5 building. You know, you have a nice, big,
 6 flat, wide space there.
 7 MR. VERA: Yeah. So we plan on doing a
 8 screened in enclosure, so that it's not such a
 9 sore thumb, you know, so it's more appealing
 10 aesthetically.
 11 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Any thoughts of
 12 putting some green space up there to help
 13 reduce this heat island that we get in the
 14 great South Florida sunshine? We have a great
 15 spot here for solar panels, too. It's
 16 fantastic. But it might not look as pretty
 17 from the pool. So, you know, that's why I'm
 18 talking green space, which would be lovely.
 19 I've seen it when I've gone to some hotels
 20 in Chicago and it's just kind of delightful.
 21 They put some kind of flowers growing out there
 22 or some beautiful yellow grasses.
 23 MR. VERA: What we did is, we added a
 24 planter on -- the pool deck access is at the
 25 same level, as well. I don't know if you would

1 appreciate planters on the other side. But
 2 it's something that we'll discuss, and the
 3 feasibility of it was a little bit difficult,
 4 because of the existing structure that's there
 5 now.
 6 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah, but grasses don't take
 7 that much depth.
 8 MR. VERA: No, I'm talking about a planter,
 9 but --
 10 MS. ANDERSON: Wild flowers, okay. There's
 11 all kinds of stuff that would grow up there
 12 with minimal soil depth.
 13 MR. VERA: Okay. We'll talk to the
 14 developer and see what we can work out.
 15 MS. ANDERSON: I highly recommend it,
 16 because it's amazing what you can do with a
 17 little bit of soil and ground cover that can be
 18 heat tolerant and make something nice looking
 19 instead of having to look at another rooftop
 20 from your pool while you go swimming, and this
 21 is a great opportunity.
 22 MR. TRIAS: Ms. Anderson, as you know, they
 23 have to get LEED certification or something
 24 similar, and that is one of the points that
 25 perhaps they could get through that process.

1 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah. No, it definitely
 2 could get them points and I think it would be a
 3 great statement here. I'm not saying, put
 4 trees up there. I'm saying, you know, some low
 5 growing stuff.
 6 So if you look at the Connect to Protect
 7 Program, they have more suggestions that you
 8 might want to use, lowly grass, things of that
 9 nature, are gorgeous and you can mix it up.
 10 MR. VERA: Okay. Great. Thank you.
 11 MS. ANDERSON: That's it, in the way of my
 12 questions.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Rhonda.
 14 Chip.
 15 MR. WITHERS: Yeah. Can you give me a
 16 little bit of background, either Mario or
 17 Staff, on the whole -- who's the sending
 18 property? What's the history on the TDRs?
 19 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Sure. I can give you
 20 that background, Chip. So going back decades,
 21 there were 20 acres of land south of Hammock
 22 Oaks. So picture yourself at Hammock Oaks,
 23 east of Old Cutler Road, sort of west of
 24 Matheson Hammock Park and Preserve, which were
 25 privately owned and they were Zoned

1 Single-Family.
 2 MR. WITHERS: Right.
 3 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: They were in a very
 4 environmentally sensitive area, and so the
 5 permitting and potential development of that
 6 site was problematic, not only for the property
 7 owner to get it done, but also problematic from
 8 the point of view of the City, as far as do we
 9 want development there, and do we want, you
 10 know, that impact to that environmentally
 11 sensitive area, and do we want the potential
 12 fight of lawsuits, so forth, over what might
 13 happen in that situation.
 14 So the resolution to that situation was
 15 that the then property owner conveyed those 20
 16 acres to the City. So those 20 acres are now
 17 owned by the City. And in exchange, that
 18 property owner was granted 50,000 square feet
 19 of TDRs, which were unique in two ways. Number
 20 One, that you could use them for density,
 21 potentially, if you wanted to, which is not
 22 typically permitted, and Number Two, you can
 23 use them in areas outside of the CBD, because
 24 your typical standard TDR can only be utilized
 25 today in the Central Business District.

1 So these could be utilized outside of the
2 Central Business District, as long as it wasn't
3 fronting South Dixie Highway and as long as
4 it's not abutting Single-Family or Duplex. So
5 those 50,000 square feet, about 4,000 and some
6 are being utilized here as part of this
7 project, and then about 3,000 and some are
8 being utilized for the Belmont Village project
9 to the south, and then, the balance, which is
10 around 40,000, is right under contract to be
11 sold to another developer for another project
12 in another part of town.

13 MR. WITHERS: And the City still has
14 another 19 acres for keep --

15 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: The City's got the 20
16 acres to do what they think is appropriate.
17 I've heard different possibilities for that
18 property, including potentially some sort of
19 deal with the County, whereby it's conveyed to
20 the County in exchange for something else.

21 MR. WITHERS: So, you know, the sending
22 site is approved, and it's not being used in
23 the CBD, so was that allowed through a
24 Resolution or how did they allow the --

25 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: A settlement agreement.

1 approval, you're typically limited to ten
2 stories. Here we have twelve. But I think
3 it's important to point out that, of those
4 twelve, one is a sort of Mezzanine parking
5 level and the other one is an actual floor that
6 is being used for units, but still staying
7 within the approximate 3.5 FAR that you're
8 permitted for this site.

9 MR. WITHERS: So, in regards to the
10 architectural features, I know it's to be
11 determined. The other buildings around there
12 have about another twenty to twenty feet or so
13 of height on those buildings. What do you
14 think yours is going to end up at? Whether
15 it's a screen for the engineering boxes up
16 there or the actual --

17 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Eddy will give you the
18 exact number. I think it's 134.

19 MR. WITHERS: Okay.

20 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Was I right, Eddy?

21 MR. VERA: I was flipping to that page.
22 It's about twelve feet -- 130 and four inches.

23 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Oh, excuse me, 130. 130
24 feet and four inches to the top of the highest
25 architectural feature.

1 It's a settlement agreement that was done to
2 avoid litigation, pursuant to Article 3 of the
3 Zoning Code.

4 MR. WITHERS: Okay. Got it.

5 Okay. And then I guess my next question
6 is, explain to me what were the restrictions of
7 why we had to go with a Planned Area
8 Development on this.

9 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Well, the Planned Area
10 Development, those regulations are there so
11 that you have some flexibility when you have
12 what are considered larger sites in Coral
13 Gables, over an acre. This is over an acre.

14 And so the PAD most often is used for
15 relaxation --

16 MR. WITHERS: I'm sorry. I understand what
17 they are. On this site specifically, what
18 changes did you make, that you were allowed to
19 make, as being able to move mass around on the
20 PAD --

21 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Number One, the uniform
22 step back that's typically permitted at 45
23 feet, we have variations there. And, then,
24 Number Two, within the 120 feet height that we
25 are permitted, subject to City Commission

1 MR. VERA: Correct.

2 MR. WITHERS: And I do want to echo what
3 Venny said. You know, the City seems to be,
4 earlier from a conversation, requiring that 14,
5 16 foot height on the ground floor, primarily,
6 I think, for nice retail spaces. You know,
7 Commercial offices, no. I mean, restaurant --
8 anything that has that transparency that people
9 can look in and see a vibrancy of what's going
10 on inside. So I would encourage that, also,
11 you know.

12 MR. VERA: Yes. On the Bird Road side, we
13 have fifteen eight clear on the inside. The
14 existing office building, I believe, has
15 fourteen feet clear, but we've always tried to
16 maintain that, you know, fifteen feet in
17 retail, because we agree with you, it should be
18 a nice height in there.

19 MR. WITHERS: So is there consideration for
20 art in public spaces on this property?

21 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Right now, there's the
22 option of either paying into the fund or
23 incorporating it somehow in the project. There
24 has been some discussion of potentially
25 incorporating it into the project, but we're

1 not exactly at that decision yet.
 2 MR. WITHERS: You know, again, if we're
 3 trying to make a signature area of the City,
 4 and this is supposed to be a destination, I
 5 mean, I really think that public art is a way
 6 to really, you know, make it really pop. You
 7 know what I mean? I mean, I know it's easier
 8 just to write a check to the City, but, boy, if
 9 there could be something that we could really
 10 do, really cool, on Bird Road or on that deck,
 11 that swimming pool deck, that would be a center
 12 piece, I just think that also adds, you know,
 13 pizzazz to the area.
 14 MS. ANDERSON: Or in a park that they're
 15 going --
 16 MR. WITHERS: Or in the dog park. Maybe we
 17 can get a full size statue of the most famous
 18 dog in history and put him right there in the
 19 park.
 20 MR. VERA: Maybe something might be
 21 incorporated into the paseo, since it's such a
 22 big feature between the two projects.
 23 MR. WITHERS: You know, I think it would be
 24 cool. You know, I think it would be cool.
 25 Thanks. Nice project.

1 Mezzanine. It's not material. I don't think
 2 it matters.
 3 MR. COLLER: I had the opportunity to speak
 4 to the City Attorney regarding the opinion, and
 5 did mention that this was indeed going to be
 6 twelve stories, where her opinion was eleven,
 7 and she agreed that the rationale was the same,
 8 as far as the PAD being allowed to deviate as
 9 long as it stayed within the 120 feet.
 10 MS. VELEZ: I figured as much. With 120
 11 feet and the 215-unit for the traffic study, I
 12 didn't think that was going to be of any
 13 matter, but I just wanted to clarify that.
 14 Thank you.
 15 MR. TRIAS: And if I could, we're going to
 16 clarify the definition of story in the update
 17 for the Zoning Code, and also make a
 18 distinction between the parking and the actual
 19 stories of the building that are definitely not
 20 parking, because those are really the issues
 21 when you deal with a large Mixed-Use building
 22 that interferes with a quality discussion.
 23 So, anyway, hopefully we'll have more
 24 better regulations.
 25 MS. VELEZ: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thanks, Chip.
 2 Maria.
 3 MS. VELEZ: I really like the idea of the
 4 art in public spaces -- public places. I think
 5 that would be a wonderful addition to the
 6 neighborhood and really make it different.
 7 That's very good. Thank you, Chip.
 8 I also like the idea of incorporating some
 9 things for dogs. I'm presently in Hoboken, New
 10 Jersey, where there are dog parks just about on
 11 every corner and it's fantastic. And it's very
 12 well received by all of the residents.
 13 A couple of comments. I noticed that the
 14 plat and the traffic studies and the opinions
 15 from our City Attorney all dealt with eleven
 16 stories. I think initially maybe this was
 17 presented as eleven stories. I just want to
 18 make sure -- it did say, 215 units, so I don't
 19 think there was any difference there. Does
 20 that make any difference in what we are
 21 discussing now?
 22 MR. TRIAS: Ms. Velez, it doesn't make any
 23 difference, and it was eleven or twelve,
 24 depending on where you looked at the building.
 25 So there was some disagreement, because of the

1 I like the project. I think it's a
 2 beautiful structure. The only other comment I
 3 had is, removal of on-street parking. In some
 4 of the material that I was reading, it said
 5 that there were 13 spaces, but they were going
 6 to be losing seven spaces. My concern is all
 7 of the retail that -- we're pushing for retail
 8 at the ground level, and I find that our
 9 mindset is that you drive up and you get out of
 10 your car and you're there. That's the mindset
 11 in South Florida, unfortunately. People don't
 12 like to park their car a couple of blocks away
 13 and walk to the location where they're going.
 14 So my concern is, I don't want to hamper
 15 the viability of these retail spaces that we
 16 want to succeed. I do walk in that
 17 neighborhood and I've noticed a lot of empty
 18 storefronts in the existing buildings that are
 19 there now, and so I don't know how we can
 20 encourage that, those storefronts to be
 21 successful, if we're not providing places for
 22 people to park.
 23 What's the situation here? Are we actually
 24 removing spaces? I know we removed some in the
 25 Belmont, and it looks like we're doing the same

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1 thing here.

2 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Correct. The plan that

3 has been submitted has a net loss of seven

4 on-street parking spaces. And on the issue of

5 on-street parking spaces, it's sort of a yin

6 and yang situation, because there's two

7 interests. Number One, of course, is having

8 the availability of the on-street parking.

9 But, Number Two, is having the appropriate

10 streetscape to lend to do a nice sort of

11 pedestrian environment, the shop front

12 situation, condition, and part of that are what

13 we call the landscape bulb-outs. Those sort of

14 bulb-outs that come out from the sidewalk,

15 between parking spaces, where you plant a tree

16 or you put some sort of landscaping.

17 And so the losses of the spaces are for the

18 most part attributable to those landscape

19 bulb-outs, and we usually follow sort of the

20 lead of Staff, and Ramon will tell you, this is

21 quite often a long sort of drawn out discussion

22 between Planning and Parking as to what's the

23 appropriate balance, and the result of that

24 discussion here, at least at this schematic

25 stage, was the loss of these seven spaces.

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1 there because they are required for the retail.

2 We can't count the on-street parking towards

3 our retail or our office parking requirement.

4 So perhaps signage is the best way to really

5 sort of guide the user or visitor to one of

6 those commercial spaces into the parking garage

7 or show them at least that that's another

8 option.

9 MS. VELEZ: That would be a good

10 recommendation, to make sure that we have

11 adequate signage, so people understand that

12 they can park within that parking garage.

13 Thank you. Otherwise, I think it's a nice

14 project, and I'm all for it.

15 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you, Maria.

17 Mario, a couple of questions for you. The

18 concern about the trash and so forth, the trash

19 that's in the building is air conditioned; is

20 that correct?

21 MR. VERA: Yes.

22 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Correct. The sort of

23 trash pick up and back of house functions are

24 completely incorporated in the building.

25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. The other

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1 But if Parking and Planning get back

2 together, and, you know, that changes by one or

3 two spaces either way, you know, we're good

4 with it also, but right now we're just sort of

5 I think following the lead of what City Staff

6 feels is appropriate.

7 MR. TRIAS: And the balancing act between

8 the tree and the parking space is basically the

9 discussion that goes on. However, let's

10 remember that the parking is being provided

11 also in the parking garage for the Commercial.

12 So the destination parking is there.

13 There may be a loss of a few parking

14 spaces, true, but there's certainly a gain of

15 landscaping and shade for the pedestrian.

16 MS. VELEZ: We need to make sure that

17 people understand that they do have access to

18 parking within the parking garage. Many times

19 the mindset is that that parking garage is for

20 the residents and you don't have access. So I

21 don't know how that gets conveyed.

22 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Signage is, I think,

23 probably the best way to try to convey it,

24 because indeed the parking garage is composed

25 of a certain number of parking spaces that are

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1 question that I had for you, Chip had

2 mentioned, I think, about the

3 semi-tractor-trailer when they're moving and so

4 forth. Could that trailer, and this may be for

5 the architect, could that trailer also just

6 back into that space, if, for any reason, it

7 was a large trailer truck and it couldn't

8 maneuver that turn?

9 MR. VERA: Yes, it's definitely possible.

10 We try to avoid it, just so that we don't stop

11 traffic, but it's definitely possible. They

12 can definitely back into that loading area.

13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So it is an option,

14 okay.

15 The question that we're talking about, the

16 parking and the loss of spaces for the City, I

17 guess this is for Ramon, is there a fund or

18 anything that the developer has to pay into

19 when you lose any parking spaces that are City

20 parking?

21 MR. TRIAS: Yes. Yes. They do have to do

22 that. So that happens.

23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And tell us about,

24 where does that money go?

25 MR. TRIAS: It goes to the general fund for

1 the parking, and, then, ideally, it's used for
 2 creating parking in the future.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So it's earmarked
 4 specific?
 5 MR. TRIAS: You're asking me questions that
 6 I have no control over. The Commission decides
 7 what to do with the money.
 8 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Because it
 9 would be good if it could be used for -- you
 10 know, specifically if it's for parking.
 11 MR. TRIAS: That certainly is the goal and
 12 we have a Parking Director who cares about that
 13 and makes sure that that happens.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Perfect.
 15 And the other thing that was mentioned
 16 about mattresses and so forth, where they're
 17 thrown out, Mario, I think that would be
 18 handled in the governing documents with the
 19 association, and also with the rules and
 20 regulations as to what is permitted and how
 21 it's disposed of. Am I incorrect or am I --
 22 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Definitely. That would
 23 be part of the condominium or, in this case,
 24 apartment building rules and regulations, as
 25 far as how you dispose of sort of your bulk

1 MR. VERA: Yeah, that's something that we
 2 have to discuss with the architects from the
 3 south side, because that's mainly on their
 4 side.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.
 6 Understood. But once you create that paseo,
 7 you're creating that specific area for that.
 8 MR. VERA: Right.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So just a comment.
 10 But I like the project very much. I really
 11 like the design. I really do.
 12 MR. VERA: Thank you.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any other comments?
 14 MR. WITHERS: I just have one, and I wrote
 15 it down. I forgot to ask. So there's really
 16 no plans for an outdoor dining area from a
 17 restaurant perspective?
 18 MR. VERA: So, within the L-shaped paseo,
 19 that's wide enough to create spaces for that,
 20 and we did think about that, but we don't know
 21 exactly what was going in those spaces yet.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Craig, you want to
 23 take each motion -- each agenda item
 24 independently, am I correct?
 25 MR. COLLER: Yes. I do have one question,

1 waste.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Bulk waste, okay.
 3 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: It would definitely have
 4 to be within the waste room that is part of
 5 the, you know, building, and, of course,
 6 shielded from the public view.
 7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. So there is
 8 ample room, which I saw it was a large area, so
 9 there's ample room?
 10 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Right.
 11 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. For myself, I
 12 actually -- I like the project very much. I
 13 like the look of it. I specifically like the
 14 way that you've incorporated that existing
 15 building and modernized it. I think it's
 16 great.
 17 One thing that I would just ask you to just
 18 take a look at, in the paseo, where you have
 19 the planters that are going up, that becomes a
 20 nice area for skateboarders, kids to hang out.
 21 So, seeing that you're going to have the other
 22 property on the other side, you just may want
 23 to look at that, as to how to discourage kids
 24 coming in with skateboards and using that as a
 25 ramp. You know, just a comment.

1 just to clarify, for the record, with counsel
 2 for the applicant. Counsel to represent that
 3 they're in agreement with all conditions that
 4 has been stated by the Department; is that
 5 correct?
 6 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Correct.
 7 MR. COLLER: And with respect to the
 8 \$100,000 contribution for public realm and
 9 public open space improvements, that's separate
 10 and apart from any impact fees; is that
 11 correct?
 12 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Agreed.
 13 MR. COLLER: Okay.
 14 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Yes.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 16 MR. COLLER: Yes, so we can take them
 17 individually. I guess we should start with
 18 E-1.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct. E-1 is the
 20 TDRs. Would anybody like to make a motion?
 21 MR. WITHERS: I'll move that.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Chip moves for the
 23 TDRs. Is there a second?
 24 MR. TORRE: I'll second it.
 25 MR. WITHERS: Venny seconds.

1 Any discussion?

2 MR. WITHERS: Yeah, one discussion, you

3 know. The reason I asked about the TDRs, that

4 was something we had discussed, I guess, what,

5 a couple of meetings ago, and we were all

6 pretty excited about it, and if the money is

7 not going to be used -- if it's just going to

8 be donated into a fund, I don't know what the

9 City's intention is for those twenty acres --

10 do you have any idea, Ramon, what the City's

11 intention is? Is it going to be a park? Is it

12 going to be an open air --

13 MR. TRIAS: It's a nature preserve next to

14 other nature preserves owned by the County. So

15 I don't think it's going to be an active park,

16 but certainly it's a preserve.

17 MR. WITHERS: It's going to require

18 maintenance.

19 MR. TRIAS: Yes.

20 MR. WITHERS: So maybe, you know, we say --

21 so that there is an option, that the

22 development could maybe apply some of that

23 money to maintenance of the nature preserve or

24 something. I just don't want it to sit in a

25 fund somewhere and accumulate. I'd like to

1 \$100,000 in, and he still has that piece of

2 property.

3 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: That 100,000 is being

4 proffered as sort, let's call it, the

5 additional public benefit of the project. Now,

6 that money is -- you know, right now, the

7 condition of approval reads, to be used for

8 public realm improvements, I believe, in the

9 area, if I remember correctly. Let me take a

10 look.

11 MR. COLLER: Yeah, it's required to be used

12 in the vicinity of the project for public realm

13 and public open space improvements. Now, if

14 the Board wants to, as a recommendation, say

15 that consideration should be given to payment

16 to maintain this area, which is park -- it's

17 really --

18 MR. WITHERS: Don't worry about it. It

19 muddies the water. I'll withdraw that.

20 MR. TRIAS: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. COLLER: Okay.

22 MR. WITHERS: I'm looking for direction.

23 Maybe one of the Commissioners will look pretty

24 good recommending it on the dais. You never

25 know, do you?

1 see it used. That's just my thoughts. I don't

2 know how the Commission would to take it.

3 The reason they're building this is because

4 of that or are able to build this. Do you have

5 a problem with that, Ramon?

6 MR. TRIAS: I mean, that could be one of

7 the proffered contributions by a developer. If

8 they get some of those TDRs, in return they

9 could say, okay, we're proffering "X" amount of

10 money for maintenance, perhaps.

11 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: If I may, Mr. Withers,

12 let me point out something important here.

13 MR. WITHERS: Okay.

14 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: The TDRs at stake here

15 are not being sold by the City. They're being

16 sold by the previous owner of that property --

17 MR. WITHERS: I thought they donated the

18 land to the City -- I see what they're saying.

19 They're paying for the City's donation by

20 getting the TDR receipts.

21 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Basically, the

22 consideration for the property being conveyed

23 to the City were the TDRs being conveyed to the

24 property owner.

25 MR. WITHERS: But you still have to pay

1 MR. TRIAS: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. We have a

3 motion by Chip. We have a second by Venny.

4 Any other discussion?

5 MR. COLLER: That's in accordance with

6 Department recommendation.

7 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That is correct.

8 MR. TORRE: Correct.

9 MS. ANDERSON: Now, we discussed some

10 potential conditions. I would think that that

11 would go on one of these items, other than the

12 TDR item.

13 MR. TRIAS: I would advise you to use the

14 PAD for any additional conditions.

15 MS. ANDERSON: All right.

16 MR. COLLER: Isn't there a Site Plan

17 approval here?

18 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. The Site Plan approval

19 condition should be the same as the PAD.

20 MR. COLLER: Right. So I think that that

21 would be a good place you could put that.

22 MR. TRIAS: What I meant to say is, you do

23 it at the PAD and then you do the same

24 condition at the Site Plan approval.

25 MR. COLLER: Right.

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1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Any other
 2 discussion? Having heard none, Jill, please
 3 call the roll.
 4 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 5 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 7 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 8 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 9 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 10 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 11 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 12 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rene, you're muted.
 14 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 15 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 17 The next item is E-2, which is the PAD. Is
 18 there a motion?
 19 MS. ANDERSON: I'll move it, with some
 20 conditions.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda is moving.
 22 What conditions, please?
 23 MS. ANDERSON: One, that there be a nearby
 24 dog park within preferably a one block radius.
 25 Number Two, that on Bird Road, we have a strip

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1 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: But, Craig, how do we
 2 have control of this development to have a dog
 3 park in the area? Wouldn't that be a
 4 recommendation maybe that the Board would make
 5 to the Commission, to look into a dog area
 6 within a certain boundary?
 7 MR. COLLER: I think that would be a better
 8 recommendation. I think it's a little
 9 problematic. First of all, we don't know what
 10 the cost would be. We don't have the amounts.
 11 I'm not sure how we -- you know, conditions
 12 kind of have to be kind of concrete, as far
 13 as --
 14 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. The architect, in the
 15 past, has done dog parks at that ground level
 16 of Mixed-Used buildings, like a small little
 17 area. So perhaps the idea should be to
 18 encourage the architect to look at
 19 opportunities in the site.
 20 MS. ANDERSON: Right, because the
 21 concurrency requirements note that the site is
 22 deficient on park and green space in this area.
 23 So something needs to be done.
 24 MR. COLLER: Well, actually, I think that
 25 was corrected. As I understand it, and I think

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1 of shrubs with perhaps some solitaire palms and
 2 other trees added to it for aesthetic purposes.
 3 Number Three, that the -- we talked about the
 4 trees, but I wanted in there a specific
 5 condition that we have more decoduous trees,
 6 such as the Bridalveil, which is appropriate
 7 for the size of the location, to provide shade.
 8 And, Four, request for the rooftop on the
 9 northwest corner to be planted.
 10 MR. COLLER: The dog park, the Applicant
 11 controls his site. Are we providing that the
 12 dog park be provided on site? Is that the
 13 proposal?
 14 MS. ANDERSON: No. No, that some money be
 15 put into getting a green space within walking
 16 distance of these buildings, particular -- you
 17 know, that we have one open space there
 18 already, and they've said that they were going
 19 to think about it. I'd like it to be more than
 20 think about it. I'd like for it to happen,
 21 because otherwise we're going to have a
 22 concrete area there, that is not going to be a
 23 reasonable area to go relieve your pets, and
 24 we're going to end up with dog waste on the
 25 sidewalks.

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1 the Director can clarify, because of the
 2 computer -- limitations of the computer
 3 program -- the computer program apparently
 4 cannot be updated to show the additional park
 5 space that has been acquired, and so, actually,
 6 this project does meet concurrency for purposes
 7 of parks. It's really a technical problem, and
 8 I think it was noted in the application.
 9 Ramon, do you want to clarify that?
 10 MR. TRIAS: No. That's correct. But I do
 11 think that there's a way that you can use the
 12 concurrency analysis to make the development do
 13 something. However, you could recommend that
 14 they find the location and study a place and
 15 they proffer that dog park.
 16 MR. COLLER: I think it would have to be
 17 something incorporated on site. Alternatively,
 18 I think you can make a recommendation to the
 19 Board that a dog park in the area is needed to
 20 meet the needs of this building and other
 21 buildings --
 22 MR. TRIAS: Yeah. What I would recommend
 23 is that the architect study the potential
 24 location of a dog park within the property, and
 25 that the Public Works and the Planning Director

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1 will review it and approve it or not approve
 2 it, in terms of design. Some condition similar
 3 to the conditions that we have for landscaping,
 4 which is, you explain the goal and then the
 5 details are worked out in the next few weeks.
 6 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: If I could just
 7 contribute one thing. When you say, "Park," it
 8 denotes, I think, a rather large space. I
 9 think what you're really looking for, as far as
 10 the site is concerned, is perhaps better
 11 described as sort of a pet service area perhaps
 12 or sort of a phrase --
 13 MR. TRIAS: Yes. And I'm thinking -- I
 14 think, wasn't The Henry, that the same
 15 architect worked on -- I seem to recall that
 16 there was some area.
 17 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: I remember 100 Alhambra,
 18 we had an elevated area on the pool deck that
 19 was a sort of pet service area, sort of area
 20 where dogs could go.
 21 MS. ANDERSON: Right. I mean, it doesn't
 22 take a huge area. We do lack green space in
 23 that section, which, you know, made that other
 24 place look opportuned to use, but, you know,
 25 behind my property, I have a small yard and

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1 comment?
 2 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: You know, with regards
 3 to the pet service area, I think, if we
 4 describe it in those terms, we will do our best
 5 to try to accommodate it on the site.
 6 With the rooftop green space, I think we
 7 basically need to study it. I don't know if we
 8 can commit to it right now.
 9 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood.
 10 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Just because of
 11 engineering, you know, what is going to be
 12 needed to actually incorporate that
 13 improvement.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: I understand that.
 15 Rhonda, you're making a motion?
 16 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. I made a motion.
 17 MR. TRIAS: And those are in addition to
 18 the Staff recommendations, I assume?
 19 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. Yes. Those are in
 20 addition to the Staff recommendations.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is there a second?
 22 MS. VELEZ: I'll second.
 23 MR. WITHERS: I'll second.
 24 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We've got a second by
 25 Maria.

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1 it's amazing the kind of space two greyhounds
 2 can use to relieve themselves.
 3 MR. WITHERS: And how green your grass is.
 4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda, let me ask you
 5 a question, by stating they have to require a
 6 space within the property, that doesn't solve
 7 the issue of the neighborhood or that area that
 8 we're talking about. For me, I would rather
 9 have a recommendation come from us to the
 10 Commission that they look at a green space or
 11 an area that could be done within that zone.
 12 MS. ANDERSON: No, I agree with you. We do
 13 need more green space within that zone, much
 14 closer than going down to the rails.
 15 MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman, as I said before,
 16 there's a dog park being planned. There's the
 17 Underline. The big picture parks are being
 18 planned. I believe, if you ask the architect,
 19 that they probably will tell you that they are
 20 able to find some space in their property for
 21 their own needs, and between the small project
 22 and the big project, I think we'll end up with
 23 that high quality infrastructure for the dogs
 24 and activities and such.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Mario, any

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1 MR. VELEZ: Rene is trying to talk.
 2 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Oh, you've got to
 3 unmute yourself, Rene. Sorry about that.
 4 Okay. Rene.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: He's muted.
 6 MR. MURAI: Unmuted.
 7 Okay. Rhonda's motion included the
 8 requirement that the developer provide a dog
 9 park or whatever that's called. Is that still
 10 part of the motion?
 11 MS. ANDERSON: It's a recommendation. We
 12 need an area to relieve the pets, and it's also
 13 a recommendation to the Commission that we need
 14 additional green space in the area.
 15 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: It's not a condition.
 16 MS. ANDERSON: Yeah. We can have little
 17 pocket parks in there that are tiny and provide
 18 some relief to the asphalt jungle.
 19 MR. MURAI: Okay. But it's not a
 20 condition?
 21 MS. ANDERSON: It's not a condition, no.
 22 MR. MURAI: Okay. Number One.
 23 Number Two, is the roof cover a condition,
 24 because Mario has just said that they need to
 25 study that? Is that a recommendation or a

1 condition?
 2 MS. ANDERSON: Well, I think it's feasible.
 3 I'd like them to strongly study it, because I
 4 haven't seen anybody really moving forward on
 5 doing these types of roofs that I see being
 6 installed even in hotel areas that are
 7 historic. So I think it's feasible to do
 8 something, even with the minimal planting of
 9 decorative grasses and some flowers.
 10 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda, is it possible
 11 to just do a recommendation as part of their
 12 certification for LEED, that the Board would
 13 like for them to look at it, if it is feasible?
 14 MS. ANDERSON: If it's feasible, I'd like
 15 them to do it.
 16 MR. MURAI: Okay.
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So it's a
 18 recommendation.
 19 MS. ANDERSON: It's a recommendation. If
 20 it's feasible, I'd like them to do it.
 21 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So it's a
 22 recommendation from the Board to take a look.
 23 Mario, would you be okay with that?
 24 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Yeah, that will be fine.
 25 MR. MURAI: Okay. What about the other two

1 further discussion?
 2 MR. COLLER: And Mr. Chairman, that would
 3 be in accordance with the Department
 4 recommendation.
 5 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That is correct.
 6 Okay. Jill go ahead and call the roll, please.
 7 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 8 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 9 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 10 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 11 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 12 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 13 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 14 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 15 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 16 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 17 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 18 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 19 Okay. Item E-3, that has to do with the
 20 MXD. Is there a motion?
 21 MS. VELEZ: I'll move it.
 22 MS. ANDERSON: I'll second it.
 23 MR. TRIAS: The motion should include all
 24 of the same conditions as the PAD.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Understood. We have

1 conditions that Rhonda stated, regarding, I
 2 don't know, trees or whatever?
 3 MS. ANDERSON: The position on that is,
 4 it's a requirement. We've already discussed
 5 it, and I just want to make sure it's in there.
 6 MR. MURAI: And has the developer agreed to
 7 it, Mario?
 8 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Rhonda, if I remember
 9 correctly, it was as far as quality of
 10 landscaping, type of tree and height of tree
 11 and size of tree at the time of planting.
 12 MS. ANDERSON: Correct.
 13 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: That is acceptable.
 14 And was there another condition?
 15 MS. ANDERSON: I specifically mentioned the
 16 strip of shrubs along Bird Road.
 17 MR. GARCIA-SERRA: Oh, yeah. Similar to
 18 what has been done to the Paseo project, which
 19 is also subject to -- that would be acceptable,
 20 yes.
 21 MS. ANDERSON: Okay.
 22 MR. MURAI: So there are two conditions and
 23 two recommendations? If that is the case, I'll
 24 second the motion.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a second. Any

1 Maria that made the motion, and Rhonda second
 2 it, with the same conditions, including Staff
 3 recommendations. Any discussion? No?
 4 Having heard none, call the roll, please.
 5 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 6 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 7 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 8 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 9 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 10 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 11 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 12 MR. TORRE: Yes. Here.
 13 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 14 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 15 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 17 Okay. So I think --
 18 MS. VELEZ: The plat.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: -- that was Number 3.
 20 Number 4, E-4, which would be the --
 21 MR. COLLER: The tentative plat.
 22 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: -- plat. Is there a
 23 motion?
 24 MS. ANDERSON: I'll move it.
 25 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Rhonda moves it. Is

1 there a second?
 2 MR. TORRE: Second.
 3 MS. ANDERSON: Do we need the same
 4 conditions in there?
 5 MR. TRIAS: Not for the plat.
 6 MS. ANDERSON: I didn't think so.
 7 MS. VELEZ: On the plat, make sure that it
 8 says 10 stories, because it does -- the
 9 tentative plat that we received said 11
 10 stories, so everything should coordinate and be
 11 the same.
 12 MR. TRIAS: Thank you.
 13 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: You'll take a look at
 14 that?
 15 MS. ANDERSON: Good point.
 16 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So, Maria; Rhonda
 17 moved and you second, Maria?
 18 MS. VELEZ: No, someone else did.
 19 MR. TORRE: I did.
 20 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Sorry, Venny. I
 21 apologize.
 22 MS. VELEZ: And then I interjected.
 23 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. And with the
 24 Staff recommendations that are there; is that
 25 correct?

1 o'clock.
 2 THE SECRETARY: The 20th.
 3 MR. TRIAS: The 20th, on Thursday, yes.
 4 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: The 20th. Sorry, we
 5 moved the date.
 6 MR. TRIAS: Yes, that's correct. It's
 7 Thursday at four o'clock, Zoom meeting.
 8 Hopefully we will have all of the issues
 9 resolved by then that were brought up last
 10 time. So I'm looking forward to your comments.
 11 Thank you.
 12 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.
 13 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.
 14 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Is there a motion to
 15 adjourn?
 16 MS. VELEZ: I'll move.
 17 MS. ANDERSON: Second.
 18 MR. MURAI: Second.
 19 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Don't everybody rush
 20 at once. Thank you very much everyone.
 21 (Thereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
 22 6:25 p.m.)
 23
 24
 25

1 MR. TRIAS: The recommendation is approval.
 2 That's the only recommendation.
 3 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay. Any discussion?
 4 No?
 5 Call the roll, please.
 6 THE SECRETARY: Rhonda Anderson?
 7 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.
 8 THE SECRETARY: Rene Murai?
 9 MR. MURAI: Yes.
 10 THE SECRETARY: Venny Torre?
 11 MR. TORRE: Yes.
 12 THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
 13 MS. VELEZ: Yes.
 14 THE SECRETARY: Chip Withers?
 15 MR. WITHERS: Yes.
 16 THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
 17 CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
 18 This, I think, is going to conclude our
 19 meeting. I want to thank everybody for
 20 attending, and I also want to thank, as always,
 21 the Staff for all of their hard work and
 22 dedication that they have put in. I wish
 23 everybody to be safe, and we have our next
 24 meeting on the 19th, Ramon?
 25 MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir, Thursday, at four

1 CERTIFICATE
 2
 3 STATE OF FLORIDA:
 4 SS.
 5 COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE:
 6
 7
 8
 9 I, NIEVES SANCHEZ, Court Reporter, and a Notary
 10 Public for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby
 11 certify that I was authorized to and did
 12 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and
 13 that the transcript is a true and complete record of my
 14 stenographic notes.
 15
 16 DATED this 20th day of August, 2020.
 17
 18
 19 SIGNATURE ON FILE
 20 _____
 21 NIEVES SANCHEZ
 22
 23
 24
 25