

HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

Proceedings held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023,
commencing at 3:00 p.m., at Jacksonville City Hall, Don Davis Room, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:
JACK C. DEMETREE, III, Chairman. ANDRES LOPERA, Vice Chair.
OLIVIA FRICK, Commission Member.
MAX GLOBER, Commission Member.
MICHAEL MONTOYA, Commission Member.
ETHAN GREGORY, Commission Member.
ALSO PRESENT:
ARIMUS WELLS, Planning and Development Dept.
JERMAINE ANDERSON, Planning and Development.
CAREA LOF PA,
STEPHANIE PEJSA, Planning and Development Dept.

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PROCEEDINGS
June 28, 2023
3:00 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome to the June 28th meeting of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

Can we start with some introductions, please?

MS. FIGUEROA: Brittany Figueora, Historic Preservation.

MR. ANDERSON: Jermaine Anderson, Historic Preservation.

MR. WELLS: Arimus Wells, Historic Preservation.

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

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Andres Lopera, commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: J.C. Demetree, Chair.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Mike Montoya, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Ethan Gregory, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Olivia Frick, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Max Glober,
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Arimus Wells. It's Wells, isn't it? No?
MR. WELLS: Yes.
COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Wells, yes.
And we had a lot of other help from Alan Bliss and -- and so we're very fortunate to have good people around me at the Planning Department, Bill Killingsworth, and so on.

Twenty-three years ago, I was on the Council and -- and trying to find a cup of coffee, something besides Starbucks, in downtown Jacksonville. After dropping my son off at preseason football camp, I came back to City Hall and tried to catch up on my emails. I wanted a cup of coffee and the Mr. Coffee up in the Council kitchen, I could never get it to work. It just always made a mess, so I was trying to find a cup. I couldn't find one cup of coffee downtown, and that gave me the idea that these old buildings are not being used for anything, and so we created a task force, I guess, a year later, probably in 2022. And I think Ginny Myrick might have been involved in that. And anybody else that's here that I'm not saying, I apologize.

But we did some great things, and we
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created the Downtown Historic Trust Fund, and that's -- has been -- evolved over the years, but it still serves the same purpose in helping to provide incentives for downtown buildings, and it immediately helped, I think, 11 East Forsyth become developed into a -- from the American Heritage to -- they called them lofts back then, I don't know what they are now. And then the Carling was done. And those were two pretty iconic restorations done in a short period of time.

And so -- so this year we had this Ford motor plant come before us, and -- now, if this bill that I passed or if that building had been in the downtown boundaries, would it have still wound up being, you know, torn down or to be torn down? I'll never know because that was a pretty mammoth building, right?

But after the meeting, I just felt like there's going to be another building of significance, of historical significance, come down the pike and we're not going to be ready for it. We're not going to have a tool because there's not many tools for buildings outside the downtown boundaries. And I thought to

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myself, you know what? Maybe we do what we did inside the boundaries, but use it for outside of the downtown boundaries.

So we, essentially, used the prototype of the -- the mechanics of the Downtown Historic Trust Fund process for this one, for buildings outside the downtown boundaries, and so --

I really don't like acronyms because nobody knows what the heck they stand for, but I said I want an acronym for this. And so my council aide came up with REHAB. So we would just call it the -- REHAB. And really it worked pretty good because REHAB does kind of tell you what it's a little bit about. And it caught on in the paper and it caught on with, you know, other people of interest. And it's Restore -- or it stands for Restore Endangered Historic Adaptable Buildings, REHAB.

And I was able to get 500,000 from the Council's strategic plan placed aside so that when the bill passed and when the budget passed, then this new tool for historic restoration would at least have some money in it. And I'm hoping to perhaps place a little more money in it, and we're already drawing

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interest on it.
So I wanted to make sure that -- maybe with the length of the meetings, you wouldn't like this, but I felt the Historic Preservation Commission should have a role in this. I thought that was important because you're volunteers, you're interested in historical restoration, but you still have a real-world outlook because you don't live in City Hall all the time, and so I felt that would be a good idea.

So that's why I put this together with -because I was afraid more of these buildings would come -- and I'll tell you, I don't know about y'all, but the feedback I got after the poor building went down -- I mean, not literally went down, but when we voted to accept the demolition, which was against y'all's recommendation, I didn't feel good about that, but I also didn't know what else we could do, and so -- and so that's -- and I knew something else would happen.

So the REHAB bill uses pretty much the same mechanics that -- you would use the same formats and so forth, percentages of what can

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be used towards restoration, exterior and interior, no more than 40 percent of the dollars -- or the amount of dollars that comes from the Trust Fund can't be more than 40 percent of the value of the whole project, and -- and y'all know how that works.

So to apply -- this is where the Historic Preservation Commission would come in, you know -- and I'm already getting calls on it. And what it would apply to, by the way, is mixed-use properties, not-for-profits could use this, and that could even go towards housing. If somebody has a historical property and they want to bring it up to historical standards, but they want to use it for affordable housing, it can be used for that. But it can be used for other not-for-profit purposes.

And then it could also be used for nonresidential income-producing properties, like maybe a retail store of sorts that may be historic and somebody wants to turn it into a book store or to a coffee place. Ice cream seems to be the big deal now. Every time I turn around, there's another ice cream place at the corner, but --

And so those are the categories that fit. It will have $\$ 500,000$ in the fund. I hope to have more some time in the next year. But to apply, the owner would have to file a grant application. And if it's exterior work, they would have to have a Certificate of Appropriateness, which I know y'all know what that is better than I do.

And it takes a historic planner's -- and the Planning Department would review it, the staff of the Historical [sic] Planning Department would then make a report, and then it gets sent to the Commission. And then it's up to the Commission to determine if the building is truly critically endangered -- is truly a critically endangered historic building. And if you declare that it is, then they can move on and apply for a COA for exterior alterations and improvements and whatever they have to do for maybe the interior.

So that's where y'all fit into the process, because after the review is done, then y'all review it. And I thought it would not be right only for a governmental agency to review

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it and stamp it. I felt that a volunteer board made up of people that are dedicated and love the city and also know the importance of our historic heritage in this city is important, and I -- so that's why we did it.

And it will -- we got endorsements from San Marco. There's this lady ahead of the San Marco Preservation Society -- or at least last year, a lady named Louise -- or Lauren Carlucci, I had a little bit of an in with her. Durkeeville Historical Society, SPAR, and RAP, they all endorsed it. And I felt it was important to get their endorsement before we moved any further, and they endorsed it as well.

So I tried to bring in as many people as possible to build a consensus, and the bill actually passed last night. And before I hardly even knew, it went through, and I -- I looked at my neighbor on the Council and said, "Did we already vote on that REHAB bill?" "That was two bills ago." And I said -- I'm glad I kept my mouth shut. You know, don't ever -- you know what I'm saying? Never oversell your ideas.

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But, you know, I looked up to see what the benefits were of historical restoration and why preserve cultural and historical sites, and I -- I fully admit, I went on Google to find this. I thought it to be a pretty good reason for why you're doing the job that you do and why I try to help you do the job that you do. And that is, the heritage of Jacksonville, of a place, a community or a neighborhood is what sets it apart from all of the places -preserving places remembers the past while preparing for the future. Preserving a place saves the culture and the persons that came here before us.

And so I've always had a saying that, while we should always be reaching into the future, we should never forget the past. And that's real important to me.

So that's all I have for you, sir. I just -- Mr. Demetree, I know your family goes way back in Jacksonville and has made its historical marks, as I'm sure everybody else's families have as well.

And if you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them. If you don't, I'll let you get

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on with your meeting, sir.
THE CHAIRMAN: I appreciate it. I've got -- no questions from me.

Does anybody else --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: Thank you very much. I appreciate you allowing me the time to be here. Hope you have a great meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Absolutely. Thank you.
COUNCIL MEMBER CARLUCCI: If you don't mind, I'm going to leave.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we're going to move on to our consent agenda. We'll have two separate consent agendas today, one consisting of Item 1 on consent, would be COA-23-28682.

Do you want me to (inaudible) open the public hearing for each or how do we do that?

MS. LOPERA: (Inaudible.)
Did you ask if anyone is here to speak on any of them?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
So I'm going to run through the consent
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14
agenda. There's --
MS. LOPERA: Do you want to do that one first and pass it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I'll just do that first.

Like I said, I have two separate consent agendas, the first being COA-23-28682, 2216 Oak Street.

Is anybody here to speak on that COA?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
MS. LOPERA: That's the one --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
(Vice Chair Lopera assumes the Chair.)
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Is anyone -- Andres Lopera, acting Chair.

Is anyone here to speak on COA-23-28682?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: If you are, come on up to the podium.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Close the public
hearing, and -- a motion to approve?
MS. LOPERA: Let him abstain.
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then I will
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call for a vote, then, to approve Item Number
1.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Acting Chair, did you want to state on the record that you're abstaining and your reason for abstaining?

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes. On the record, I'm abstaining from this vote, yes.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Okay. The chairman is abstaining. Motion to approve COA-23-28--- or approve -- vote to approve.

MS. LOPERA: Do you want to entertain a motion from one of your commissioners?

THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve COA-23-28682.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor? COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
(Chairman Demetree abstains from voting.)
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE VICE CHAIRMAN: Motion passes.
(Chairman Demetree resumes the Chair.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
All right. With that, we've got our --
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the rest of our consent agenda. We'll go ahead and run through it. COA-23-28842, 3896 St. Johns Avenue; COA-23-29127, 152 East 4th Street; COA-23-29245, 1704 North Laura Street; COA-23-29247, 412 East 2nd Street; and COA-23-29249, 1631 Boulevard.

Is anyone here to speak on these COAs?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, sir.
Clifton Little with A1A Solar Contracting, at 10418 New Berlin Road in Jacksonville.

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

MR. LITTLE: Very good.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

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

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truth?
MR. LITTLE: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. LITTLE: So I just wanted to come before the board and ask that you would consider granting Mr. and Ms. Ulrich the opportunity to install some solar panels on their home and to reduce their electric bill, carbon emissions, that sort of thing.

We've looked at the street view from several different angles and we don't see that there will be a visual indicator anywhere. You shouldn't be able to see the solar panels from the street. I think the only place where there might be some visibility would be from North Market Street, and that's going to be very minimal. It will not be on the main home.

THE CHAIRMAN: Real quick, Clifton --
MR. LITTLE: Yes, sir.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- this is for which -which COA is this?

MR. LITTLE: -29127.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. And you're good with all the conditions laid out from staff?

MR. LITTLE: Yes, sir, as far as I
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18
understand.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, you are on
consent at the moment, so --
MR. LITTLE: Great.
THE CHAIRMAN: Unless we call you back up, you should be good.

MR. LITTLE: Okay. Very good.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. LITTLE: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is anyone else here to
speak on any COA on consent?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, we'll close the public hearing. I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve the second consent agenda.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, that consent agenda has been approved, and we'll move right along.

First on our docket, Section D, previously
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deferred items to be heard. We have COA-21-26693, 782 West Street.

Any commissioners have any ex parte? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Then we'll take a staff report. Excuse me. I'll open the public hearing first.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair, this is application COA-21-26693, located at 782 West Street. If you recall, a couple of cycles ago, we originally issued a recommendation for denial based on the surrounding characteristics of homes within the area.

The applicant originally requested to do a two-story, single-family structure. Since then, they have revised their plans to include a one-story structure, so we are amenable to that, and we forward to you a recommendation for approval with the conditions noted in the report.

And that is it.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Is the
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applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Certainly.
Desiree Ownby, 1776 Oak Grove Drive, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043.

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

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

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

MS. OWNBY: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: From my understanding, you are --

MS. OWNBY: I'm the representative. I'm working with the company and the owner.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you're good with the
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staff's recommendations at this point?
MS. OWNBY: Yes. We've reviewed those and we're willing to move forward with -- under
those conditions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great.
Any questions for our applicant at the moment?

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

MS. OWNBY: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. OWNBY: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: I will entertain a
motion --
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, please. Come on.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Angela Schifanella, 1352 Avondale Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32205.

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

MS. SCHIFANELLA: (Complies.)
Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 could pull up the revised submittal. I may have missed it in the staff report. I saw the conditions on the original, but when I saw the revised submittal -- I just want to see if it still looked like that. If it does, I have a few comments.

MR. WELLS: I'm pulling you up the photo.
MS. SCHIFANELLA: Is it the very, very wide one-story?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
MS. SCHIFANELLA: I don't have the staff
conditions in front of me, so if they're
already included in this, please weigh in, but
I felt like -- I know that -- the thinking
behind not approving the two-story I understood
because of the context around it.
This is a very, very broad one-story
building, and that front-facing gable -- or at
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least the submittal we saw felt inappropriate, to me, for the neighborhood. So we suggested that they take -- let me see if the picture comes up.

MR. WELLS: Yeah, sorry --
MS. SCHIFANELLA: No elevation? Okay.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. WELLS: (Inaudible.)
MS. SCHIFANELLA: All right. This was the email that I wrote to Shannon, so I'll read it to you. We suggested a minimum porch depth of 6 feet and that the width of the porch be limited to two-thirds the overall width of the front elevation. And the reason behind that was to sort of create a nested gable on the front where that porch is not so awkwardly wide. So we felt like, by having the second gable with the smaller porch, it would help scale it down.

MS. FIGUEORA: (Tenders document to Ms. Schifanella.)

Would that help you?
MS. SCHIFANELLA: Yes, that would help me a lot.

And that the entryway that would -- could
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be centered on that new reduced porch width.
We also felt that window number 5 should be vertical, in proportion, which may be in the conditions already. And that the finished floor of the structure be compatible with the neighboring structures, at least two to three risers above grade.

And so I'm going to just draw on this, if I can, so you can understand what I'm talking about with the gable.

So I'm going to submit that to staff.
(Tenders document.)
We really -- RAP appreciates the desire by staff to have a one-story structure there, but we felt like this was just something that you don't see often. It's a very awkward proportion, and we recommend -- or we suggest that you consider a recommendation like that or to revisit the two-story (inaudible).

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on this COA?

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

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve COA-21-26693.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Comments?
MS. LOPERA: Was that a straight --
through the Chair, was that a straight approval
or approve with staff conditions?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: It was approve with staff conditions.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
Now open for discussion?
THE CHAIRMAN: That's correct.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Have you guys seen
the -- through the Chair, has everyone seen the
elevation --
(Reporter clarification.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair,
has everyone seen the elevation? I know we were having trouble getting it up on the screen.

I tend to agree with Angela Schifanella's comments about the front of the home. I really do also appreciate the -- the owner working

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26
with staff and trying to come to terms with the one-story structure, but this is a bit more what I want to call kind of a ranch house rather than something that's fitting in with the fabric of the neighborhood.

Just a question for staff, through the Chair, were there discussions about that at all, like, the -- just having to -- just the one, low-slung gable on the front end?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, we did. We had a lot of discussions about the overall design and something that would match the character of the surrounding one-story structures.

Ultimately, we just felt that this would essentially capture some of those elements, and we just -- you know, again, we just felt that this would -- it would be more -- closer meeting the guidelines, essentially.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, do we know the depth of this porch here? I can't see it on the -- on the elevations here. And just a rough number would be fine if you can't --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: It is 6 feet. It's
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on the plans.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Six feet? Okay. I didn't see that.

I agree in that the -- I appreciate the applicant reducing this from a two-story to a one-story, but I also agree with
Ms. Schifanella that maybe this gable entry isn't congruous with the neighborhood and what would be more of a typical bungalow style where the porch typically don't run full the gamut of the full elevation.

And the depth seems a little bit small. I could maybe -- maybe let that go as part of the condition, but I do agree about the front elevation view of it.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I agree with both commissioners' comments regarding this, and I would include the -- the front windows as well to all be similar with the vertical orientation of the two front windows, but, yeah, the -- the length of the porch, I agree, is -- it seems more of a ranch style.

And the addition of a gable, I think, would really break up a massive -- the massive

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gable that's there now, which would be unusual in this district, and I have a smaller gable as part of that. Now, that would be typical maybe on a two-story house that's very wide, but not -- not on a one-story.

So those are my comments.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair also, I'd like to mention the risers. It -and maybe I'm not seeing it on the elevation here as well, but do we know the -- the height of this house to be lifted to? Is it -- is it -- obviously, it's not off-grade, but is it raised up? Is the grading of the land raising this up to be -- the roof lines to be similar with its neighboring properties, or is it going to sit lower than other properties?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, I'm trying to pull up the plans here. I'm just having some technical difficulties, but I can't fully make out from the plans what the height -- finished floor height would be.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Would the applicant have information on this?

THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
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(Ms. Ownby approaches the podium.) MS. OWNBY: I did want to say, in speaking with her, that we would be willing in the -she showed me her drawing -- to reduce the size of the porch, bring it out a little more, and do the gable over that and shortening that, if that would be okay. And can we add that to the conditions somehow and -- and get it approved so we can move forward? Is that possible?

COMMISSIONER FRICK: My only question was related to the finished floor elevation. Does that take that into --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: (Confers with Commissioner Frick.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we know, is it on grade?
MS. OWNBY: Right now, I think they've got
it planned for a monolithic, which, in -- in
light of bringing it up, it's going to be a
stem wall construction, so it would be in line
with the other -- and they'll probably be
willing to do that. I don't think that will be a problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
So I have a motion on the table I presume we would like to change. So here I am

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the motion for COA-21-26693, per the sketch
provided here, adding a second gable to the
front elevation, and -- and then raising the
final floor elevation to within 6 inches of the
adjacent floor elevations of the two structures
to the side -- an average of the two structures
on the side. And the applicant can work with
staff to determine what that final elevation
will be. And then --

What was the thing on the porch, two
thirds --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I think that sketch covers it because it breaks the porch by
(inaudible).
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. And then this --

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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Two-thirds and one-third.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right. And then this -- this sketch also, and then I'm going to amend it again, a second amendment, to reduce the size of the porch per the sketch, and that the final drawings are to be provided to the staff for final approval by the staff.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And maybe the -the windows (inaudible)?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes. And then amendment number 3 is to increase the size of both windows number 5 to be the same sizes -or to be vertically oriented windows.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Lopera, that is an existing condition. I believe it's Condition Number 14.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. So strike amendment number 3 . So just the two amendments.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, could I restate that amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: Okay. So correct me if I'm wrong, Commissioner Lopera, but you moved to
amend the staff conditions to add a second gable to the front elevation. So that would be two gables.

Raising the final floor elevation within 6 inches of the average of the two adjacent properties?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: (Nods head.)
MS. LOPERA: And reduce the porch size. Is there a width you would like to see?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah. Through the
Chair, just to help with that, I think it's
more about the -- the overall proportion of the
porch to the house and having
two-thirds/one-third. So by having that smaller gable that's being added, it's actually a bit of a -- like, what I -- what I'm presuming to be a bump-out, so the -- the narrow porch would stay 6 feet, but that smaller gable would bump it out, like, a foot, you know, 12 inches, right? So that it breaks the proportion of the overall porch across the facade into a two-thirds/one-third.

Convoluted, yes?
MS. LOPERA: So the porch depth -- through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, the porch

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depth -- you'd like to see 7 feet?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: At the small -- the smaller gable, to step it out.

MS. LOPERA: And reduce the width to --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: The 6 -foot porch remains. The smaller gable would bump out another foot.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: No, it would be a 7-foot porch at the smaller gable. Sorry.

MS. LOPERA: So you're going to increase the porch depth under the --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: The smaller -- the entry gable. Effectively, there's a main gable now and an entry gable. And so the smaller entry gable will bump out a foot so it will break the porch line across the front of the home.

THE CHAIRMAN: So just to confirm, we have no problem with the width of the -- the overall width?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Right.
MS. LOPERA: That's --
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. That's the --
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34
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: It was always about the proportion.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's the miscommunication --
(Ms. Schifanella approaches the podium.)
MS. SCHIFANELLA: I know you've closed the public hearing, but the intent of my comment was they -- they don't really have to have the full width of the front to be the porch. So if -- if we could get the deeper porch, the 6or 7 -foot porch, we would just need the one porch.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And that -- that could be an option.

MS. SCHIFANELLA: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: That can be an option.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.
All right. We got all that?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Do you want me to take a stab --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, if you could add --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So to amend the motion -- to amend the motion --

MS. LOPERA: I don't believe that one got a second. So if no one gives it a second, it can die and you can do --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Let's do that.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: What's the -- how
long do we have to wait?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: About a second.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So the amendment --
THE CHAIRMAN: To the motion.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- motion -- the amendment is to add a second gable at the entry, where the front door is, and the -- the porch can either only be under that smaller entry gable or extend the entire width of the home. If it's under the entry gable, then that porch should be 7 foot deep and the rest of the porch 6 foot deep. If the -- if they opt to only have the porch under the second gable, then it only needs to be 6 feet.

And then the second part of that is that the -- the finished floor level should be within a 6-inch average of the two adjacent

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homes.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Second. COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We will vote on the amendment.

All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, we'll vote on the motion as amended.

MS. LOPERA: Somebody want to move the -as amended?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we need that motion.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to approve --
THE CHAIRMAN: As amended.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- as amended.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have
approved COA-23-26693, and we'll move on.
COA-23-28967, 1228 Challen Avenue. Any ex
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parte from commissioners?
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes. That is
withdrawn. Sorry. Thank you.
So with that, we will move on.
COA-23-28972.
MS. LOPERA: One moment, please.
You need to move to approve the withdrawal
of that COA, or someone from the Commission has to --

THE CHAIRMAN: I'll entertain --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to withdraw COA-23-28967.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, that's been withdrawn.

And now we're at COA-23-28972, 2990
Remington Street.
MR. WELLS: All right. To the Chair, this application actually -- well, by the applicant, they requested a one-cycle deferral, so no

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report at this point.
THE CHAIRMAN: So deferral?
MR. WELLS: Yeah.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Easy enough.
We will defer COA-23-28972.
And that brings us to COA-23-28963, 222
and 228 East Duval Street.
Any ex parte on this one?
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I'm going to withdraw -- or abstain from this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. LOPERA: Could you state -- through
the Commission -- through the Chair, could you
state your reasons for abstaining on the
record, please?
COMMISSIONER FRICK: Yes. As a member of the Cathedral District board, I'll be
abstaining from this particular COA.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
And with that --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll declare that I walked by this property. I've never been on the property, but I walked by and visited them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's fine.
Anybody else?
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COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll take a staff report.

MR. WELLS: All right. To the Commission, these are properties -- two properties located at 222 East Duval Street and 228 East Duval Street. Just to provide some staff context, these are revised recommendation reports. So if you recall a couple of months ago, we released our original recommendation reports for the April 26th JHPC meeting, however, we never gave it on the record.

And so just to remind the Commission, too, we have the discretion, when presented with new evidence, to revise our staff reports at any given notice. But again, after releasing our staff reports initially, the Department was notified by the Office of General Counsel, through the Municipal Code Compliance Division, that foreclosure proceedings were filed against the properties in October 2022.

So in an effort to improve our coordination, we visited the application sufficiency requirements, as well as clarify issues of just jurisdiction, thus the mothball

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applications were granted a two-month cycle deferral.

And so during this time, again, we revisited our practices because mothballing applications are not necessarily done as frequently as other COA applications. One of the last ones were actually -- it was actually done in 2016, so this gave us the opportunity to, again, revisit our internal procedures and coordinate better with Municipal Code Compliance.

So if I can, I would like to just go over this packet of information. This is also included within the book itself.

So during this time, we received additional information and evidence. We also felt it was important for the applicant to provide us with additional evidence or justification as to why the applications should be granted approval for mothballing.

So the first document is just their mothballing statement. So this is written by the applicant and it addresses the criteria that we have to evaluate our staff report on, as well as just the mothballing criteria in

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general.
The next section is regarding residential violations for the three properties. You can just skim through it just to see what -- the litany of different violations that exist and are still pending.

The next page is just the nuisance abatement violations for all three properties.

Next is the unsafe structure violations for the three properties.

And then after that, it's just a checklist for settlement agreement. So this is something that Municipal Code Compliance -- we also have -- we have Thomas Register from -- he's the chief of Municipal Code, to speak in detail about that, if necessary. But, essentially, the -- the property owners entered into two settlement agreements, one in 2021, in -- and again in 2022 for all three properties. And it was, essentially, a way to settle the outstanding fines and mitigate the structures. So, essentially, the settlement agreements -was almost as a way -- served as a mini mothballing agreement in the past.

So after that, we have a notice of default
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and subsequent termination. So because the applicant did not abide by the conditions noted in the settlement agreement, they entered into a notice of default, and so this is something that was -- you can see in your packet, it's for all three properties. They had additional -- they were given additional time to rectify the issues and bring the properties into compliance. That did not happen.

And so the next section is just about -order to correct those violations. And so as you can see for 2/16, at the Special Magistrate hearing on November 17th, the applicant did not appear, so they were given additional time to -- or 30 days to comply with the conditions.

That leads to the next one, which is the amended order to correct those violations. A meeting was held on January 19th for all three properties. The applicants did appear and the conditions were to be corrected by the applicant by December 17 th of 2022 . That did not happen, so we were led to the third order to correct the violation. And this is -should be for 222 and just 228 Duval Street.

And so that meeting happened on March 21st
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at the Special Magistrate's hearing. They were given additional time to correct those -- those outstanding violations.

Because that also did not happen, the City has entered into a complaint of foreclosure -so that's the next tab -- for settlement of the municipal liens. And this is for all three properties. And again, that was entered in October of 2022.

And then, lastly -- well, two other things. We have an order assessing those administrative fines until the compliance is achieved for all three properties. And so this was another meeting held by the Special Magistrate on May 16th of this year. The applicant did not appear, but additional fines were levied against the properties.

And so one thing -- again, as we mentioned earlier, we did a complete overhaul of our administrative procedures. And so one thing that we did, additionally, was another site visit for all three properties, and this occurred on June 22nd of this year. That's the last tab on here. And so this was inspected by Municipal Code Enforcement as well as our own

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44
Historic Preservation code inspector. And so you can see some analysis and summary about all three properties pertaining to the conditions of it and its likelihood for mothballing protection.

And so, again, that's additional evidence that we presented. And with this, we just felt the preponderance of new information -- staff felt that it was prudent to revisit our initial findings and issue revised reports. And so with that context, I'll go into the staff's report itself.

And so this is -- again, this is COA-23-28963. This is for 222 East Duval Street and 228 East Duval Street, located within the Downtown National Register District.

Again, the applicant is seeking to mothball these structures in order to provide additional time for them to finance the restoration while preventing further deterioration and violations from the Municipal Code Compliance Division.

The owners had obtained ownership of the property back in 2005. Based on our analysis and our own administrative rules, the mothball

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rules state the structure stabilization needs to be identified by Municipal Code Compliance as a result of it being classified as an unsafe structure and it shall be met by following the scope of work approved by a licensed structural engineer or the chief of Municipal Code Compliance.

Based on our findings and going through the citations and ability for it to be preventable from further deterioration, we find that it's inconsistent with our mothballing section -- so this is (v)(2) -- given staff's assessment of the structures, which we found them to be unviable candidates for mothball protection.

Additionally, as the previous information I just laid out shows, the applicant has failed to comply with the conditions outlined in the previous settlement agreements in a timely manner, which is inconsistent with Section 307.106(k)(4).

We also, again, did another site visit. And because staff was denied entry to inspect the interiors for both site visits, were unable -- weren't able to determine whether or

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46
not the properties are consistent -- or the mothballing protection would be consistent with (v)(1) and (v)(3).

As owners of these three -- well, these two properties, in general, with varying degrees of damage, the requested mothball protection for the most heavily damaged structures require the funds and capacity to split -- be split.

Our assessment in [sic] the applicant's proposed time frame for mothballing is inconsistent with Section 307.106(v)(4), and the completion period, which is outlined within our Ordinance Code, which gives them a maximum allotment of -- extension, at least, of six months.

And so I'll read a portion of this. This is Section 307.303(c), which discusses the completion period in detail. So it states, "The owner or their designee shall have 90 days from the effective date of the final order to complete the required mothballing specifications approved and conditioned under the application."

So I do want to bring back up the
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mothballing statement that was provided by the applicant. So if you flip to Page 2 -- and this is where they answer (k)(4) -- they talk about whether or not the plans can be carried out by the applicant within a reasonable period of time. It talks about how the -- the estimated time required for implementing the stabilizing support systems and sealing the structure's envelope will take six to seven months, depending on availability of labor and materials.

As such, given that assessment, we found that it is inconsistent with our guidelines and our Code criteria in itself. So based on our -- again, our additional evidence and our evaluation of the mothballing administrative rules and the criteria itself, we forward a recommendation for denial for this application.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
Any questions for staff at the moment?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and open the public hearing, and the applicant can come on up.
(Ms. Grimes approaches the podium.)
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THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name and address.

MS. GRIMES: Good evening.
Before you start the clock -- good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. Thank you for your time tonight.

Before we begin, Mr. Chairman, I did provide, a couple of days ago, a letter to you asking for some additional time to make our presentation.

I know that you're volunteers and it's -can be a long night, I really appreciate that, but this isn't like your typical COA where it may be a window replacement, solar panels. This is substantial property interests that are at stake at this hearing, and so we believe due process requires some additional time.

I know -- Mr. Wells advised me, Mr. Chairman, that you said that we could have ten minutes on each case to present our case, but we do have three presenters. That would really only be the same as -- as the public gets, which is three minutes apiece.

What I would suggest to you, rather than having ten minutes on this case and ten minutes

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1 on the next case, because they're -- they're
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companion cases, if you will, that we would agree to take both cases together, 20 minutes, and do one presentation. Our presentation would be the same for this case as it would be for the next case, as the staff report is almost identical for this case as it is for the next case.

So if you want to take them collectively, and Mr. Wells can give his presentation on 216, which is the next case, then we think 20 minutes would be enough for us to cover all the points. And I know you have to make separate motions at the end of the public hearing, but I thought that would be the most efficient and effective way to do that. If you don't mind considering that, we would appreciate it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seems reasonable for me. I guess 20 minutes is (inaudible), so --

MS. LOPERA: Yeah. Through the Chair -and this is for the public as well, for the applicant. This is an informal, quasi-judicial proceeding, like the others before it, and the applicant is afforded reasonable time to present their case. The Chair has allot- --

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50
decided ten minutes each, but it is his discretion, if he wants to combine them, and the evidence, as one. That's at his discretion.

And you will be -- if you retain any time, you will be given an opportunity to rebut --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, so I want to make that clear, it's 20 minutes total.

MS. GRIMES: Including rebuttal?
THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
MS. GRIMES: We'll do our best. It's a lot of information to cover. I know Mr. Wells took some time to go through his -the application --

THE CHAIRMAN: He did.
MS. GRIMES: It just takes time.
THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand.
MS. GRIMES: It's just no other way around it.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is, technically, the second time we've heard this.

MR. McCORVEY: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, may I distribute materials --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MR. McCORVEY: -- or hand them to
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someone --
THE CHAIRMAN: Sure --
MR. McCORVEY: -- (inaudible) for this COA?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MS. GRIMES: So do you want Mr. Wells to do his presentation on 216 --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, that's probably --
MS. GRIMES: -- unless he will acknowledge that it's almost identical.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, we can go ahead and run through his real quick. That way --
MS. GRIMES: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- we will be ready to go.
MS. GRIMES: That's fine.
And the information that we're passing out we did already present electronically to
Mr. Wells. There's a couple other minor documents that we're going to submit as part of our presentation, if you don't mind.
THE CHAIRMAN: So, Arimus, we'll go ahead and take the staff report on COA-23-29037.
Let's go to the staff report for --
MR. WELLS: Sorry about that.
So this is the second mothballing
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application, so COA-23-29037. This is the abutting property located at 216 East Duval Street. Again, we conducted two site visits, one on March 28th, and the other on June 22nd, which -- at which time the structure was photographed extensively and determined to be heavily fire damaged with extensive second floor reconstruction required for rehabilitation.

The reason why this application -- well, this -- or there's two separate applications is because this particular property is distinctive in the fact that it has a lot of fire damage.

One thing I want to note, too -- this is on the last part of your packet here, just an observation in -- based on one of our site visits. I'll just read some of the comments from our inspectors, but for this particular property, the roof was completely gone; again, due to the fire damage. The upper part of the second floor siding has fire damage and appears the damage to the building and structure and supporting beams have been completely removed.

There's no access. And again, we --
because we're not able to inspect the interior
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54
and whatnot, viewing from the -- we were -viewed the property from outside of a chain-link fence.

It appears that the crawl space is open to the elements, and possible trespassers.

Overall, based on our summary, with this extensive fire damage, the structure is possibly deemed a total loss and we recommend that it should be evaluated by a
Florida-certified building contractor.
So again, with that additional evidence and the likelihood of this being completed within six months at the minimum -- or at the max, I should say, we don't feel like this is a prime candidate for mothballing protection.

And given our administrative rules and the likelihood of the building to be -- in terms of the roof to be secured, weathertight, we're looking at a rebuilding of the overall roof on the second floor, the gable vents. There's several loose architectural elements that are missing, as well as the exterior wall (inaudible) itself, so we're inclined to forward another recommendation for denial for this particular property.

Questions for staff?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Just real quick.
Through the Chair, question for staff.
The -- as in the previous COA, the
recommendation for denial -- and this one as
well, there's a -- the -- the language is
focused around the -- a time, right? The time
to execute the -- the things that need to be
done for the mothballing.
Is it -- is it really about -- is it strictly about the time that is considered necessary for the mothballing in relationship to the way the current guidelines are written or is it also based on history, just the things that have not occurred in a timely fashion? Do you understand what I mean in the question?

MR. WELLS: Yeah. Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, it's a combination of both for sure. The likelihood of this -- them entering into -- to, essentially, mothballing agreements in the past, and that not being done in a timely manner, coupled with the aspect of it -- it being likely -- a roof being rebuilt within 90 days or even six months at that time,

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that's unlikely, especially given their justification in the written description.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, this may be more a question for Carla, but if we were to follow staff recommendations and deny, what does the process look like from here? Does the City foreclose on them based on these settlement agreements that were not followed?

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory and the whole commission, I would like you to take in all the testimony and evidence from the applicant and the public. And once that's closed -- and during discussion, we can talk about some of those different things.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay. Got it.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other questions for staff at the moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll open the public hearing.

And y'all can come on up.
(Ms. Grimes approaches the podium.)
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56
MS. GRIMES: For the record, my name is Gina Grimes. I'm an attorney with the law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings. Our address is 100 North Tampa Street, Tampa, Florida 33602, and I'm here tonight representing Titus Harvest Dome Spectrum Church. And that's a mouthful, so going forward I'm just going to refer to them as "the church."

Also joining me this evening as presenters will be Ms. Faye Refour from the church. She's a director at the church. And also Ray Evans, who is the CEO of iDesign, an architectural firm that's been working with us.

So as you know, this is -- oh, and one other thing. We also have available for questions Andrea Troutman, of ABT Construction, and she'll be available -- we won't have time for her to make a presentation, but she will be available for questions.

So as has already been outlined by the staff, this is a quasi-judicial proceeding, which means that your decision is supposed to be based on the evidence that's already in the record and the testimony at tonight's hearing and nothing more. And you're supposed to

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determine whether that evidence shows compliance with the Code criteria.

Section 76.106(c) of the Code also provides that this commission is supposed to make their decisions independent of the Planning and Development staff in the performance of your duties.

So as Mr. Wells' staff report has stated, the -- the main criteria with which we are evaluating is section $307.106(k)$ and (v). So (k) and (v), those are the applicable Code criteria. In the April staff report that's in the binder that we just presented to you at Tab 1, it states that all this Code criteria was met.

You also have a letter from Mr. Evans that was submitted to Mr. Wells on June 8th, and it addresses each and every one of that -- the Code criteria, (k) and (v), and identifies the specific work that has to be done in order to comply with the mothballing requirements. And his letter is at Tab 2. And shortly you're going to hear testimony from Mr. Evans regarding his responses to the Code criteria. So both the letter and his testimony are

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1 evidence in the record upon which you could base your decision.

It should be noted that for the June meeting -- while the staff for this meeting -while the staff did include Mr. Evans' letter in the record, they really didn't evaluate any of his responses in the staff report. They addressed the timing, and that was almost it.

I'd like to go to the April staff meeting -- or the April HPC meeting and the City's staff report. You may recall at the April meeting, after issuance of the staff report recommending approval and after the case was already on the consent agenda, you were advised that the application should be deferred to determine if they could even be heard because of the pending foreclosure cases.

The City then submitted several documents related to separate -- a separate and distinct matter, which is the foreclosure cases, but it involves these same properties. We think that that involvement -- that deferral and that involvement that occurred, subsequent to the April meeting, created a due process violation for my client.

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## conjecture.

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And when I say that, these comments aren't directed at any particular City staff, and I'm sincere in saying that, but it's the City as a whole. We believe that what occurred with the deferral was documents were submitted into the record and, in effect, those documents that related to a separate and distinct action are being used to change or reverse the staff's recommendation. And the reason for that is because they don't want the mothballing application approved because the mothballing will stay Code Enforcement and would stay the foreclosure action. So that due process objection we want to preserve on the record in the event that there's an appeal. We're not asking for you to take any action on that at all prior to this hearing, and so, again, just preserving it for the record.

I want to go on to say the documents submitted by the City and even the staff report tonight is not considered competent and substantial evidence, and I'll tell you why. The reason is the conclusions in the staff report are completely speculative and they're

Page 3 of the staff report states that the properties that are the subject of the foreclosure proceeding and the previous settlement agreement, and states that they didn't comply with it, and so what they're implying is that, because my client didn't comply with the previous Code violation citations and with the settlement agreement, that they're not going to do these mothballing improvements either.

They also state that their concern -- and this is on Page 3 of the June staff report. They also state they're concerned that the church doesn't have -- doesn't have the, quote, funds and capacity to complete all the improvements. They don't know that. That's conjecture again.

And, lastly, on Page 4 of the staff report, they say that the staff finds compliance with the mothballing conditions, quote, highly unlikely. Again, they're guessing, they're speculating, it's conjecture.

And it's important to point out that the basis of the staff's conclusions, in their speculations that the mothball repairs won't be

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1 done -- it's not that the mothball repairs 2 cannot be done; it's that they won't be done. 3 We think they will be done, we believe they can 4 be done, and we intend to address that a little bit later in this proceeding.

So again, we believe the City's motive and the reversal of the staff report is related to supporting their litigation strategy in the foreclosure cases, and we think that that is inappropriate and difficult -- puts you in a difficult situation with respect to these applications because it puts this commission in a situation that -- they're asking you to deny the applications to support the foreclosure lawsuit.

So I want to go back to this very important point, why is the church even asking for mothballing? Well, because this situation is exactly the kind of situation that the mothballing provisions were designed to address.

Code Section 307.301 has the legislative intent on mothballing, and it states that mothballing is an alternative to strict compliance with Chapter 518. Why? Because

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Code Compliance gives the owner the limited choice of either complete rehab or demolition.

And so what I wanted to do is give to you a newspaper article dating back to 2011 from the Florida Times-Union where the mothballing provisions were first being discussed and -and considered for adoption. And it was some preservationist from the Springfield area that said that, "It can be a bit scary because you either have to fix it or take it down. There's no in between," and they're referring to Code Enforcement. "So this could be a third choice."

So that's the whole intent of mothballing, is to say you have to do certain repairs. They have to be done by a certain period of time. And if they're not, then the mothballing period expires. So it's -- it's a last chance to try to renovate or maintain the properties to a point where they can be stabilized, additional funds can be sought, and the permanent rehabilitation of the structures can be undertaken, and then the house would be preserved and not necessarily be demolished.

So I'd like to enter that newspaper
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article into the record as well. Again, going to the legislative intent.

So the mothballing provision has three priorities, and this is in Section 307.302(c). It requires stabilization repairs to be done, it requires weatherizing repairs to be done, and it requires the property to be secured. Those three things are the focus, and you will see in that -- in the subsections (b) and (k) that -- or (k) and (v), those are the issues that are addressed in -- in the repairs that have to be done. And, again, Mr. Evans will address you on that topic.

Ms. Faye Refour, representing the church, will speak next and explain why she embarked on this historic designation process and the mothballing application. And then after that, Ray Evans will get up and speak with respect to how our proposal complies with all of the requirements for mothballing. And then I'll make a couple of concluding remarks, if that's acceptable.

Faye.
(Audience member approaches the podium.) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.
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My name is Faye Refour.
I want to first begin by thanking the Historic Commission board for allowing me another opportunity to speak on behalf of the Titus Harvest Dome Spectrum Church.

With regard to the organization, I would like to, you know, just state, I've been with this organization for over 30 years. The church has been established for over 35 years in this community.

Our church has always had a strong mission in serving the community in various ways, whether it be feeding children, sheltering the homeless, feeding underprivileged children, families, we see after the elderly. And so the vision for these buildings is for us to provide affordable, long-term housing for homeless veterans, which we deem a strong community effort because the history of this ministry has shown much love and care for humanity.

Now, with regard today on the buildings, 216, 222 and 228 East Duval Street, these buildings have always been maintained and kept in good condition. Please see the photo timeline that is referenced in -- in staff 3,

Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 into COVID, and this was a lot of things going,

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66
but, initially, we was trying to get the Code Enforcement to come out. The contractor, they had her direct number, and there was a lot of back and forth. They were -- a lot of the staff, at that time, was not showing up on time, so there was a lot of issues going on.

But from that point, at the height of 20- -- COVID, we -- unfortunately, we had some setbacks and obstacles for us, and I want to start with this and let you know that in 2020, it was like a domino effect because in 2017, we had just lost the founding president of the organization, and with that came much transition for the ministry, et cetera.

And then from that point, it started being a bunch of calls that were going into Code Enforcement for our buildings, which we've never had in the history, just numerous calls about minor violations.

So in 2020, when we came before the magistrate -- and I believe there was an interference or interjection from the community that kind of, you know, pushed that information forward and we got fined. So we did hire the contractor.

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In the early part of March, when COVID was just getting at its height, we had arson that took place to both buildings. So now the situation became different. Now we had one building burned and another one that was affected by the fire.

And so with that being said, we were in communications with -- the supervisor, I believe at that time, was Mr. Bradley, and we immediately got those buildings boarded, as well as we encased the buildings with the fence. And so from that point, it kind of quieted things because Code Enforcement -everyone was experiencing the pandemic.

But to move from that point, I immediately started getting involved with City Council, Reggie Gaffney, Sr.'s, office. We reached out to the DIA. I have numerous emails with the Planning office, Lisa Sheppard. I also hired someone -- Jimmy Turner -- to be on staff to -not staff, but as a contractor to make sure that he was making sure that the properties were clean, that the trash was picked up and everything, and that's taken place since 2020 up to now. So that has taken place.

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So we -- Reggie Gaffney's office also -Reggie Gaffney's office -- I'm sorry, so I do understand my time today is limited. And so I'm going to end with my last points.

We have never abandoned any of these properties, nor had any intention to ignore bringing our buildings into compliance. For the first time in the history of our ministry, we experienced the death of a major founder, a ministry transition, fire damage to our properties, a worldwide pandemic, and the effect of national storms.

The actions we took to overcome this hardship was, first, always tried to effectively work with the Municipal Code Enforcement. We reached out to obtain help from City Council office, Reggie Gaffney, Sr. We received help and guidance from the City's Planning office, Lisa Sheppard. We received help and guidance from the Downtown Investment Authority, Guy Parola, who I am going to also add today his email comments to me which directs me in the exact things that I did. And other resources that became knowledgeable to us, so --

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You know, to show that we needed our buildings -- what I was told is, you have to first get them designated. We found out that there was a history that these buildings should have been contributing structures, as showing as historic, but somehow that got lost in the translation. And so in order for us to move forward, they told us, locally designate or get nationally/historically designated.

And locally designation was told at that time would take longer, so we moved forward with nationally/historically designating those buildings, and that end up taking from 2020 to 2022, and we had to also get the help of -- of Mr. Acosta (phonetic) in Tallahassee.

So I'll end with that and I'll just provide this information to the Commission board.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. GRIMES: Next we'll hear from Ray Evans, the CEO of iDesign.

And in my concluding remarks -- we're getting really close; we're down to three minutes -- I do want to propose a condition
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70
that I would like this board to consider, that I -- I would appreciate just having the indulgence of doing that at the very, very end.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, if I may?
THE CHAIRMAN: (Nods head.)
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the applicant, just keep in mind that if you --

There are, I believe, members of the public to speak on this item; is that correct?

MS. FIGUEROA: Yes.
MS. LOPERA: So if you want to reserve any time for rebuttal, you'll need to do that for the -- with the time allotted that --

MS. GRIMES: I don't think, with the testimony Mr. Evans has to present, that I'm going to have time to do rebuttal. So, unfortunately, that's, you know, problematic, honestly, but I'll -- I'm going to -- I know you guys have a long agenda and I don't want to (inaudible) any longer, but I do want to just be able to present to you our proposed conditions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name
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and address for us.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ray Evans, iDesign Architectural Services, 1603 West Edgewood Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32209.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ray, she'll swear you in.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

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

MR. EVANS: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. EVANS: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Commission on [sic] reference to the projects in front of you. I'm going to try and be as brief as possible because I've already written a report that's already in front of you and you can review that.
iDesign did go to the properties and did walk as much of the properties as possible to make a determination on whether or not the buildings were viable for mothballing and then renovation in the future. And our assessment

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indicated that, yes, we can work with these properties.

I've indicated in the report that we sent the ways that we can address Code Enforcement and structural issues in order to bring them into compliance while we are mothballing the structures. And then in creating the drawings for renovating the structures and bringing them back to the historic character, we can address that in a -- with the strategy and the time allotted that we can use doing the mothballing process.

We did address the general criteria, Municipal Code, and the administrative rules of mothballing in our report, and we think that in those areas you will see a little bit more details of what we suggested of shoring up the structures so that they're not dangerous to the environment.

At this time, I'll just give the floor back, and you can refer to that report. And if you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Ms. Grimes approaches the podium.)
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MS. GRIMES: So, again, for the record, Gina Grimes.

So with Mr. Evans' testimony and report that he submitted into the record, we believe that we have established that we can comply with the code criteria. And it was -- staff's testimony and evidence was that we will not, but our -- our testimony and our evidence is that we can and that we will.

But what I would proffer to this board to consider is a condition, and that condition would be, if you approve these mothballing COAs, we would agree to a condition to come back in three months -- so that would be at your September meeting -- and report back to you regarding --
(Timer notification.)
MS. GRIMES: -- the progress that we've made. And if the repairs can be done in the remainder of that period of time, in the remaining three months, assuming you give us six months to complete the repairs -- I know you get 90 days if the mothballing is approved, but if you give us six months, we would come back in three months, report to you regarding

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progress, and whether the remainder of the repairs can be done in six months, because they have to be. And if they don't, mothballing approval expires.

But what we agree to do at that time, if we come back and advise you that we can't complete the mothballing improvements in the remainder of three months, then we would agree to a condition requiring demolition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. GRIMES: Okay? And I think, with that, you would be assured that the improvements either are going to be done, or the last remaining option has to be employed, and that would be demolition.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.
All right. With that, anyone else here to speak on this COA? We can start from the top. Let's do it.

MS. MYRICK: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Come on up.
(Ms. Myrick approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

MS. MYRICK: My name is Ginny Myrick, and
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74

I represent the Cathedral District Jax, which is the neighborhood all around these properties.

This is --
THE CHAIRMAN: Ginny, she's going to swear you in real quick.
(Discussion held off the record.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MS. MYRICK: This is so interesting to observe, I have to tell you, that this is the first time a major effort has been mounted to try and speak against what the neighborhood wants for this piece of property. And it's -it's pretty impressive, except that it's full of holes.

This property, since 2011, has been what I would just describe as benign neglect. And up until the last few years, you would almost call it intentional neglect. There is -- the fencing that's around it and the boarding up of the windows have helped, although we are continually fraught with vagrants that breach both of those.

Just recently, someone claimed -- climbed up on the top of the third building, which is

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your most easterly building, and made very vulgar gestures to people living and working at the Methodist church across the street.

I mean, it is a continuation, since 2011, where people have attempted to buy these properties, where they have sought no relief whatsoever. The church itself has been, for the past seven years, in turmoil about who is on the Board of Trustees. And the reason they're in turmoil is because in Duval County the owner of this property owns $\$ 27$ million worth of property. And if you own that much money and property in your assets, you could certainly liquidate a few to do something with this. Repeatedly, historically, repeatedly they have not chosen to do that.

What they are looking for is buying time, buying time, buying time. It's just my opinion. They're buying time to figure out who really owns the property. That's what's in litigation.

So we're asking you to recommend -- follow the recommendation of the staff, which we applaud. Somebody is finally holding these property owners accountable. Not only has HPC

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done their job, but the Code Enforcement people have done their job, and you're going to hear in a few minutes that the General Counsel's Office is doing their job to try and hold these property owners accountable.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Reverend Kate
Moorehead. I'm the dean of St. Johns Episcopal
Cathedral, which is across the street from
these properties. And I oversee the cathedral school, our early learning center, which is right next door.

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

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

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

REVEREND MOOREHEAD: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
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REVEREND MOOREHEAD: I have served as the dean or head pastor of this cathedral, which was built in 1834, for 13-and-a-half years. During my entire tenure, I have tried to do something with these properties. My grave concern is that it is not safe, and they are next to a school that houses babies through preK. It is a hazard. We have vagrants on the third floor that look out over the playground at the children playing. We have rat infestations. And as you can see, we've had fire.

It is not safe, and I have been doing everything in my power to try to get these properties taken care of for years. So I'm thankful to be before you, and I really do believe that the only answer is -- is not mothballing, but taking action now. It's been a long time and we really need your help. This is not safe and it's not good for our school in many ways.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
(Ms. Durden approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name
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and address.

MS. DURDEN: Thank you very much.
Brenna Durden. My address is 245
Riverside Avenue, Suite 510, Jacksonville, Florida.

I'm here on behalf of the Cathedral District. Thank you very much for your time today. I want to thank the staff for their very thorough report.

As I said, today I'm speaking on behalf of the Cathedral District. We support the staff report and the staff's recommendation to deny the request to mothball the structures at 222, 228 and 216 Duval Street.

As you know, the historic preservation code sets forth various criteria that the staff is to look at and this board is to consider when making a decision regarding a mothballing request. There are general provisions and there's very specific provisions.

I believe that the staff has, in fact, thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the criteria and found on -- on the evidence presented, that the three buildings do not meet the numerous criteria that -- for mothballing.

Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 regards to the three buildings. Based on that history, two things are very clear. One, this City has invested significant, substantial time in working with this landowner to allow the landowner many, many opportunities to do exactly what they're saying they're now going to do in the next three months.

They have had numerous -- they've had settlement agreements, they've had extensions of settlement agreements, they have had -- time and time and time again our Code Enforcement has gone and inspected the property.

There's no history -- there's no basis of -- or through the information that is in the staff report, there's no indication that they came into compliance at any time. And the City, the City staff, the City resources have all been spent for the -- at least going back -- well, as Ms. Myrick said, for -- since 2012. The evidence that's in the staff report goes back more than --

## (Timer notification.)

MS. DURDEN: -- more than three years.
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the attorneys working on the foreclosure action. The foreclosure action and what this commission does are completely separate proceedings.

Now, if the Commission does decide to approve the COAs, then that will stop the fines from accruing under the mothball -- or, I'm sorry, under the Code Compliance violations. That will not, however, affect the foreclosure action. Whether you approve the applications or whether you deny them, the foreclosure is proceeding. So it really has no effect on the foreclosure itself. It will just cap the fines to what they are as of the date of the approval, which is approximately $\$ 600,000$.

And just quickly, to give you a quick -- I know you have the copy of the complaint, but a quick history of how we got there: Code Compliance went out in -- I think it was in 2020. Violations were noted. They had their magistrate hearing. Fines were assessed. The fines accrue at $\$ 550$ a day.

Shortly after this, fines were assessed, settlement agreements were entered into; two of them in late 2020, the last one in early 2021.

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Some of the terms were never complied with. A
second settlement agreement was entered into in 2020. That one was later terminated, months later, because of lack of compliance. Soon after that, we filed the foreclosure action, and that's proceeding today.

So I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the foreclosure action, but I did just want to clarify that these are two very separate proceedings.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Thank you for that.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Is anybody else here to speak on this COA?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Douglas Tillett, 225 East Duval Street, in Jacksonville, Florida.

That's actually my church's address. We are directly across the street from the three buildings.

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

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

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

MR. TILLETT: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. TILLETT: Thanks for giving me the opportunity to come and address you about the -- about the three buildings that are directly across the street from my church.

It's been there for a long time, and we're there a lot of days. And our church has been there for a long time too. One of the buildings that's directly across the street is a hundred years old. That's the -- the Sunday school building. The office at the end was built in '53, which makes it 70 years old, because I was made in '53 and I'm 70 years old. And the sanctuary is at the end of Duval and Newnan, and it's a newer structure, but it was still built in '65.

I know about historical significance. I live in Riverside and I've been in Riverside since 1990. And there are a lot of houses that

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we see that have historical significance and that deserve to be taken care of and -- and brought back to a good health, but these three buildings, they just don't have it. There's nothing there worth saving.

If you go ahead and walk around the buildings, there's just -- there's just nothing that seems to be historically significant left. Anything that was an architectural feature that would be worth saving is gone. Everything is gone. It's just -- it's just -- it's just not even worth saving, and --

And because of these buildings being across the street, they're scary and they've chased off a lot of people from our church. We used to have the children's choir at the church, but, you know, there was this building across the street, and now the children's choir has moved to another location.

We had another service. It was inside our church. It was called -- I can't remember the name right now. They have families that come around -- Family Promise. And Family Promise left as well.

We have people who have come and visited.
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And there's kind of these three scary buildings across the street, and they don't come anymore, and we're hoping that the mothball attempt is -- is put down so that we can maybe have a chance at saving our church.

By the way, here is a picture that was taken yesterday by a friend of mine. And there's a homeless person that's on the -- it's got other stuff hanging on the fence, and I stopped at the parking lot next door, and he's still there today.
(Timer notification.)
MR. TILLETT: Thank you very much.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on this COA?
(Mr. McCorvey approaches the podium.)
MR. MCCORVEY: Yes. My name is John McCorvey. I'm speaking on behalf of the Titus Harvest Dome Church.

I'm not representing the church in this mothball proceeding. I'm counsel for the church in the foreclosure action.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. You have three minutes.

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## Counsel's Office for the City of Jacksonville,

 the same General Counsel's Office that isDiane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300
prosecuting the foreclosure action. So I think it's a bit disingenuous or perhaps naive to state that there's no interrelation between the decisions that the -- the advice the General Counsel's Office is providing in this process should create a conflict of interest with prosecution of the foreclosure action, in my humble opinion.

I also have to respectfully disagree with Ms. Robertson [sic] with respect to whether or not the mothball proceeding would halt the foreclosure action. It may or may not, as a result -- purely a result of the plain language of the ordinance. However, the judge will have discretion with regard to that, and to presume that a judge is going to -- an equitable proceeding is -- is not going to stay the foreclosure case pending the resolution of the mothball efforts, if -- if approved, is -- is simply fortunetelling.

We have numerous defenses to this foreclosure action. It is by no means a foregone conclusion that the City is going to prevail in this foreclosure action. I don't have the time to go into it factually.

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Now, I want to wrap up, because I have seven seconds, in saying, it's interesting that the Honorable Ginny Myrick commented that the church --
(Timer notification.)
MR. McCORVEY: -- owns $\$ 27$ million worth of property. The City has recently sought the motion to amend the complaint to encumber all of it for $\$ 600,000$ worth of fines.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Is there anybody else here to speak on this COA?

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

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to deny COA-23-28963 per the staff report.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, anyone have thoughts here?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, just so we have an -- just so we have an understanding of the landscape here, if this

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denial goes through and the mothballing is denied, does the -- does the church -- does Titus Harvest Dome have -- as in a -- previous projects -- the Ford plant that was mentioned by Councilman Carlucci earlier, when we denied demolition of the Ford plant, they took it to City Council and they voted on it as another -as another means as an appeal. Does this case have that same path or is our vote today a finality?

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, your final orders, as issued, are appealable by the applicant or a party with standing to the City Council. Those are heard by the Land Use and Zoning Committee of the City Council, but there are appellate rights to any decision you make today.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Thank you.
I just wanted to set the table here for everyone in the discussion, right? Because this is a very serious matter that's been going on for a long time, and it's clearly a dispute between the members of one community, and so we should just bear that in mind as we speak about it to each other.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I would agree. COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I guess I'll start if no one else will.

I wanted to thank the applicant for coming, and the -- for everyone that spoke in the public hearing.

There has been quite a history on this. And this commission, we're not doubting the church's mission for this property. It seems that they've been very faithful to the mission to provide homes for veterans and other things like that, and to the mission -- for the mission to the community.

The question here is on the church's ability to follow through on the commitments that the City of Jacksonville made. And those were, according to this, the various settlement agreements that were entered into and then not followed through on, on two different occasions.

And then another reason that came through was regarding COVID, and then again the fire damage. However, I question how a fire could have started on a well-maintained property that has no running water or electricity and a
property that's well-secured, and I would question what the fire report looked like from 2020.

And then, in addition to that, we heard testimony from Ms. Tamara Baker. And she's a licensed structural engineer as well as a general contractor, who has deemed the building to be unsafe and also unrepairable regarding the foundations, the super structure, the structural walls, and the roof system.

And furthermore, I'd like to -- I would call into question iDesign's report. If you look at the gentleman's license number, it looks like to be an associate AIA, which is -from what I understand, is not a licensed architect in the state of Florida.

General Counsel for the church presented them as expert witnesses, and there was not a curriculum vitae as part of this, indicating there's no deposition or trial testimony that's been given by this gentleman in previous cases, in -- either in the state or federal court systems, so I would draw into question this applicant's ability -- or this expert's ability to provide these statements without licensure

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in the state of Florida and without having previous -- given any expert deposition or trial testimony.

So that being said, I do agree with staff's report. I believe that -- I agree with the previous structural engineer's assessment on this structure, that it is not salvageable, it's beyond salvage regarding the -- basically, all the structural systems that are important to maintain stability and security of the system down from the foundation all the way up to the roof, so --

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. That was very thorough, and I agree with just about everything you said.

The biggest thing for me is, why has nothing been done? It seems like they've been given multiple opportunities from the City to get something done here and nothing has been done. That, to me, is the biggest -- is the biggest part.

Speaking on the iDesign report, I also agree with that conclusion. Just a little bit -- a quick digging -- I can't find a whole

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lot about iDesign projects they've done, anything of that sort, so I would also question that testimony.

With that, yeah, I -- I am impressed with the thoroughness of that statement and agree with just about all of it, so ...

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, I would agree also that the City and Code Compliance have been more than generous with time extension and settlements with Titus.

One question for staff is, has there ever been a COA applied for prior to the person or the -- or the long list of Code violations by Titus --

MR. WELLS: By --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: -- on these properties specifically?

MR. WELLS: So through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, just to clarify, for these particular properties, has a mothball status been applied for or --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: No, no. Have they ever applied for any other COAs on these properties prior -- during their ownership, prior to all these Code violations and

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mothballing applications?
MR. WELLS: No, because the properties are outside the boundaries of a locally designated historic district, nor is it locally designated as a landmark, so they don't have to apply for a COA for mothballing or a COA in general.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Sure.
MS. LOPERA: Do you want clarification on that?

THE CHAIRMAN: That would be great.
MS. LOPERA: So through the Chair to the Commission, so these are -- properties are a little bit unique in that they're in the Downtown National Register Historic District. So that is not a locally designated district. It's only the properties within the locally designated districts that require Certificates of Appropriateness for exterior changes and various other things.

So these are requesting mothballing but wouldn't otherwise need a COA for any of the work done. They would, however, need building permits if they wanted to do some of these things.

MR. WELLS: And just to add to -- sorry.
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So the reason why they came in with the -to do a COA now is because the -- and I think the applicant alluded to this, but, essentially, in order to be -- to qualify for mothballing status or apply for a COA in general, they have to be designated as a contributing structure within the National Register District, and that came on line in 2021, so, hence, no prior COAs --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Understood.
MS. LOPERA: Mr. Chair, may I provide just a little bit of context on --

THE CHAIRMAN: Please.
MS. LOPERA: -- mothballing real quick?
So I just want to point you all to the Code -- the section of our Ordinance Code that addresses mothballing, and the first provision is 307.301, which identifies the legislative intent and findings, and I'll just briefly read this into the record.
"The intent of this part is to provide owners of historic properties with an alternative to strict compliance with Chapter 518."

So to be clear, Chapter 518 is the Code
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Enforcement provisions that we've talked about.
And you have in the record the years of enforcement under 518 that these properties have been subjected to.

Further on down, "This process is not intended to be used to circumvent the need to perform structural corrections or perform routine and ongoing maintenance to ensure protection of the public health and safety, nor as a means for a property owner to avoid compliance with Chapter 518."

So -- but to be clear, nobody sitting at this table is a party to any foreclosure action. Someone else from my office is representing the City on that action. I am counsel to you all. I'm also counsel to the Planning and Development Department, and I provide my advice to you all.

And like Ms. Roberson stated earlier, this proceeding today has no effect on that foreclosure action. It only came to light in the staff's report to give you context and show you the record of what's been -- the required good-faith effort that was -- that was required of the settlement agreement that was not

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98
adhered to.
If you have any other questions, I'm happy to take those.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Questions? Anybody else have thoughts? COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Anything?
Through the Chair, just to -- just to also state, in my short tenure as a commissioner with HPC, I never found the staff or counsel to be anything other than honest and above board. And so when they -- when they requested denial to mothball a building, that, in a way, goes against the things that we really stand for because even though it's not part of a district and it's not a protected building necessarily, the last thing any of us here want to see is a -- is a historic building be taken down.

But the research has been done, the chances have been given, and the staff has issued a report. And this is not the last defense for the -- the people who are requesting -- the church that's requesting the COA -- the approval for the mothballing, so I don't see any reason why we would not agree

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with staff. They've done their job, everyone's done their job, and I think we need to take this to the next level.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would agree.
Anybody else have thoughts?
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the Chair, thank you to staff for this report. And thank you, Counsel, for expanding on the mothballing. I tend to agree with all of the other commissioners.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I do want to read into the record -- at this point, I'm having a hard time finding any conclusive evidence that a license number for iDesign exists.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, it's an associate architect, and that is not related to the Florida Board of Architecture. I believe Commissioner Montoya could speak more on that. I know with professional engineers, such as myself, there's EITs and EEs, so --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah. Being an associate member of the American Institute of Architects does not require a registration,

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so --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I'm just wondering what this license number means. And in that case, if it's just through an associate license -- because I'm having a hard time finding the --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I guess the last thing, too, would be to state that Tamara Baker's office -- it was mention earlier -- is a licensed structural engineer, who also has a history of working in historic districts, and so that testimony isn't just about a -- the structural capabilities or incapability of the -- of the building, but also having a clear understanding of historic structures.
(Ms. Baker enters the proceedings.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes, enter Tamara Baker.

THE CHAIRMAN: Nice timing.
All right. With that --
MS. LOPERA: So, procedurally, if I may
just interject, put everyone in the correct posture.

So a motion and second was made to deny,
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but you did not clarify which one -- we do actually have two separate mothballing -- I know that we've combined for the purposes of efficiency because the testimony is overlapped significantly, but if you could separate those out and maybe amend your motion to deny, just to clarify which COA you are referencing, Commissioner Lopera.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Then motion to deny COA-23-28963 for 222 and 228 East Duval Street.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
(Commissioner Frick abstains from voting.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you've denied COA-23-28963.

MS. LOPERA: Let the record reflect that Commissioner Frick abstained from that vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody want to -- go ahead.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Motion to deny

102
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor? COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
(Commissioner Frick abstains from voting.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: With that, you've denied COA-23-29037.

And with that, we will move right along.
MS. LOPERA: If we can let the record reflect that Commissioner Frick abstained from that item as well.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.
We're going to take a quick ten-minute break.
(Brief recess.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We're back.
Section $F$, historic designations, that has
been deferred, LM-23-05.
So, with that, we'll move along to Certificates of Appropriateness, Section G. First on the docket, COA-23-28339, 3664
Richmond Street.
Can we have a staff report?
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MR. ANDERSON: All right. COA-22-28339 is for the wholesale replacement of 51 windows on a single-family contributing structure within the Riverside Avondale Historic District. The residential structure is a Colonial Revival style home that can be characterized by its shingled hip roof form, continuous brick exterior, decorative shutters, and 6-over-6 windows.

As proposed, the applicant is seeking to replace all the existing wood windows on the structure with a Marvin clad window product. According to the applicant, they believe all the windows on the structure are not original because they -- there are no ropes and pulleys. However, staff believes that the existing windows on the structure are the original windows or at least have gained historic significance as the existing windows have more than likely been on the structure for the majority of the structure's life.

During one of two site visits on the property, the applicant stated that the windows are inoperable as they are painted and caulked shut. Staff recommends initiating window

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repair techniques to relieve the issues of being painted and caulked.

Additionally, the homeowner mentioned that the windows facing the river receive extensive amounts of rain during storms. However, the windows did not appear to show any signs of water damage or wood rot. Staff recommends installing interior storm windows --
weather-stripping or interior storm windows, which can be approved administratively.

MR. WELLS: Through the -- well, to the Commission, just to emphasize one point too, the -- again, the applicant is under the assumption that because the windows have what we refer to -- or the packet I just sent out, this came from the applicant as well, but this is Andersen sash balances. So these are the springs that we observed in our site visits. And so they believe, because these are not the traditional ropes and pulleys, that they are nonoriginal to the -- the windows.

They provided us with some documentation again. But if you read through the -- the paragraph itself, it says that the sash window spring balances were introduced in the 1880s,

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1 so -- the home was built in 1947. We don't
2 have any evidence otherwise, that the -- the

3 windows were replaced, the permitting, or just even the existing condition of them, so we're inclined to take them that -- they're either original or they at least gained historic significance.

So other than that, we forward to you a recommendation for denial.

THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for staff?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll open the public hearing.

Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: John Allmand, 2063 Oak Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

THE CHAIRMAN: John, she'll swear you in.
MR. ALLMAND: All right. I have some -- I
have some documents here. I have a care package, and I would like to distribute it, if

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possible.
(Tenders documents.)
THE REPORTER: John, if you would raise your right hand for me, please.

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

MR. ALLMAND: I do.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. ALLMAND: Good afternoon.
My name is John Allmand with JAA
Architecture. Thank you for the opportunity to
speak today regarding COA-22-28339.
I also want to thank staff for this report. I felt like we were so close, but I do --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: You missed it by 51?
MR. ALLMAND: Fifty-one-and-a-half.
But, you know, you guys did put in an
effort. Like you said, you guys, you know,
visited the site twice and you met with us a
bunch of times, so I really do appreciate that
effort.
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We're requesting a wholesale window replacement. And as you see on the documents we're passing around, the total number of windows being requested to be replaced is actually 52. That's a difference on the actual staff report.

The house has a mixture of what appears to be fixed and single-hung windows. The request is to do a like-for-like wholesale replacement. Please refer to the floor plan as it relates to the window survey so you can kind of see which windows go where.

In our investigation, we found there to be subtle differences in mechanical components of the windows that tell an interesting story about the history of the windows and the house in total.

Initially, we discovered that the windows that currently exist, two appear to be weight and pulley, three were fixed, and 47 were installed with nonweight and pulley mechanisms that appear to be either spring or spiral.

We then discovered a new piece of evidence in the form of two historical photographs, which should be in your packet. We have

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included them in your packet. These photographs tell us clearly that a minimum of three windows have clearly been replaced because they have different opening sizes.

There are two doors on the front of the house, on the second floor balcony, and one in the bay rear. The bay window on the rear of the house was replaced with a fixed window and the two doors on the second floor of the house were replaced with what appears to be two single-hung windows. These two replaced windows have nonweight and pulley closing mechanisms, similar to the other windows in the house. This tells us that we have evidence that there are nonweight and pulley windows, and are -- that are not original to the house.

We also have evidence that shows that the weight and pulley windows located on the front of the house -- please refer to the floor plan -- appear to be original. Combine this with the fact that the history --
(Timer notification.)
MR. ALLMAND: Can I wrap up? I got --
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
MR. ALLMAND: I'm about midway through.
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Combine this with the fact that the history of the window -- we have evidence that shows that there are weight and pulley windows located on the front of the house -- please refer to the floor plan -- and appears to be original. Combine this with the fact that the history of the window closing mechanisms, generally speaking, weight and pulleys, are much older than spring or spiral-type mechanisms. Although available from the 1880s, do not really become popular until after World War II, post 1945, and a probable story of the history of the windows begins to come into focus.

I propose that originally all the windows in this house were weight and pulley because you don't go back to a spring -- you know, and add weight and pulley windows. So circa 1947, likely sometime after the period of significance that ends in 1948, the vast majority of the windows were replaced with nonweight and pulleys. Likely after Dora hit, sometime maybe around 1964, in the middle of the heyday of spring and spiral windows. This would explain the mixture of both old-style

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weight and pulley as well as the presence of other type of mechanisms.

This would allow -- this would also suggest that the windows that exist in the house today are both not original and replaced outside the period of significance in 1948.

I think it's important to bring up that it's entirely possible, yet very unlikely, that the house was built in 1947, could have replaced most of their windows before 1948. I think that one-year window replacements is highly improbable. The most probable explanation for this evidence, I believe -- I presented -- I believe, as I said, is that the windows are not original and noncontributing.

If you join me in this belief, the Secretary of Interior standards for rehabilitation apply. And in a -- a like-for-like replacement for the windows is a -- allowed, and even encouraged on the basis of increased sustainability and no loss of historic fabric.

Along those lines, I would be remiss to -to not speak into the fact that these windows don't appear to be in terrible condition, but

## I think that's highly likely. So what I think

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is -- makes the most sense in this story is that they were all weight and pulley. And they, at one point, were replaced, which -- by the way, I talked to Lovejoy today. I don't know if you guys are familiar with Lovejoy. He's a local window expert. And he said that happens all the time, that that's a thing.

I mean, even in Morgan's house, there's weight and pulleys. It was built around the same time. There's weight and pulleys and there's an addition with springs. It's just -it's a thing that happens, and I think it's a thing that happened in this house.

And if there is an element of conjecture in it, I would -- I would agree with that, but we're talking about a very, very, very slim chance, even if -- to say that it was built with both weight and pulley and spring, and -and to say that maybe within a year of it being built, they came through and they replaced it and now they're nonoriginal but contributing somehow? I think unlikely and I think highly unlikely.

And so that brings us to -- just -- not to repeat too much, I just want to drive this

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1 point home. Very, very, very -- three very --
2 likely nonoriginal, noncontributing windows;
therefore, the Secretary of Interior standards,
which is the guideline for which you guys use
to vote, says you can do a like-for-like
replacement because there's no loss of
historical fabric.

So I please implore you guys to take that into account when you guys put together a vote.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And through the Chair, you mentioned that some of the windows may have changed sizes?

MR. ALLMAND: Right. So there's -there's some photographs there, that over the years, they -- those -- they have replaced windows. So you can see in the -- in the balcony, in the second floor balcony, on the front, there's a -- they had doors going out to the balcony. No doors now, right?

And so those windows that we know changed don't have wheel and pulleys, right? They had, you know, nonwheel and pulley mechanisms. I'm just -- that's -- that is a nonconjectural form of evidence that supports my hypothesis.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any more questions for John
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at the moment?
MR. ALLMAND: You need me to come back up?
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah, question for John.

So regarding your theory of Hurricane Dora or some other things requiring replacement of the windows, is it possible that these windows are original, they were just repaired after whatever the disaster was or issue was and then used spirals? Is it possible these are the original windows, they're just repaired?

MR. ALLMAND: I think -- so that's a really, really good question. And so what I would say is, it is possible, of course, but think about this: They were -- they were -they were -- I think it's -- I think that originally they were all wheel and pulley. Okay? All of them, right?

And then anything that happened repairwise or, you know, anything after that was -- you know, I mean, they -- they had to change the mechanism, the internal mechanism within the -to lift them up and down, right? And so when that happened, it almost certainly -- whether it was a storm or whatever happened, it almost

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certainly happened outside the period of significance.

And so I guess what I'm saying is everything -- so we know they're -- we know, because of that, they're nonoriginal, and we know that anything that happened was outside -that changed them was outside the period of significance. So there's essentially nothing left of the windows to save because they're both nonoriginal and outside of the period of significance.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, good point.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for John at the moment?

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

MR. ALLMAND: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else here to speak on this COA?

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

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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I have questions first, through the Chair. Staff, what did you think about John's testimony?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Lopera, several different things. I'll just run through them, but, I mean, of course -- I'll start with just maybe window 7. I mean, yes, that window was replaced. It's been replaced with a fixed window, so it doesn't really change our recommendation, per se.

One point, too, is just the originality -well, there's, I'll say, three points. The originality, condition of the windows, and then the possibility of them -- just the pulley system being replaced, as Commissioner Gregory already alluded to.

First point about originality is it -whether or not they're original, sure, that has bearing on our recommendation. But even if they were replaced, we look at the condition part of it, so -- I mean, if the windows are in excellent condition or good to repairable condition, we're always going to be inclined to recommend restoration, which is consistent with

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our standard of interior -- Secretary of Interior standards.

I'll just read it into the record, but standard 2 talks about -- or standard 6, I'm sorry: Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. The emphasis here is on the word "deterioration."

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: But through the Chair, those are for verified windows that are historic to the property, and right now there's doubt as to what is original because it's -we're now looking at a situation where 98 percent of the windows are all running on the same system, and then you have two windows that are, I don't know, you know, spring -- you know, spring system.

But right here, we're looking at a situation where we have three windows, which are colored in blue, which are fixed. And then we have 18 which are in pink, which are spring, and it -- and I agree with the applicant, that it's highly doubtful that all this happened within the first year, which means if they happened after 1948, then they're no longer original to the building and no longer
historical, and now we're, you know, kind of getting close to the -- kind of the -- the mark that we use -- you know, the 50 percent rule mark for windows, and -- that's the end of my sentence.

MR. WELLS: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Carry on.
MR. WELLS: I mean, the 50 percent rule, that applies to deteriorated or missing windows, and so we -- we weren't able to use that standard from our design guidelines in this consideration.

But again, we just -- we didn't have enough substantial evidence to warrant these windows as possibly being replaced. I mean, again, the applicant, he provided that document that stated that the window spring balances were introduced in the 1940s. But again, if you read through the paragraph, they were introduced as early as 1880. So there's a -there's a likelihood that maybe they were original to the windows, maybe they were replaced, the window -- or the ropes and pulleys were replaced with spring balances.

So it's just -- it's a slippery slope for
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us to sit here -- or for staff to -- to opine that these are all nonoriginal -- or the majority of them are nonoriginal, especially given the condition.

MR. ALLMAND: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: John, you can come up.
MR. ALLMAND: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Real quick --
MR. ALLMAND: So I'll say it --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
(Mr. Allmand approaches the podium.)
MR. ALLMAND: Am I good?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Real quick.
MR. ALLMAND: Real quick.
So in the Secretary of Interior standards, under rehabilitation, okay, it -- I understand what you're saying, but if you have -- it says clearly -- and if we're going to live and die on this, I'd rather defer and find it and then bring it back to you. We actually had it, and we didn't bring it because it was a -- it was a big -- this thick (indicating).

But under the Secretary of Interior -- in rehabilitation, if you have -- on a
contributing building, if you have elements
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that were -- that are -- were nonoriginal and outside the period of significance, you are -replacement, like for like, is allowed, 100 percent. It says that in the book. If it doesn't, yank this COA away.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I believe that I have read the same because it would make sense, if you're -- you know, if you replace something -- you know, something a year ago and that product fails --

MR. ALLMAND: That's right.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- it's not -- no longer historical and no longer historically significant to the building.

MR. ALLMAND: And I think -- and I would also like to push back and challenge the -- the staff. I have utmost respect for staff, but push back on the fact that, even things installed outside -- past the significance can gain significance. I think that that is -- I think that is a false statement, that anything after 1948, after the period of significance is -- is not historically significant. That's why we have a period of significance. I think that's important to note.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks.
I'm still waiting on a motion, so ...
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: We should go ahead and make a motion.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yeah, I guess -through the Chair, this -- the property was built, basically, right at the cutoff line, you know, 1947. You know, so -- you know, generally, I would be -- you know, look at these with, you know, straight denial, but we're looking at something that was built, you know, right at the cutoff line. And we're -basically, almost half the windows were --

I don't believe that all those windows are original, but I -- you know, it makes sense to me that, you know, almost half the windows were replaced sometime after 19--- after the place was built. And I don't believe that, you know, the windows built in 1980 and installed in 1980 gained any historical significance, so I -- I'm actually inclined to approve this one just because we're -- you're almost at the 50 percent mark. And being that it is, you know, a very beautiful building and it has a lot of historical character, then I'm going to

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122
make a motion to approve this.
I'm going to make a motion to approve COA-22-28339 [sic].

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: If we're going with pink and nonoriginal, we're well over the 50 percent mark. That -- I mean, that's not debatable at this point.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah, we're in discussion time now, right?

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So just -- through the Chair, as part of the discussion, I agree with Arimus' -- Mr. Wells' comment about not being able to opine. As staff, and the research that they do, they have to adhere to the -- to the design guidelines specifically, and that's why we're here, because we can look at this as a -- things as a case-by-case basis and determine whether we want to stand with their judgment or, as the motion has come from Commissioner Lopera, to challenge it and go in a different direction, so I'm fine with the process right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
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## are the original?

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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: We volunteered to opine.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, anybody have any other thoughts?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'm inclined to believe they're -- you know, they're original windows or in the period of significance for it. I -- just for the record, I'll say that.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Could you clarify which ones you think are original?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Just judging by the looks of them -- I haven't been to the property, but judging by the photos I've seen, either they're original from their [sic] built or during the period of significance. They all appear to be wood windows that are similar to what would be originally installed on the property.

You know, again, not seeing every window, not going to the property, I can't speak for every single one of them, but just looking at the photos, they appear to be from that period.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So you're -- I'm sorry, to clarify, you're saying the pink ones

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Well, it's hard for me to tell from the photos, you know, because I only have a handful of photos of the windows, but if -- if -- it appears to be the original windows where they just replaced and/or repaired them, like I said, maybe after some disaster, whatever.

I'm inclined to believe they're the original windows, but I -- I'm kind of with Arimus in that I can't opine on what happened or didn't happen or conjecture or what it is or isn't.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Right.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I mean, has there ever been any attempt to repair these windows prior to this COA?

THE CHAIRMAN: I would venture to guess at some point, but it doesn't seem like they would like to do that at this point.

I'm on the fence with this one --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I am too.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- because I do think -whether they're outside the period or not, I do believe that most of the windows are old. We can go off the 1948 date, which, as John said,

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is -- is why it's there, technically, and that is technically.

I think the only thing that would make me -- makes me sleep a little bit easier is the -- you know, this house is set back and not exactly street visible --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Good point.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- which does help me a little bit.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Would there -through the Chair, would there have been any permits pulled if there were --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: No -COMMISSIONER FRICK: -- potentially -COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- record probably. (Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to
Commissioner Frick, highly unlikely, but
sometimes. It depends on when they were most likely replaced.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And through the -through the Chair, a question for staff.
Has -- did RAP have any input on this at all or --

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to
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Commissioner Montoya, no, we have not received any correspondence.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Has staff reviewed the proposed window replacements from, say, the Marvin clad? I didn't see anything about them in the packet here.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to
Commissioner Gregory, we didn't review the products in detail. I mean, again, we're not opposed to the replacement material, per se, (inaudible) in our report. It's just a matter of, again, restoration as (inaudible).

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, anybody else have thoughts?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to -- if I may add -- I just want to add some context based on the design guidelines, but -- I know we're talking about the 50 percent threshold, but -- and I could pull it up on the screen if necessary, but it does say -- state that if 50 percent or more are deteriorated or missing, then wholesale replacement of windows is allowable. And, of course, you have to meet these seven different standards, such as trim detail, size, location, and whatnot.

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window or a 6-over-1 window, and -- and it would be very different if these had, you know, some sort of lead -- you know, some sort of lead detail or some sort of decorative, you know, trim around them, but these are -- you know, these seem like common windows to me; 6 -over-6, they could be easily replaced with a -- you know, a Marvin clad product.

So I don't -- I don't believe that they would -- that these particular windows had gained any specific significance, you know, since -- since then.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody else have thoughts? If not, let's call for a vote and make a decision.

MS. LOPERA: If I could, through the Chair --

THE CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh.
MS. LOPERA: -- so the motion on the table right now is to approve, and this is the -goes against the recommendation of Planning staff, which -- the staff's report is considered competent, substantial evidence upon which you can base a decision.

So I just ask, if you're going to approve
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1 this, that you state -- someone state on the 2 record the competent, substantial evidence upon which that approval is based.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay. Through the Chair; one, that the building is set back quite a distance from the road, so it's not readily visible.

Two, the building was built right at the cutoff date for the period of significance, and it is highly improbable that all the windows or that half these windows that are shown here were repaired or were replaced within the first year of the construction of the home.

Three, any -- there's no evidence -- or there's not significant evidence dictating the originality of these windows to the home, again, because it was built at this -- the cutoff period, and what I'm -- what I'm observing here is that at least 21 of the windows shown here were not original to the home.

Four, even if the windows were replaced after the construction, I disagree with staff's opinion that these windows had gained any historical significance. These are common

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6-over-6 windows. There's nothing particularly historically characteristic about a 6-over-6 window. These are commonly replaced by, you know, Marvin clad products, and similar products are available on the market today that would give the building a very similar look.

And I believe that is all, unless somebody else wants to add additional competent evidence.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: You know, just as -- through the Chair, just as part of the discussion, when you look at the -- when you look at the diagram and you see that -- the spring windows are predominant in the -- in the plan, and there's only two -- there's only two weight and pulleys at the first floor, none on the second floor. It --

For a house of this size, it also seems to me that you could argue the opposite, that all the windows were originally springs because who, of a house of this magnitude and stature, would have replaced every window except for two, right? I mean, that -- they're -- the number of (inaudible) windows is pretty substantial, and if I were -- I'm not a man of

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wealth and significance. If I was and I was replacing --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Don't doubt yourself.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- all the windows, I would not have replaced all of the windows except for two at the front door, so I -- you know, I don't know. Like, it just -- it's -it's a question for me.

And I only -- I don't bring this up to -to offer dispute to the applicant's statements because I -- I think they're legitimate, and they're just -- it just -- it is a legitimate speculation, but it's still speculation, just as it's speculation on my part that they all could have been spring because I wouldn't have left two at the front door, weight and pulley, right?

I mean, you usually -- you usually take care of the stuff everybody looks at first, before you take care of the stuff that nobody sees, and so that -- that's just a -- that's just -- I want to throw that in just for thought.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's a great
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point. I mean, you know, if some big disaster happened, whatever we want to call it, chances are you're replacing all of the windows, not leaving two.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And so for that -and so because of that, I -- my vote is going to be to agree with staff because I don't -- I don't see legitimate -- and again, it's a compelling argument that the applicant has made, which I will state for the record that I don't usually agree with the applicant -strike that. I'm just joking.

But, you know, that -- I can't -- I can't disagree with staff because there's not enough -- archaeologically, there's not compelling information beyond speculation, so I will -- I'll be voting to agree with staff against the approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody else have thoughts?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll call for a vote.

All those in favor?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Aye.
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COMMISSIONER FRICK: Aye. COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Aye. THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Nay. COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Nay. THE CHAIRMAN: Nay.
MS. LOPERA: So that's a three-three tie, which, according to your bylaws, results in a deferral till the next meeting, at which point if there is a tie vote again, the -- that will act as a denial.

MR. ALLMAND: Can I just --
MR. WELLS: We'll have a -- Epstein next month, so --

MR. ALLMAND: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, come on -- real quick --
(Mr. Allmand approaches the podium.)
MR. ALLMAND: Well, I just -- if we're going to defer -- if we're going to defer right now in the middle, is there any evidence I can provide that would -- that would sway -- that's a question I have.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Talk to the person who installed the windows.
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134
MR. ALLMAND: I'll do what I can.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'd like to see some sort of examples of these Marvin clad windows you're going to install that would be replacing these, as well as if -- if you can find any more evidence that would tell us that they were not the originals, I mean, that would make a big difference, but I'm not sure what you can find at this point.

THE CHAIRMAN: Possibly why the two front windows weren't replaced.

MR. ALLMAND: Well, I have a reason for that right now --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Or also your --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- (inaudible)
testimony -- I recall that you said this
happens all the time. If we can get some more backup data and some evidence of those situations; like, if there are other examples in the neighbored that have gone through this same scenario --

MR. ALLMAND: Okay. I can do that.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes, through the
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Chair, because part of your testimony was that -- I mean, expert testimony you provided was that a lot of houses on this street had the -- had previous window replacements.

MR. ALLMAND: Wholesale window replacements.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Wholesale window replacements, so perhaps looking at some COAs might -- might convince these other commissioners that voted against me to vote for --

MR. ALLMAND: All right. Thank you. THE CHAIRMAN: All right, John. Thanks.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I don't take it personally.

THE CHAIRMAN: With that, we're deferring COA-23-28339, and we'll move to COA-23-28919, 1430 Azalea Drive.

MR. WELLS: All right. So, once again, this is COA-23-28919, located at 1430 Azalea Drive. This property is located within the Riverside Avondale Historic District and the applicant is seeking wholesale window replacement. The structure is characterized by

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Tudor style --
(Discussion held off the record.)
MR. WELLS: The applicant is seeking wholesale window replacement on a contributing single-family residential structure constructed in 1936. The structure is characterized by its Tudor-style architecture with a brick cladding subtype, 6-over-6 windows, and vertical brick trim near the foundation.

The structure currently has 28 original wood windows. And, once again, the applicant is seeking to replace all the windows with a vinyl wood -- or a vinyl window product. According to the applicant, efforts to restore the windows have not been made.

So we did a visual inspection of the property on April 3rd, and during our inspection, we -- we evaluated the windows and found them to all be in repairable condition. Most of the windows have missing hardware, minor muntin rot, and gaps near the window sill which we deem to be all in repairable fashion. The windows, if anything, require routine maintenance and do not show substantial evidence of needing replacement.

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A review of the photographs submitted with the window survey and taken at the site visit indicates that the wood windows are, again, not beyond reasonable repair. These windows currently existing on the structure are character-defining features, and the windows -the loss of historic windows, when the replacement is not necessary, is inconsistent with our Code criteria and the design guidelines.

Once again, according to the owner, window restoration efforts have never been attempted. As such, we do recommend that efforts such as weather-stripping, replacement of the pulleys, replacement of the existing screens, installation of interior storm windows, and/or other routine repair practices be initiated prior to the replacement of any historic wood windows.

Based on this and the site visit and its inconsistency with our Code criteria and design guidelines, we forward to you a recommendation for denial.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

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138
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Let's open the public hearing.

The applicant can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Michelle Tidwell, 1430 Azalea Drive.

THE CHAIRMAN: Welcome, Michelle.
She's going to swear you in real quick.
THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

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

MS. TIDWELL: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. TIDWELL: I don't know what to say.
I've never been here. I don't know what to say. The only thing I can say is these windows are 87 years old. They are historic windows; I'm not going to deny that to any of you.

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Okay? They are molding on the inside of the house. They have been restored. Okay?

And, Arimus, they have been restored because some of the pulleys have been restored, and they have been restored probably twice.

There is no lead paint on them, so that even shows that they have been restored. I don't know how many times you can restore 87-year-old windows. I mean, I love the house, but there's water coming in. They probably have moisture, which somebody should test the windows, the wood, for moisture, because it will go inside the sills and do more damage.

So I don't know what to say to you guys. We just -- the other thing, there's no UV. I mean, the UV that comes through the windows -because that's just one side of the house, and there's some windows that do need replace [sic], probably seven or eight. And I can't just replace seven or eight because they're all -- they're all on the street. You can see them from the street. There's only two windows in the back that you don't see there.

Now, you can see, they're all right there, and I can't -- I mean, the ones I'm going to

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replace are going to look just like that. And I'm not going to replace the top one in the front, but it's --

I don't know what to do. I mean, I have water coming in. They have been restored. That's all I can say. I don't know what else you guys -- I know you want to preserve historic -- but Lord have mercy, you got to have a place to live that's safe and sound, and it's -- it really is not.

THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for our applicant at the moment?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yes. Quick, through the Chair, have you made -- you said that it's clear to you that they've been repaired before?

MS. TIDWELL: Yes.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Have you had them repaired before or you're saying you can tell that --

MS. TIDWELL: The person before that lived there has repaired all the front windows on the front of the house.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: But you have --
MS. TIDWELL: I have not.
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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And now --
MS. TIDWELL: I have called to try to get people to come and restore -- all those windows right there have been -- have been repaired, all on the front side.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And how long have you lived in the house?

MS. TIDWELL: I've been there four years.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay.
MS. TIDWELL: But I've tried to call people to repair and nobody will touch me, nobody will come out. There's nobody that I can find that will restore the windows because they're so old, they won't guarantee it, and so I don't know what to do. I'm in a rock and a hard place right now.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, if you've called someone out, it would be helpful information for us if you have a -let's say a contractor, like Lovejoy
Construction or somebody that restores windows, if they can provide something written saying that the windows are beyond repair, that they won't restore them or they can't restore them, that would be significant evidence to support

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142
your case.
MS. TIDWELL: Okay.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: And you can get that from any one of the contractors that work on windows here in town, just something in writing from them --

MS. TIDWELL: Well, I had my window guy here, the guy that was going to install the windows, but he had to leave.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay.
MS. TIDWELL: He did the inspection as well. He's the only one that would even touch me, because they say -- no -- not even Andersen, none of them will touch that house, so --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Right. Through the Chair, it would have to be someone that actually works on restoring windows. That would be competent evidence --

MS. TIDWELL: Okay. So --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- not a window
repair -- so you can't go with -- Andersen is
just a window replacement company.
MS. TIDWELL: Right.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: They're not a
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restoration --
MS. TIDWELL: Well, I went to everywhere and I tried to get a restorer, and I don't know a restore person.

THE CHAIRMAN: Staff could probably help you out with a list --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Staff says no.
MR. WELLS: We don't do that anymore.
THE CHAIRMAN: I know we don't do that anymore, but, I mean, you could --

MS. TIDWELL: I've been doing this since February.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, ma'am, you know, there are -- there are architects in town who specialize in historic preservation. They're --

MS. TIDWELL: Uh-huh. And who are they? I would love to know because I have -- I have gone to -- I've even gone to --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So for the -- just so you understand, it's not -- it's not our position, as a commission, to point you to proprietors and business people. It's not -it's not something that we can do. We can only

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tell you that there are people in the community that you can seek out. And if you -- if you can't find them, then you should -- you need to provide some evidence to us that you -- you have so that we can -- so that we can talk to you in a more sort of coherent way because -because that's just --

MS. TIDWELL: I don't know what --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And it's not -it's not staff's place either, working for the City, to recommend businesses.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Real quick -- real quick, through the Chair, I know that our staff doesn't do that any more, and I understand why, but maybe if we were going to go for a deferral, RAP would be able to recommend some contractors. I know the RAP representative has left as well, but --

MS. TIDWELL: Well, I'm with RAP. You know --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a list of four people, so if you email me, I can send them to you, that do work in the neighborhood. It is hard to get them, and they -- they do have a

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lot of work, but -- especially getting that
letter (inaudible) --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: So y'all can talk afterwards. I think your best --

MS. TIDWELL: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Your best bet is to defer this because -- I mean, we go through a lot of windows, we go through a lot of window replacements, and we go through a lot of different -- case by case.

MS. TIDWELL: Well, it just amazes me -and I don't mean to gripe, but --

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
MS. TIDWELL: -- the people -- I mean, there's people in the neighborhood that have had their windows replaced and haven't gone through you, and I can even show -- and it's just -- it's just really frustrating. I'm
trying to do the right thing, so --
THE CHAIRMAN: I completely sympathize with that.

MS. TIDWELL: I'm --
THE CHAIRMAN: No, I mean, it -- it is what it is, so --

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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And we want to help you do the right thing. We appreciate you wanting to do that, but it -- it would be our suggestion to reach out to RAP. I think that's a great idea.

MS. TIDWELL: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Let's defer because there's not enough evidence, frankly, for us to vote --

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- in your favor right now. But I --

MS. TIDWELL: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So let's -let's defer it. Talk to RAP. And then we'll, hopefully -- hopefully be able to figure this out next month.

MS. TIDWELL: Okay. So we come back next month?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am.
MS. TIDWELL: Okay. Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So we're going
to defer COA-23-28919, and move on to
COA-23-29013, 2684 Myra Street.
All right. Let's get a staff report.
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COMMISSIONER LOPERA: That was my only one.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- besides ridicule?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, sir.
Shawna Abbatiello, (inaudible).
THE CHAIRMAN: She's going to swear you in real quick.
(Reporter clarification.)
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

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

MS. ABBATIELLO: I do.
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150

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MS. ABBATIELLO: Good afternoon.
So I'm a criminal defense attorney. I'm a little bit out of my realm right now in this hearing, but we love living in Riverside for the historic character of the neighborhood, and we take our commitment to improvements for (inaudible) our home and neighborhood very seriously.

The staff opinion seemed to have two main reasons recommending denial (inaudible). The first is that it's horizontal --
(Reporter clarification.)
MS. ABBATIELLO: The first was that it's a horizontal fence. So when considered as a whole, we, I believe, have improved the historic value of the home. We recently painted the house a historical cream color with light beige trim. We've also made improvements to the interior of the home to replace historic (inaudible) that was ripped out during the May (inaudible) renovation.

Secondly, historical fences do have some historic value. I believe the original fences with the fencing guidelines. We moved back the fence from where the -- the picket fence started, from the front of the house to accommodate the guidelines for secondary front yards.

We placed the 6-foot fence 10 feet from
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the street. The guidelines didn't define the right-of-way, but the sketch in that section does have arrows for the street labeled (inaudible) street right-of-way. Based on that, we placed the fence 10 feet back from the roadway, believing that the roadway was the right-of-way.

We made genuine attempts to comply with the height and placement restrictions and sincerely and (inaudible) apologize for misinterpreting the guidelines in any way. Of course, the guidelines are advisory in nature. As the Commission is aware, variances can be granted.

We're absolutely willing to work with the Commission and staff if there's anything we can do to remedy it at this point. We apologize for being in this position. If the Commission is inclined to follow the staff recommendation to deny our application, we just ask for a deferral so that we can work with staff on making appropriate accommodations.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Questions for our applicant?
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COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call you back up.
MS. ABBATIELLO: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks.
Is there anyone else here to speak on this COA?

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

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I wanted to add a few -- through the Chair, I wanted to add a few comments regarding the applicant's points.

Regarding the historical value of the home, yes, a properly built fence would add historical value of the home if it's approved by staff.
(Timer notification.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Am I out of time?
MS. FIGUEROA: Yes.
(Laughter.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Great. We'll have to defer this till the next meeting.

And regarding historical preservation, a fence would not be included as part of the

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historical preservation. That would be more of -- you know, it's new construction and a new fence. It would have to meet all the guidelines because everyone that has a corner lot, they all fall in the same Secretary of Interior standards, guidelines. That's something you could work with staff on.

And the same thing with -- regarding placement and the height of the fence. And the vertical picket is something that's been part of the Secretary of Interior standards for, you know, decades, so -- because that's common throughout --

And I believe that there are exceptions for perhaps commercial buildings, but, of course, yours is residential, so it would not fall under the -- those same regulations, so I would be moving towards denying this application or deferring it, if the Chair agrees.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to make a motion, then?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Make a motion to discuss, and then --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: To deny?
Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

154 talk.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I just talked.
THE CHAIRMAN: I know, but we're supposed to make a motion first.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So through the Chair, you know, we have -- we have, actually -- the design guidelines are the design guidelines, and they're very clear. We have, in the -- in fact, in the past, we have approved horizontal fences, but they've been associated with homes that are more Mid-Century Modern, the (inaudible) recently that we approved. This is not that kind of home. This is not that kind of situation, and so I --
I'm -- I hate --
The problem with this is, if we -- if we do approve this, it's -- it's done after the fact. It should -- you know, this is -- you know, it's a -- we've been -- we'd be giving approval to something done without a COA.

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unfortunate, but a pretty easy call for me as
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well.
Does anybody else have thoughts?
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Yeah. Through the Chair, I think what Commissioner Montoya was referring to is also a noncontributing structure --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Right.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: -- (inaudible) Mid-Century Modern. I guess that, you know, Mid-Century places it outside of --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: It's becoming historic.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We can call for a vote.

All those in favor?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Aye.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Aye.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Aye.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Aye.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I believe that they wanted to -- the applicant wanted to defer; is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you prefer to defer
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MS. LOPERA: We already took a vote. Did you not just vote?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: He called for a vote, but then I actually stopped it right mid-vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: I mean, if you -- if you'd like to defer, I can still grant that, at least I think I can. I don't know what the --

MS. LOPERA: Just to put us -- if I may put us in the proper posture?

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
MS. LOPERA: So this is an after-the-fact COA. You need to, as Commissioner Montoya alluded to and the Chair as well, consider it as if it had not been done. So I'm not sure how deferring it -- it's already been done, and I don't know what the point is. And you've already taken a vote. I counted five yeas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well -- because during an after-the-fact COA, normally, if we deny it, it still goes to staff to figure out some sort of remedy --

MS. LOPERA: Correct.
THE CHAIRMAN: -- so the answer is going
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to be the same regardless of --
MS. LOPERA: Correct. It is a violation of the Code, and staff will work with the applicant to --

THE CHAIRMAN: To remedy it one way or the other.

MS. LOPERA: -- to remedy it, that is correct.

Can -- was that accurate, the five yeas?
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I would also be a yea.

MS. LOPERA: You were a yea. Okay. Thank you for clarifying --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER FRICK: (Inaudible) did get a chance --

MS. LOPERA: So six yeas.
THE CHAIRMAN: It's (inaudible) six yeas.
MS. LOPERA: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I thought I stopped the vote.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: You did. You beat me to it, but --

THE CHAIRMAN: With that, you denied COA-23-29013. And we will move along to

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COA-23-29140, 3022 St. Johns Avenue.
Staff report.
MR. ANDERSON: COA-23-29140 is for the demolition of a retaining wall at a contributing property within the Riverside Avondale Historic District.

The request stems from the current owner stating that the retaining wall is an unsafe structure that is in danger of collapsing. The primary structure on the property embodies the international style architecture, unique to the surrounding area. The proposed scope of work includes demolishing a cast stone retaining wall that runs along the property line on St. Johns Avenue.

As proposed, the removal of the retaining wall -- after the removal of the retaining wall, a 6-foot vertical wood fence, previously approved via COA-23-28795 and amended via MM-23-29315, would essentially be placed where the retaining wall currently exists.

Since the proposed fence will exceed the maximum height requirements set forth in section 656.405 of the Zoning Code, the applicant has also filed an administrative

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deviation, application Z-4759. This deviation is currently pending review.

The property has also been recently approved for the installation of an inground pool and additional hardscaping within the yard facing St. Johns Avenue.

MR. WELLS: And one thing to add to our summary, too, is that we did do a site inspection on May 31st, and staff -- I'm sorry. Yeah, so staff was able to, since, visually inspect the retaining wall and its damage.

A couple of points, too, is just that we were able to determine that the retaining wall needed repairs, that some sections of the wall are leaning towards the property, but were unable to -- to really determine definitely whether the entire wall was in danger of collapse or a danger to pedestrians. So without any formal declaration of the structure being deemed unsafe by Municipal Code Compliance Division, nor any comprehensive assessment that was provided by the applicant from a structural engineer, it is our position to essentially render the wall repairable.

So with that said, we forward to you a
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1 recommendation for denial.

THE CHAIRMAN: Arimus, can you tell us about the minor mod, please?

MR. WELLS: Yes. So, through the Chair, we did -- because, again, the applicant was doing a series of different work, and so he also installed a pool in the front yard, and so our design guidelines talk about how pools, they need to be screened -- heavily screened by some type of -- 85 percent opaque fence.

And so in this instance, you-all -commissioners, you-all approved a -- the wrought iron fence a couple -- or a few months ago. And so because that would make the pool readily street visible, the applicant applied for a minor mod to change the material of the fence from wrought iron to wood. And so we -based on our code criteria, we found that because you-all opined and recommended that the -- the six -- the height of the fence be approved, we felt that the material change could be approved administratively, so it would be installing a wood fence behind that retaining wall.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. It does change
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162
the -- it does change the design quite a bit, going from wrought iron to wood.

All right. Any other questions for staff at the moment?

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Through the Chair, is this -- your opinion that this retaining wall was original to the property?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, to -- we don't have any definitive evidence, but we do believe, just based on the -- the design of it -- I mean, the -- the home itself is a -- characteristic of an international style design. This fence resembles that, so we believe that it's definitively close to it, but we don't have any conclusive evidence.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other questions for staff at the moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Is the applicant here?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name and address.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Charles Sessa, 3022
St. Johns Avenue.
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too safe, and I'm trying to remove it and get the yard cleaned up.

I have had numerous licensed general contractors take a look at the wall, and none of them have been able to say that it can be repaired. They say it's past its useful life. It's leaning, it's cracked all over, the caps are falling. Every single one I've spoken to has said it has to come down.

I also went around to and chatted with my neighbors directly to the left, directly to the right, directly behind me. I'm still relatively new to town, so I'm not trying to make enemies in the neighborhood. I wanted to get their opinion, and I did, and that's going to be in the presentation.

If you can just go back real quick. Thanks.

And as you guys mentioned, I do have two previously approved COAs for my property. Between my house and downtown Avondale there are four homes that have 6 - to 7 -foot-high fences along St. Johns, where their homes -their backyards are adjacent to St. Johns, so that was part of the reason why I did get the

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approval from 4 to 6 feet prior.
You can go to the next slide. Thanks.
I reached out to the general contractor who does all of the City of Jacksonville's sidewalks. That company is called Webber Infra. They do a lot of work with Robert Holton of Holton Construction. He's a licensed general contractor. I put his name and phone number up here. He stated in an email that I sent to staff, the contractor stating that the wall would need to be replaced. So that's one licensed contractor who does a lot of work with the City, and that's his opinion, the wall can't be fixed.

There was also an opportunity in speaking to staff to get an emergency demolition permit through Code Compliance. I went to Code Compliance, spoke to them yesterday, Mr. Ray Hawkins. They also agreed that the wall is past its useful life, but it's not in their jurisdiction to do that. They just can't make that call. They said it has to be discussed here.
(Timer notification.)
MR. SESSA: This is another licensed
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166
contractor, Joseph Quinn, Kingdom Contracting. I tried to bold some relative stuff:

Concrete subwall, trying to come up with a plan to repair it. I've determined it can't be repaired. It's on the footer that (inaudible) cannot be repaired. It's cracked and shifted in multiple places. It's not structurally safe and it's next to a public sidewalk. If attempted to repair, it could potentially fall the other way, toward the sidewalk, and hurt someone.

You can go ahead.
Here's my three neighbors I went to. Directly to the left, his name is Winslow. He wanted to go on record stating -- I'm gratified that I'm taking the initiative to remove an unsightly, beyond-repair concrete wall that's been -- that no one's improved over the last ten years.

My neighbor behind me said she's supportive of it coming down. She's out of town visiting family, but she said she would be happy to write a letter.

You can contact any of these people.
Go ahead to the next slide.
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My neighbor directly to the right, her name is Tracy. She's also at the entrance of Bourbon Alley, where I live. "I was pleased to see that he wanted to address the wall by the sidewalk that's in very bad shape. The wall has been an eyesore in its current state for quite some time. On many occasions I've seen children playing on" -- this is because we share the entrance to Bourbon Alley, so we see this photography group that comes and goes frequently. They try to take photos and then, because the wall is so low from the sidewalk -it's only 3 feet -- children play on it and jump on it.
"With the shape of this wall, it creates a huge liability for the property owner."

Next slide, please.
Here are some photos of the wall. You can see the lean. These are all different cracks along the wall, three new cracks, two different cracked -- I don't know what you call that, but the top pieces of the wall.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Caps.
MR. SESSA: Caps. Thank you very much.
And this is an example of what's happening
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to the caps as the wall shifts. The caps are becoming unattached. So you can literally pick up the cap and pull them off.

Now, staff is correct that certain parts of the wall are definitely more damaged than the other, but then what would you do? You take half of it down? Keep half?

So I guess I'm just requesting to remove it and clean up the fence properly, work with the sidewalk contractor repairing sidewalk. They have already agreed to do so.

And I did change the fence along the front to accommodate the pool approval, and that was also approved for vertical board-on-board. And across the front of St. Johns -- and then down Bourbon Alley, I selected a 54-inch, three-rod, black, aluminum fence to keep the openness and the feel of Bourbon Alley, which was also approved as well.

So I guess my -- my request here today is to demo the wall, which -- I think multiple contractors said it can't be repaired, so I'm struggling with this whole, it has to be repaired thing, and clean up my property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Questions for our
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applicant?
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Through the Chair, if for some reason we allow you to demolish this, what would that mean for the Bourbon Alley monuments? It looks like the whole -the posts that kind of show where Bourbon Alley is attached to this wall.

MR. SESSA: So the two main Bourbon Alley columns at the entrance, those are actually not my property, the one on my side, so that will remain there and that will not be getting knocked down.

THE CHAIRMAN: So just looking at a map, where -- where exactly does that cut off?

MR. SESSA: My property line begins where the 3-foot concrete wall attaches to the column. The column belongs to a neighbor who lives on the river. And, technically, Bourbon Alley is a right-of-way. It's technically their driveway. And the tenants prior to them have a right-of-way to get into their home.

And one last point I'll add. I work in housing, and the insurance world in Florida is a nightmare right now. Twelve insurance companies have gone out of business in Florida

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170
in the last 12 months, so, you know --
And I also own investment properties. And if people find a reason to sue you, they will.
So this, to me, looks like a pretty good reason for someone to want to sit and fall and get hurt, and just something I'd rather be proactive on and be very careful on.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair, I read what you had put up there, that Joseph Quinn, he feels that the wall is not structurally safe. It would be more competent evidence if a structural engineer went out there or if a contractor provided some sort of evidence because feelings are not exactly competent evidence.

So, you know, basically, looking at, you know, the footings below it and -- you know,
I -- it looks like the wall is completely unreinforced, which means that none of the -none of the cells are grouted, which means there's no concrete.

If the -- you know, if the cells are all empty, that would potentially be competent evidence to say that it's not structurally safe, you know, because walls -- you know,

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walls like this need vertical reinforcement and steel --

MR. SESSA: Yeah, but --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: -- (inaudible), but the thing is you need somebody who's competent to be able to present that in a format that we can understand, like, you know, a letter signed -- you know, signed by a general contractor saying here's evidence, here's my conclusions, not, here's what I feel about this, here's my conclusions.

And, again, regarding the insurance, that -- that is unfortunate, but this commission doesn't deal with anything regarding, you know, insurance or general liability for properties, so --

And staff did --
MS. LOPERA: Are we on questions right now for the applicant or are we in discussion?

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I was going to get a question eventually, but I can stop right there.

MS. LOPERA: Mr. Chair, I would just -- I would like to clarify one thing that the

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applicant stated.
Municipal Code Compliance, MCCD, does have jurisdiction to issue emergency orders of abatement for structures that are an imminent threat to the health and safety of the public. They do have that authority. They went out there and made the choice not to, which would require a COA -- hence, why the applicant is here to get that order of demolition.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So through the Chair, you're suggesting that they're -- if it -- they have that jurisdiction over us to make that call?

MS. LOPERA: The can issue -- the chief of MCCD can issue an emergency order of abatement to demolish a property which circumvents and does not require any COA. It can be done immediately, correct.

MR. SESSA: I think, though, that's -- the words "life threatening," though, correct?

MS. LOPERA: It's not. It's an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public.

MR. SESSA: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Questions --
MR. SESSA: Yeah, I did try to go that
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route. I could not get it.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: To touch on what Mr. Lopera was saying, do you have any of these comments from contractors in writing on letterhead or anything like that or --

MR. SESSA: No.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: -- is this all just comments they have given based on text or email or --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SESSA: I did email a proposal from the one contractor who was engaged by the sidewalk contractor to staff. I did send that, with the license number, on a heading and scope --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SESSA: Right there on the screen.
It was a $\$ 30,000$ charge without the caps.
But that's for wall replacement, that's not repair. So I think, in wall replacement, I'm looking closer to being 40- to 50,000.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll call you back up if we need you.

Is there anybody else here to speak on this COA?

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

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Motion to deny
COA-23-29140.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Let's discuss.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: As part of the discussion, question for staff. The minor mod of going to the solid fence, is that -- has that been approved?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, yes, it has.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay. So, you know, the -- St. Johns Avenue, I mean, you know, that's a main thoroughfare leading into the -- into the district of Avondale and -that wall, I -- there's no way for me to know how long it's been there, but, you know, I'm pushing 60, so I've been here a long time. It's been there a long time and it's part of the fabric, in my opinion, so I --

I think that we really do need to see some -- some real evidence of attempt to repair it structurally or the -- like, what you're

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stating earlier, Commissioner Lopera, that we need written statements about it.

If structural investigations have been performed that deem it too cost prohibitive to repair, and then if that's the case, I'm not sure replacement should be -- or that no replacement should be made and it should just be a board-on-board fence on St. Johns Avenue. Like, I -- I've got real issues with that just because of it being a main street.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I completely agree on that. If was still a wrought iron fence, I'd feel a lot more comfortable moving forward with this, but the fact that it is a wood fence now is not great.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah. I mean, just to tag on to that, Chairman, a negotiation in my mind or sort of a -- somewhere in the middle would be -- if it is really unrepairable, then I'm on board with -- if it -- if the fence is not board on board, if it's more something that's permeable so you can see through it on -- on one of the main streets of Riverside/Avondale.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. I would tend to
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agree.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Through the Chair to the applicant, yeah, I'd like some sort of written report. The report that you included from Holton Construction, that -- that's an estimate. But, yeah, we would need to see some -- some more competent evidence because, in my opinion, you know, as a structural engineer, most of these things are repairable. And, you know, concrete lasts quite a long time. You know, this wall survived many, many hurricanes and will survive many more. And there's, you know, a lot of different ways to repair this.

You know, the caps are nonstructural. You know, those can be, you know, just formed right on site. And as far as, like -- even if all the cells were empty, they can come back in and add grout after the fact, so there's a lot of different ways to repair it.

If you're concerned about having to 100 percent remove and demolish it, I would check -- or I would advise you to check on, you know, actual repair from a structural engineer and not from a general contractor because an

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engineer is going to have many more options available that a general contractor may not.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. So let's --
MR. SESSA: Could I ask a quick question?
I can't --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, come back up real quick, then -- I'm thinking we should probably just defer this because --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SESSA: (Inaudible.)
I did not go the structural engineer route, so I will do that.

If the structural engineer says it can be repaired, I guess -- am I allowed to make the wall a little higher so I don't have two fences next to each other? Is that okay? To accommodate the pool behind the wall.

THE CHAIRMAN: If repair was --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SESSA: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If repair was an option, would you even need a wooden fence at that point?

MR. SESSA: What?
THE CHAIRMAN: I said, if repair was an
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178
option, would you even need the fence at that point?

MR. SESSA: I thought I did. Am I wrong?
THE CHAIRMAN: It would be solid, if it was to be taller, right?

MS. LOPERA: To the Chair, that's an interesting point. Maybe you can -- Arimus can field this. In terms of the height and opacity required to have a pool behind -- I don't -I'm not sure of those requirements.

MR. WELLS: In order to have the pool, you -- it needs to be a wood fence, essentially, 85 percent opacity.

Heightwise, you're already triggering the requirements for an administrative deviation, so that's a zoning piece. So if you're looking to go higher, you're still going to need to get that zoning application -- or zoning relief.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would still -- I would argue that if we, by chance, you know, get to that point, if you went higher on the concrete fence, that we could get past the wooden fence because it's -- you know, it's solid, but we'll deal with that when we get there.

Work on some reports. Come back next
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month and we'll see what we can figure out.
MR. SESSA: So I -- so I'm clear, go to a structural engineer, get a report from a structural engineer if the wall can be repaired or if it has to be replaced, not a licensed contractor that --

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's probably your best bet, yeah.

MR. SESSA: Okay. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And that -- and just for the record, I just would implore you to consider not putting a solid fence on St. Johns Avenue. Like, that is really -- I mean, that's part of -- not all the time, but I -- the --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SESSA: (Inaudible.)
There's -- there are a few between my home and downtown St. Johns from a prior presentation --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I'm just saying, where you are -- I know Bourbon Alley. It's part of my -- sometimes my running route. It's, like, there are so many people that -that is a pedestrian corridor to the

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neighborhood, and that's just -- it's just a recommendation.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: To touch on what
Mr. Montoya was saying, you have a very prominent property there, and it's -- a lot of people recognize it, and the historical preservation of it would be important, so we -we would -- take a little extra care on some of those walls and stuff that people recognize, characteristic of the neighborhood.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, it's the -- the pool is triggering the wooden fence, unfortunately. And there's only so many options there, but we'll -- we'll discuss and continue to look at it.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: The pool doesn't require a solid fence. It requires a barrier.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: You can do the wrought iron --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Not in the front yard, though, right?

MR. WELLS: Say that one more time.
THE CHAIRMAN: Not in the front yard, correct?

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MR. WELLS: The front yard, yes, along -THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. WELLS: -- (inaudible) St. Johns, yeah, because the pool is going to be located in the front yard.
(Inaudible) --
THE CHAIRMAN: It does require --
MR. WELLS: Yeah.
THE CHAIRMAN: What's -- what's the requirement?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: A barrier.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: No, you can -well, I don't want to -- I mean, I don't want to speak out of turn, but I would say that -my experience, you can have, like, a wrought iron fence with -- they don't have to be solid, opaque fences for a pool necessarily.

MR. WELLS: It may be a building code requirement, but in terms of our guidelines --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Oh, these
guidelines. Okay --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. WELLS: The fencing guidelines
(inaudible) --
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THE CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)
That's the sticking point there.
All right. Let's defer COA-23-29140.
Let's move along to New Business. Tolbert house, that has been deferred as well, so next month, a lot of fun.

Officer elections.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: This commission -Counsel.
MS. LOPERA: So officer -- through the
Chair to the Commission, officer elections are
this time of year. You can nominate a slate; meaning, one, two, three, and vote as a group, or you can nominate individual people for each chair of -- for each position; chair, vice chair, and secretary.

Nominations don't necessarily have to be accepted, meaning you can nominate somebody and they don't have to accept it. They don't have to be seconded either. So if someone wants to make a motion to nominate a slate or an individual person for one of the positions, that would be great.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I would like to nominate myself to be chairman. I believe J.C.

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has done a wonderful job for many years for us and -- yeah, I remember seeing him chair his first meeting. And I think both of us were pretty fresh and he's been crushing it for a long time and I think that by moving the positions up every few years that might introduce some new blood into the vice chair position and also the secretary position, so -because I know we've got some newer commissioners on staff, and I'd like to make that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can you nominate yourself? COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Yes. I just can't second myself.

MS. LOPERA: There's no second required.
Are there any other nominations for Chair? COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) MR. WELLS: And, through the Chair, if I just may add, just keep in mind, you have a seventh commissioner, too, who's obviously not here, so -- Commissioner Epstein.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So currently --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Can we nominate people to, like, move up in position?

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MS. LOPERA: So you can nominate a slate. You could say, I nominate for Chair, myself; vice chair, Commissioner A; for secretary, Commissioner B.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Okay.
MS. LOPERA: Something -- and then you can vote on a slate if you prefer to do it that way.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Then I would like to nominate -- well, I've already nominated myself as the Chair. I'd like to nominate Julia Epstein to move into the vice chair position, and I'd like to allow one of the newer commissioners to nominate themselves for secretary.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: It's only my third meeting, so --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Do it. He became chair at his, like, third meeting. It's already been done, but -- I don't know. You guys figure that out.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll make one question. This is my third meeting. I may not be as be well-versed as other people. What is the responsibility of the secretary, vice

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chair, and chair, broadly?
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Finances.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: As far as secretary, I don't want to say "nothing," but nothing. Just in case the chair and vice chair both can't make the meeting, then you would chair the meeting.

MS. LOPERA: Yes, that's --
THE CHAIRMAN: That hasn't happened in a long time.

MS. LOPERA: According to the bylaws, that's the only purpose of the secretary. In the absence of chair and vice chair, you would be the chair.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Do we know -- I know Julia is out right now. Has she expressed an interest in remaining on the -- on the Commission? I just, you know --

MR. WELLS: Yeah, she's --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: She definitely wants to stay, right?

MR. WELLS: Yeah, she's planning on returning next month.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And she's been
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acting secretary until she took a leave of absence, right? So that -- I mean, in typical order of progression, that makes sense.

Max, how long have you been on the Commission?

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: I've been here for a while. I don't have an interest in running for an officer position, but --

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Olivia, Montoya?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I was just fishing a little.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: I'm happy to be here, but --

I don't want to -- I don't necessarily want to vote for Ms. Epstein if she's not here, to promote her to vice president [sic] unless we know that that's what she wants.

And then --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Do we want to --
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: -- is J.C.
interested in remaining chair?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah, that's a question. And do we -- and the other question would be, do we want to make nominations and a vote at the next meeting or do we need to do

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that right now? Since Julia is not here.
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Maybe I should -maybe I should just remove Julia moving on to vice chair and let her do it, so I'll just keep my chair nomination, then.

THE CHAIRMAN: Can we --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Is there a timeline we have to keep with --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Can we defer --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: We're overdue, I think.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: We're overdue?
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair, May is supposed to be the month in which you vote for officers. We have deferred it to June for a number of reasons. At your discretion, we could defer again and --

THE CHAIRMAN: If we're supposed to have all seven next month, I don't hate it, but --

MS. LOPERA: Well --
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Well, what if we don't have all seven?

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secretary.
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I politely decline. No, I really cannot take on anything further at this juncture.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: There is no responsibility --

THE CHAIRMAN: There is no responsibility. It's just really if the vice chair and the chair both can't make the meeting, but -- I don't think that's happened since I had to host the meeting as a secretary, which would have been over six years ago.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Six years as the chair.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Reluctantly, like George Washington --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: In voting -- in the voting, what do we vote on first? Since now we have two candidates for chair.

MS. LOPERA: You do, so I would suggest that, because there isn't a full slate for either one, that we do them individually.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Then I will.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I'll nominate
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190
myself, Ethan Gregory, for the secretary. I'll fall on the sword as long as you guys promise not to run out on me.

MS. LOPERA: So two nominations for chair, Commissioner Lopera and Commissioner Demetree; and the nomination for vice chair would be
Commissioner Epstein; and the nomination for secretary, Commissioner Gregory.

So let's do those individually, unless
there are more nominations.
THE CHAIRMAN: No.
MS. LOPERA: Okay. So -- I'm not used to calling for a vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want me to call for a vote?

MS. LOPERA: All those in favor of
Commissioner Lopera being the chair say aye.
COMMISSIONER LOPERA: Aye.
MS. LOPERA: All those in --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: It doesn't matter. Let's vote.

MS. LOPERA: Okay. All those in favor of Commissioner Demetree chairing, aye -- say aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Aye.
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COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Aye. COMMISSIONER FRICK: Aye. COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Aye. MS. LOPERA: Four.
Okay. Commissioner Demetree is chair.
Vice chair, we have Julia Epstein
nominated. Any other nominations for this?
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: I nominate Andres for vice chair.

COMMISSIONER LOPERA: I second.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: I didn't want to see a little power play.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. LOPERA: Okay. So let's -- let's take Commission Epstein first. Commissioner Epstein for vice chair, all those in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Aye.
COMMISSIONER GLOBER: J.C. wants to do it.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: No, I take that back. I got confused here. Okay. I take that back. Sorry.

MS. LOPERA: Okay. So vice chair, all those in favor of Commissioner Lopera, please

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say aye.
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: It's unanimous.
Secretary, we have Commission Gregory as a nomination. Any other nominations at this time?

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: I believe I nominated Olivia, but --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MS. LOPERA: If there are no further nominations, then all those in favor of
Commission Gregory for secretary, please say aye.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Congratulations, Commissioners.

MS. LOPERA: (Inaudible) Chair Demetree, Vice Chair Lopera, and Secretary Gregory.

Do we have public comment?
MR. MATCHETT: You did not have public comment.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
(Mr. Matchett approaches the podium.)
MR. MATCHETT: Just to fill that box,
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action [18] - 59:7,
59:13, 59:16, 78:18,
82:2, 82:10, 83:5,
83:8, 86:23, 88:1,
88:7, 88:12, 88:22, 88:24, 97:14, 97:15, 97:21
actions [2]-68:13, 80:2
actual [2] - 107:5, 176:24
Adaptable [1] - 7:18 add [20] - 29:7, 32:1, 34:24, 35:14, 65:20, 68:22, 95:25, 109:18, 126:16, 127:15, 127:20, 130:8, 152:11, 152:12, 152:15, 160:7, 169:22, 176:19, 183:19 added [1] - 32:15 adding [1] - 30:11 addition [3]-27:24, 92:4, 112:11 additional [16] 40:16, 40:18, 42:7, 42:14, 43:2, 43:16, 44:6, 44:19, 47:15, 48:9, 48:17, 53:11, 62:20, 130:8, 160:5 additionally [3] 43:21, 45:16, 104:3 address [24] - 16:13, 20:6, 21:20, 48:2, 56:3, 61:4, 61:21, 63:13, 65:10, 71:1, 72:4, 72:9, 72:13, 74:24, 79:1, 79:3, 83:16, 83:19, 84:9, 105:19, 138:7, 148:11, 162:23, 167:4
addressed [2] - 58:8, 63:11
addresses [3] - 40:23, 57:18, 96:17
adhere [3]-122:16, 155:9, 155:14 adhered [1] - 98:1 adjacent [4] - 30:14, 32:5, 35:25, 164:24 adjourn [1] - 194:12 adjourned [2] 194:14, 194:15 administrative [8] 43:12, 43:20, 44:25, 47:16, 53:16, 72:14, 159:25, 178:15 administratively [2] -

104:10, 161:22
admit [1] - 12:4
adoption [1] - 62:7
advice [6] - 87:19,
87:20, 87:21, 88:4, 97:18
advise [2] - 74:6, 176:23 advised [2] - 48:18, 58:15
advisory [1] - 151:12
aesthetic [1] - 150:6
affect [1] - 82:9
affected [1] - 67:6
affirm [10]-16:23,
20:15, 22:1, 71:9, 77:20, 84:2, 106:6, 138:15, 148:21, 163:9
affordable [2]-9:15, 64:17
afforded [1] - 49:24
afraid [1] - 8:13
after-the-fact [3] 147:2, 157:13, 157:21
afternoon [4] - 16:11, 81:21, 106:12, 149:2 afterwards [1] - 145:5 agency [1] - 10:25 agenda [8] - 3:24, 13:15, 14:1, 16:1, 18:16, 18:23, 58:14, 70:19
agendas [2]-13:16, 14:7
ago [8] - 5:8, 11:22, 19:10, 39:9, 48:8, 120:10, 161:14, 189:12
agree [29] - 25:23, 27:4, 27:6, 27:14, 27:17, 27:22, 49:3, $73: 13,74: 5,74: 8$, 91:1, 93:4, 93:5, 93:15, 93:24, 94:5, 94:8, 98:25, 99:4, 99:9, 111:22, 112:15, 117:21, 122:13, 132:7, 132:11, 132:17, 175:11, 176:1 agreed [2] - 165:19, 168:11
agreement [7]-41:12, 41:24, 42:3, 60:4, 60:8, 83:2, 97:25
agreements [9] 41:18, 41:22, 45:19, 54:22, 55:9, 80:11,

80:12, 82:24, 91:18 agrees [1] - 153:20 ahead [10] - 11:7, 16:1, 47:22, 51:11, 51:21, 85:6, 101:23, 121:3, 166:12, 166:25
AIA [1] - 92:14
aide [1] - 7:11
Alan [1]-5:5
Alley [9] - 167:3, 167:9, 168:16, 168:18, 169:5, 169:6, 169:8, 169:19, 179:22
Allmand [4] - 105:20, 106:13, 119:11, 133:18
ALLMAND [29] 105:23, 106:5, 106:10, 106:12, 106:20, 108:23, 108:25, 111:11, 111:16, 111:24, 113:13, 114:2, 114:12, 115:20, 119:5, 119:7, 119:9, 119:12, 119:14, 120:11, 120:15, 133:12, 133:15, 133:19, 134:1, 134:13, 134:24, 135:5, 135:12
allot [1] - 49:25 allotment [1] - 46:15 allotted [2] - 70:13, 72:11
allow [4]-80:6, 110:3, 169:3, 184:13
allowable [1] - 126:23
allowed [3] - 110:20,
120:3, 177:14
allowing [3]-4:23, $13: 9,64: 3$
alluded [3]-96:3,
116:17, 157:15
almost [11] - 41:23,
49:7, 51:10, 58:8,
75:18, 114:24,
114:25, 121:13,
121:16, 121:22,
155:18
ALSO [1] - 1:17
alterations [1] - 10:19 alternative [2]-61:24, 96:23
aluminum [1] - 168:17
amazes [1] - 145:12
amenable [1] - 19:17
amend [8] - 30:2,
$30: 9,31: 5,32: 1$, 35:1, 35:2, 89:8, 101:6
amended [6] - 36:11, 36:13, 36:16, 36:17, 42:17, 159:19
amendment [7]-31:5,
31:12, 31:19, 31:22,
35:11, 35:14, 36:5
amendments [1] -
31:20
American [2]-6:7, 99:24
amount [1] - 9:3
amounts [1] - 104:5
analysis [2]-44:2, 44:24
analyzed [1] - 79:22
Andersen [3] - 104:17, 142:14, 142:22
Anderson [1] - 2:10
ANDERSON [6] - 1:18, 2:10, 22:17, 103:1, 147:1, 159:3
Andrea [1] - 56:16
Andres [3]-2:16, 14:15, 191:8
ANDRES [1] - 1:13
Angela [2] - 21:21, 25:23
angles [1] - 17:11
answer [5] - 12:25, 47:3, 78:17, 83:7, 157:25
apart [1] - 12:10
apiece [1] - 48:23
apologize [4]-5:24,
147:22, 151:10, 151:17
appeal [2] - 59:15, 90:8
appealable [1] - 90:13
appear [10] - 42:14, 42:19, 43:16, 104:6, 107:19, 107:22, 108:20, 110:25, 123:16, 123:22
appellate [1] - 90:16
applaud [1] - 76:24
applicable [1] - 57:11
applicant [55] - 19:14, 20:1, 21:6, 27:5, 28:23, 30:16, 37:24, 40:17, 40:23, 42:2, 42:13, 42:21, 43:16, 44:17, 45:17, 47:2, 47:5, 47:23, 49:22, 49:24, 55:14, 70:7, 90:13, 91:4, 96:3, 103:10, 103:13,

103:23, 104:13, 104:16, 105:14, 117:21, 118:16, 132:9, 132:11, 135:24, 136:3, 136:11, 136:14, 138:4, 140:11, 148:6, 151:25, 156:23, 158:4, 159:25, 160:22, 161:5, 161:15, 162:20, 169:1, 171:20, 172:1, 172:8, 176:3
applicant's [4] 46:10, 92:24, 131:11, 152:13 applicants [1]-42:19 application [20] $10: 5,19: 9,37: 24$, 39:23, 46:24, 47:18, 50:14, 52:1, 52:10, 58:15, 59:11, 63:17, 147:9, 151:20,
153:19, 160:1,
178:18, 193:11,
193:17, 194:2
applications [10] 40:1, 40:5, 40:6, 40:19, 52:11, 61:12, 61:14, 81:10, 82:10, 95:1
applied [4] - 94:12, 94:21, 94:23, 161:15 applies [1] - 118:9
apply $[7]-9: 7,9: 10$,
10:4, 10:18, 95:5,
96:5, 110:18
appreciate [13]-4:11,
13:2, 13:9, 25:25,
27:4, 48:12, 49:17, 70:2, 71:15, 106:24, 146:2, 163:17, 193:9 appreciates [1] 24:13
appreciative [1] 87:15
approaches [24]-4:7, 16:10, 20:4, 21:18, 29:1, 34:6, 47:25, 55:25, 63:24, 70:24, 72:25, 74:22, 77:8, 78:24, 81:20, 83:14, 86:17, 105:17,
119:11, 133:18,
138:5, 148:9,
162:21, 192:24
appropriate [1] 151:22
Appropriateness [5] -
$10: 7,95: 18,102: 22$, 147:9, 147:17 approval [15] - 19:19, 25:8, 31:8, 40:20, 58:13, 74:4, 82:15, 98:24, 129:3, 132:18, 147:9, 154:25, 155:6, 165:1, 168:13 approve [22]-3:7, 14:23, 15:1, 15:9, 15:10, 15:14, 18:15, 25:3, 25:9, 25:10,
36:15, 37:8, 73:12, 82:6, 82:10, 121:21, 122:1, 122:2, 128:20, 128:25, 154:22
approved [23] - 3:15, 18:23, 29:8, 36:24, 45:5, 46:23, 59:11, 73:23, 88:19, 104:10, 152:16, 154:15, 154:18, 155:19, 159:19, 160:4, 161:12, 161:21, 161:22, 164:20, 168:14, 168:19, 174:11
approving [2] - 22:22, 155:13
April [8]-39:11, 57:12, 58:9, 58:10, 58:12, 58:24, 81:12, 136:17
Arant [1] - 56:3
archaeologically [1] 132:15
architect [2]-92:16, 99:18
Architects [1] - 99:25
architects [1] - 143:16
architectural [3] -
53:21, 56:12, 85:9
Architectural [1] -
71:3
architecture [2] -
136:7, 159:11
Architecture [2] 99:19, 106:14
area [3] - 19:13, 62:8, 159:12
areas [1] - 72:16
argue [2] - 130:19, 178:20
argument [1]-132:9
ARIMUS [1] - 1:18
Arimus [7]-2:12, 5:1, 51:21, 124:10, 139:3, 161:2, 178:7

Arimus' [1] - 122:14 Arlington [1] - 193:11 arose [2] - 65:6, 65:9 arrows [1] - 151:3 arson [1] - 67:2 article [2]-62:4, 63:1 aside [1] - 7:20 aspect [1] - 54:23
assessed [2] - 82:21, 82:23
assessing [1] - 43:11 assessment [6] -
45:13, 46:10, 47:12, 71:25, 93:6, 160:22 assets [1] - 76:13 associate [4]-92:14, 99:18, 99:24, 100:4 associated [1] -
154:16
assumes [1] - 14:14
assuming [1] - 73:21
assumption [1] 104:14
assured [1] - 74:12
attached [1] - 169:7
attaches [1] - 169:16 attempt [4]-86:3,
124:15, 150:19, 174:24
attempted [3] - 76:5,
137:12, 166:9
attempts [1] - 151:8
attorney [2]-56:2, 149:3
attorneys [1] - 82:1
Audience [11] - 16:10,
20:4, 21:18, 63:24, 70:24, 77:8, 83:14, 105:17, 138:5, 148:9, 162:21
AUDIENCE [27] -
14:10, 14:18, 14:21, 16:8, 16:11, 16:14, 18:12, 20:2, 20:7, 21:16, 21:21, 24:24, 63:25, 71:2, 77:9, 83:17, 89:14, 105:15, 105:20, 115:23, 138:8, 144:22, 148:7, 148:12, 152:7, 162:24, 174:1 authority [1] - 172:6 Authority [1] - 68:21 authorized [1] - 195:8 availability [1] - 47:10 available [6] - 56:15,
56:17, 56:19,
109:10, 130:5, 177:2 Avenue [15] - 3:18,
$16: 3,21: 22,36: 25$,
$71: 4,79: 4,159: 1$,
$159: 15,160: 6$,
$162: 25,163: 18$,
$163: 21,174: 15$,
$175: 8,179: 13$
average 3$]-30: 15$,
$32: 5,35: 25$
avoid $[1]-97: 10$
Avondale $[7]-21: 22$,
$103: 4,135: 23$,
$147: 4,159: 6$,
$164: 21,174: 17$
aware 11$]-151: 13$
aware [1] - 151:13
awkward [1] - 24:16
awkwardly [1] - 23:16
aye $[31]-3: 11,15: 18$,
18:19, 36:7, 36:20,
37:16, 101:14,
102:3, 132:25,
133:1, 133:2,
156:17, 156:18, 156:19, 156:20, 156:21, 190:17, 190:18, 190:20, 190:24, 190:25, 191:1, 191:2, 191:3, 191:17, 191:18, 192:1, 192:2, 192:13, 192:14
Azalea [3] - 135:19, 135:21, 138:9

| $\mathbf{B}$ |
| :---: |
| babies $[1]-78.7$ |

babies [1] - 78:7 backup [1] - 134:20 backyards [1] 164:24
bad [2] - 163:22, 167:5
Baker [4] - 81:13,
92:5, 100:17, 100:19
Baker's [1] - 100:10
balances [4] - 104:17,
104:25, 118:17, 118:24
balcony [4] - 108:6, 113:17, 113:19
barrier [2] - 180:17, 181:12
base [2]-58:2, 128:24
based [21] - 19:12,
44:24, 45:8, 47:14,
52:16, 53:6, 54:15,
55:8, 56:23, 80:3,
111:16, 126:17, 127:4, 127:13, 127:14, 129:3,
137:20, 151:4, 161:18, 162:11,



|  | ```children [6]-64:13, 64:14, 78:10, 163:22, 167:8, 167:13 children's [2]-85:16, 85:18 choice [3] - 62:2, 62:13, 172:7 choir [2] - 85:16, 85:18 chosen [1] - 76:16 Church [4]-56:6, 64:5, 86:20, 87:10 church [23]-56:8, 56:10, 56:11, 60:14, 61:17, 63:14, 64:9, 64:11, 65:4, 76:3, 76:7, 84:11, 84:13, 85:15, 85:17, 85:21, 86:5, 86:21, 86:23, 89:4, 90:2, 92:17, 98:23 church's [3] - 83:19, 91:9, 91:14 circa [1] - 109:18 circumvent \({ }_{[1]}\) - 97:6 circumvents \({ }_{[1]}\) - 172:16 citations [2]-45:9, 60:8 CITY [1] - 1:1 city [3]-11:3, 11:4, 150:7 City [30]-1:7, 5:13, 8:9, 43:4, 55:8, 58:18, 59:2, 59:3, 59:20, 65:17, 67:16, 68:17, 80:5, 80:19, 87:8, 87:24, 88:23, 89:7, 90:7, 90:14, 90:16, 91:16, 93:19, 94:8, 97:15, 144:11, 165:4, 165:13 City's [4] - 58:11, 61:6, 68:18, 80:2 clad [5] - 103:12, 126:5, 128:8, 130:4, 134:4 cladding \([1]-136: 7\) claimed [1] - 75:24 clarification [4] - 25:18, 95:8, 148:16, 149:13 clarify [10] - 39:24, 81:24, 83:9, 94:19, 101:1, 101:7, 123:9, 123:24, 155:15, 171:25 clarifying [1] - 158:13 classified [1] - 45:3``` | ```clean [3]-67:23, 168:9, 168:24 cleaned [1] - 164:2 clear [8]-50:8, 80:4, 96:25, 97:12, 100:15, 140:15, 154:13, 179:2 clearly [4] - 90:22, 108:2, 108:3, 119:18 client [2] - 58:25, 60:6 Clifton [3]-16:15, 16:17, 17:18 climbed [1] - 75:24 clock [1] - 48:4 close [12] - 14:22, 18:13, 24:25, 69:24, 89:16, 106:17, 115:24, 118:2, 150:15, 152:9, 162:15, 174:2 closed [2] - 34:7, 55:15 closer [2]-26:18, 173:21 closing [2] - 108:12, 109:7 COA [35] - 10:18, 14:9, 17:21, 18:11, 24:23, 37:9, 38:18, 40:6, 48:13, 51:4, 54:5, 74:18, 81:17, 83:13, 86:16, 89:13, 94:12, 95:6, 95:21, 96:2, 96:5, 98:24, 101:7, 115:22, 120:5, 124:16, 147:19, 152:6, 154:25, 157:14, 157:21, 172:8, 172:17, 173:25 COA-21-26693 [4] - 19:2, 19:9, 25:4, 30:10 COA-22-27451 [1] - 3:18 COA-22-28339 [3] - 103:1, 106:15, 122:3 COA-23-26693 [1] - 36:24 COA-23-28 [1]-15:9 COA-23-28339 [2] - 102:23, 135:18 COA-23-28682 [4] - 13:18, 14:7, 14:17, 15:15 COA-23-28795 [1] - 159:19 COA-23-28842 [1] - 16:2 COA-23-28919 [3] -``` | ```135:18, 135:21, 146:23 COA-23-28963 [5] - 38:6, 44:14, 89:19, 101:10, 101:19 COA-23-28964 [1] - 3:19 COA-23-28967 [2] - 36:25, 37:13 COA-23-28972 [3] - 37:6, 37:21, 38:5 COA-23-29013 [4] - 146:24, 147:1, 154:3, 158:25 COA-23-29037 [4] - 51:22, 52:1, 101:25, 102:8 COA-23-29127 [1] - 16:3 COA-23-29140 [4] - 159:1, 159:3, 174:5, 182:3 COA-23-29166 [1] - 3:21 COA-23-29180 [1] - 3:20 COA-23-29245 [1] - 16:4 COA-23-29247 [1] - 16:5 COA-23-29249 [1] - 16:6 COA-23-29263 [1] - 3:20 COAs [7] - 16:7, 73:13, 82:6, 94:23, 96:9, 135:8, 164:20 Code [45]-39:19, 40:10, 41:13, 41:15, 43:25, 44:22, 45:2, 45:6, 46:14, 47:14, 57:2, 57:3, 57:11, 57:14, 57:19, 57:24, 59:12, 60:7, 62:1, 62:11, 65:11, 66:1, 66:16, 67:13, 68:15, 72:4, 72:14, 77:1, 80:2, 80:13, 82:8, 94:8, 94:13, 94:25, 96:16, 96:25, 137:9, 137:21, 158:3, 159:24, 160:20, 165:17, 172:2 code [8]-44:1, 61:22, 65:18, 73:6, 79:16, 82:18, 161:18, 181:19 coffee [5]-5:10, 5:14, 5:18, 9:22 coherent [1] - 144:6``` |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



| ```39:7, 44:11, 96:12, 97:22, 126:16 continually [1] - 75:22 continuation [1] - 76:4 continue [1] - 180:14 continuous [1] - 103:7 Contracting [2] - 16:15, 166:1 contractor [20] - 53:10, 65:9, 66:2, 66:25, 67:21, 92:7, 141:20, 165:3, 165:8, 165:10, 165:12, 166:1, 168:10, 170:13, 171:10, 173:12, 173:13, 176:25, 177:2, 179:6 contractors [5] - 142:4, 144:17, 164:4, 168:22, 173:4 contributing [8]- 69:5, 96:7, 103:3, 112:21, 119:25, 136:4, 147:3, 159:5 convince [1] - 135:9 convoluted [1] - 32:23 coordinate [1] - 40:10 coordination [1] - 39:23 copy [1] - 82:17 corner [4]-9:25, 147:5, 147:10, 153:4 correct [20] - 25:14, 31:24, 42:11, 42:17, 42:23, 43:2, 70:9, 100:23, 102:14, 122:11, 146:10, 147:21, 156:24, 157:24, 158:2, 158:8, 168:4, 172:18, 172:20, 180:25 corrected [1] - 42:20 corrections [2] - 65:15, 97:7 correspondence [1] - 126:2 corridor [1] - 179:25 cost [1] - 175:4 council [1] - 7:11 COUNCIL [6] - 4:3, 4:6, 4:10, 5:3, 13:8, 13:12 Council [9]-4:7, 5:9, 5:15, 11:20, 67:16, 68:17, 90:7, 90:14, 90:16 Council's [1] - 7:20``` | ```Councilman [3]-4:1, 4:5, 90:5 Counsel [7]-1:19, 2:15, 39:18, 81:23, 92:17, 99:8, 182:9 counsel [10] - 86:22, 87:6, 87:19, 87:20, 87:21, 87:23, 97:16, 98:10 Counsel's [5] - 77:3, 87:24, 87:25, 88:5, 188:22 counted [1] - 157:19 County [2] - 76:10, 87:10 COUNTY \({ }_{[1]}\) - 195:4 couple [9]-3:16, 19:10, 39:9, 48:8, 51:18, 63:21, 81:24, 160:12, 161:13 coupled [1] - 54:23 course [6] - 114:14, 116:7, 126:23, 127:8, 151:12, 153:16 court [1] - 92:22 Cove [1] - 20:9 cover [2]-49:12, 50:12 covers [1] - 30:22 COVID [4]-65:25, 66:8, 67:1, 91:22 cracked [3]-164:7, 166:6, 167:21 cracks [2] - 167:19, 167:20 crawl [1] - 53:4 cream [3]-9:22, 9:24, 149:18 create [2]-23:15, 88:6 created [3] - 5:20, 6:1, 58:24 creates [1] - 167:15 creating [1] - 72:7 criminal [1] - 149:3 criteria [20]-40:23, 40:25, 47:14, 47:17, 57:2, 57:9, 57:12, 57:14, 57:19, 57:24, 72:13, 73:6, 79:16, 79:22, 79:25, 81:6, 127:5, 137:9, 137:21, 161:18 critically [2]-10:15, 10:16 crushing [1] - 183:4 cultural [1]-12:3 culture [1] - 12:13 Cummings [1]-56:3 cup [4]-5:9, 5:14,``` | ```5:17 curb [1] - 163:19 curious [1]-150:11 current [3]-54:14, 159:7, 167:6 curriculum [1] - 92:19 cut [1]-169:14 cutoff [4]-121:7, 121:12, 129:9, 129:18 CV [1] - 87:8 CV-B [1]-87:8 cycle [2] - 37:25, 40:1 cycles [1] - 19:10```D <br> damage $[11]-46: 6$, <br> $52: 13,52: 20,52: 21$, <br> 52:22, 53:7, 68:10, <br> 91:23, 104:7, <br> 139:13, 160:11 <br> damaged $[3]-46: 7$, <br> 52:7, 168:5 <br> danger $[4]-159: 9$, <br> 160:17, 160:18, <br> 172:22 <br> dangerous [1] - 72:18 <br> data $[1]-134: 20$ <br> date $[4]-46: 21,82: 14$, <br> 124:25, 129:9 <br> DATED $[1]-195: 15$ <br> dates $[1]-65: 3$ <br> dating $[1]-62: 4$ <br> Davis $[1]-1: 8$ <br> days $[6]-42: 15$, <br> 46:20, 48:8, 54:25, <br> $73: 23,84: 13$ <br> deal $[3]-9: 23,171: 15$, <br> 178:24 <br> dean $[2]-77: 10,78: 2$ <br> death $[1]-68: 9$ <br> debatable $[1]-122: 7$ <br> decades $[1]-153: 12$ <br> December $[1]-42: 21$ <br> decide $[1]-82: 5$ <br> decided $[1]-50: 1$ <br> decision $[6]-56: 22$, <br> $58: 2,79: 18,90: 17$, <br> $128: 15,128: 24$ <br> decisions $[2]-57: 5$, <br> $88: 4$ <br> declaration $[1]-$ <br> $160: 19$ <br> declare $[2]-10: 17$, <br> $38: 21$ <br> decline $[1]-189: 2$ <br> decorative $[2]-103: 8$, <br> $128: 4$ <br> dedicated $[1]-11: 2$ | ```deem [4]-64:18, 127:11, 136:22, 175:4 deemed [3] - 53:8, 92:7, 160:20 deep [2]-35:19, 35:20 deeper [1] - 34:11 default [2]-41:25, 42:4 defense [2]-98:22, 149:3 defenses [1]-88:21 defer [16] - 38:5, 119:19, 133:20, 145:7, 146:7, 146:15, 146:23, 152:23, 156:23, 156:25, 157:8, 177:8, 182:3, 187:12, 187:20 deferral [8] - 37:25, 38:2, 40:2, 58:22, 59:5, 133:9, 144:16, 151:21 deferred [6] - 3:16, 19:1, 58:15, 102:20, 182:5, 187:18 deferring [3]-135:17, 153:19, 157:17 define [1] - 151:1 defining [1] - 137:6 definitely [3]-160:16, 168:5, 185:21 definitive [1] - 162:10 definitively \([1]\) - 162:15 degrees [1] - 46:6 DEMETREE [1]-1:13 Demetree [8]-2:18, 12:20, 15:19, 15:23, 190:5, 190:24, 191:5, 192:18 demo [1] - 168:21 demolish [3]-169:3, 172:16, 176:22 demolished [1] - 62:24 demolishing \({ }_{[1]}\) - 159:13 demolition [8]-8:18, 62:2, 74:9, 74:15, 90:6, 159:4, 165:16, 172:9 denial [13]-19:12, 47:18, 53:24, 54:6, 90:1, 98:12, 105:9, 121:10, 133:11, 137:23, 147:13, 149:11, 161:1 denied [6] - 45:23,``` |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

determined [2] - 52:6, 166:4
developed [1] - 6:6
Development [5] -
1:18, 1:18, 1:19, 57:6, 97:17
deviation [3]-160:1, 178:15
DIA [1] - 67:18
diagram [1] - 130:13
Diane [3]-1:9, 195:7, 195:18
dictating [1] - 129:15
die [2]-35:5, 119:18
difference [2] - 107:5, 134:9
differences [1] -
107:14
different [16] - 17:11, 41:5, 55:17, 67:4, 91:19, 108:4, 116:5, 122:23, 126:24, 128:2, 145:11, 161:6, 167:19, 167:20, 176:13, 176:20
difficult [2] - 61:10, 61:11
difficulties [1] - 28:20
digging [1] - 93:25
direct [2]-66:3, 193:11
directed [1] - 59:2
direction [1] - 122:23
directly [8]-83:20, 84:11, 84:15, 164:11, 164:12, 166:14, 167:1
director [1] - 56:11
directs [1] - 68:23
disagree [3] - 88:9, 129:23, 132:14
disaster [3] - 114:9, 124:7, 132:1
disband [1] - 193:5
discovered [2] -
107:18, 107:23
discretion [5] - 39:14,
50:2, 50:4, 88:15, 187:19
discuss [3]-153:24, 174:7, 180:14
discussed [2] - 62:6, 165:22
discusses [1] - 46:18
Discussion [2] - 75:7, 136:2
discussion [8]-
25:13, 55:16, 90:20, 122:10, 122:13,
$130: 12,171: 20$,
$174: 9$
discussions [2] -
26:7, 26:12
disingenuous [1] 88:2
dispute [2]-90:22, 131:11
distance [1] - 129:6
distinct [2] - 58:19, 59:7
distinctive [1] - 52:12
distribute [2]-50:23,
105:25
district [5] - 28:2,
95:4, 95:15, 98:15, 174:17
District [11] - 38:17,
44:16, 75:1, 79:7, 79:11, 95:14, 96:8,
103:4, 135:23,
147:5, 159:6
districts [2] - 95:17, 100:12
diversity [1] - 150:6 Division [4] - 39:19,
44:22, 87:8, 160:21
docket [3]-3:24,
18:25, 102:23
document [4]-23:20,
24:12, 40:21, 118:16 documentation [1] 104:22
documented [1] -
65:16
documents [8]-
51:19, 58:18, 59:5,
59:6, 59:19, 105:24,
106:2, 107:2
dollars [2] - 9:3
Dome [5] - 56:6, 64:5,
86:20, 87:9, 90:3
domino [1] - 66:11
Don [1] - 1:8
done [37]-6:9, 6:10,
10:23, 40:5, 40:8,
54:10, 54:22, 57:20,
61:1, 61:2, 61:3,
61:4, 62:16, 63:5,
63:6, 63:12, 73:19,
74:2, 74:13, 77:1,
77:2, 93:18, 93:20,
93:21, 94:1, 95:22,
98:19, 99:1, 99:2,
154:22, 154:25,
157:16, 157:17,
172:17, 183:1,
184:20
door [5]-35:15,
77:14, 86:10, 131:7,
$131: 17$
doors [4] - 108:5,
$108: 9,113: 18$,
$113: 19$
Dora [2] - 109:22,
$114: 5$
doubt [2] - 117:11,
$131: 3$
doubtful [1] - 117:22
doubting [1] - 91:8
Douglas [1] - 83:17
down [22] - 6:16, 6:17,
6:22, 8:16, 8:17, 23:19, 62:10, 69:24, 86:4, 93:11, 97:5, 98:18, 111:4, 114:23, 163:23, 164:9, 166:21,
168:7, 168:15,
169:12, 188:8,
188:18
Downing [1]-3:19
downtown [9]-5:11,
5:18, 6:4, 6:15, 6:25,
7:3, 7:7, 164:21,
179:19
Downtown [5] - 6:1, 7:5, 44:16, 68:20, 95:14
draw [2] - 24:8, 92:23
drawing [2] - 7:25,
29:4
drawings [2] - 31:7,
72:7
Drive [5] - 20:8,
135:19, 135:22,
138:9, 193:3
drive [1] - 112:25
driveway [1] - 169:20
dropping [1] - 5:11
due [4]-48:16, 52:20,
58:24, 59:13
Durden [2]-78:24, 79:3
DURDEN [3] - 79:2,
80:25, 81:3
during [12] - 40:3,
40:15, 55:15, 65:23,
78:4, 94:24, 103:22,
104:5, 123:15,
136:17, 149:21, 157:20
Durkeeville [1] - 11:11
duties [1] - 57:7
DUVAL [1] - 195:4
Duval [17] - 1:8, 38:7,
39:6, 42:24, 44:14,
44:15, 52:2, 64:22,
76:10, 79:14, 81:23,
83:18, 84:20, 87:10,

| $101: 10,101: 25$ |
| :---: |
| $\mathbf{E}$ |
| early $[4]-67: 1,77: 13$, |
| $82: 25,118: 20$ |
| easier $[1]-125: 4$ |
| easily $[1]-128: 7$ |
| East $[12]-6: 5,16: 3$, |
| $16: 5,38: 7,39: 6$, |
| $44: 14,44: 15,52: 2$, |
| $64: 22,83: 18,101: 10$ |
| easterly $[1]-76: 1$ |
| easy $[2]-38: 4,155: 25$ |
| Edgewood $[1]-71: 3$ |
| EEs $[1]-99: 22$ |
| effect $[5]-59: 6$, |

66:11, 68:12, 82:12,
97:20
effective [2] - 46:21, 49:16
effectively [2]-33:14, 68:15
efficiency [1] - 101:4
efficient [1] - 49:15
effort [6] - 39:22,
64:19, 75:11, 97:24, 106:22, 106:25
efforts [4]-88:19,
136:14, 137:12,
137:13
eight [2] - 139:19, 139:20
either [13] - 4:15, 35:16, 60:10, 62:2, 62:10, 74:13, 92:22,
105:5, 107:22,
123:14, 144:10,
182:20, 189:23
EITs [1] - 99:22
elderly [1] - 64:15
elected [1] - 188:6
elections [2] - 182:7, 182:11
electric [1] - 17:8
electricity [1] - 91:25
electronically [1] 51:17
element [1] - 112:14
elements [4]-26:16, 53:5, 53:21, 119:25
elevation [13]-23:6,
23:14, 25:17, 25:20, 27:11, 27:15, 28:9, 29:11, 30:12, 30:13,
30:17, 32:2, 32:4
elevations [2]-26:22, 30:14
email [7] - 23:10, 65:17, 68:22,

144:23, 165:9,
173:8, 173:11
emails [2]-5:13,
67:18
embarked [1] - 63:15
embodies [1] - 159:10
emergency [3] -
165:16, 172:3,
172:15
emissions [1] - 17:9
emphasis [1] - 117:6
emphasize [1] -
104:12
employed [1] - 74:14
empty [2] - 170:23, 176:18
encased [1] - 67:11
encouraged [1] -
110:20
encumber [1] - 89:8
end [10]-26:9, 49:14,
68:4, 69:13, 69:16,
70:3, 84:17, 84:20,
118:4, 147:22
endangered [2] -
10:15, 10:16
Endangered [1] - 7:17
endorsed [2] - 11:12, 11:14
endorsement [1] -
11:13
endorsements [1] 11:6
ends [1] - 109:20
enemies [1] - 164:14
enforcement [1] - 97:3
Enforcement [13] -
43:25, 59:12, 62:12,
65:12, 66:2, 66:17,
67:13, 68:16, 72:4,
77:1, 80:2, 80:13, 97:1
engaged [1] - 173:12
engineer [13] - 45:6,
81:12, 92:6, 100:11,
160:23, 170:12,
176:9, 176:24,
177:1, 177:11,
177:13, 179:3, 179:4
engineer's [1] - 93:6
engineers [1] - 99:21
enhance [1] - 150:5
ensure [1] - 97:8
enter [2] - 62:25,
100:18
entered [7]-41:17,
42:3, 43:5, 43:8,
82:24, 83:2, 91:18
entering [1] - 54:21
enters [1] - 100:17
entertain [9] - 15:11, 18:14, 21:14, 25:1, 37:11, 89:17, 115:25, 152:9, 174:3
entire [3]-35:17, 78:4, 160:17 entirely [1] - 110:8
entrance [3]-167:2, 167:9, 169:9 entry [8] - 27:7, 33:14, 33:15, 33:16, 35:15, 35:17, 35:18, 45:23
entryway [1] - 23:25
envelope [1] - 47:9
environment [1] 72:19
Episcopal [1] - 77:10 Epstein [8] - 133:13, 183:21, 184:12, 186:15, 190:7, 191:6, 191:16 equitable [1] - 88:16 era [1] - 194:7 especially [4]-55:1, 119:3, 145:1, 155:23
essentially [12] - 7:4,
26:16, 26:19, 41:16, 41:20, 41:22, 54:21, 96:4, 115:8, 159:20, 160:24, 178:13
established [2] - 64:9, 73:5
estimate [1] - 176:6
estimated [1] - 47:7
et [1] - 66:14
Ethan [2]-2:21, 190:1
ETHAN [1] - 1:15
evaluate [2] - 40:24, 58:6
evaluated [2] - 53:9, 136:18
evaluating [1] - 57:10
evaluation [1] - 47:16
EVANS [3]-71:8, 71:13, 71:15
Evans [8] - 56:11, 57:16, 57:23, 63:12, 63:18, 69:22, 70:15, 71:2
Evans' [2] - 58:5, 73:3
evening [3]-48:3, 48:5, 56:9
event [3]-59:15,
111:2, 150:13
eventually [1] - 171:22
everywhere [1] 143:2
evidence [48] - 39:15, 40:16, 40:18, 44:6, 47:15, 50:3, 53:11,

55:14, 56:23, 57:1, 58:1, 59:22, 65:1, 73:7, 73:8, 79:23, 80:22, 99:15, 105:2, 107:23, 108:14, 108:17, 109:2, 110:13, 113:24, 118:14, 128:23, 129:2, 129:14, 129:15, 130:9, 133:21, 134:7, 134:20, 136:25, 141:25, 142:19, 144:4, 146:8, 162:10, 162:16, 170:12, 170:14,
170:15, 170:24,
171:10, 174:24,
176:7
evolved [1] - 6:2
ex [3] - 19:3, 36:25,
38:8
exact [1] - 68:23
exactly [5] - 61:19,
80:8, 125:6, 169:14, 170:14
example [1] - 167:25
examples [2] - 134:4,
134:21
exceed [1] - 159:22
excellent [2] - 116:23,
193:19
except [3] - 75:14,
130:22, 131:7
exception [1] - 193:23
exceptions [1] -
153:14
excuse [2] - 19:6, 81:9
execute [1] - 54:9
exist $[3]-41: 5$,
107:19, 110:4
existing [7] - 31:16, 103:11, 103:16, 103:19, 105:4, 137:5, 137:15
exists [2]-99:16, 159:21
expanding [1] - 99:8
experience [1] -
181:16
experienced [1] - 68:9
experiencing [1] -
67:14
expert [4] - 92:18, 93:2, 112:6, 135:2
expert's [1] - 92:24
expires [2]-62:18, 74:4
explain [3] - 4:20,
63:15, 109:25
explanation [1] -
$110: 13$
expressed [1] -
185:17
extend $[1]-35: 17$
extension [2] - 46:15,
94:10
extensions [1] - 80:11
extensive [3] - 52:7,
$53: 7,104: 4$
extensively [1] - 52:6
exterior [6] - 9:1, 10:5, 10:19, 53:22, 95:18, 103:8
extra [1] - 180:8
eyes [1] - 111:11
eyesore [1] - 167:6

| $F$ |
| :---: |
| fabric $[4]-26: 5$, |
| fe |

155:13, 156:16,
190:16, 190:23,
191:17, 191:25,
192:11
Faye $[4]-56: 10$,
63:14, 63:23, 64:1
feature [1] - 85:9
features [2] - 117:5, 137:6
February [1] - 143:12
Federal [1] - 193:12
federal [1] - 92:22
feedback [1] - 8:15
feeding [2] - 64:13,
64:14
feelings [1] - 170:14
feet [10] - 23:12,
26:25, 27:2, 32:18,
33:1, 35:22, 150:25,
151:5, 165:1, 167:13
felt [17] - 6:19, 8:4,
8:10, 11:1, 11:12,
22:21, 23:1, 23:17,
24:2, 24:15, 26:15,
26:17, 40:17, 44:7,
44:9, 106:17, 161:21
fence [44] - 53:3,
67:12, 86:9, 124:20,
147:7, 149:15,
150:10, 150:14,
150:17, 150:21,
150:25, 151:5,
152:15, 152:25,
153:3, 153:9, 155:8,
159:18, 159:22,
161:10, 161:13,
161:17, 161:20,
161:23, 162:13,
168:9, 168:12,
168:17, 174:10,
175:8, 175:12,
175:14, 175:20,
177:22, 178:1,
178:12, 178:22,
179:12, 180:12,
180:17, 181:17,
193:15
fences [8] - 149:23,
149:24, 149:25,
154:15, 155:21,
164:23, 177:15,
181:18
fencing [6] - 75:20,
147:3, 147:10,
147:12, 150:20,
181:24
few [10]-4:2, 22:13,
75:18, 76:14, 77:3,
152:12, 161:13,
179:18, 183:6
field [1] - 178:8
fifty [1] - 106:20
fifty-one-and-a-half
[1] - 106:20
Figueora [1] - 2:8
FIGUEORA [1] - 23:20
FIGUEROA [3] - 2:8,
70:10, 152:20
figure [5] - 76:19,
146:16, 157:22,
179:1, 184:21
file [1] - 10:4
filed [3] - 39:20, 83:5, 159:25
fill [1] - 192:25
final [7]-30:13, 30:17, 31:7, 31:8, 32:4, 46:21, 90:12
finality [1] - 90:10
finally [1] - 76:24
finance [1] - 44:19
finances [1] - 185:2
findings [3] - 44:10, 45:8, 96:19
fine [5] - 26:23, 34:19, 38:24, 51:15, 122:23
fined [1] - 66:24
fines [9]-41:21, 43:12, 43:16, 82:6, 82:13, 82:21, 82:22, 82:23, 89:9
finished [4]-24:4, 28:21, 29:11, 35:24
fire [11] - 52:7, 52:13,
52:20, 52:21, 53:7,
67:6, 68:10, 78:12,
91:22, 91:23, 92:2
firm [2] - 56:2, 56:13
first [28]-3:24, 14:3,
14:5, 14:7, 18:25,
19:7, 40:21, 62:6,
64:2, 68:8, 68:14,
69:3, 75:11, 96:17,
102:23, 116:2,
116:18, 117:23,
129:12, 130:16,
131:20, 149:12,
149:14, 154:9,
183:3, 189:19,
191:16, 193:17
fishing [1] - 186:10
fit [2] - 10:1, 10:22
fitting [1] - 26:4
five [2] - 157:19, 158:9
fix [1] $-62: 10$
fixed [6]-107:8,
107:20, 108:8,
116:9, 117:19,
165:14
flip [1] - 47:2



| 33:11 | instance ${ }_{[1]}$ - 161:11 | issue [5] - 44:10, | 179:13, 179:19, | L |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| increased [1] - 110:21 | Institute [1] - 99:24 | 114:9, 172:3, | 181:4, 193:2 |  |
| independent [1]-57:5 | insurance [4] - | 172:14, 172:15 | join [1] - 110:16 | labeled [1] - 151:3 |
| indicated [2] - 72:1, | 169:23, 169:24, | issued [3]-19:11, | joining [1] - 56:9 | labor [1] - 47:11 |
| 72:3 | 171:13, 171:16 | 90:13, 98:21 | joking [1] - 132:12 | lack [1] - 83:4 |
| indicates [1] - 137:3 | intend [1] - 61:4 | issues [9]-39:25, | Joseph [2]-166:1, | lady [3] - 11:7, 11:9, |
| indicating [7] - 16:8, | intended [1] - 97:6 | 2:8, 63:10, 65:5 | 170:9 | 155:4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 21: 16,74: 20,81: 18 \\ & 92: 19,105: 15,119: 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { intent }[6]-34: 8 \text {, } \\ & 61: 23,62: 14,63: 2, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65: 8,66: 6,72: 5, \\ & 104: 1,175: 9 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { judge }[3]-88: 14 \\ 88: 16,155: 17 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { laid }[3]-17: 24,45: 17, \\ & 111: 11 \end{aligned}$ |
| indicating) [1] - | 96:19, 96:21 | it'll [1] - 188:1 | judging [2]-123:11, | land [1]-28:13 |
| 119:22 | intention [1] - 68:6 | Item [2]-13:17, 15: | 123:13 | Land [1] - 90:15 |
| indication [1] - 80:17 | intentional ${ }_{[1]}$ - 75:19 | item [2] - 70:9, 102:12 | judgment [2]-122:21, | landmark [1] - 95:5 |
| indicator [1]-17:12 | interest [5] - 7:16, 8:1, | items [2]-3:16, 19:1 | 155:10 | landowner [2]-80:6, |
| individual [2] - | 88:6, 185:18, 186:7 | itself [9]-40:14, | judgments [1] - 155:2 | 80:7 |
| 182:14, 182:22 | interested [2]-8:7, | 44:12, 47:14, 47:17, | judicial [2]-49:22, | landscape [1] - 89:25 |
| individually [2] - | 186:21 | 53:23, 76:7, 82:13, | 56:21 | language [2]-54:7, |
| 189:23, 190:9 | interesting [4] - 75:9, | 104:24, 162:12 | Julia [5] - 184:11, | 88:13 |
| indulgence [1] - 70:3 | 89:2, 107:15, 178:7 |  | 185:17, 187:1, | Large [1]-1:10 |
| infestations [1] - | interests [1] - 48:15 | J | 187:5, 191:6 | last [21]-11:9, 11:18, |
| 78:11 | interference [1] - |  | July [1] - 195:15 | 40:7, 43:24, 52:15, |
| informal [1] - 49:22 | 66:22 | J.C [5]-2:18, 182:25, | jump [3] - 3:23, | 18, 68:4, 74:14, |
| Information [1]-4:1 | interior [8]-9:2, | 186:20, 188:24, | 163:24, 167:14 | 5:18, 81:11, 82:25, |
| information [12] - | 10:21, 52:25, 104:8, | JAA [1]-106.13 | juncture [1] - 189:4 | 8:17, 98:21, 100:8, |
| 28:24, 40:13, 40:16, | 104:9, 117:1, | JAA [1] - 106:13 | June [9]-1:6, 2:1, 2:3, | 50:7, 166:18, |
| 44:8, 45:16, 50:12, | 137:16, 149:20 | JACK [1] - 1:13 | 43:23, 52:4, 57:17, | 69:22, 170:1, |
| 51:16, 66:23, 69:17, | Interior [7]-110:17, | JACKSONVILLE ${ }_{[1]}$ | 58:3, 60:12, 187:18 | 93:10, 193:22, |
| 80:16, 132:16, | 113:3, 117:2, | 1:1 | jurisdiction [4] - | 194:4 |
| 141:19 | 119:15, 119:23, | Jacksonville [15] - | 39:25, 165:21, | lastly [2] - 43:10, |
| Infra [1] - 165:6 | 153:6, 153:11 | :7, 1:8, 2:4, 5:11, | 172:3, 172:12 | 60:18 |
| inground [1] - 160:4 | interiors [1] - 45:24 | 12:8, 12:21, 16:16, | justification [2] - | lasts [1] - 176:10 |
| initial [1] - 44:9 | interject [1] - 100:23 | 21:22, 71:4, 79:4, | 40:19, 55:2 | late [1]-82:25 |
| Initiated [1] - 147:18 | interjection [1] - 66:22 | 83:18, 87:9, 87:24, |  | Laughter [1] - 152:21 |
| initiated [1] - 137:17 | internal [2]-40:9, | 91:16, 105:21 | K | Laura [1] - 16:4 |
| initiating [1] - 103:25 | 114:22 | Jacksonville's [1] - |  | Lauren [1] - 11:9 |
| initiative ${ }_{[1]}$ - 166:16 | international [2] | 65:4 | K)(4 [1]-47.3 | law [1] - 56:2 |
| inoperable [1] - | 159:11, 162:13 | January [1] - 42:18 | Kate [1] - 77:9 | lawsuit [1] - 61:15 |
| 103:24 | interrelation [1] - 88:3 | Jax [1] - 75: | keep [6]-70:7, 168:7, | lead [3] - 128:3, 128:4, |
| input [1] - 125:23 | introduce [1] - 183:7 | JERMAINE [1] - 1:18 | 168:17, 183:19, | 139:6 |
| inside [4]-7:2, 85:20, | introduced [3] - | Jermaine ${ }^{\text {[1] }}$ - $2: 10$ JHPC [1] $-39 \cdot 11$ | 187:6, 187:10 | leading $[1]$ - 174:16 |
| 139:1, 139:13 | 104:25, 118:18, | JHPC [1] - 39:11 | kept [2] - 11:23, 64:23 | leads [1] - 42:16 |
| inspect [3] - 45:23, | 118:20 | Jimmy [1]-67:20 | kids [1] - 163:24 | leak [1] - 111:1 |
| 52:25, 160:11 | introductions [1]-2:6 | job [9]-4:13, 12:6, | Killingsworth [1] - 5:7 | lean [1] - 167:19 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { inspected }[2]-43: 24 \text {, } \\ & 80: 14 \end{aligned}$ | invaluable [1] - 87:16 <br> invested [1]-80:5 | $\begin{aligned} & 12: 7,77: 1,77: 2, \\ & 77: 4,99: 1,99: 2, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { kind }[16]-7: 13,26: 3, \\ 61: 19,65: 8,66: 23, \end{gathered}$ | leaning [2] - 160:15, |
| inspection | investigation [1] | 183:1 | 67:12, 86:1, 87:21, | arning [1] - 77:13 |
| 136:16, 136:18, | 107: | John [12]-86:18, | 107:11, 118:1, | least [10] - 7:23, 11:8, |
| 142:11, 160:9 | investigations [1] - | 105:20, 105:22, | 118:2, 124:9, | 23:1, 24:6, 46:15, |
| inspector [2]-44:1, | 175:3 | 106:3, 106:13, | 127:10, 154:18, | 0:20, 103:18, |
| 65:18 | Investment [1] - 68:20 | 111:7, 113:25, | 154:19, 169:6 | 105:6, 129:19, 157:8 |
| inspectors [1]-52:18 | investment ${ }^{[1]}$ - 170:2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 114:4, 115:16, } \\ & 119: 6,124: 25, \end{aligned}$ | King $[2]-150: 12$, 150:14 | leave [3]-13:13, |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { install }[3]-17: 7, \\ 134: 5,142: 8 \end{gathered}$ | involved [2] - 5:22, 67:16 | $\begin{aligned} & 119: 6,124: 25, \\ & 135: 13 \end{aligned}$ | 150:14 <br> Kingdom [1] - 166:1 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 142:9, 186:1 } \\ \text { leaving [1] - 132:4 } \end{gathered}$ |
| installation [3] | involvement [2] | John's [1] - 116:3 | kitchen [1] - 5:15 | $\text { led }[1]-42: 22$ |
| 137:16, 147:2, 160:4 | 58:22, 58:23 | Johns [17]-16:3, | knocked [1] - 169:12 | $\text { left }[7]-85: 8,85: 2$ |
| installed [6] - 107:21, | involves [1] - 58:21 | 77:10, 159:1, | knowledgeable [1] - | 115:9, 131:17, |
| 120:19, 121:19, | iron [6] - 161:13, | 159:15, 160:6, | 68:24 | 144:18, 164:11, |
| 123:17, 133:25, | 161:17, 162:2, | 2:25, 163:18, | knows [1] - 7:9 | 166:14 |
| 161:7 | 175:12, 180:19, | 164:24, 168:15, |  | legislative $[3]-61: 22$, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { installing [2]-104:8, } \\ & \text { 161:23 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 181:17 } \\ & \text { issuance }[1]-58: 12 \end{aligned}$ | 174:15, 175:8, |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 63:2, 96:18 } \\ \text { legitimate [3] - } \end{gathered}$ |


| ```131:12, 131:13, 132:8 length [2] - 8:3, 27:21 letter [8] - 48:8, 57:16, 57:22, 57:25, 58:5, 145:2, 166:23, 171:8 letterhead \({ }_{[1]}\) - 173:5 level [3] - 35:24, 65:4, 99:3 levied [1] - 43:17 liability [2]-167:16, 171:17 Liberty [1] - 3:22 license [5]-92:13, 99:15, 100:3, 100:5, 173:14 licensed [9] - 45:5, 92:6, 92:15, 100:11, 164:3, 165:7, 165:12, 165:25, 179:5 licensure [1] - 92:25 liens [1]-43:7 life [4]-103:21, 164:6, 165:20, 172:20 lift [1] - 114:23 lifted [1] - 28:11 light \([3]-29: 18\), 97:21, 149:19``` like-for-like [3] - 107:9, 110:19, 113:5 likelihood [5] - 44:4, 53:12, 53:17, 54:20, 118:21 likely [6] - 54:24, 103:20, 109:19, 111:25, 113:2, 125:20 Likely [1]-109:22 limited [3]-23:13, 62:1, 68:3 line $[7]-29: 19,33: 17$, 96:8, 121:7, 121:12, 159:14, 169:15 lines [3]-28:14, 110:23, 147:11 link [2]-53:3, 149:25 liquidate [1]-76:14 Lisa [2]-67:19, 68:19 list $[4]-65: 13,94: 13$, 143:6, 144:22 litany ${ }_{[1]}-41: 5$ literally [2]-8:17, 168:2 litigation [2]-61:8, 76:21 LITTLE [10]-16:19, 16:22, 17:2, 17:4, 17:19, 17:22, 17:25, 18:4, 18:7, 18:9 | ```live [6] - \(8: 9,84: 24\), 119:18, 140:9, 163:18, 167:3 lived [2] - 140:21, 141:7 lives [1] - 169:18 living [2] - 76:2, 149:5 LM-23-04 [1] - 3:22 LM-23-05 [1] - 102:20 Loan [1] - 193:12 local [2]-112:6, 150:12 locally [6] - 69:8, 69:10, 95:3, 95:4, 95:15, 95:16 located [10] - 19:9, 39:5, 44:15, 52:2, 108:18, 109:4, 135:21, 135:22, 147:5, 181:5 location [3] - 85:19, 126:25, 193:24 lofts [1]-6:7 long-term [1] - 64:17 look [15] - 55:7, 78:9, 79:17, 92:13, 116:21, 121:9, 122:18, 127:5, 130:6, 130:12, 130:13, 140:1, 164:4, 180:14, 194:5 looked [5] - 11:20, 12:1, 17:10, 22:12, 92:2 looking [12]-53:19, 76:17, 81:6, 117:12, 117:17, 121:11, 123:21, 135:8, 169:13, 170:16, 173:21, 178:16 looks [6] - 92:14, 123:12, 131:20, 169:5, 170:4, 170:18 loose [1] - 53:21 Lopera [17]- 2:14, 2:16, 4:24, 14:14, 14:16, 31:16, 31:25, 101:8, 116:5, 122:22, 147:21, 173:3, 175:1, 190:5, 190:17, 191:25, 192:19 LOPERA [164] - 1:13, 1:19, 2:14, 2:16, 3:7, 13:21, 14:2, 14:11, 14:24, 15:3, 15:11, 18:15, 25:3, 25:7, 25:10, 27:16, 30:4, 30:6, 30:9, 30:24, 31:3, 31:11, 31:18,``` |  | ```191:10, 191:15, 191:24, 192:10, 192:18, 194:12 Lord [2] - 4:18, 140:8 loss [4] - 53:8, 110:21, 113:6, 137:7 lost [2]-66:12, 69:6 Louise [1] - 11:9 love \([5]\) - 11:2, 64:20, 139:9, 143:19, 149:5 loved [1] - 150:10 Lovejoy [3] - 112:4, 112:5, 141:20 Iow [2]-26:9, 167:12 low-slung [1] - 26:9 lower [1]-28:16```  | ```massive [2] - 27:25 match [1]-26:13 MATCHETT [4] - 192:21, 192:25, 193:8, 193:20 Matchett [2]-192:24, 193:2 material [3]-126:10, 161:16, 161:21 materials [2]-47:11, 50:23 matter [4]-58:20, 90:21, 126:11, 190:21 MAX \({ }_{[1]}-1: 14\) \(\max [2]-53: 14,186: 4\) Max [1] - 2:25 maximum [2]-46:14, 159:23 MCCD [2] - 172:2, 172:15 McCorvey [8]-50:22, 50:25, 51:3, 86:17, 86:19, 87:1, 87:4, 89:6 MCCORVEY [1] - 86:18 mean [36]-8:16, 54:17, 76:4, 112:8, 114:21, 116:6, 116:8, 116:22, 118:8, 118:15, 122:7, 124:14, 126:9, 127:1, 130:23, 131:19, 132:1, 134:8, 135:2, 139:9, 139:16, 139:25, 140:4, 143:10, 145:8, 145:13, 145:15, 145:24, 157:7, 162:11, 169:4, 174:15, 175:16, 179:14, 181:14, 186:2 meaning [2]-182:13, 182:18 means [8] - 56:22, 88:22, 90:8, 97:10, 100:3, 117:23, 170:19, 170:20 meantime [1]-193:21 mechanical [1] - 107:14 mechanics [2]-7:5, 8:24 mechanism [2] - 114:22 mechanisms \([7]\) - 107:21, 108:13,``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |





| ```11:2, 11:16, 76:2, 76:5, 77:1, 85:15, 85:25, 98:22, 141:3, 141:11, 143:24, 144:1, 144:23, 145:15, 145:16, 166:24, 170:3, 179:24, 180:6, 180:9, 182:14, 183:25, 184:24 per [5] - 30:10, 31:6, 89:19, 116:10, 126:10 percent [14]-9:2, 9:5, 117:13, 118:3, 118:8, 120:4, 121:23, 122:6, 126:18, 126:21, 155:19, 161:10, 176:22, 178:13 percentages \([1]-8: 25\) perform [2]-97:7 performance [1] - 57:7 performed [1] - 175:4 perhaps [4]-7:24, 88:2, 135:8, 153:15 period [21]-6:11, 46:13, 46:19, 47:5, 62:16, 62:17, 73:20, 109:19, 110:6, 115:1, 115:7, 115:10, 120:2, 120:22, 120:24, 123:7, 123:15, 123:22, 124:23, 129:9, 129:18 permanent [1]-62:21 permeable [1] - 175:22 permission [1]-50:23 permit \({ }_{[1]}\) - 165:16 permits [2]-95:23, 125:12 permitting [1] - 105:3 person [6] - 86:8, 94:12, 133:24, 140:21, 143:4, 182:22 personally [1] - 135:16 persons [1] - 12:13 pertaining \([1]\) - 44:3 phone [1]-165:8 phones [1] - 3:3 phonetic [1]-69:15 photo [2]-22:14, 64:24 photographed [1] - 52:6``` | ```photographs [4] - 107:24, 108:2, 113:14, 137:1 photography [2] - 163:23, 167:10 photos [6] - 123:13, 123:22, 124:2, 124:3, 167:11, 167:18 pick [1] - 168:2 picked [1]-67:23 picket [3]-147:7, 150:21, 153:10 picture [2]-23:3, 86:6 pictures [1]-163:24 piece [3] - 75:13, 107:23, 178:16 pieces [1] - 167:22 pike [1] - 6:22 pink [3]-117:20, 122:5, 123:24 place [14] - 7:24, 9:22, 9:24, 12:9, 12:12, 17:14, 67:3, 67:24, 67:25, 121:17, 127:8, 140:9, 141:16, 144:10 Place [1] - 3:20 placed [4]-7:20, 150:25, 151:5, 159:20 placement [3] - 150:19, 151:9, 153:9 places [4]-12:10, 12:11, 156:10, 166:7 plain [1]-88:13 plan [6] - 7:20, 107:10, 108:20, 109:5, 130:15, 166:4 planned [1] - 29:17 planner's [1] - 10:9 Planning [12] - 1:18, 1:18, 1:19, 5:6, 10:10, 10:11, 57:6, 67:19, 68:19, 97:17, 128:21, 193:22 planning [1] - 185:23 plans [5] - 19:16, 27:1, 28:19, 28:21, 47:4 plant [3]-6:13, 90:4, 90:6 play [2] - 167:13, 191:13 playground [1] - 78:9 playing [2]-78:10, 167:8 pleased [1] - 167:3 podium [25] - 4:8, 14:20, 16:10, 20:4, 21:18, 29:1, 34:6,``` | ```47:25, 55:25, 63:24, 70:24, 72:25, 74:22, 77:8, 78:24, 81:20, 83:14, 86:17, 105:17, 119:11, 133:18, 138:5, 148:9, 162:21, 192:24 point [36] - 21:1, 38:1, 60:23, 61:17, 62:20, 66:7, 66:15, 67:12, 67:15, 96:15, 99:13, 104:12, 111:23, 112:3, 113:1, 115:13, 116:12, 116:18, 122:8, 124:18, 124:19, 125:7, 127:20, 132:1, 133:9, 134:10, 143:23, 151:17, 157:18, 169:22, 177:23, 178:2, 178:7, 178:21, 182:2, 188:2 points [5]-49:13, 68:4, 116:13, 152:13, 160:12 politely [1] - 189:2 pool [11] - 160:5, 161:7, 161:14, 168:13, 177:17, 178:9, 178:11, 180:11, 180:16, 181:5, 181:18 pools [1]-161:8 poor [1] - 8:16 popular [1]-109:11 porch [30]-23:11, 23:12, 23:16, 23:18, 24:1, 26:21, 27:10, 27:22, 29:5, 30:19, 30:22, 31:6, 32:8, 32:13, 32:18, 32:21, 32:24, 32:25, 33:5, 33:10, 33:12, 33:17, 34:10, 34:11, 34:12, 34:13, 35:16, 35:19, 35:20, 35:21 portion [1] - 46:17 position [10]-143:23, 151:18, 160:23, 182:15, 183:8, 183:25, 184:12, 186:8, 188:8 positions [3]-182:22, 183:6, 188:7 possibility [1] - 116:15 possible [10]-11:17, 29:9, 53:5, 71:18,``` | ```71:22, 106:1, 110:8, 114:7, 114:10, 114:14 possibly [3] - 53:8, 118:15, 134:11 post [1] - 109:12 posts [1] - 169:6 posture [2]-100:24, 157:11 potentially [3] - 125:14, 166:9, 170:23 Powell [1] - 3:20 power [2] - 78:14, 191:13 PowerPoint [1] - 163:1 practices [2] - 40:4, 137:17 precedence [1] - 111:3 precedent [1] - 155:1 predominant [1] - 130:14 prefer [2]-156:25, 184:7 preK [1]-78:8 preparing [1] - 12:12 preponderance [1] - 44:8 preseason [1]-5:12 presence [1] - 110:1 present [6] - 48:20, 49:25, 51:17, 70:15, 70:21, 171:7 PRESENT [2] - 1:12, 1:17 presentation [9] - 48:10, 49:4, 49:10, 51:7, 51:20, 56:18, 164:16, 179:20 presented [6] - 39:14, 44:7, 57:13, 79:23, 92:17, 110:14 presenters [2]-48:21, 56:9 Preservation [9]-2:5, 2:9, 2:11, 2:13, 8:4, 9:8, 11:8, 44:1, 194:7 preservation [6] - 79:15, 143:17, 150:5, 152:24, 153:1, 180:7 PRESERVATION [1] - 1:2 preservationist [1] - 62:8 preserve [3]-12:3, 59:14, 140:7``` | ```preserved \({ }_{[1]}\) - 62:24 preserving [3] - 12:11, 12:12, 59:18 president [2]-66:12, 186:16 presume [2]-29:24, 88:15 presuming [1] - 32:17 pretty [11]-4:12, 6:10, 6:18, 7:13, 8:23, 12:5, 75:14, 130:24, 155:25, 170:4, 183:4 prevail [1] - 88:24 preventable [1] - 45:10 preventing [1] - 44:20 previous [12]-45:16, 45:19, 54:5, 60:3, 60:7, 90:3, 92:21, 93:2, 93:6, 135:4, 147:7, 155:4 previously [3] - 18:25, 159:18, 164:20 primary [1] - 159:10 prime [1]-53:15 priorities [1] - 63:4 proactive [1] - 170:7 probable [2]-109:12, 110:12 problem [3]-29:22, 33:20, 154:21 problematic [1] - 70:17 procedurally [1] - 100:22 procedures [2] - 40:9, 43:20 proceeding [10] - 49:23, 56:21, 60:3, 61:5, 82:12, 83:6, 86:22, 88:11, 88:17, 97:20 proceedings [6] - 39:20, 82:4, 83:10, 100:17, 194:15, 195:9 Proceedings [1]-1:6 process [12] - 7:6, 10:23, 48:17, 55:7, 58:24, 59:13, 63:16, 72:12, 88:5, 97:5, 122:24, 194:1 processing [1] - 194:3 producing [1] - 9:19 product [4]-103:12, 120:10, 128:8, 136:13 products [3]-126:9, 130:4, 130:5 professional [1] -``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |




| ```restored [6] - 139:2, 139:3, 139:4, 139:5, 139:7, 140:5 restorer [1] - 143:3 restores [1] - 141:21 restoring [1] - 142:18 restrictions [1] - 151:9 result [3] - 45:3, 88:13 results [1]-133:8 resumes [1]-15:23 retail [1] - 9:20 retain [1]-50:5 retaining [10]-159:4, 159:8, 159:13, 159:16, 159:17, 159:21, 160:11, 160:13, 161:24, 162:6 returning [1] - 185:24 Reverend [1] - 77:9 REVEREND [3] - 77:19, 77:24, 78:1 reversal [1]-61:7 reverse [1]-59:8 review [8] - 10:10, 10:23, 10:24, 10:25, 71:20, 126:8, 137:1, 160:2 reviewed [3]-21:2, 79:22, 126:3 revise [1]-39:15 revised [5]-19:16, 22:8, 22:11, 39:8, 44:10 revisit [3]-24:19, 40:9, 44:9 revisited [1] - 40:4 Revival [1]-103:5 Richmond [2] - 102:24, 111:4 ridicule [1] - 148:4 right-of-way [5] - 151:2, 151:4, 151:7, 169:19, 169:21 rights [1]-90:17 Rio [1] - 193:2 ripped [1] - 149:21 risers [2]-24:7, 28:8 river [2]-104:4, 169:18 Riverside [9]-3:18, 79:4, 84:24, 103:4, 135:23, 147:4, 149:5, 159:5 Riverside/Avondale [1] - 175:24 road [1] - 129:6 Road [1]-16:16 roadway [2] - 151:6 ROBERSON [2] -``` | 81:18, 81:21 <br> Roberson [3]-81:20, 81:22, 97:19 <br> Robert [1] - 165:6 <br> Robertson [1] - 88:10 <br> rock [1] - 141:15 <br> rod [1]-168:16 <br> role [1] - 8:5 <br> roof $[8]-28: 14,52: 19$, <br> 53:18, 53:19, 54:24, $92: 10,93: 12,103: 7$ <br> Room [1]-1:8 <br> ropes [3]-103:15, <br> 104:20, 118:23 <br> rose [1] - 188:12 <br> rot [2]-104:7, 136:21 <br> rough [1]-26:23 <br> route [3]-173:1, <br> 177:12, 179:23 <br> routine [3]-97:8, <br> 136:23, 137:17 <br> rule [2]-118:3, 118:8 <br> rules [6] - 44:25, 45:1, <br> 47:17, 53:16, 72:14, <br> 87:20 <br> rulings [1] - 155:2 <br> run [7]-3:17, 13:25, <br> 16:2, 27:10, 51:12, <br> 116:6, 190:3 <br> running [4]-91:25, <br> 117:13, 179:23, <br> 186:7 <br> runs [2]-159:14, <br> 163:20 <br> S | ```scenario [1] - 134:23 scheduled [1] - 193:23 Schifanella [4]- 21:21, 23:21, 27:7, 34:6 SCHIFANELLA [10] - 21:25, 22:5, 22:7, 22:15, 22:18, 23:6, 23:9, 23:23, 34:7, 34:16 Schifanella's [1] - 25:23 school [4]-77:13, 78:7, 78:20, 84:17 scope [3]-45:5, 159:12, 173:15 screen [3]-25:22, 126:19, 173:17 screened [2]-161:9 screens [1]-137:15 se [2]-116:11, 126:10 sealing [1] - 47:8 second [42]-3:9, 15:16, 18:16, 18:17, 23:17, 25:5, 25:12, 30:11, 31:5, 32:1, 35:4, 35:10, 35:14, 35:21, \(35: 23,36: 2\), 36:3, 36:18, 37:14, 50:21, 51:25, 52:7, 52:21, 53:20, 83:2, 89:20, 100:25, 101:12, 102:1, 108:6, 108:9, 113:17, 122:4, 130:17, 150:18, 154:4, 174:6, 183:14, 183:15, 188:4, 191:10 secondary [1] - 150:23 seconded [1] - 182:20 secondly [1] - 149:23 seconds [3]-81:1, 81:2, 89:2 Secretary [8]-110:17, 113:3, 117:1, 119:15, 119:23, 153:5, 153:11, 192:19 secretary [14] - 182:16, 183:8, 184:3, 184:15, 184:25, 185:4, 185:13, 186:1, 189:1, 189:11, 190:1, 190:8, 192:4, 192:12 section [9]-41:2,``` | ```42:10, 45:12, 57:3, 57:10, 96:16, 102:19, 151:2, 159:24 Section [11] - 3:25, 18:25, 45:20, 46:12, 46:18, 61:22, 63:4, 102:22, 127:6, 147:17, 155:17 sections [1] - 160:14 secured [3] - 53:18, 63:7, 92:1 security [1] - 93:10 see [44] - 4:10, 4:20, 12:1, 17:11, 17:13, 22:11, 23:3, 24:16, 26:22, 27:3, 32:9, 33:1, 41:4, 42:5, 42:12, 44:2, 63:9, 64:15, 64:24, 65:13, 65:17, 72:16, 78:11, 85:1, 98:17, 98:25, 107:2, 107:11, 113:16, 126:5, 130:13, 132:8, 134:3, 139:21, 139:23, 139:24, 167:4, 167:9, 167:19, 174:23, 175:22, 176:6, 179:1, 191:12 seeing [8] - 24:25, 28:9, 65:23, 89:15, 123:19, 155:7, 183:2, 194:5 seek [1] - 144:2 seeking[5] - 44:17, 103:10, 135:24, 136:3, 136:12 seem[2]-124:18, 128:6 sees [1] - 131:22 selected [1] - 168:16 send [2] - 144:23, 173:13 sense [4] - 112:1, 120:8, 121:15, 186:3 sent [5] - 10:13, 72:3, 104:15, 163:1, 165:10 sentence [1]-118:5 separate [11]-13:16, 14:6, 49:13, 52:11, 58:19, 59:7, 82:3, 83:10, 101:2, 101:5 September [1] - 73:15 series [1] - 161:6 serious [1] - 90:21 seriously [1] - 149:9 served [2]-41:23,``` | 78:1 <br> serves [1]-6:3 <br> service [1] - 85:20 <br> Services [1] - 71:3 <br> serving [1] - 64:12 <br> Sessa [1] - 162:24 <br> SESSA [22] - 163:8, <br> 163:13, 163:15, <br> 165:25, 167:24, <br> 169:8, 169:15, <br> 171:3, 172:19, <br> 172:23, 172:25, <br> 173:6, 173:11, <br> 173:17, 177:4, <br> 177:10, 177:20, <br> 177:24, 178:3, <br> 179:2, 179:9, 179:17 <br> set $[6]-81: 6,90: 19$, <br> 125:5, 129:5, 155:1, <br> 159:23 <br> setbacks [1] - 66:9 <br> sets [2] - 12:10, 79:16 <br> settle [1] - 41:20 <br> settlement [15] - <br> 41:12, 41:18, 41:22, <br> 42:3, 43:6, 45:19, <br> 55:9, 60:4, 60:8, <br> 80:11, 80:12, 82:24, <br> 83:2, 91:17, 97:25 <br> settlements [1] - <br> 94:10 <br> seven [8]-47:10, <br> 76:8, 89:2, 126:24, <br> 139:19, 139:20, <br> 187:22, 187:25 <br> seventh [1] - 183:20 <br> several [4]-17:11, <br> 53:21, 58:18, 116:5 <br> shall [3] - 45:4, 46:20, <br> 117:5 <br> Shannon [1]-23:10 <br> shape [3]-163:22, <br> 167:5, 167:15 <br> share [1] - 167:9 <br> Shawna [1] - 148:13 <br> sheltering $[1]$ - 64:13 <br> Sheppard [2]-67:19, <br> 68:19 <br> shifted [1] - 166:6 <br> shifting [1] - 87:21 <br> shifts [1]-168:1 <br> shingled $[1]$ - 103:7 <br> shoring [1] - 72:17 <br> short [2]-6:10, 98:9 <br> shortening [1]-29:6 <br> shortly [2]-57:22, <br> 82:23 <br> show [6] - 69:1, 97:22, <br> 104:6, 136:24, <br> 145:18, 169:6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

showed [1] - 29:4 showing [2] - 66:5, 69:5
shown [3] - 64:20, 129:11, 129:20 shows [6] - 45:17, 57:1, 65:3, 108:17, 109:3, 139:7
shut [2]-11:23, 103:25
shutters [1] - 103:8
sic [8] - 10:11, 46:10, 65:4, 71:16, 88:10, 123:14, 139:19, 186:16
sic] [1] - 122:3
side $[7]-30: 15,30: 16$,
139:17, 141:5,
147:11, 150:8, 169:10
sidewalk [7] - 166:8, 166:10, 167:5, 167:12, 168:10, 173:13
sidewalks [1] - 165:5
siding [1] - 52:21
sign [1] - 150:10
signed [2]-171:9
significance [26] -
6:21, 84:23, 85:1, 103:19, 105:7, 109:20, 110:6, 115:2, 115:8, 115:11, 120:2, 120:19, 120:20, 120:22, 120:24, 121:20, 123:7, 123:15, 127:4, 127:9, 127:14, 128:11, 129:9, 129:25, 131:1
significant [7] - 80:5, 85:8, 120:14, 120:23, 127:25, 129:15, 141:25
significantly [1] 101:5
signs [1] - 104:6
silence [1]-3:3
sill [1] - 136:21
sills [1] - 139:13
similar [6] - 27:19,
28:14, 108:13, 123:16, 130:4, 130:6
simply [1] - 88:20
Simultaneous [41] 14:12, 23:7, 30:5, 33:8, 33:22, 34:25, 35:6, 37:2, 100:7, 119:10, 125:16,

134:2, 134:16, 135:14, 143:13, 144:21, 145:3, 154:1, 156:13, 158:14, 171:4, 173:10, 173:16, 177:9, 177:19, 179:16, 180:20, 181:3, 181:23,
185:3, 187:3, 187:11, 188:21, 189:17, 191:11, 191:14, 191:20, 192:9, 192:15, 193:7, 194:11
sincere [1] - 59:3
sincerely [1] - 151:10
single [8]-19:15,
103:3, 107:8,
108:11, 123:21,
136:5, 147:3, 164:8
single-family [4] -
19:15, 103:3, 136:5, 147:3
single-hung [2] -
107:8, 108:11
sit [3]-28:16, 119:1, 170:5
site [12]-43:21,
45:22, 45:24, 52:3,
52:16, 103:22,
104:18, 106:23,
137:2, 137:20,
160:8, 176:17
sites [1] - 12:3
sitting [2] - 97:12, 155:10
situation [9]-61:11,
61:13, 61:18, 61:19,
67:4, 117:12,
117:18, 154:19, 155:23
situations [1] - 134:21
six [13]-27:2, 46:15,
47:9, 53:13, 54:25, 73:22, 73:24, 74:2, 158:17, 158:18, 161:20, 189:12,
189:13
size [6] - 29:4, 31:6,
31:12, 32:8, 126:25, 130:18
sizes [3]-31:13,
108:4, 113:12
sketch [5] - 30:10,
30:21, 31:4, 31:6, 151:2
skim [1] - 41:4
slash [1] - 147:18
slate [5] - 182:12,
$182: 21,184: 1$,
$184: 7,189: 22$
sleep $[1]-125: 4$
slide $[3]-165: 2$,
$166: 25,167: 17$
slim $[1]-112: 16$
slippery $[1]-118: 25$
slope $[1]-118: 25$
slung $[1]-26: 9$
small $[2]-27: 12,33: 2$
smaller $[10]-23: 18$,
$28: 2,32: 15,32: 19$,
$33: 3,33: 6,33: 10$,
$33: 13,33: 15,35: 16$
Society $[2]-11: 8$,
$11: 11$ 11:11
Solar [1] - 16:15 solar [3] - 17:7, 17:13, 48:14
solid [6] - 174:10, 178:4, 178:23, 179:12, 180:17, 181:17
someone [13]-37:9, 51:1, 67:20, 75:24, 97:14, 129:1, 141:18, 142:17, 166:11, 170:5, 182:20, 188:5, 188:6
sometime [3] -
109:19, 109:23, 121:17
sometimes [4] - 4:13,
4:14, 125:19, 179:23
somewhere [1] -
175:18
son [1] - 5:11
soon [1]-83:4
sorry [12] - 23:5, 33:10, 37:4, 51:24, 68:2, 82:8, 95:25, 117:5, 123:24, 160:9, 163:3, 191:23
sort [13] - 17:9, 23:15,
94:2, 127:22, 128:3,
128:4, 134:4, 144:6,
157:22, 170:13,
175:18, 176:3
sorts [1] - 9:20
sought [3]-62:21, 76:6, 89:7
sound [1] - 140:9
space [1] - 53:4
SPAR [1] - 11:11
speaking [47] - 14:12, 23:7, 29:2, 30:5, 33:8, 33:22, 34:25, 35:6, 37:2, 79:10, 86:19, 93:23, 100:7, 109:8, 119:10,
$125: 16,134: 2$
$134: 16,135: 14$ 143:13, 144:21, 145:3, 154:1, 156:13, 158:14, 165:15, 171:4, 173:10, 173:16, 177:9, 177:19, 179:16, 180:20, 181:3, 181:23, 185:3, 187:3, 187:11, 188:21, 189:17, 191:11, 191:14, 191:20, 192:9, 192:15, 193:7, 194:11
Special [3]-42:12, 43:1, 43:14
specialize [1] - 143:16
specific [3]-57:20,
79:20, 128:11
specifically [4] - 65:7, 81:4, 94:17, 122:17
specifications [1] -
46:23
Spectrum [3] - 56:6, 64:5, 87:9
speculating [1] -
60:22
speculation [4] 131:14, 131:15, 132:16
speculations [1] 60:25
speculative [1] - 59:24
spent [1] - 80:20
spiral [4] - 107:22, 109:9, 109:24, 111:14
spiral-type [1] - 109:9
spirals [1] - 114:10
split [2] - 46:9
spoken ${ }_{[1]}$ - 164:8
spring [15] - 104:25,
107:22, 109:9,
109:17, 109:24,
111:13, 111:20,
112:18, 117:15,
117:16, 117:20,
118:17, 118:24,
130:14, 131:16
Springfield [1] - 62:8
springs [3] - 104:18,
112:11, 130:20
Springs [1] - 20:9
Sr [1]-68:17
Sr.'s [1] - 67:17
St [17]-16:3, 77:10, 159:1, 159:15, 160:6, 162:25,

163:18, 163:21,
164:23, 164:24,
168:15, 174:15,
175:8, 179:13,
179:19, 181:4, 193:2
stab [1] - 34:22
stability [1] - 93:10
stabilization [2] -
45:1, 63:5
stabilized [1] - 62:20
stabilizing [1] - 47:8
staff [117] - 10:11, 17:24, 19:6, 19:23, 22:7, 22:9, 22:18,
24:11, 24:14, 25:9,
25:11, 26:1, 26:6,
30:17, 31:8, 32:1,
39:3, 39:7, 39:15,
39:17, 40:24, 44:8,
45:23, 47:20, 49:6,
51:22, 51:23, 54:2,
54:4, 55:6, 55:20,
56:21, 57:6, 57:8,
57:12, 58:4, 58:5,
58:7, 58:9, 58:11,
58:12, 59:2, 59:20,
59:23, 60:1, 60:12,
60:18, 60:19, 61:7,
64:25, 66:5, 67:20,
67:21, 76:23, 79:8,
$79: 11,79: 16,79: 21$,
80:1, 80:17, 80:19,
80:22, 89:19, 94:11,
98:10, 98:20, 99:1,
99:7, 102:25,
103:16, 103:25,
104:7, 105:10,
106:16, 107:6,
111:17, 116:2,
119:1, 120:17,
122:15, 125:22,
126:3, 127:6,
128:22, 132:7,
132:14, 132:17,
137:25, 143:5,
143:7, 144:13,
146:25, 147:13,
147:14, 148:1,
149:10, 151:16,
151:19, 151:21,
152:17, 153:7,
157:22, 158:3,
159:2, 160:9,
160:10, 162:3,
162:18, 165:10,
165:16, 168:4,
171:18, 173:13,
174:9, 183:10
staff's [12] - 21:1,
44:11, 45:12, 59:8,

| 60:24, 73:6, 79:12, | step [3] - 33:3, 188:8, | strike [2] - 31:18, | substantial [8] - |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 93:5, 97:22, 128:22, | - |  | 48:15, 59:22, 80:5, |  |
| 129:23, 144:10 | STEPHANIE [1] - 1:19 | stripping [2] - 104:9, | 14, 128:2 | Tab [3] - 57:14, 57:22, |
| stake [1] - 48 | Steve [1] - 193:2 | 137:1 | 30:25 | 65:14 |
| stam | st | stro | 136:24 | tab [2]-43:6, 43:24 |
| stand [3]-7:9, 98:14, | st | 64: | substituted [1] - 87:6 | table [4]-29:24, |
| 22 | 8:8, 22:12, 41:6, | structural [18] - 45: | subtle [1] - | 90:19, 97:13, 128:19 |
| standard [4]-117:1, | 84:22, 86:11, 121:2, | 72:5, 92:6, 92:10 | subtype [1] - 136: | $\boldsymbol{\operatorname { t a g }}_{[1]}-175: 17$ |
| $117: 4,118: 11$ <br> standards [8] | $131: 14,157$ $157: 22,164$ | $\begin{aligned} & 93: 6,93: 9,97: 7 \\ & 100 \cdot 11 \quad 100 \cdot 11 \end{aligned}$ | subwall [1]-166: | $\text { talks }[3]-47: 6,117: 4,$ |
| 110 |  | $160: 23,170$ |  |  |
| 117:2, 119:15 | 178:19 | :3, 176:8 | suggest [4] - 24:17 | 69:15 |
| 126:24, 153:6, | Stockton [1] - 150:9 | 24, 177:11 | 48:24, 110:4, 189:21 | taller [1] - 178:5 |
| $153: 11$ | stone [1] - 159:13 | $177: 13,179: 3,179: 4$ | suggested [3] - 23:2, | Tamara [4]-81:13 |
| standing [1] - 90:14 <br> stands [1] - 7:17 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { stop [3] - 82:6, 150:9, } \\ & \text { 171:22 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { structurally [4] - } \\ \text { 166:7, 170:11, } \end{gathered}$ | $23: 11,72: 17$ | $92: 5,100: 9,100: 18$ |
| Starbucks [1] - 5:10 | st | 170:24, 174:25 | 172: | [1]-5:20 |
| sta | 157:5, 158:20 | structure [30] - 19:15 | suggestion [1] - 146:4 | echnical [1] - 28:19 |
| 66:10, 74:18, 91:3 | store [2] - 9:20, 9:22 | $19: 17,24: 5,24: 14$ | Suite [2]-79:4, 81:23 | technically [6]-50:20, |
| 116:7 | storm [4]-104:8 | $\begin{aligned} & 26: 2,41: 9,45: 1 \\ & 45: 4,52: 5,52: 22 \end{aligned}$ | summary [3] - 44:2, | 125:1, 125:2, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { started [4]-66:15, } \\ & 67: 16,91: 24,150 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 104:9, 114:25, } \\ & 127 \cdot 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 45: 4,52: 5,52: 22, \\ & 53: 7,84: 21,92: 9, \end{aligned}$ | 53:6, | 155:16, 169:18, |
| STATE [1] - 195:3 | storms [2] - 68:12 | :7, 96:7, 103:3, | super [1] - 92:9 | techniques [1] - 104:1 |
| State [1] | 104:5 | $103: 5,103: 1$ | supervisor [1] - 67: | ten [6]-48:20, 48:25, |
| state | story [16] - 19:15, | $103: 14,10$ | support [4]-47:8, | 50:1, 102:15, 166:19 |
|  |  | $136: 5,136: 6$ | 61:14, 79:11, 141:25 | ten-minute [1] $102 \cdot 15$ |
| $48: 1,60: 11,60: 13$ | $: 2,26: 14,27: 5$ | $: 10,137:$ | supporting [2] | 102: |
| $64: 7,70: 25,74: 23$ | $27: 6,28: 4,28: 5$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6: 6,159: 9 \\ & 9: 10.160: 19 \end{aligned}$ | supportive [1] - | tend [4]-25:23, 99:9 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 78: 25,83: 15,88: 3, \\ & 92: 16.92: 22.93: 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 107: 15,109: 12 \\ & 110.1 \end{aligned}$ | 159:10, 160:19 <br> structure's [2] - | $166: 2$ | $155: 21,175: 25$ |
| 92:16 | str | 103:21 | supports [1] - 113:24 | Tenders [3]-23:20 |
|  | str | structures [16] - 24 | supposed [8] - 56:22, | $24: 12,106$ |
| :10, 13 | strategic [1]-7:20 | $: 14,30: 14,30: 15$ | $155: 16,155: 1$ | $\text { term [1] }-64: 1$ |
| 148:10, 162:22, | strategy [2]-61:8, | $\begin{aligned} & : 21,44: 18,45: 13 \\ & : 8,62: 22,69: 5, \end{aligned}$ | 187:17, 187:2 | rminated $[1]$ - 83:3 |
| statement [4]-40:22 |  | $: 8,72: 18$ |  | rmination [1]-42:1 |
| $47: 1,94: 5,120: 2^{\prime}$ | 17:14, 76:3, 77:11, | $79: 13,100: 16,172: 4$ <br> struggling [1] - | survey [2] - 107:11 | $: 17,83: 1,127: 10$ |
| stat | $: 11,84: 15$ | 168:23 | s | $178: 8,181: 20$ |
|  |  | stuff [5] - 86: | survive [1] - 176: | terrible [1]-110:25 |
| states [5] - 46: | $139: 21,139: 2$ | 131:20, 131 | survived [1] - 176:11 | st [1] - 139:11 |
| 57:14, 60:1, 60 | $1: 4$ | $36: 2,180:$ |  | testimony [29]-16:24, |
| 61:23 | 161:15, 175:10 | style [8] - 27:9, 27:23, | $\mathbf{S}$ | $56: 24.57: 23.57: 25$ |
| stating [4] - 159:8 | Street [34]-1:8, 3:19, | $3: 6,109: 2$ | swear [11] - 16:1 | $70: 15,71: 10,73: 3$ |
| $165: 10,16$ | $3: 21,3: 22,14: 8 \text {, }$ $16: 4,16: 5,17: 1$ | $9: 11,162$ | 5:5 | 73:7, 73:8, 77:21, |
|  |  | subject [1] - 60 | 87:2, | 81:11, 84:3, 92:5, |
| stature [1] - 130:2 <br> status [2]-94:21, | $19 \cdot 2,19 \cdot 10,37 \cdot 22$ | $\text { subjected [1] - } 97$ | 1 | 92:20, 93:3, 94:3, |
| $96: 5$ | $: 24,44: 15,52: 3$ | $\text { submit [2] }-24: 1$ | sword [1] - 190:2 | 106:7, 116:3, |
| $\text { stay }[5]-32: 18,59: 12$ | $56: 4,64: 22,79: 14$ | $51: 19$ | sympathize [1] - | 134:18, 135:1, |
| 88:17, 185:22 | 81:23, 83:18, | $\begin{array}{r} \text { submittal }[4]-22: 8 \\ 22: 11,23: 1,194: \end{array}$ | 145: | 35:2, 138:16, |
|  |  |  | system [5] - 92:10, | 148:22, 163:10 |
| steel [1] - 171:2 |  | $58: 18,59: 5,59: 20$ | 9 | text [1] - 173:8 |
|  | $0: 9,150: 1$ |  | 117:14, 117:16 | thankful [1]-78:16 |
| $\mathbf{i s}$ | streets [1] - 17 | su | systems [3]-47:8, | thanking [1] - 64:2 |
| $195: 1$ | strict [2] - 61:24, | subsections [1]-63:9 | 92:23, 93:9 | HE [309]-2:3, 2:18, |
| stenographically [1] - | :2 | subsequent [2]-42:1, |  | $4: 4,4: 9,13: 2,13: 7$ |
|  | strictly [1] - 54:12 | 58:23 |  | 13:11, 13:14, 13:24, |


| 14:4, 14:13, 14:15, | 115:18, 115:21, | themselves [1] - | 138:21, 140:17, | toward [1] - 166:10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 14:19, 14:22, 14:25, | 115:24, 119:6, | 84:1 | 140:21, 140:25, | towards [4] |
| 15:6, 15:8, 15:13, | 119:8, 119:13 | theory [1]-114:5 | $141: 2,141: 8$ | 9:12, 153:18, 160:15 |
| 15:17, 15:20, 15:22, | 121:1, 122:5 | therefore [1] - 113:3 | 41:10, 142: | town [4] - 142:5 |
| 15:24, 16:9, 16:12, | 122:11, 122:25, | they've [10]-29:16 | 142:7, 142:1 | :16, 164:13, |
| 16:17, 16:20, 16:23, | 123:3, 124:17, | 80:10, 80:11, 85:14, | 2:20, 142:24, | 166:22 |
| 17:3, 17:18, 17:20, | 124:22, 125:8 | 91:10, 93:18, 94:1 | 143:2, 143:1 | Tracy [1] - 167:2 |
| 17:23, 18:2, 18:5, | 126:13, 128:13, | 99:1, 140:15, 154:15 | :18, 144:8 | traditional [1] - 104:20 |
| 18:8, 18:10, 18:13, | 128:18, 131:25, | thick [1] - 119:22 | 144:19, 145:6 | transcript [1] - 195:10 |
| 18:18, 18:20, 18:22, | 132:19, 132:22, | thinking [2] - 22:2 | 145:12, 145:15, | transition [2] - 66:14, |
| 19:5, 19:22, 19:25, | 133:3, 133:6 | 177:7 | $145: 23,146: 6$ | 68:10 |
| 20:3, 20:5, 20:10, | 133:16, 134:11, | third [10]-31:2, 32:14, | $146: 13,146: 18$ | translation [1] - 69:7 |
| 20:12, 20:15, 20:20, | 135:13, 135:17, | $32: 22,42: 22,62: 12$ | 146:2 | trash [1]-67:23 |
| 20:21, 20:25, 21:5, | 137:24, 138:2, | $75: 25,78: 9,184: 16$ | tie [2] - 133:7, 133:10 | trespassers [1] - 53: |
| 21:9, 21:12, 21:14, | 138:6, 138:10, | 184:19, 184:23 | Tillett [1] - 83:17 | trial [2] - 92:20, 93:3 |
| 21:17, 21:19, 21:23, | 138:12, 138:15, | thirds [3]-23:13 | TILLETT [4] - 84:1, | tried $[7]-5: 13,11: 16$, |
| 22:1, 22:6, 24:21, |  | 30:20, | $84: 6,84: 8,86: 13$ | 68:14, 78:4, 141:10, |
| $24: 25,25: 6,25: 14$ | 143:5, 143:9, 145:4, | thirds/one [2]-32:14, | timeline [2] - 64:25, | 143:3, 166:2 |
| $28: 25,29: 15,29: 23$, $30 \cdot 7,31 \cdot 23,33 \cdot 19$ | 145:7, 145:14, | $32: 22$ | $187: 9$ | triggering [2] - |
| $\begin{aligned} & 30: 7,31: 23,33: 19 \\ & 33: 25.34: 4.34: 19 \end{aligned}$ | 145:21, 145:24, <br> 146:10, 146:14 | thirty [1] - 81:2 | timely [3]-45:19 | 178:14, 180:12 |
| 33:25, 34:4, 34:19, | 146:10, 146:14, 146:20, 146.22 | Thomas [1] - 41:14 | $54: 16,54: 23$ | trim [4]-126:24 |
| $35: 7$ $36: 8$ | $14$ | thorough [2]-79:9 | Timer [7] - 73:17, | 128:5, 136:9, 149:19 |
| $36: 16,36: 19,36: 21 \text {, }$ | 148:4, 148:6, 148:8, | 93:15 | $80: 24,86: 12,89:$ | Tropia [3] - 1:9, 195:7, |
| 36:23, 37:3, 37:11, | 148:10, 148:14, | thoroughfare [1] - 174:16 | $165: 24$ | 195:1 |
| $37: 15,37: 17,37: 19$ | 148:17, 148:21, | thoroughly [1] - 79:22 | Times-Union [1] - | Troutman [1] - 56:16 |
| $38: 2,38: 4,38: 11$ | 149:1, 151:24, | thoroughness [1] - | 62:5 | true [1]-195:10 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 38: 19,38: 24,39: 2, \\ & 47: 19,47: 22,48: 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 152: 2,152: 4,152: 8 \\ & 153: 21,154: 5 \end{aligned}$ | 94:5 | timing [2] - 58: | truly [2] - 10:15, 10:16 |
| $49: 18,50: 7,50: 10$ | 154:8, 155:15, | thoughts [8]-89:22, | Titus [7]-56: | Trust [3]-6:1, 7:6, 9:4 |
| 50:15, 50:17, 50:20, | 156:14, 156:21, | $: 6,99: 5,123:$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Titus [7]-56:5, 64:5 } \\ \text { 86:19, 87:9, 90:3, } \end{gathered}$ | Trustees [1] - 76:9 |
| 50:24, 51:2, 51:5, | 156:25, 157:7, | $\text { 132:20, } 156:$ | $94: 10,94: 14$ | $7: 1,$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 51: 8,51: 11,51: 14, \\ & 51: 21,54: 1,55: 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 157:12, 157:20, } \\ & \text { 157:25, 158:5, } \end{aligned}$ | threat [1] - 172: | today [18]-3:17, 3:24, | $22: 3,22: 4,71: 11$ |
| 55:19, 55:22, 69:20, | 158:18, 158:24, | threatening [1] | 13:16, 64:21, 68:3, | 1:12, 77:22, 77:23, |
| $70: 5,70: 23,70: 25,$ | 161:2, 161:25, | 172:20 |  | 4:4, 84:5, 106:8, |
| 71:5, 71:6, 71:9, | 162:17, 162:20, | three [43]-5:8, 24:6 | $97: 20$ | 06:9, 138:17 |
| 71:14, 72:24, 74:10, | 162:22, 163:4, | 41:19, 42:6, 42:18, | $06: 15,110: 5$ | $38: 18,148: 2$ |
| 74:16, 74:21, 74:23, | 163:6, 163:9, | $43: 7,43: 13,43: 22$ | 112:4, 130:5, 168:20 | $163: 12$ |
| 75:5, 75:8, 77:7 | 163:14, 168:25, | $44: 3,46: 4,48: 21$ | together [3]-8:12, | $\operatorname{try}[10]-4: 22,12: 7$ |
| 77:15, 77:17, 77:20 | 169:13, 172:2 | $3: 23,63: 3,63: 8$ | 49:3, 113:9 | 62:18, 71:18, 75:12, |
| 81:2, 81:16, 81:19, | $174: 7,175: 11$ | $9: 24,73: 14,73: 21,$ | Tolbert [1] - 182:4 | 7:4, 78:14, 141:2, |
| 83:12, 83:15, 83:22, | $175: 25,177: 3,$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73: 25,74: 8,79: 24 \\ & 80: 3,80: 9,80: 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { tonight }[3]-48: 6, \\ & 56: 5,59: 21 \end{aligned}$ | 167:11, 172:25 |
| 83:24, 84:2, 84:7, | 177:6, 177:18, |  | tonight's [1] - 56:24 | trying [10]-5:9, 5:17, <br> 26.1, 28:18, 66:1 |
| 86:14, 86:24, 87:3, | 177:21, 177:25, | :1, 86:24, 107:20, | took [6] - 50:13, 67:3, | $6: 1,28: 18,66: 1,$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 89: 11,89: 15,89: 21, \\ & 91: 1,93: 14,95: 10, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 178:4, 178:19, } \\ & \text { 179:7, 180:11, } \end{aligned}$ | $8: 3,113: 1$ | 68:13, 90:6, 157:2, | $164: 1,164: 13,166: 3$ |
| $96: 13,98: 5,99: 4$ | 179:7, 180:11 | 16:13, 117:18 | 186: | Tudor [2] - 136:1, |
| $99: 12,100: 2,$ | 181:2, 181:8, | 29:14, 133:7, | tool [2]-6:23, 7:22 | 136:7 |
| $100: 20,101: 13$ | 181:10, 182:1, | 166:13, 167:20, | tools [1] - 6:24 | Tudor-style [1] - 136:7 |
| 101:16, 101:18, | 183:12, 183:22, | 168:16, 182:13 <br> three-rod [1]-168:16 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { top }[4]-74: 18,75: 25, \\ & 140: 2,167: 22 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { turmoil [2] - } 76: 8 \text {, } \\ & 76 \cdot 10 \end{aligned}$ |
| 101:22, 102:2, | 185:4, 185:10, | three-three [1] - 133:7 | topic [1]-63:13 |  |
| 102:5, 102:7, | 187:2, 187:8, | threshold [1] - 126:18 | torn [2]-6:16, 6:17 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { turn [3] - 9:21, 9:24, } \\ & 181: 15 \end{aligned}$ |
| 102:14, 102:18, | 187:12, 187:21, |  |  | 181:15 |
| 105:10, 105:12, | 188:1, 188:11, | throughout [1] - $153: 13$ | $107: 3,107: 17$ | Turner [1] - 67:20 |
| 105:16, 105:18, | 189:7, 190:11, |  |  | twelve [1] - 169:24 |
| 105:22, 106:3, | 190:14, 190:21, | throw [1] - 131:23 | $142: 12,142: 14$ | twenty [1]-5:8 |
| 106:6, 106:11, | 190:25, 192:3, | Tidwell [1] - 138:8 | $\begin{aligned} & 142: 12,142: 14 \\ & 173: 2,180: 3 \end{aligned}$ | twenty-three [1]-5:8 |
| 108:24, 111:7, | 192:23, 193:6, | TIDWELL [27] - <br> 138:14, 138:19 | tough [2]-4:12, 4:14 | twice [2] - 106:23, |
| 113:25, 115:15, | 194:9, 194:14 | 138:14, 138:19, | tough [2]-4:12, 4:14 |  |



| 51:18, 57:17, 193:9 | 109:7, 110:11, | 136:20, 136:23, | 10:22, 10:24, 55:24, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WELLS [47] - 1:18, | 111:3, 112:6, 116:7, | 137:3, 137:4, 137:6, | 145: |
| 2:12, 5:2, 19:8, | 116:8, 116:9, | 137:7, 137:16, | y'all's [1] - 8:19 |
| 22:14, 23:5, 23:8, | 118:17, 118:23, | 137:19, 138:23, | yank [1] - 120:5 |
| 26:10, 28:17, 31:15, | 123:19, 126:4, | 138:24, 139:9, | yard [8] - 160:5, 161:7, |
| 37:23, 38:3, 39:4, | 127:22, 128:1, | 139:12, 139:16, | 163:19, 164:2, |
| 51:24, 54:18, 94:15, | 130:3, 130:22, | 139:18, 139:22, | 180:21, 180:24, |
| 94:18, 95:2, 95:25, | 135:4, 135:5, 135:7, | 140:22, 141:3, | 181:1, 181:6 |
| 104:11, 116:4, | 135:24, 136:4, | 141:13, 141:21, | yards [1] - 150:24 |
| 118:6, 118:8, | 136:13, 136:21, | 141:23, 142:5, | year [12] - 5:21, 6:12, |
| 125:17, 125:25, | 137:2, 137:11, | 142:9, 142:18, | 10:3, 11:9, 43:15, |
| 126:7, 126:15, | 142:7, 142:21, | 145:9, 145:17, 155:6 | 43:23, 110:11, |
| 133:13, 135:20, | 142:23, 145:9 | Winslow [1] - 166:14 | 112:19, 117:23, |
| 136:3, 143:8, | windows [127] - 27:19, | wish [1] - 188:7 | 120:9, 129:13, |
| 147:20, 160:7, | 27:21, 31:10, 31:13, | withdraw [2]-37:12, | 182:12 |
| 161:4, 162:8, 163:2, | $\begin{aligned} & 31: 14,75: 21,103: 2 \\ & 103: 9,103: 11, \end{aligned}$ | 38:10 | years [21] - 5:8, 6:2, |
| 174:12, 178:11, <br> 180:23, 181:1 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 103:9, 103:11, } \\ & \text { 103:14. 103:17 } \end{aligned}$ | withdrawal [1] - 37:8 | $64: 8,64: 9,75: 18$ |
| 181:4, 181:9, |  | withdrawn [2]-37:4, $37: 20$ | 76:8, 78:3, 78:15, |
| 181:19, 181:24, | 103:23, 104:4, | witnesses [1] - 92:18 | 84:19, 97:2, 113:15, |
| 183:18, 185:20, | 104:6, 104:8, 104:9, | wonderful [1] - 183:1 | 138:24, 141:8, |
| 185:23 | 104:14, 104:21, | wondering [1] - 100:2 | 166:19, 183:1, |
| Wells [4]-2:12, 5:1, | 105:3, 107:4, 107:8, | wood [15] - 103:11, | 183:6, 189:12, |
| 5:3 | 107:12, 107:15, | 104:7, 123:16, | 189:13 |
| wells' [3] - 57:8, | 107:16, 107:18, | 136:11, 136:13, | yeas [4]-157:19, |
| 87:13, 122:14 | 108:3, 108:11, | 137:3, 137:18, | 158:9, 158:17, |
| West [6]-1:8, 19:2, | 108:12, 108:13, | 139:12, 147:12, | 158:18 |
| 19:9, 71:3, 81:23, | 108:15, 108:18, <br> 109:3, 109:13 | 159:18, 161:17, | yesterday [2] - 86:7, |
| 147:6 | 109:3, 109:13, <br> 109:15, 109:18, | 161:23, 162:2, | $165: 18$ |
| whatnot [2]-53:1, 126:25 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 109:15, 109:18, } \\ & \text { 109:21. 109:24. } \end{aligned}$ | $175: 14,178: 12$ | you-all [3] - 161:11, |
| 126:25 | 109:21, 109:24, <br> $110 \cdot 4,110 \cdot 10$ | wooden [3] - 177:22, | 161:12, 161:19 |
| whatsoever [1] - 76:7 <br> wheel [2] - 113:21, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 110:4, 110:10, } \\ & \text { 110:15, 110:19, } \end{aligned}$ | 178:22, 180:12 | yourself [2] - 131:4, <br> $183 \cdot 12$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { wheel }[2]-113: 21 \text {, } \\ & 114: 17 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 110: 15,110: 19, \\ & 110: 24,111: 12, \end{aligned}$ | word [1] - 117:7 <br> words [1] - 172:20 |  |
| white [1]-147:7 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 111:21, 113:2, } \\ & \text { 113:11, 113:16, } \end{aligned}$ | works [3] - 9:6, | Z |
| whole [18]-9:5, |  | 142:18, 155:22 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 16: 25,20: 17,22: 3 \\ & 55: 12,59: 4,62: 14 \end{aligned}$ | 114:11, 115:9, | world [2] - 8:8, 169:23 | Z-4759 [1] - 160:1 |
| $55: 12,59: 4,62: 14$ $71: 11,77: 22,84: 4$ | 116:14, 116:22, | World [1] - 109:11 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { zoning [3] - 178:16, } \\ & \text { 178:18 } \end{aligned}$ |
| $93: 25,106: 8,$ | 117:9, 117:13, | worldwide [1] - 68:11 worth [6]-76:12, | Zoning [2] - 90:15, |
| 138:17, 148:23, | 117:14, 117:18, | $85: 5,85: 10,85: 12$ | 159:24 |
| 149:16, 163:11, |  | 89:6, 89:9 |  |
| $168: 23,169: 5$ |  | wound [1] - 6:16 |  |
| wholesale [9] - 103:2, | $\begin{aligned} & 121: 13,121: 14, \\ & 121: 16,121: 19 \end{aligned}$ | wrap [2]-89:1, 108:23 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 107:1, 107:9, 111:3, } \\ & \text { 126:22, 135:5, } \end{aligned}$ | 123:7, 123:16, | write [1] - 166:23 |  |
| $\text { 135:7, 135:24, } 136: 4$ | $124: 3,124: 5,124: 9$ | writing [2]-142:5, |  |
| wide [3]-22:16, | 124:15, 124:24, | written [7]-40:22, |  |
| $23: 17,28: 4$ | $\begin{aligned} & 126: 22,127: 15, \\ & 127 \cdot 23 \quad 128 \cdot 6 \end{aligned}$ | 54:14, 55:2, 71:19, |  |
| width [9]-23:12, | 128:10, 129:10, | 141:22, 175:2, 176:4 |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 23: 13,24: 1,32: 9 \\ & 33: 4.33: 20.33: 21 \end{aligned}$ | 129:11, 129:16, | wrote [1] - 23:10 |  |
| $34: 10,35: 17$ | 129:20, 129:22, | wrought [6] - 161:13, |  |
| willing [4] - 21:3, 29:3, | 129:24, 130:1, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 161:17, 162:2, } \\ & \text { 175:12, 180:19, } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| $29: 21,151: 15$ | $130: 14,130: 20$ | 175:12, 180:19, 181:16 |  |
| window [39]-24:2, | 130:24, 131:5, |  |  |
| 48:14, 103:12, | $\begin{aligned} & 131: 6,132: 3, \\ & 133: 25.134: 5 \end{aligned}$ | Y |  |
| $103: 25,104: 24$ | 133:25, 134:5, | $Y$ |  |
| 107:1, 107:11, | 134:12, 136:8, 136:11, 136:12 | y'all [9]-4:12, 4:17, |  |
| 108:7, 108:8, 109:2, | 136:15, 136:18, | 8:15, 9:6, 10:7, |  |

