Before we continue, Jeff, would you come up to the podium please?

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Jeff was our previous Chairman, who recently retired or -- he served on the Board since 2008, I think, if I'm not mistaken, and I just want to take a moment and I wanted to say thank you and a lot of gratitude, and I really mean that, for all of your service that you have done to the Board, and on behalf of all of us.

MS. VELEZ: Oh, how sweet.

MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: You've given a lot of input and a lot of hours.

MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.

MR. FLANAGAN: That was a surprise. Thank you very, very much.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: You're welcome. Thank you. We thank you.

Let's go ahead and continue.

MR. COLLER: Are we going to Agenda Item Number 5?

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That is correct. We're going back.

In the package, we also included the Best Practices Manual and a map that we have created, that is an interactive map, that allows to check Zoning, and in this place, in the case of single-family, the fact that we have Site Specifics makes it interesting or very helpful to have that map, because it's not only the regulations that you have, you have some additional ones that apply in some areas, and in some other areas, they do not apply.

So what I would like to do is probably take questions from you, if you have any issues that you are concerned or interested in, and I know that there are some neighbors that may have some comments, so I would also advise you to let them speak, but I won't make a presentation, in the interest of time, and maybe we can have some general questions, and then let the neighbors participate.

MR. BELLIN: Ramon, I would like to congratulate Staff for really cleaning up a lot of the issues that we've had over the years.

MR. TRIAS: Well, thank you. They've done a great job, and they're sitting right there. Could you stand, because they've done a

MR. COLLER: Okay. I'm going to read the title. An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, by amending Article 4, "Zoning Districts," Section 4-101, "Single-Family Residential (SFR) District;" and Article 5, "Development Standards," to modify and clarify provisions regulating single-family residential standards related to garages, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) calculations, fences, and walls, and accessory uses; proving for a repealer provision, providing for a severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.

It should read, "Effective date," in the agenda. Item 5 on for public hearing.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

MR. TRIAS: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, this is an item that is relatively complex, and at the same time, very straight-forward. We have a variety of amendments to the Zoning Code that deal with single-family regulations, and it covers a lot of topics. You've discussed them before.

Jennifer and Arceli, they've done a fantastic job?

MR. BELLIN: There were really two items that I was concerned about, the lot depth of 75 feet or less, you did get a reduction in the front setback requirement, and that one was taken out.

MR. TRIAS: Well, we also gave more authority to the Board of Architects to deal with variances and specific issues. So I think it balances out.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}.$ BELLIN: Okay. There was some issue with solar power.

MR. TRIAS: Yes.

MS. VELEZ: With what?

MR. GRABIEL: Solar power.

MR. BELLIN: Yeah. And I know that it gets a little messy, in terms of, if somebody wants to put solar in their house, and if they have a north exposure, how is that going to be handled?

MR. TRIAS: Well, Page 14 has the language on solar energy, and, again, it gives the Board of Architects explicit authority for issues of aesthetics compatibility. Right now the Code

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       doesn't speak of solar energy. So it's the
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                                                                         week or so. I mean, I have participated in
       first time that we include it.
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                                                                         that discussion.
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            MR. BELLIN: I mean, solar really has to
                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: And going through this
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                                                                  3
       face south. So if the house faces north or if
                                                                         exercise or this process that we're going
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                                                                         through tonight, how does that come into play
       the house faces south, then the panels would be
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       on the front of the house, as opposed to the
                                                                         with the Zoning Code Re-Write?
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: I would call this Phase 1 and
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       rear.
            MR. TRIAS: Yes, and we anticipate that
                                                                         basically it deals only with issues that we
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       needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis.
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                                                                         were aware of in single-family. So I think
       That's what we've done so far. And we've been
                                                                         that the Phase 2 is going to be a little bit
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       able, through the design process, to improve on
                                                                         more comprehensive. It may deal with issues
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       designs that may have affected the aesthetics
                                                                         such as open space, that we've addressed, and
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       of houses negatively through the process of
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       review by the Board of Architects, every time
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                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Correct, but will that
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       it has been better. And that's the only way
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                                                                         consultant look through the entire Code?
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Yes, but we will --
       that we could really answer this issue.
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            MR. BELLIN: Okay.
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                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So he's going to go
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            MR. BEHAR: I have a question on the roofs.
                                                                         through this, also, then?
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: I don't think so. I mean, if
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            MR. TRIAS: Yes, sir.
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                                                                         they have some ideas -- I think this is -- I
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            MR. BEHAR: Are you intending that --
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                                                                         mean, the best way that I describe this is that
            MR. TRIAS: Which page?
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           MR. BEHAR: Page 15.
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                                                                         the main consultant is Elizabeth Plater-Zybwerk
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            MR. TRIAS: Yes.
                                                                         and she was part of the committee that -- the
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                                                                         volunteer committee that worked with us on this
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            MR. BEHAR: Are you intending that the only
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       roof material should be barrel tile?
                                                                         regulation. So I don't anticipate any changes
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            MR. TRIAS: No. No. That's the only
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                                                                         as a result of that process.
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       sentence that we're changing in the Code. So
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                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Okay.
       everything else in the Code remains. What
                                                                              MS. VELEZ: The FAR on Pages 8 and 9, the
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                                                                         FAR does not include all items that are listed
       happens is that, in the barrel tile definition,
       we're adding that it has to be three inches in
                                                                         on Page 9.
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       depth, which is something that is the standard
                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Yes. Correct.
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       procedure. Yes, the standard right now, it's
                                                                              \ensuremath{\mathsf{MS}}. VELEZ: So, one story roof terrace, I'm
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       just that it's not in the Code. So that's all
                                                                         trying to visualize --
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       we're doing. We're just adding.
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Breezeways or porches is
            MR. BEHAR: You're adding, the depth of the
                                                                         probably the key, the next two items after
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       barrel tile should be a minimum three inches?
                                                                         terrace. Sometimes porches were being included
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           MR. TRIAS: Yes.
                                                                         in FAR. That discourage providing porches,
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           MR. GRABIEL: But you allow flat concrete
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                                                                         same thing with breezeways and terraces. So
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                                                                         that was the thinking.
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            MR. TRIAS: Yes. You're allowed everything
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                                                                              MS. VELEZ: So the idea would be to
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       else that is in the Code right now. We're not
                                                                         encourage porches?
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       changing that. We're just adding the dimension
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Yeah, outdoor spaces.
       -- the three dimensional aspect of the tile.
                                                                              MS. VELEZ: Outdoor spaces?
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                                                                  18
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Ramon, what's
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                                                                 19
                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Outdoor spaces, yes.
       happening with the consultant that the City is
                                                                              MS. VELEZ: So whether they're screened or
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       supposed to have for the Zoning Code Re-Write?
                                                                         not, they would not be included in the FAR?
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            MR. TRIAS: The Commission selected the
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Yes.
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       consultant, which is Duany and Plater-Zyberk,
                                                                              MS. VELEZ: And what is a stacked or two
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       and that the contract is being negotiated. I
                                                                         story porch? I have no idea what that is.
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       think it should be finished within the next
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: There's some houses that have a
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two-story porch in the back, for example,
overlooking a golf course, for example. And,
in those cases, it was really -- the Code
discouraged that type of design, which really
enhances the aesthetics of buildings in many
cases. So we felt that --
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MS. VELEZ: With a porch on the second story?

MR. TRIAS: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, generally speaking anything that was outdoor, except for the carports, should be encouraged, in the view of the committee.

MS. VELEZ: But that still allows us to build more concrete, because the terrace would be concrete. So we would have less green space in a --

MR. BEHAR: But I don't think that's the intent. I think, on the second floor, you have something on the ground and that would be -- if I read it correctly, it's to encourage more covered areas on top of what could be a roof.

MS. VELEZ: Right. But that doesn't do anything about the one story roof terrace, which they were encouraging more build out that we're not counting in that FAR.

breezeway or porch will not be enclosed.

MR. TRIAS: We could keep that language.

MS. VELEZ: Yeah, because otherwise it's very easy to put on all of these open things, and then at some point they start closing them up. Then the FAR jumps through the roof.

MR. TRIAS: Yeah, this draft has gone through many, many re-writes, and I'm glad you caught that, because I don't think it was the intent to eliminate that.

MR. BEHAR: Should we open it up to the public?

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yeah.

Any other comments? No? Let's go ahead and open it up to the public. Thank you.

THE SECRETARY: Jeff Flanagan.

MR. FLANAGAN: After nine years on that side, it's a little awkward being here.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, good evening. Jeffrey Flanagan, my address is 4810 San Amaro Drive, in Coral Gables.

You know that I have some objections to this. I think I have sent a couple of e-mails when it was either proposed to be before you or was, back last year, in 2017.

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MR. BEHAR: Yes.

MR. TRIAS: Yes. I mean, I would answer that that is one of the choices that were made by the committee. They recommended that the Code should encourage outdoor spaces attached to the house, spaces that are not air conditioned, for example.

MS. VELEZ: Which previously would have been considered for the FAR, and now they're not.

MR. TRIAS: Yes. Yes.

MR. BEHAR: My only concern would be that, in the future, they would not be able to enclose that space.

MR. TRIAS: That's always an issue. That's always an issue, yes.

MR. BEHAR: So, I mean, assuming that everything will be done with a permit, so maybe there's got to be some language that spaces designated for covered outdoor space cannot be, you know, covered, meaning, enclosed.

MS. VELEZ: But we're deleting the language. We're deleting language that exists that says, provided that a covenant is submitted stating that such roof terrace and

I think my biggest concern is the discouragement -- it started as a prohibition. I think it is now discouraged to have driveways in the front yards of houses on corner lots. So when I see such attention to specific lots in the City, I wonder and question what problem this is trying to solve.

The City is built out. I don't know how many vacant corner lots there are. I have explained to you, personally I have a unique --I think it's a unique parcel. It's a corner lot. I have my -- the garage is on the side, so it complies with the requirement that it face the side street, but, in my case, for whatever reason, when the house was built in 1956, the garage was set back 60 feet.

So rather than the garage being at the street, it's at the far end of the property. So my back door looks like the front door, and my backyard is taken up by most of the driveway. I bought it like that. I'm fine with that. What I don't like is that my front door goes nowhere. You walk out the front door, you have a front porch, and it stops. There's no sidewalk in front of the house, and

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so you have 30 feet of grass and swale area before you hit pavement.
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So, to me, it's a front door and a walkway to nowhere. The house is not properly faced, in my opinion. The front of my house is San Amaro. There's no driveway on San Amaro. I would like to put a driveway in. I think it helps to properly front a house. And if you have a driveway that is serving a front door or serving some access to the dwelling, I don't see why we would discourage having a driveway of that nature. If there was no access to a dwelling, who wants a driveway to nowhere?

Likewise, if I understand the proposal correctly, if I were to build a carport or put a porte cochere in the front of the house, I could then have a driveway. Nonsensical to me to add mass, add more rooftop, bring the structure closer to the street, just so I can have a driveway.

So I think I have explained it clearly in the past. I hope I have tonight. I think, as long as a driveway is serving access to the house, that we should allow driveways. I don't see us having a proliferation of vacant corner MR. TRIAS: Yeah, we're clear.

MR. FLANAGAN: It should be 20 percent of the lot width total.

MR. TRIAS: We should include the word, total, so -- for clarity. We discussed that earlier. So, yeah, I agree with you.

MR. FLANAGAN: Okay. An earlier iteration of this was requiring casement windows at the front facade. I see now -- it's on Page 13 -- has been changed to state that "Based on compatibility with the neighborhood, the Board of Architects may requirement casement windows on every facade that faces the street."

MR. TRIAS: Right.

MR. FLANAGAN: I mean, I know casement may be the preferred style. They happen to be the most expensive style. And the Board of Architects already has, I thought, significant latitude to require and recommend certain design standards. So I'm not sure that that's something that needs to be codified in the Code at this point.

And then one item that might be a typo, Ramon, Page 14, when we're talking about artificial turf --

em in

lots, and that this is a significant problem in the City that we need to worry about solving.

I would also note that the requirement that it serve a garage may create non-conformities right now, because I know of several homes that have converted their garages legally many years ago. They don't have another carport or porte cochere, so they have a driveway that leads to the house and to the front door and that's it. And I think there are some other provisions in here that begin to create some inconsistencies, and I may have clarified it with Ramon.

On the setback issue, that's Page 5, specifically on the interior side, it used to say that an interior lot shall have minimum side setbacks totaling 20 percent of the lot width. The word, total, has been deleted right now, which would lead one to believe that each side setback needs to be 20 feet of your lot width, which is going to create non-conformities throughout the City.

MR. TRIAS: Right, but that's not the intent, right, so -- yeah.

MR. FLANAGAN: But I just want to $\operatorname{--}$ we're clear on that?

MS. VELEZ: Yeah. It says, "Not."

MR. FLANAGAN: Right. It says, "It may be approved by the Development Review official," et cetera, et cetera, "when it's" -- this says, "when it is not compatible with the neighborhood character." We should delete the word, not.

MR. TRIAS: That is a typo, yes.

MR. FLANAGAN: So I think that very generally covers my concerns. The biggest one, of course, being the driveway issue, and I would respectfully request that you recommend against that provision, that so long as a driveway serves an access to the dwelling, of course, it would need to be reviewed by the Board of Architects, if it's a new driveway, and that, of course, they can deem it's appropriate or not. We should let it follow its usual path.

So thank you for having me. CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Thank you.

MS. VELEZ: Thank you.

MR. TRIAS: Mr. Chairman, to resolve that issue, maybe that's the answer, it's just to remove the "shall be discouraged" and replace

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       it with "shall be reviewed by the Board of
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                                                                         know that's not the case, but maybe we ought to
       Architects."
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                                                                         clarify it.
           MR. GRABIEL: What page are we on?
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Okay. We should clarify that a
            MR. TRIAS: That's Page 10, and it has to
                                                                         little bit more. Do you have any thoughts on
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       do with the driveways. Is that appropriate?
                                                                         the language that would be appropriate or would
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            MS. VELEZ: The last sentence of Paragraph
                                                                         you like Staff to work on it, and --
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                                                                              MR. BELLIN: I mean, I think it's a pretty
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            MR. FLANAGAN: I mean, that would seem more
                                                                         simple solution to remedy it.
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       appropriate to me.
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Okay. All right.
            MR. TRIAS: I mean, I think that some of
                                                                              MR. BELLIN: Just somebody who is not
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       the members of the committee felt very strongly
                                                                         familiar with the Code may interpret that as,
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       about this issue. So I think review by the
                                                                         you've got a 400-foot whatever --
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       Board of Architects is sufficiently --
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: All right.
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            MR. BEHAR: Yeah, in some cases -- I know
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                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Call the next speaker,
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       this particular house, because I know where
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                                                                         please.
       Jeff lives, I think what he's stating is true,
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                                                                              THE SECRETARY: No more speakers on this
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       is factual. It makes sense in some cases. In
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                                                                         item.
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       his particular case, I would agree with him.
                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No more speakers on
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            MR. TRIAS: Yeah.
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                                                                 19
                                                                         this subject?
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            MR. BEHAR: Okay. Mr. Chair, if you don't
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                                                                              So, Ramon, what are you looking for from
       mind, I would request -- and nothing against
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                                                                         us?
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       Jeff, but can we limit speakers to a maximum of
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                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Well, actually, this is an
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       maybe two minutes, because otherwise we're
                                                                         official action -- this is a public hearing, so
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       going to be here, and we have a couple of more
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                                                                         you need to make any comments you would like,
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       items, for a long time, please?
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                                                                         and we're open to making revisions, and then
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                                                                         we'll take it to the Commission as soon as we
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            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
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            MR. BEHAR: So maybe we limit it to two
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                                                                         are able to.
                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: So, at this point,
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       minutes per speaker.
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            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: That's fine.
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                                                                         without bringing it back any further or any
            MR. COLLER: Just a clarification on that,
                                                                         other revisions for us to look at; is that
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       Ramon. So we're going to remove -- on Item 13,
                                                                         correct, Ramon?
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       with driveways, it's going to say, rather than
                                                                              MR. TRIAS: Yes. This is the public
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       "shall be discouraged," strike that, and it's
                                                                         hearing.
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       going to say, "subject to review by the Board
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                                                                              MR. COLLER: Right.
       of Architects"? Is that the --
                                                                              Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that since --
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            MR. TRIAS: Yes. Yes. That is my
                                                                         I think you already requested any other
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                                                                 11
       recommendation.
                                                                         speakers and no one has stepped forward, so I
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           MR. COLLER: Okay.
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                                                                         think, if there's a motion to approve, it
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            MR. FLANAGAN: Okay.
                                                                         should be as amended, as we've noted the
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           MR. BELLIN: Ramon --
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                                                                         amendments this evening.
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            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Go ahead.
                                                                              CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes. Correct.
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            MR. BELLIN: -- I have a question, and I
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                                                                              Is there any other discussion from any
       didn't think about this until Jeff mentioned
                                                                         other Board Members?
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       it. Is the side setbacks -- because I work
                                                                              MR. GRABIEL: The only other question I
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       with this a lot, I know that the intent is 20
                                                                         have, and was brought up, is the casement
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       percent --
                                                                         windows. Why is casement windows the preferred
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            MR. TRIAS: Yes.
                                                                         window? I mean, historically most of the homes
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            MR. BELLIN: -- of the lot width. What if
                                                                         in Coral Gables had single or double hung
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       you have a lot that's 200 feet wide, does that
                                                                         windows. So why is casements now a preferred
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       mean you have a 40-foot required setback? I
                                                                         choice?
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MR. TRIAS: Mr. Grabiel, I think that has been a preference of some of the architects, and you're correct, it's a preference, and I think that we just wanted to have some language in the Code or they recommended some language in the Code to be able to have a more informed discussion with the applicants, because the practical issue is that some applicants buy the windows prior to going to the Board of Architects.
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So the more language that we have in the Code, then the more clear it is that they have to go through the architects' review prior to making a selection. So that was the thinking.

MR. GRABIEL: But casement is the Board of Architects' preference? Is that why it's here?

MR. TRIAS: That's where it's coming from. And one may disagree. I think that's certainly an aesthetic choice.

MS. VELEZ: I find it strange that we are requiring casement windows when Coral Gables has had so many options.

MR. TRIAS: It just says, "May require." It doesn't say, "Shall require."

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Have you had an issue

MR. TRIAS: But, Mr. Chairman, that's what it says. I mean, it says, "May require."

MR. BEHAR: But I think by putting the word, you know --

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: "May."

MR. BEHAR: -- "may" -- I think you're -- I would leave it more open.

MR. GRABIEL: Proposing --

MR. TRIAS: And I'm not going to deny that that was the intent of some of the members that participated in this process.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Right.

Maria.

MS. VELEZ: Right under that, we talked about this last time, the interior garages, carports must be stucco. You know, I think last time we talked about maybe we could have drywall inside a garage, as opposed to stucco, so I don't know why it shall be stucco.

And the other item was, on the pool decks, 18 inches from the property line, on Page 12, I totally object to a pool deck at 18 inches from the property line.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Maria, are you saying it should not go into the setback?

that you have to change it?

MR. TRIAS: Well, we've had the issue that I described. People are not aware, and then they buy windows, and then they go to the Board of Architects, and the Board of Architects says, "Wait a second. This doesn't match the architecture of the house."

And the thinking was that there was a need to have some language in the Code, so people would be more informed that the Board of Architects is going to review it, so take --

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Those people that buy their windows before they come to the Board of Architects probably aren't going to look at the Code, either. So I don't know if you're going to solve that issue that way.

MR. TRIAS: I don't expect that this is going solve the issue, but it may help a little bit. So that was the thinking behind all of this

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: To me, it should be up to the Board of Architects on a specific case by case design.

MR. BEHAR: I agree with you a hundred percent. I think the Board should make --

MS. VELEZ: Precisely. And I mentioned that last time. We have utility easements all over the place. Eighteen inches is not going to do it. I don't think we should have something in the nature of a pool deck, that is solid and not movable, that close to the property line.

CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: By the other hand, what happens if they do a pool deck that's floated on sand, that they can go ahead and lift up?

MS. VELEZ: That would be movable, but, then, again, you would have to monitor that they don't turn it into concrete after they pass the permits, you know.

MR. TRIAS: There may be a distinction between walkways and decks, for example.

MS. VELEZ: Yeah. A deck is much more -- I think a deck is much more permanent than a --

MR. TRIAS: Yeah. I think the issue here is that we're dealing with driveways, decks, pool decks, patios, walkways as one, and that maybe we need to separate it.

MS. VELEZ: Not a walkway that is composed of pavers that can be moved.

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            MR. TRIAS: Now, driveways tend -- some
       driveways tend to be close to the property line
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       and they seem to work okay. I mean, the way I
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       see it, maybe the distinction is that decks are
       different.
            MR. BEHAR: Yeah, I think the distinction
       may clarify that, but I think you're right,
       some driveways are closer to the property line
8
       and you may have no choice, because, you know,
9
       you need the back up space, whatever. So I
10
       think if there's a distinction between those, I
11
       think that might clarify and simplify this
12
       matter.
13
            MR. TRIAS: Yeah, we could work on that.
14
           MS. VELEZ: Thank you.
15
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Any other comments?
16
           Robert?
17
           MR. BEHAR: No.
18
19
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Marshall?
20
            MR. BELLIN: No.
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: No? Everybody good?
21
            MR. BEHAR: I'll make a motion to approve
22
       as amended, with all of the comments that we
23
       have -- somebody hopefully took notes of that.
24
25
       Ramon, hopefully you took --
                                                           77
            MR. TRIAS: I did.
1
            MR. GRABIEL: I'll second it.
2
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: We have a first and a
       second. Any other comments? No?
            Call the roll, please.
            THE SECRETARY: Julio Grabiel?
6
            MR. GRABIEL: Yes.
            THE SECRETARY: Maria Velez?
8
            MS. VELEZ: Yes.
            THE SECRETARY: Robert Behar?
10
            MR. BEHAR: Yes.
11
            THE SECRETARY: Marshall Bellin?
12
           MR. BELLIN: Yes.
13
            THE SECRETARY: Eibi Aizenstat?
14
            CHAIRMAN AIZENSTAT: Yes.
15
            The next item is Item Number 7.
16
17
18
19
2.0
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22
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2.4
25
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