1	BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION	
2	OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD	
3	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CAI	JIFORNIA
4	In the Matter of Planning Commission	on Agenda Minutes
5		
6	Address:)
7	West Hollywood Park Public Meeting	Room)
8	625 N. San Vicente Boulevard)
9	West Hollywood, California)
10)
11	DATE OF MEETING: Nov	vember 17, 2022
12	PLANNING COMMISSION:	STAFF:
13	Stacey E. Jones, Chair	Jennifer Alkire, Planning Mgr.
14	Marquita Thomas, Vice-Chair	Adrian Gallo, Assoc. Planner
15	Rogerio Carvalheiro, Commissioner	Lauren Langer, City Attorney
16	Kimberly Copeland, Commissioner	Dereck Purificacion, Assoc. Pl
17	David Gregoire, Commissioner	Roger Rath, Associate Planner
18	Michael A. Lombardi, Commissioner	Joseph Heredia, B/S Permit Tec
19	Erick J. Matos, Commissioner	Isaac Rosen, Asst. Attorney
20		David Gillig, Secretary
21	And Public Speakers.	
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	I and the second	

Planning Commission Meeting

November 17, 2022

Jones:

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All right. Thank you everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started. The West Hollywood Planning Commission acknowledges that the land on which we gather and that is currently known as the City of West Hollywood is the occupied unseated seized territory of the Gabrieleno Tongva and Gabrieleno Kizh peoples. This Planning Commission meeting is being live broadcast and teleconferenced on the City's website and is also provided on a wide array of streaming media platforms to offer access to the public to the fullest extent possible. You may call in to make a comment and you may also listen into this meeting by dialing 669 900 6833, meeting ID 89195189124 and then press the pound sign. WeHo TV staff have confirmed that this Planning Commission Meeting is currently streaming successfully on Spectrum Channel 10 and online at WeHo.org/WeHoTV. In addition, and as a courtesy, this meeting is also successfully streaming on the City's You Tube Channel at Youtube.com/WeHoTV and on ROKU, APPLE TV, FIRE TV, and ANDROID TV. WeHo TV staff monitor this broadcast on all platforms throughout the

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73 to ask one of our fellow Commissioners to lead us 74 in the pledge. Vice Chair Thomas, would you be so 75 kind? 76 (Group Pledge of Allegiance) 77 Jones: Thank you for being game to do that. Item three is 78 roll call. David, can you please call roll for us? 79 Gillig: Good evening, Commissioners. Commissioner Matos. 80 Matos: Present. 81 Gillig: Commissioner Lombardi. 82 Lombardi: Present. 83 Gilliq: Commissioner Gregoire. Gregoire: 84 Present. 85 Gillig: Commissioner Copeland. 86 Copeland: Present. 87 Commissioner Carvalheiro. Gilliq: 88 Carvalheiro: Present. 89 Gillig: Vice Chair Thomas. 90 Thomas: Here. 91 Gilliq: Chair Jones. 92 Jones: Here. 93 Gillig: And we have a full quorum. 94 Jones: Thank you. Item 4 is approval of the agenda. This 95 is approval for the agenda of Thursday, November 96 3rd. Wait. I think that this is, I think this might

	be a misprint. Am I misguided here? I think this
	may have belonged under Item 5, approval of the
	minutes since we would have approved the agenda for
	the last meeting at the last meeting.
Gillig:	It would be for approval for Thursday, November
	17 th . That is a typo.
Jones:	Okay, great. Thank you. Just wanted to make sure
	I'm not, my eyes aren't deceiving me. In any case,
	it looks like we have a motion on the floor from
	Vice Chair Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Matos.
Gillig:	And the motion carries unanimously to approve the
	agenda for Thursday, November 17 th , 2022, as
	presented.
Jones:	Great. Thank you. Approval of the minutes. We have
	two items here that we will need to vote on
	separately. Item 5A, this is for the October 20 th ,
	2022, meeting. This is a court transcription, which
	is why I believe it took a little bit longer than
	usual. Do we have a motion and a second?
Gillig:	usual. Do we have a motion and a second? We have a motion by Commissioner Matos, seconded by
Gillig:	
Gillig: Gillig:	We have a motion by Commissioner Matos, seconded by
-	We have a motion by Commissioner Matos, seconded by Commissioner Gregoire.
	Jones: Gillig:

Great, thank you. Item 5B is the minutes for November $3^{\rm rd}$, 2022. This is from our meeting two weeks ago. We have a motion by Commissioner Matos, seconded by

We have a motion by Commissioner Matos, seconded by Chair Jones. Vice Chair Thomas? Thank you. And the motion is unanimous approving the minutes for November 3rd, 2022, as presented.

: Great, thank you. Item 6 is public comment. For any

of you who aren't familiar with the format, it's totally fine. We do it every two weeks here, but I don't expect every one of you to be intimately familiar so I'm going to quickly run you through kind of how this works. So, if you have a public comment that is not pertaining to one of the agenda items for tonight, one of the actual public hearings that we have, that would be 10A, 10B, or a new business item, 11A, you can give it at this time. But if you want to speak on one of those items, you should please give your name on a speaker slip to our secretary here, Mr. Gillig, sitting at the front. He's a lovely person. And you can enlist to speak during one of those periods. There will also be a general public comment portion at the end of the meeting. This is following all of

145 our public hearings and new business items. So again, this is a time for public comment that is 146 147 general feedback pertaining to things that are not 148 on our agenda for this evening. So, with that being 149 said, David, do we have any public speakers? 150 Gillig: Chair, I have no public speakers here in chambers. 151 We do have one on the Zoom platform. 152 Jones: Great. 153 Gillig: And I'll hand that over to Joe. 154 Joe: Yes. We do have one public speaker. It is Lynn 155 Russell. Lynn, please state your name and city of 156 residence and then star 6 to unmute, please. 157 Russell: Good evening, Chairman Jones, and fellow Planning 158 Commissioners. This is Lynn Russell in West 159 Hollywood. Although the City established a process 160 whereby buildings of potential cultural resource 161 considerations were to be examined, it appears 162 quite arbitrary and inconsistent. There are several 163 examples of arbitrary decisions. Most of whatever 164 steps taken by the city appear in somewhat of a 165 workstyle staff report and the documents do not 166 represent a clear, concise, and transparent 167 process. And in some instances, individuals and or 168 groups of residents have been unnecessarily

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burdened by the owners appeals when the chief point was inconsistency of procedure in addition to faulty information. There, I have a list to offer of five properties. They are not all the properties under this category, but it's at least five. 1257 North Switzer. And these are more completely discussed and characterized in the Staff Report. Number two is 1150 North Orange Grove Boulevard. The third, 8001 to 8003 Santa Monica Boulevard. Number four, 8000 Fountain Avenue. And lastly, 950 North Ogden, which never actually made it into a hearing or discussion, and it was the last remaining Dutch Colonial example in West Hollywood. As a result of inconsistent process and procedures, failing to receive a reasonable and transparent public review, the slow erosion of West Hollywood's historic and architectural path and culture is lost to erosion. Failure of the City to maintain even handed knowledgeable staff member, conversant in the essence of historic preservation element is avoidable. The sad results speak for themselves and are entirely preventable. West Hollywood inherited a wealth of historical cultural resources. It is very easy to note the outstanding examples, but it

193 takes a minimal amount of diligence to recognize 194 those in the fabric of the landscape, which 195 comprise varied neighborhoods in the community 196 representing a quality of life. Historical 197 preservation deserves to be regarded as a living, 198 breathing element in the community and not some 199 detached decorative artifact. I'm requesting that 200 you, that you increase your advocacy for correct 201 policy and procedures and possibly agenize this 202 subject for the future, which will hopefully be 203 respected in maintaining our cultural history. 204 Thank you so much. And I see we went through the 205 approval of the agenda, strangely the request for 206 continuance on the item of 1317 North Crescent 207 Heights Boulevard seems to have been strangely 208 ignored. So that is sad as well. Thank you so much. 209 Gillia: Thank you, Lynn. And Chair, I want to give, we have 210 several callers that have called in on Zoom. I just 211 want to give them an opportunity if they do want to 212 speak on a general comment to star nine. Star nine 213 from your telephone to let us know if you'd like to 214 speak under a general comment. And Chair, it looks 215 like we are all clear. 216 Great. Thank you very much. Item 7 is Director's Jones:

Report.

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Alkire: Mr. Keho was not available to be here this evening, so there will be no Director's Report.

220 Jones:

All right. Thank you. Item 8 is items from Commissioners. Do we have any items from Commissioners this evening? Okay. If you think of anything, we will have another one of these at the end. All right. Item 9 is consent calendar. We have none. Item 10A is public hearing, so we will have our first public hearing. Just to note, matter of procedure, because of some of the technical issues we've been having if any of you were here for our last meeting, we had some technical issues. We eventually had to end the meeting early so we're going to do a five-minute break between each one of the public hearings and then the new business items as well. So just so you know, just to make sure that everybody can participate via Zoom and that everyone has a view of our and your faces and everybody can hear everything that's going on. So, with that, Item 10A is our first public hearing. This is 511 North Flores Street. This is a public hearing to consider a request to subdivide a threestory, six-unit residential development into a

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common interest development and adopt a new categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA guidelines Section 15332 for the property located at the aforementioned address. And I will hand this over to staff for presentation.

Rath:

Thank you. Thank you. Good evening, Chair and Commissioners. My name is Roger Rath. I'm one of the Associate Planners with the Current and Historic Preservation Planning Team. And I will be presenting this item for you tonight. So, the item before you is a request for a general check map for the subdivision of the previously approved threestory, six-unit multifamily development. The subject property is located near the intersection of Flores Street and Rosewood Avenue in the R3-B zone, a medium density, multi-family residential zone. The lot is currently vacant. The six-unit multifamily development was administratively approved on April 22nd, 2021, and currently undergoing building and safety plan check review. The item tonight is for the subdivision request only. Since the development was already approved, the development itself including development standards and designs are not before you this

265		evening. It is staff's assessment that the
266		subdivision of this building would not be
267		detrimental to the public welfare and would not
268		impede implementation of the general plan nor the
269		purpose and intent of the provisions of the zoning
270		ordinance. Therefore, staff recommends that the
271		Commission approve the subdivision request subject
272		to the finding and conditions, condition of
273		approval set forth in the draft resolution. That
274		concludes my presentation. I'm available for any
275		questions you may have and the applicant I believe
276		is in the audience too.
277	Jones:	Thank you very much, Roger. Do we have any
278		questions for staff, Commissioner Matos?
279	Matos:	Thank you, Chair Jones. Good evening. I wanted to
280		see how long has this site sat vacant for.
281	Rath:	I can look that up. There's, we have a demolition
282		permit on file so let me just pull that up.
283	Matos:	I can ask a follow-up question.
284	Rath:	Yeah, sure.
285	Matos:	So, the follow-up question I had and there's only
286		two, would be has the applicant indicated if
287		they're going to lease or sell the condos with the
288		subdivision request?

289	Rath:	For that second question, I'll defer to the
290		applicant to reply to that. But in terms of the
291		development, or the demolition permit, I'm sorry,
292		that permit was issued back in October 16 th , 2018.
293		For the exact date of when the demolition started,
294		that should be deferred to the applicant as well.
295	Matos:	Okay. Thank you.
296	Jones:	Any other questions for staff about items contained
297		in the Staff Report at this time? No? If not, then
298		I will give the applicant an opportunity to, this
299		would be an opportunity to present as opposed to at
300		a regular public hearing. If you'd like to say
301		anything or to address any of the questions. After
302		that we'll do public comment then you have an
303		opportunity to rebut should you wish to. Yeah. You
304		would just need to come up please to the podium.
305		Just state your name, city of residence, and your
306		relationship to the project.
307	Poursartip:	Good evening. I'm -
308	Jones:	Oh, sorry. It's, I just want to make sure that you
309		know just please begin with that so everybody can
310		hear you.
311	Poursartip:	Good evening. My name is Farshid Poursartip. I'm
312		the project manager for this project. To answer

313 your question, the owner, the new owner bought this 314 property in 2019. That time it came with a permit 315 for 10 units, four-story building and it wasn't 316 financially feasible to build the building. So, 317 the, he decided to apply for new permit. And I 318 believe since 2019 this property is vacant. And 319 subdivision, I think at this point, they're not 100 320 percent sure, but they want to have the option if 321 they want to sell, they could sell the units. 322 Jones: All right. Thank you very much. I'll give an 323 opportunity if anybody wants to ask questions of 324 the applicant once they come up for rebuttal should 325 they wish to. David, so we're going to move into 326 public comment for this now. David, do we have any 327 public speakers on this item in the auditorium or 328 on Zoom? 329 Gillia: Chair, I received no public comment speaker slips 330 for this item in Chambers. If there's anybody on 331 the Zoom platform that would like to speak on this 332 item, please star 9 for me if you're calling in. If 333 you're on the Zoom platform, just simply raise your 334 hand. And Chair, it looks like we are all clear. 335 Jones: Okay. Okay, so at this time I'm going to keep the 336 public hearing open. Do we have any questions of

337 the, for the applicant from Commissioners at this 338 time? No? Okay. So, I'm going to go ahead and close 339 the public hearing. We can move into deliberation. 340 As a point of order, I need to make sure we do 341 disclosures at this time. I'm going to start from 342 left to right. Anybody have any disclosures? No? 343 All right. Great, thank you. So, we have a motion 344 on the floor. We have a second on the floor. We can 345 call the question. 346 Gillig: Thank you. Commissioner Carvalheiro moved it, 347 seconded by Vice Chair Thomas. And the motion 348 passes unanimously. We do have an appeal process 349 for this item. The resolution that the Planning 350 Commission approve memorializes the Commission's

seconded by Vice Chair Thomas. And the motion passes unanimously. We do have an appeal process for this item. The resolution that the Planning Commission approve memorializes the Commission's final action on this matter. This action is subject to appeal to the City Council. Appeals must be submitted within ten calendar days from this date to the City Clerk's Office. Appeals must be in writing and accompanied by the required fees. The City Clerk's Office can provide appeal forms and information about the waiver of fees.

Jones:

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Great. Thank you, David. So, as I mentioned before, we are going to take a quick five-minute break.

This is the opportunity for you to stretch your

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361 legs, stay where you are. There are restrooms 362 nearby. If you did park in the parking structure, 363 there is a way to validate your ticket. 364 (Off Record) 365 (On Record) 366 Jones: All right, everyone. Please take your seats. We're 367 going to go ahead and get, call the meeting back to 368 order. We were just on a break. Our next public 369 hearing is Item 10B. This is 1317 North Crescent 370 Heights Boulevard. This is a public hearing to 371 consider a request to demolish all existing 372 structures and construct a new five-story, 90-unit apartment building with 14 affordable units over a 373 374 subterranean parking garage and adopting a 375 categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA guideline 376 Section 15332 for the property located at the 377 aforementioned address. And I will hand the mic 378 over to our lovely staff. 379 Gallo: Thank you, Chair Jones, and Commissioners. I'm 380 Adrian Gallo with the City's Planning Division. On 381 the screen is an aerial view of the subject 382 property, sorry, which is located on the northwest

corner of Crescent Heights Boulevard and Fountain

Avenue. The property contains four buildings that

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house Temple Bethel, Neiman Hall, Saper Hall, and a school. These buildings were constructed between 1952 through 1968. The facility was extensively remodeled in 2000. The parking for the facility is located in two locations in the north lot of Neiman Hall and the lot across the street, Crescent Heights Boulevard east of the temple. The development in this area consists mostly of highdensity multi-family structures from two to three stories in height. The property was included in the City's historic resources survey for commercial properties completed in 2016 by GPA Consulting and received a 6Z status code. The GPA identified the site as a religious property and the National Park Services, National Park Service best practice quidance in evaluating properties for historic significance indicates that religious properties are only eligible if they have secular significance such as architectural artistic distinction or historical importance. The GPA concluded that the building lacked historical, I'm sorry, architectural distinction. Their research also indicated that Hollywood Temple Bethel was founded in the early 1920s and services were originally

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held at their first purpose-built synagogue at 1508 North Wilton Place in Los Angeles. Because this other existing property has a more significant association with the congregation and no other potential significant associations were identified, their expert analysis determined that the property was not eligible for designation at any level, local, state, or national. Staff also conducted research and found no evidence to contradict the findings. The proposal is a request to demolish the four buildings on the property in order to construct an approximately 120,000 square foot five-story 90-unit rental apartment building with 14 units of affordable housing. A total of 125 single parking stalls are contained within a subterrain garage of one and a half levels of access from a two-way driveway on the north side of the property. The project is also providing approximately seven on street parking spaces on Fountain, on the Fountain side of the new building, were currently there is a no parking zone. On the Crescent Heights frontage of the site, four additional on street parking spaces are provided. The sidewalk and parkway area will be widened to

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approximately 15 feet with a parkway along the entire length of the property frontage, allowing for greater pedestrian safety. For corner parcels, the front step back is measured from the side of the property that has the shortest frontage. In this case the front step back would be on Fountain Avenue and on the Crescent, and the Crescent Heights Boulevard would be the street side yard. The staff determined an alternate primary frontage for the site would be more appropriate. For this project, the Crescent Heights Boulevard frontage is considered the primary frontage as staff finds it aligns with the existing site conditions of the neighboring properties and also having Crescent Heights Boulevard as the primary frontage allows for optimal ingress and egress from the site. The applicant is requesting a reduction in the required front set back. The Planning Commission may grant deviations from required setbacks where the Planning Commission finds that the combination of height and setbacks or similar standards for code compliant development triggers requirements for lack of safety access methods that would conflict with city plans or policies. The minimal front

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setback for this site is 16 feet. The fire department is requiring a maximum distance of 30 feet from the edge of the parking lane on Crescent Heights Boulevard to the façade wall of the proposed apartment building for fire apparatus access. This distance allows for a 6-foot 2 front setback. This is the minimum extent necessary for the fire department to safely access the building without having to create a new fire lane or to avoid the conflict of city, to avoid the conflict with city requirements. Because the project provides 14 affordable dwelling units, the project is utilizing a 35 percent density bonus and qualifies for up to three concessions. The applicant is requesting only one concession, an additional 7 and a half feet of height adding one additional story to bring that allowed building height to 52 feet, 6 inches and five stories. This project has been reviewed and is consistent with the city's affordable housing requirements and the city's housing division supports the units as proposed. The affoerdable units will be assigned as part of the inclusionary unit agreement. The project complies with all the standards for the

multifamily development, for multifamily residential development and the applicable requirements from the zoning code. At this point, I'd like to ask Rick Abramson, the architect, to speak about the project design.

Abramson:

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Good evening, Chair and Commission. Rick Abramson, City Architect. This project reflects so many of the values of the city for new high-density housing. We really appreciated the applicant's openness during the process, to hear comments at design review, and staff comments along the way, and make revisions that, you know, we feel are quite positive. At the urban design level, offering and pulling the building back along Fountain creating parking that doesn't exist, acknowledging more loading and package delivery and other types of delivery needs, they've created not only a special room to accommodate that, but even within the onsite parking, they've also thoughtfully integrated that. They've looked at the corners and how this project might fit in, both across the street to the east, which is a project the Commission approved within the last year, but also looking at La Fountaine to the south, having a very

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carefully calibrated relationship between the level of the courtyard on that project and this project, really thinking beyond the property lines themselves inciting a new building. The project also integrates many, many different types of common space, which is not what we have been seeing lately. There are a variety of roof decks at different levels. There are, in addition to the main courtyard with the pool at ground level, interior rooms, a yoga studio, little theater space, really thoughtfully integrated spaces for the residents who are living in a sort of larger density situation at all scales. So, I think that's to be commended as well. And it's something that I think hopefully going forward more applicants will follow that lead. With respect to the parking, they've pulled back from the property lines, which again, is not the norm. They've created a substantial native soil band along Crescent Heights, which now affords the opportunity to create many canopy trees, and pollinator plantings. Another very much appreciated move. I think overall the material pallet is quite good. They are using plaster as a tertiary material, which, you know, we

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kind of discourage. But if it's going to be used in a tertiary way, that's fine, although we would suggest that the plaster be an eco-lime plaster, so that might be something the applicant can address when they present the project. There's also been an integration of solar panel arrays, which are addressing, you know, energy consumption and energy demand in a very positive way. The private open space is not just provided but thoughtfully integrated for the most part through recessed decks, which provide an indoor-outdoor protected space and intend to be quite useful, more so than projecting balconies. So, for everyday living, they also provide a lot of through ventilation which helps to reduce the demand on energy as well. Other, other smaller gestures, they've been very thoughtful about recessed entries and operable windows to increase the ventilation. And even within the units themselves, this applicant team is providing some areas for home office pods, which again is something as a staff we're strongly encouraging, acknowledging that going forward more and more people are teleworking and the old days of just well, convert a bedroom. You know, we have to

think more strategically. So, in this case to actually allow some alcoves and other spaces that can be dedicated to working from home I think is very thoughtful. So overall from a design perspective, we feel that this project really embodies so many of the goals for the city going forward and we really appreciate the sort of collaborative nature that the applicant took with this one and the subcommittee. Thanks.

Gallo:

Providing, sorry, affordable housing is a key goal to the city and proposed project will provide 14 new affordable housing units within a new apartment building. Staff believes that the concession requested through the state bonus density law helps facilitate a viable project without creating significant impacts on the environment. The project's architectural and urban design elements will significantly enhance the streetscape and improve pedestrian activity along Crescent Heights Boulevard and Fountain Avenue. As designed, the project will become a new urban landmark that is a contextual and appropriately scaled solution for the site that will enhance the quality of life in this area of the city. The project as proposed and

577 subject to the requested concession allowed under 578 state density and local law, complies with applicable, objective general plan and zoning 579 580 standards and staff is recommending approval of the 581 project. Thank you and I'm here to answer any 582 questions you may have. 583 Jones: Great. Thank you. Do we have any questions for 584 staff about items contained in the Staff Report? 585 Commissioner Matos, please go ahead. Commissioner 586 Copeland, you're next. 587 Thank you, Chair Jones. Good evening. I have a Matos: 588 couple of questions. I notice that in the staff 589 report, the inclusionary units, which for everyone 590 in the audience are the affordable units that are 591 included in the project is 14 of them, didn't 592 indicate the number of bedrooms that each very low 593 income and moderate-income inclusionary units would 594 have. Do we have an idea of what we are looking for 595 out of that? 596 Gallo: I spoke to housing before the meeting, and they 597 would require nine one bedrooms and five two 598 bedrooms. 599 So that's nine one bedrooms and five two bedrooms? Matos: 600 Gallo: Correct.

601 Matos: Okay. Is there a need or opportunity for this 602 Commission to consider memorializing that in the 603 resolution? 604 We can add that to the Commission's 3.1 if you Gallo: 605 wish. 606 Matos: Okay. Wonderful. And then my next question is I'm 607 looking at Exhibit C, specifically page 1, A100. 608 And I'm seeing there was an illustration that you 609 placed earlier where there was a setback of around 610 100 feet, or I mean I'm sorry, 30 feet from the 611 front of the project to the parking lane. Wondering 612 if you could explain that 30 feet and what the 613 purpose of that is? 614 Gallo: So, the fire department requires no more than 30 615 feet from the edge of the outside parking space to 616 the front of the building. So, in this case, that 617 means that the required setback for the property 618 would be, end up being 6 foot 2. The determination 619 on the front setback on normal projects is, the 620 average of the properties to the north of this. In 621 this case, the average came out to 16 feet, so 622 there's a conflict there. In this case, because of 623 the fire department requirement, we have to land on 624 the fire department requirement of 30 feet, which

625		produces a setback of 6 foot 2.
626	Matos:	Has the fire department weighed in on the ability
627		to start the 30-foot setback from the curb rather
628		than 8 feet from the curb?
629	Gallo:	In recent projects they have taken that approach
630		where they've measured it from the curb face.
631	Matos:	Okay. And then what, if, if they were to measure it
632		from the curb face, where would that put the front
633		set back requirement with that 30 feet in mind?
634	Gallo:	That would add 8 feet to the 6 foot 2 to bring it
635		to 14 foot 2.
636	Matos:	Okay. My next question is you had mentioned the
637		average setback for the surrounding properties,
638		what was the average setback?
639	Gallo:	Sixteen feet.
640	Matos:	Okay. And is there an opportunity for us to
641		consider and do outreach to the fire department in
642		advance of plan check to examine utilization of the
643		30-foot setback from the parking lane versus the
644		curb?
645	Gallo:	We can do that.
646	Matos:	Okay. And that's all I have for now. Thank you.
647	Jones:	Thank you. Commissioner Copeland, please go ahead.
648	Copeland:	Thank you, Chair. As far as design, what about the
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649 western side of the property bordering Havenhurst? 650 Or what measures are in place on the design to 651 lessen any quality-of-life impacts on those 652 neighbors in these smaller buildings on Havenhurst 653 that the rooftop decks and so forth would be 654 looking down on? 655 Abramson: Thank you, Commissioner. The west side is the least 656 resolved, I would agree with that. I think with the 657 discussions we had had with the applicant was 658 encouraging using landscaping, especially some tree 659 canopies to help buffer that relationship to the 660 westerly properties because that is where the 661 tallest building component would be in that 662 northwest corner. And that there is perhaps some 663 opportunities to integrate some plantings that 664 would help with that. 665 Copeland: So, there's nothing set right now as far as that, 666 that border for that, for that purpose? 667 Abramson: I think we can let the applicant maybe address 668 that. Maybe other things they might consider. Okay. The other questions I have are just a couple 669 Copeland: 670 of questions to clarify about the historic resource 671 assessments done in 2016. Were these done on these 672 buildings individually? And most specifically, was

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Alkire:

done or was this strictly a commercial survey done for the site as a whole, collectively? So, in this case we are relying on the survey that was done in 2016 for nonresidential buildings. The conclusions that were reached in that survey are considered substantial evidence to support the conclusion that we made. The historic resource assessment requirement has been in place for buildings that are, were evaluated in a survey that is older than, that what we would typically rely on. So, for a lot of our multifamily buildings that were analyzed by a survey in 2008 or that don't, or that were never assessed via survey or do not have a status code associated with them, then we would require the individual HRA or Historic resource Assessment for those buildings so that we have that information. But anything that has a survey that is still in good standing like the 2016 commercial survey, we would go ahead and rely on that information.

a cultural resource assessment for the synagogue

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Copeland: Okay. So, we don't know specifically if that, that synagogue was, as far as a cultural resource designation specifically reviewed on its own for

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697		that -
698	Alkire:	Yes. It was evaluated -
699	Copeland:	It was?
700	Alkire:	as part of that survey given a status code of 6Z
701		which means it's not eligible at any level.
702	Copeland:	Okay. So that wasn't just for the whole site, that
703		was for - that one individually was also -
704	Alkire:	It was, it was for the site but as part of the site
705		they look at each of the buildings on the site.
706	Copeland:	Okay.
707	Alkire:	So, yes, it was.
708	Copeland:	And, and the documentation, is that available for,
709		for public and, and Commission review including the
710		Parks and Rec Forms that state each is ineligible
711		for designation as a state or local cultural
712		resource and why?
713	Alkire:	Yeah. All of the information for all of our
714		historic preservation surveys and information is
715		available at Wehopreservation.org.
716	Copeland:	So, does, that information should be -
717	Alkire:	Uh-huh (AFFIRMATIVE).
718	Copeland:	available there?
719	Alkire:	It should be there. Uh-huh (AFFIRMATIVE).
720	Copeland:	But it's just not in our, our packet specifically?

721 Okay. I think that's the only questions I have 722 right now, but there could be some later. Thank 723 you, Chair. 724 Thank you. Commissioner Gregoire, I saw your hand Jones: 725 go up. Please go ahead. 726 Gregoire: I notice the pool is in the front of the building. 727 I was just curious about that. That's not common to 728 see that. Is there anything in our, our code that 729 speaks to that? Is there any requirement for 730 privacy or -731 Gallo: There's no requirement for privacy in our code. 732 Okay. I'm correct that I did note that there's no Gregoire: 733 guest parking provided for the building. Am I 734 correct that under state law we're not allowed to 735 require guest parking? 736 Gallo: Correct. 737 Gregoire: Were there discussions with the applicant about any concerns about the lack of guest parking? I also 738 739 noted in the staff report that there's, it's a 740 permit parking zone and the residents of this 741 building won't have access to that permit parking 742 zone. I was wondering if there had been any 743 discussions about troubles that the residents will 744 have with guest parking?

745	Gallo:	The condition placed on the project allows them to,
746		the tenants of the building to apply for a visitor
747		passes but not for parking permits that allow them
748		to park for an extended period of time on the
749		streets. That's a condition we placed on newer
750		developments to try to alleviate the burden of, of
751		the streets that are impacted by parking for the
752		existing buildings that are there now.
753	Gregoire:	Okay. Thank you.
754	Jones:	Thank you, Commissioner Gregoire. Commissioner
755		Lombardi?
756	Lombardi?	Thank you, Chair.
757	Jones:	Go ahead.
758	Lombardi:	My questions have actually already been asked, but
759		maybe just to get some clarification on one of
760		them. With regards to the fire lane and that 30-
761		foot setback. Is there precedent that that 30-foot
762		dimension has been carried from the curb on other
763		projects? And my chance do we
764	Gallo:	Martel and Detroit have taken advantage of that.
765	Lombardi:	Okay.
766	Gallo:	We've taken advantage of that.
767	Lombardi:	Okay. Thank you.
768	Jones:	Sorry. I'm having some issues with my microphone.

769 Vice Chair Thomas, did you have a question? Please 770 go ahead. 771 Okay, thank you. Thank you, Chair. My guestion Thomas: 772 around historic preservation has been answered. For 773 the public, could you please speak a little bit 774 about the Housing Accountability Act, what it means 775 for projects in the city and under what conditions 776 a project can be denied? 777 Rosen: Chair Thomas, so a Housing Accountability Act 778 project means the city has made a finding as part 779 of the recommendation that the project complies 780 with all objective development design and 781 subdivision standard in the city's code. And as a 782 result, that means that a body hearing a Housing 783 Accountability Act Project would be limited to 784 denying that housing project only if they made 785 findings based on substantial evidence that there 786 was a specific adverse impact that's citable in 787 terms of being able to be located and, and cited 788 within local or state authority that would be a 789 specific adverse impact on the public health and 790 safety. And this is a HAA project? 791 Thomas: 792 Rosen: Correct. It qualifies as an HAA project as

793		residential units only. And based on staffs'
794		determination it is consistent with the objective
795		applicable standards within the City's code.
796	Thomas:	Thank you.
797	Jones:	Questions for staff? No? Any other questions for
798		staff at this time? Okay. So, before we call the
799		applicant up to give their presentation, I just
800		want to ask for any disclosures at this time. Do I
801		have any disclosures? Do we have any disclosures?
802	Matos:	Yes.
803	Jones:	Commissioner Copeland, please go ahead.
804	Copeland:	I did speak with residents about matters contained
805		in the staff report and I did visit the site on a
806		few occasions. That's it. Thank you.
807	Jones:	Thank you.
808	Matos:	Chair Jones, I also spoke with members of the
809		public, residents of the city, about this, matters
810		contained in the staff report, and I also did a
811		site visit.
812	Jones:	Great.
813	Carvalheiro:	Same.
814	Lombardi:	Same here.
815	Jones:	Same. I also live a block and a half away from the
816		site, so I literally drive by it every day. Okay.

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All right. Well, with that we will go ahead and call the applicant up to give their presentation. They will have ten minutes to speak. We will then do public comment. We will then have the applicant able to rebut and then we will move into deliberation. Hi.

Tighe:

Good evening, Chair Jones, Vice Chair Thomas, and Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to present this new building for the City of West Hollywood. My name is Patrick Tighe. My firm is Tighe Architecture and it's a pleasure to be here tonight and a privilege to work on this job. We've been working on this building for many years. Kervin is with me seven years to be exact. So, it's wonderful to be here tonight at this point. The project has gone through many iterations, and we are proud to present the latest one to you. I want to thank Planning, especially Adrian Gallo, the City Architect, Rick Abramson, for their input. Also, the Design Review Subcommittee has provided us great feedback that we've incorporated in the design. And thanks to the neighborhood groups that have voiced their thoughts along the way. 1317 Crescent Heights is a new multi-family building to

be built on this prominent corner. As stated in the staff reports, it's 90 new homes for the community, 15 of which are allocated as affordable for a total of 14 affordable units. Seven are very low, and 7 are designated as moderate. There will be 125 parking spaces. The building is designed to fit within the context of its surroundings. The scale and the character of the building are reflective of the neighborhood. The building is pulled away from the street at the corner, providing generous outdoor spaces that are both public and private. The landscape area is extended from the corner 200 feet in one direction along Crescent Heights and 100 feet in the other direction along Fountain. The proposed landscaped corner responds to the corner conditions of the adjacent properties. The La Fountaine Building is similarly pulled back from its corner as is the new proposed project on 1300 Crescent Heights across the street. So, all three sites with their open corner conditions combine to create a larger urban landscape gesture at this prominent intersection. So, it's important to us that the landscape play a very important role in this project, and we really wanted to feature

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landscape in a genuine way, not just as a token. This diagram shows the relationship of the La Fountaine Building. It was important to us to make a strong connection. It's a beautiful building. So, we did so by elevating the amenity portion, the pavilion of our own project. So, the outdoor spaces of the two projects align and speak to each other. From the outdoor space of La Fountaine you can see over and through the site at Crescent Heights across the way. We also employed a landscape strategy called the Ha-Ha. That's where we raise the terrace of the courtyard above the street. The fence is located at the lower level at the sidewalk and integrated heavily with the landscape. So, there's a physical barrier for security, but, provided, but it's, but the visual connection is also maintained. The public and the private realms are separated, but at the same time they're very much connected. These drawings talk about the native soil. The subterranean, as Rick mentioned, the subterranean levels are pulled away from the street allowing for the opportunity for the plants and trees to be planted in the native soil. Ultimately the landscape can achieve mature growth

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that will add to the idea of a fully integrated landscape design. This outdoor amenity contributes to the city's larger goals regarding native soil enrichment and providing an urban habitat for wildlife propagation. The landscape architecture firm Gray Green with whom we are working as an expert on these types of environments. A series of diagrams that talk about the massing. This shows the maximum allowable massing after the setback. So, this is what could be built on the site. We propose an L shape configuration, pushing the building back away from the street creating a huge courtyard. A cut is also provided to further break the volumes to allow for fire access. The circulation through the building is open air and open at all ends. The building has two front elevations, one at the highest part of the site at Crescent Heights and one at the lowest portion at Fountain. The building is terraced from one end of the slope site to the other. The building is a composition of voids within the overall massing that are defined by the private outdoor spaces that are required of each unit. So, this is a render that shows the building at Crescent Heights. As I

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mentioned the courtyard sits high above the street and serves as a buffer between the building and the street. Generous landscape is integrated into the design providing more that the required outdoor open space. We're required to have 2,000 square feet of open space and we have almost 20,000. The main entrance of the building is accessed through the courtyard. This building shows, this render shows the building at the corner. As I mentioned, the building is pushed away from the intersection. This transparent volume floats above the landscape at the corner of the lot. This pavilion houses the shared amenities for the residents. So inside there there's common spaces, gym, meeting rooms, etcetera. This is an up-close render of the same corner and I just want to emphasize the integration of the landscape; the building is just enveloped with the landscape. And it was also considered, important that we consider the underside of this pavilion because as you can see, it almost becomes like a fifth elevation. So, we propose kind of an art piece, we call it the ripple effect. It's just an idea at this point, but the idea that this image reflection of water is emblazoned on the other side

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of the underside surface of the pavilion. We also wanted to design the lighting in a way to reinforce that. So, as you can see from the diagram, the columns are lit from below and the columns are inset into the volume and there's an opportunity for lighting at the top and the bottom. This aerial render shows that same piece, the elevated bar. The bar gives an identity to the building and as I mentioned, contains the amenities for the residents. So, from that there's easy access down to the courtyard and up to the rooftop gardens. The pavilion is wrapped with an exterior screening device. So, this is just a program diagram that shows two levels of parking, 125 parking spaces below 90 units of stacked and terraced apartments and then multiple outdoor roof decks are provided. Parking levels, 125 parking spaces. The vehicular entry is located off of Crescent Heights, far away from the busy intersection. And then the entry to the building at this, at this level is located off of Fountain. We worked closely with the city and Athens to locate the trash room, the compactor, the adjacent loading area, all having direct access to the street. That was important to the city. The

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ground level plan shows the building wrapping around the courtyard, the main entry to the building is within the courtyard. There's lots of amenities for the residents also located at the ground level along the courtyard. And then outdoor amenities that include swimming pool and spa. And yes, they are located at the front of the building, but as I mentioned, the way it's designed, it's completely private and away from view from the public. The second level shows a variety of onebedroom and two-bedroom units. The circulation as a mentioned is open air allowing for natural light and ventilation. The third and fourth floor levels show multiple outdoor terraces again. And then at the fifth, the mezzanine levels, are multiple townhomes and more outdoor spaces. Durable and sustainable materials are used throughout cast (UNINTELLIGIBLE) concrete is located at the ground level integrated with the landscape. The façade consists of various metal panels. As Rick mentioned, we do have smooth plaster and exposed CMU, but they're only used in tertiary areas so they're not a primary building material. This is the east elevation. The fenestration of the

building is a pattern of voids within the overall massing and the voids are a direct result of the private, outdoor space requirements of each of the units. The elevated pavilion at the corner is a glass volume, wrapped with an exterior screen and stands in contrast to the, to the white volume. The west elevation is a simple terrace massing of solids and voids and we do have ideas for planting this edge just to, to create a barrier between the two properties. The north, the north elevation shows recessed outdoor spaces rendered in color to offset the white building. And in all the elevations the white, red, metal panel provides texture and pattern. South elevation of Fountain shows a variety of different window types with surrounding fence and then again, the transparency of the elevated pavilion stands in contrast to the white volume. Go through the landscape quickly. The landscape pallet consists of a series of environmentally friendly drought tolerant plants and trees. An urban habitat for us is a natural setting for both flora and fauna along with paving patterns, planters, BBQ areas, outdoor furniture. That completes the courtyard. And then again, new

1009 trees will be provided in the parkways to add to 1010 the existing. Landscape at the upper levels comes 1011 in the form of multiple outdoor terraces and then 1012 at the rooftop more outdoor terraces. This is a 1013 render that shows the rooftop terrace from the 1014 fifth level with views opening up to La Fountaine 1015 across the way in the city. 1016 Gillia: And Patrick your time has expired. 1017 Tighe: Okay. I, could I just finish my last slide? One, 1018 two seconds? Is that okay? 1019 Two seconds. Jones: 1020 Okay. Last one. So, 1317 Crescent Heights when Tighe: 1021 complete will provide 90 new homes for the 1022 community. With the abundance of landscape and with 1023 the generous amounts of open space, we feel will 1024 provide nice relief at this busy intersection. 1025 We've enjoyed working with everyone on this project 1026 and we really look forward to continuing to make 1027 this a truly successful project. And we welcome 1028 your comments. Thank you so much. 1029 Jones: Thank you. Okay. Let's hold questions for the 1030 applicant until after the rebuttal. Thanks very 1031 much. We're going to move into public comment now. 1032 David, can you let me know how many public speakers

1033 we have? 1034 Chair, at this time I'm showing a total of 13 in Gilliq: 1035 chambers, and we have a couple on Zoom. 1036 Jones: Okay. So, 15 total. 1037 Gillig: 1038 Okay. Great. Jones: 1039 (Background talking) 1040 Jones: I think I'm going to select another time for the 1041 update. These pesky notifications always show up at 1042 the absolute worst times. Okay. We have a lot of 1043 people here who want to speak tonight, both people 1044 you can see here in the auditorium and people that 1045 you can't. And I do want to make sure that everyone 1046 gets a chance to speak, whether it's on this side 1047 or the next. Because I gave the applicant a little 1048 bit more time, I'm inclined to give everyone on the 1049 phone or who is chambers right now the full three 1050 minutes. You can, we're going to start with Zoom or 1051 in auditorium, David? Probably start with in 1052 person, right? 1053 Gillig: Yeah. I was going to start in person, but this is 1054 actually on our Granicus screen so but I'm not 1055 showing it. So, we can take the Zoom calls first. 1056 Jones: Okay.

1057 Gillia: And then we're going to chambers. 1058 Jones: Okay. For anybody who is on the phone, please state 1059 your name and city of residence. And again, you'll 1060 have three minutes. 1061 Joe: Yes. Our first speaker will be Lynn Hoopingarner. 1062 You have three minutes. 1063 Hi. Good evening, Commission. Can you hear me? Hoopingarner: 1064 Jones: Yes. 1065 Hoopingarner: Thank you. I just would like to compliment this 1066 developer and architect on a truly lovely project 1067 that incorporates so many of the goals of our city. 1068 Much like the architect's project across the street, this architect has worked really well with 1069 1070 our Urban Design Studio to accomplish a project 1071 that incorporates such lovely features as our 1072 courtyards that we're famous for in West Hollywood. 1073 But more importantly, related to that, it 1074 incorporates natural venting, native soils, 1075 recessed entries, operable windows, so many key 1076 elements. It actually has a full complement of 1077 parking plus some. And loading zones. How many 1078 projects have come before this Commission where 1079 there are no loading zones, there are no ride share 1080 drop off zones? This is so well thought out. I have

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a couple of questions that were already brought up about the 30-foot setback from the fire department. I think it's unfortunate that we're being inconsistent in our application of that 30-foot setback whether it's from the curb or not and it would be to me important that the Commission look at being consistent compared to projects already previously approved. And my only concern is that so much of this lovely project with all of that open space is landscaped, but the landscape plans unfortunately are extremely unresolved. They don't call out specific plants, they call an entire genus of plants such as a eucalyptus tree which incorporates, I don't know, 135 different species at least. And so, it would be my recommendation that this Commission incorporate a resolution that says that the landscape designs on this because they are so detailed and so large, be brought back to a design review approval prior to final permitting and thus making it a public process as there is so much here that really needs to be well defined. And what's presented to you is unfortunately not. I'm not clear as to why we aren't getting stamped landscaped plans in our, in

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1105 your packages, given that it's part of the 1106 application requirements. And I would agree about 1107 the inclusion of the proper number of bedrooms in 1108 terms of their size that are inclusionary being the 1109 resolutions and in fact that should be an ongoing 1110 item in all the resolutions. But this just shows 1111 the quality of projects that we can achieve in the 1112 city. And I know how much everybody struggles -1113 (Bell ringing) That have tried to put, you know, 20 pounds of 1114 potatoes in a five-pound sack. This does not. It is 1115 1116 so much better than that. Thank you. 1117 Joe: All right. Our next speaker will be Lynn Russell. 1118 Please state your name and city of residence and 1119 then star six to unmute. 1120 Russell: Good evening again. This is Lynn Russell, West

Good evening again. This is Lynn Russell, West Hollywood. I wanted to review what actually was the request for continuance of this item. There, there appears to be inaccuracies about the survey and the specifics about Temple Bethel situated at the 1305 parcel on the property. Although the property was reviewed in the commercial survey, it surprisingly received a 6Z code which does not seem realistic. And beyond the survey, the property of the stature

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architecturally and this religious facility, I couldn't disagree more with conclusions that they came up with. Rightly, but it rightfully deserves an individual cultural assessment, which theoretically makes it clear to the public at large and specifically surrounding area. This was not properly executed. It's hard for me to advocate for historic preservation and divide sentiments between that and the project design. But this is the way it's going. Perhaps in due, excuse me. The request should rightfully give a transparent review of the property and make it available to the public. It should therefore have come before the Historic Preservation Commission first. Inconsistent policy only serves to bring more questions as to the accuracy and validity of the process itself presumably put in place for clarity and understanding by the public. Rightful protection of our heritage is an important aspect for every evolving community, but the process should be thoughtful, accurate, and not lacking in integrity. I do hope you will tonight question the manner in which this landmark is viewed to be erased through potentially faulty assessment. And you also have

the opportunity to continue these proceedings until such documents actually are presented and be crystal clear about the points. Lastly, I would suggest that the Commissioners might be interested in reading Jane Jacob's fine book called The Life and Death of Great American Cities. Well, West Hollywood is certainly not one of the great cities, it actually could be a respectful proponent of the Modaic (UNINTELLIGBLE) Los Angeles. And lastly my comment echoing part of Lynn HoOpingarner's comments regarding the landscape, I too before I was conflicted over the historic preservation, had many thoughts about the landscape. And the need and the erasure of the trees that are there. But I really would question as a follow-up from conversations I've had with the, with Rick Abramson

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(Bell ringing)

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Joe:

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Regarding the fire department's rules and regulations about these trees that are spoken of in this yet unresolved plan that Lynn Hoopingarner questioned. Thank you so much.

Our next speaker is ending in the phone number of 2907 followed by the next speaker ending in 9751.

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1178 | Burns:

Please state your name and city of residence.

Yes. Good evening. My name is Richard Burns, City of El Monte. I'm with the Southwest Carpenters. Would like to put down for the record that the city should require the project to be built with contractors that were hired locally, pay prevailing wages, and utilize an apprentice, apprentices from state certified apprentice training programs. A workforce requirement reduces construction related environmental impact while benefitting the local economy and workforce development. The South Coast Air Quality Management District recently found that local hire can result in a air pollution reduction and to finish, recently the state of California made its commitment towards encouraging workforce development and housing affordability through the Affordable Housing and High Road Job Act of 2022, otherwise known as Assembly Bill Number 20-11, which requires projects pay workers a prevailing wage and hire from state certified apprenticeship programs for projects meeting certain types of affordable, affordability and development standards. Thank you very much for your time. That concludes my comments.

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Yes. The speaker for, ending in 9751 please state your name and city of residence and star six to unmute yourself.

Wendel:

Thank you so much. This is Jamie Francis Wendel, 1435 Havenhurst Drive, the street adjacent to Crescent. I'd like to make a point that us residents on Havenhurst Drive, we are the recipients of a lot of thru traffic, a lot of air pollution because we're dealing with multiple developments that are part of the Sunset Specific plan and commercial corridor but also Crescent Heights. And people knowing that there's new construction will deter and come up and down our streets. Our streets are basically being impacted everyday with drivers who are inconsiderate and people who are impatient. I agree we need a building that is considerate of the needs of city, especially affordable housing. The city is really subpar when it should of implemented affordable housing program. With the previous speaker, now we have to follow the guidelines of the state and the county that say that West Hollywood, depending on the population and the workforce housing needed low-income housing needed. I have to say that I'm

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residing in affordable housing building, one of the very few in this area. But I am adamant about the pollution and the South coast air quality that, you know, just to assess what the environmental impact will be in regards to our neighborhood. If you think we are adjoining building, we're all apartment complexes practically, with the exception of those converted to condominiums or new buildings. But we are older buildings, primarily that would be impacted. With this magnitude and scope of this building. And you have to keep that in mind and consideration. I live towards, closer to Sunset and we're dealing with the 8150 project that's (UNINTELLIGIBLE) right now and also the new hotel that's now going to be called the Harbor. And now this on Crescent Heights. Our street will be severely impacted, as residents our quality of life will be severely impacted and we want mitigating measures in place to make sure that we have a good quality of life and that we're not the ones giving the, you know, the, the anger and frustration of commuters along with other residents and stakeholders and people like tourists and people who do, go about their daily business in both the

1249		LA area and West Hollywood. It's imperative that
1250		you the Commission take these measures and put them
1251		in place so that we're not the ones that end up
1252		paying the consequence for a huge building that we
1253		do need, but it is appropriate for Crescent
1254		Heights. However, Haven Hurst, it is not.
1255	(Bell ringing)	
1256		Because you - thank you of your time because we are
1257		in residential zone. Thank you so much.
1258	Gillig:	Okay. That's our last public speaker on Zoom. We're
1259		going to transfer over to chambers. We can, I can,
1260		we can go ahead and take public speaking. On the
1261		screen it's a technical issue, but it's not
1262		affecting my screen that's for the timer so we can
1263		move forward or -
1264	Jones:	As long as, as long as the city attorney doesn't
1265		have any issues with us continuing.
1266	Langer:	As long as the broadcast is still going. Can you
1267		tell what is being seen on the broadcast?
1268	Gillig:	I believe so. Let me double check though.
1269	Langer:	Thank you.
1270	(Background tal	Lking)
1271	Gillig:	That's the thing, it's not showing up on my screen.
1272		Yeah. Yes. It is still live broadcast. Our first

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public speaker will be Norbert Weinburg followed by Barbara Protov. You will have three minutes. Please state your name and city of residence.

Weinburg:

Dear members of the Commission, I am Rabbi Norbert Weinberg. I'm Rabbi at Hollywood Temple Bethel, officially resident of Los Angeles, but working for the people of the community of West Hollywood. Hollywood Temple Bethel as a congregation is just now marking its 100th year. We have 100th year, 100year-old birthday boy here also, one of our dearest members who is also here this evening as well. I'm going to try to keep this pretty concise. You know that song they took paradise and made it a parking lot? That's just about the corner that's up on top of Sunset just a block above us. This plan is not a parking lot, I don't want to knock the architects, it's very nice. But you get the point about the historicity and the first caller that had spoken, Ms. Russel, talked about historic zone and questioned it. I wish they would have called me in 2016. I inquired with the city sometime after that and was told it had not been considered for historic preservation. My neighborhood we have a house up on, near Sunset, got into historic

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preservation and the Bethel building has many more elements than our street does. But that's how it goes. It is an art deco style front. It was on, used by tour, architectural tour organizations to demonstrate art deco. The building is later than art deco, but it was a classical style. It has Chagall inspired windows, very similar to the ones in Jerusalem that Marc Chagall did. And there are other very important elements that attest to the historicity. The synagogue itself founded by the great fathers of the film industry here, that's referenced in 1920 too where the first official synagogue is in effect. I wrote up a history. I gave it to the clerk, and I emailed on the comment form so the Commissioners can see the history. It's about a 50-page book that I put together that's going back Warner Brothers and Lenly and all these people. And then going down to the latest when I was still Rabbi actively in the 90's, which was the Screen Director's Guild Executive Secretary Joe Youngerman, who was responsible for getting the beautiful copper building up on Sunset. So, it's a continuous history with Hollywood and with the film industry. And then also as a home for refugees.

1321		First refuges, those were the refugees from the
1322		east coast of New York but then later on Holocaust
1323		survivors and I have here also then survivors from
1324		the refugees from the former Soviet Union. The
1325		Iranians, Jewish refugees, who also came to us as
1326		the Shah fell and officiated weddings and sadly
1327		also funerals for them. And on down until today.
1328		Very mixed audience we serve. People from a great
1329		variety of backgrounds. We want to be able to have
1330		something preserved. I don't want to dictate at
1331		this point, it's a long issue. We did not have time
1332		to really prepare for this, we only heard about it
1333		just like two weeks ago. And what we're really
1334		asking is for the committee to, the Commission to
1335		go and say let's postpone the -
1336	Jones:	I'm sorry, your time, you're past time.
1337	Weinburg:	I -
1338	Jones:	I know there's not a timer for you to look at. I'm
1339		sorry.
1340	Weinburg:	(UNINTELLIGIBLE) time. That's what we're asking
1341		for. Good point. Thank you. Thank you very much.
1342	Gillig:	Thank you Norberg. Barbara Protov followed by
1343		Rachel Aflalo. Apologies for the mispronunciations.
1344		Please state your name and city of residence.

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My name is Barbara Drotov. I'm a surviving child of the Holocaust. I have been a member of Hollywood Temple Bethel since 1960. Please, this is the only place, I'm 90 years old. I walk to the temple every Saturday or whenever they have something special. Please, please don't let demolish it and we have a lot of people, a few that are Holocaust survivors, and that's the only place we can walk. I walk every Saturday or whenever there is a holiday. Please make sure that you won't demolish it. I won't have to go, where to go. Please. I'm, please, please make sure that you don't let demolish the synagogue and build an apartment. I'm so upset that I can, I walk to the temple, but I'm so upset that they applied to demolish a synagogue where we have quite a few people that are coming to the synagogue. Please don't, don't let this happen. I'm very upset. Please make sure that you don't demolish our wonderful synagogue because there are people that won't have where to go on the, on the Sabbath and on the holidays. And a lot of people, not too many, Holocaust survivors that we come to the temple. Please make sure that you don't let destroy. It's a beautiful building and people are coming -

1369 Gillia: Twenty seconds. 1370 Drotov: We, if they don't have money to pay for the 1371 membership, they can come and please make sure that 1372 you don't demolish the synagogue. 1373 (Clapping) 1374 Gillig: Thank you, Barbara. Our next speaker will be 1375 Rachel. Rachel will be followed by Isaac Nikfar. 1376 Please state your name and city of residence. You 1377 have three minutes. Aflalo: 1378 My name is Rachel Aflalo from the City of West 1379 Hollywood. I've attended Hollywood Temple Bethel 1380 for many years. This is where I got married a long 1381 time ago. It's such an unbelievable historic 1382 structure. It's the synagogue with the founders of 1383 the old Hollywood started like Warner Brothers, Max 1384 Factor, Edward G. Robinson, and many other film 1385 stars. This is where it all started. There's so 1386 much significance to this beautiful Temple. I'm 1387 asking if you, some of you, they haven't seen the 1388 inside of this temple, to just pay a visit before 1389 you make any decisions. The stain glassed windows 1390 are unbelievable. And it's such a crime to destroy 1391 such a, such a building. West Hollywood will be 1392 losing a very precious temple. And we're asking for

1393 maybe an extension to give us more time to prepare 1394 because we didn't really know about this. This is going to happen. There was a sign on the side of 1395 1396 the building which nobody could even see. And we 1397 didn't know about it until about three weeks ago. 1398 So, if we can have maybe more time to look at some 1399 of the paperwork and decide among ourselves what, 1400 what position we can hold onto. So, I guess that's 1401 about it. And if you can reconsider to, you know, 1402 relook into this cause it would be a real, real 1403 terrible mistake to demolish this building. Thank 1404 you. 1405 Gillig: Thank you, Rachel. Our next speaker will be Isaac 1406 Nikfar followed by David Peake. Isaac, state your 1407 name and city of residence and you'll have three 1408 minutes. 1409 Nikfar: My name is Isaac Nikfar. I'm 14 years old. I've 1410 been a part of Hollywood Temple Bethel for ten 1411 years. For the past year I, they, I was going, I've 1412 been going to the temple every Saturday, working 1413 with broadcasting audio. Being there working, I've learned different responsibilities. Before I was 1414 1415 waking up late, just not doing very well and then

later on when I was with the Temple, I was starting

1417 to learn more responsibilities, waking up on time, 1418 and learning how to work. Yeah, and I have a 1419 brother that has, that couldn't make it today. He 1420 was also, he's also working with the temple. And 1421 our father was a part of the temple as well and he 1422 passed away. They welcomed us a lot. And I feel 1423 like if the temple was shut down it would just be 1424 very different for, like my life will be very 1425 different. And I think it would change my life a 1426 lot. That's it. 1427 (Clapping) 1428 Gillia: Thank you, Isaac. Our next speaker will be David 1429 Peake. David will be followed by Steve Bruscino. 1430

David, please state your name and city of residence. You have three minutes.

Peake:

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My name is David Peake. I live in West Hollywood. I don't have any objections to more housing, we need more housing. It looks like this project is very thoughtful. I was a little surprised when I heard that they were going to be demolishing the synagogue. They've been good neighbors. I live on Haven Hurst. I've lived there for 23 years. And my building backs up to the synagogue. It's a nice, quiet neighborhood. And I just want to give a voice

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too that if this project were to move forward that there, people are impacted. I mean I, when I say my building backs up to the property, I mean the back of my building, it's ten and a half feet from my back windows to this building. So, when the demolition or construction goes on for however long it may go on, you know, I have concerns about mitigation efforts for noise, dust. I work from home. I'll have to find something else to do, I mean to work someplace else. Not find another job or anything like that. It's an old building. There's no air conditioning, so my windows, I keep them open. Obviously, I won't be able to do that during the period of the demolition and building like I said noise. My building doesn't have any onsite parking so for 23 years I've had to park on the street, fight for parking. I know they said they're going to add parking on Crescent Heights. Of course, without guest parking for the residents, those will probably primarily be taken up by guest passes for their visitors. I also have concerns during the, however long it takes for this project, what will happen to that parking. When I, I say that because very often I have to park on Harper or

Crescent Heights because there's no parking on, on Havenhurst. So those were just a few things I just have concerns about. You know, how serious ligation efforts. Somebody earlier alluded to a project that's another jurisdiction I understand Townscape at the top of the hill. But the residents on Havenhurst that live up there, that was a nightmare for them, dust, damage to their buildings, noise. And so those are some concerns that I just wanted to put a voice to that to people that live adjacent to the property. But again, I don't want to equate my inconvenience to what it would be to this congregation of losing their synagogue. They're not equal so I don't want to, you know, try to say that my inconvenience is as grave as theirs. But there are other things. Yes, there will be traffic problems and things like that once it's completed. Again, I think the project was thoughtful. I do have concern about the height because on that west thing, I'm right up against that. I get very little sunlight as it is. I probably won't get any sunlight. So, anyway, thank you for your time. Thank you, Steve. I'm sorry, thank you. Steve Bruscino is our next speaker. We'll take Judith

Gillig:

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1489 Alcalay first and then Joseph. Joseph will be after 1490 Judith. 1491 Good evening. I know Hollywood Temple Bethel very Alcalay: 1492 well. My parents, my grandparents were members at 1493 the old location. And I began Hebrew school there 1494 at 8 years of age in 1963. It has always been an 1495 asset to the community. And we had very little 1496 notice of its demolition and we were shocked. So, 1497 one of the main things we'd like is a 90-day 1498 extension to have more time to discuss the matter 1499 among ourselves and see what our options are beyond 1500 what the wonderful speakers before me have already 1501 said. That is all I really have to say. I hope 1502 you'll honor our request and I thank you very much. 1503 Gillia: Thank you, Judith. Our next speaker will be Joseph. 1504 Yeah. Joseph, please give us your name and city of 1505 residence and you'll have three minutes. Right 1506 over, or right there. 1507 Alexander: This one? 1508 Gilliq: Yes. Right there. Yes. 1509 Alexander: My name is Joseph Alexander and I'm a member, 1510 resident of Los Angeles. I belong to the synagogue. The synagogue to me is more like almost like home. 1511 1512 I'm a member there for 58 years. My kids went to

1513		Hebrew school there. My daughter was bar mitzvah
1514		there, my son was bar mitzvah there. And this
1515		synagogue is a beautiful building, and I can't see
1516		to demolish something like this. It's unbelievable.
1517		So, what we need to do is try to save whatever we
1518		can and not let the building, destroy that
1519		building. That building is the same, the synagogue
1520		is the same age as my age. In three days, I'm going
1521		to be 100.
1522	(Clapping)	
1523		So, what I'm trying to say is let's try to save
1524		that building. And don't let it demolish. Okay.
1525		That's all I have to say.
1526	Gillig:	Thank you, Joseph.
1527	(Clapping)	
1528	Gillig:	Our next speaker will be Steve Bruscino followed by
1529		Lyudmila Pravdina. Sorry about that. Go ahead. You
1530		have three minutes.
1531	Bruscino:	Yes. Steve Bruscino, West Hollywood. I'm actually
1532		probably the newest member of the congregation here
1533		and I, I found them at a point in my life where I
1534		was mourning a death of somebody, and I was just
1535		walking around the street, and I saw a door open
1536		and I kind of walked in and they welcomed me in. I

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was not raised Jewish. I was raised as a Methodist and, but I was mourning the death of my mother. And this place just welcomed me with open arms. I can't explain it. I was scared. I was asking for forgiveness for everything I did wrong. And they kept letting me come back. These people are like, they're special. Like Joe is up here, Barbara, they're history. You know, I hear about Los Angeles and West Hollywood, they care about community. Community is people. It's not buildings. It's not courtyards. I would like to see the young lady over there's assessment about the synagogue itself. She said they did a windshield appraisal. I would like to see it in writing. But if we're just throwing out people out of buildings who just want to worship God, who are we, you know? It's sad. It's sad that a five-story building is worth more than our Rabbi who went through 12 camps. Or Barbara who never saw her mother, doesn't remember her because she had to run from, from Hitler. So, you know, and these people welcomed me off the street. I'm nobody. But, you know, I hear what the people who are, who are applying for this say that this is going to help community, you know, emergency funds

1561 and all that. But the synagogue has helped kids. 1562 They've raised Jewish kids year after year. How 1563 could you do better than that? Then 90 apartment 1564 buildings? Barbara was the head of the school. 1565 That's why she's emotional up here, she couldn't 1566 even speak because she helped kids. She raised kids 1567 from little things. She helped, she ran, she used 1568 to bring the kids here to the library to sing, you 1569 know. And I'm arguing for them, but I'm also 1570 arguing for you guys. How can you look God in the 1571 eyes when you tear down a synagogue? You can say 1572 it's for community or for modernity or whatever you 1573 want to say. It's wrong. And no matter what you 1574 say, no matter what statute you put in front of 1575 God, he's not going to care. He's just do the right 1576 thing please. Thank you. (Clapping)

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Gillia: Our next speaker is Lyudmila followed by Phillip

Mora. You have three minutes. Go ahead.

Pravdina: Good evening. My name is Lyudmila Pravdina. I'm a

refugee from Ukraine. Thirty-three years ago, I

came to this city. I fell in love with this city,

but the city changed, and people changed. And I

cannot imagine why is the last(UNINTELLIGIBLE)

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temple for Jewish people like I am, then another five-story building. First of all. Second, I'm a Chair of West Hollywood College Prep School. Everybody mentioned temple but no one mentions school. With 60 kids, 15 teachers, and parents. This school was founded more than 20 years ago, and we love this school. And this school teach good, good things. So, I cannot imagine that your Planning Commission will not take this into consideration. That we are in school. And Ukrainian refugee from today coming to this school on no, very low or no money to pay for education and care. So, I cannot imagine you will not take this into consideration because it's overdevelopment right now all over the city. I am living on Fountain Avenue. Been through all this construction things. We are impact with parking problems all over the city and besides all other problems. So once again, I'm here to represent 60 kids. If you demolish this school, 60 kids will not have home and 15 teachers will not have a job. So please think about this one more time and give us time too. We just found out this. We didn't know this; this was going to happen. And we did not get any help from City of

1609 West Hollywood. All these years we tried to because 1610 we living on the nations. We are a nonprofit 1611 school, but we never ask you for anything. We ask 1612 you right now. If you decide to go for it and 1613 demolish it, so please provide us some kind of help 1614 in terms of relocation or something else. We want 1615 to be here in West Hollywood. We are West 1616 Hollywood. We need schools here. We need kids go to 1617 school here, not reallocated to the valley. We have family here to raise. Not only single people, but 1618 1619 families. So please. Thank you. 1620 (Clapping) 1621 Gillig: Thank you, Lyudmila. Our next speaker will be 1622 Philippe Mora followed by Allen Nazarian. Allen, 1623 state your name and city of residence and you'll 1624 have three minutes. 1625 Mora: Good evening. My name is Philippe Mora. I'm a, I've 1626 been in, lived in West Hollywood around the corner 1627 from the synagogue for 42 years. All my kids went 1628 there. I'm a film director. I've made a lot of 1629 movies about racism and fascism. I've got five 1630 films that Yad Vashem, that are archived there. 1631 They're significant films. I can't believe this. I 1632 can't believe here. I can't believe I'm standing

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here defending in a synagogue in 2020. Has anyone read any, 2020 whatever it is, 2022, has anyone read any books? Has anyone ever heard of Kristallnacht where they burned down synagogues and what started then, race they kill people? It's a terrible thing. I'm emotional, I'm sorry about that, but I come from a long line of anti-fascist and resistance fighters against Hitler including my godfather Marcel Marseau and my own father. My mother just was, my mother had a state funeral in Australia two years ago for a Jewish woman, which was unbelievable. Australia is a very racist society and for them to give her a state funeral as an artist, that was unbelievable. Anyway, you can see why I've got all these emotions. I think the pool in front of the building is going to be filled with the tears of Jews if you don't, if you don't stop this. It's going to be filled with the tears of the Jews. This is absolutely intolerable in West Hollywood that we should consider tearing down a synagogue. There's history. There's history. And the developers, one of them as I walked in called me a rebel rouser, I don't even know who he is. I'm not a rebel rouser, I'm a neighbor. I sent my kids

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1657 to the synagogue. So, forgive my emotion. It's an 1658 emotional issue. I think there's going to be, as 1659 you can tell from some of the earlier people who 1660 spoke to you, this is an explosive issue because 1661 this is about, this is going to, racist and anti-1662 semites across America are going to celebrate when 1663 they see Jews destroying a synagogue and Jews 1664 fighting Jews. This should not be happening. This 1665 should absolutely not be happening. I employ you, 1666 study history, study the past and thank you very 1667 much. 1668 (Clapping) 1669

Gillig: Thank you, Philippe. Our next speaker is Allen.

Allen will be followed by Joseph, Joseph has

already spoken, but will be followed by Doug

Workman. Go ahead, Allen.

Nazarian: Thank you, Commission for allowing me to speak. I'm

a resident of Beverly Hills. I was a resident of

West Hollywood for many years. I'm very familiar

with this building. It's composed of Neiman Hall,

Sapa Hall, and the Iranian American Jewish center,

which purchased this building from Temple Bethel

many years ago because they lost their members.

They lost 95 percent, maybe more of their members.

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And they sold it to my congregation that I belong to. I go there every Yom Kippur, for Rosha Hashana. Every year our membership has been dwindling. We used to have 1,000 people there. We are people of immigrants. I'm a first-generation immigrant. My parents, they escaped the Iranian revolution. The Islamic regime was hunting them down. Most of the people in LA and West Hollywood and Beverly Hills or even in New York and Florida, they escaped the revolution, and they found a home here and they were welcomed here. And we welcomed Temple Bethel. We allowed them to stay for an extra 20 years in Neiman Hall, which is a banquet hall that we use at nights and during the days for bar mitzvah's and Brisas and their lease has expired many years ago. They're on a month to month. We share Torah's with them. We get along with them. They're great people but our, I'm very sad to see the building go. But I support what they're doing. I know that it's going to generate a lot of revenue for a good cause. It's a nonprofit. I'm not being paid to be here. I will not benefit from this construction. Maybe we can find a solution for the windows that are there. They are very beautiful and the Menorah's that are

1705 there, they can maybe remove them and donate them 1706 to the Museum of Tolerance. And, you know, the 1707 Rabbi that just spoke, you know, I respect everyone 1708 here, but he's only been the Rabbi for two years. 1709 (Background talking) 1710 (Background No, no, no) 1711 Nazarian: And I've been there for 15 years. I've never seen 1712 any of these people. We, we compose of the main 1713 hall there in the banquet hall. It is not the 1714 synagogue. The synagogue is on the corner. It's 1715 about 1500 seat synagogue. And now there's only 1716 maybe, on last Yom Kippur we had 100 people there. 1717 It was really sad that we can't, every year our 1718 membership gets less and less. And I look forward 1719 to seeing this project come to fruition -1720 (Timer) 1721 And for the emergency fund that it will fund the 1722 poor -1723 (Background talking) 1724 The people out of jobs, the people that lose their 1725 homes and their jobs, that's where the money is 1726 going. Thank you. 1727 (Background talking) 1728 Thank you, Allen. And our last and final speaker Gillia:

1729 will be Doug Workman.

(Background talking)

Doug, you have three minutes. State your first and Gilliq:

last name and city of residence, please.

Workman: Thank you. My name is Doug Workman. I'm a resident

of LA. I've been a member of Hollywood Temple

Bethel for ten years and there's no other place for

me to worship. I spend all day Saturday, almost

all-day Saturday, at the temple. It's where I spend

my time. I work very hard during the week, and I

work very hard on Sundays, but Saturdays I'm there

to worship. But I'm also there to hear civil right

speakers, I've heard Ukrainian speakers. We've had

events. We welcome everybody across the board.

We're really, really inclusive. And it's just great

to hear these people. And I assumed the building

was a historic landmark. It looks like a historic

landmark. It's as old as one. I would, I'm really

shocked. We've been negotiating with those people

for the ten years I've been there and at least ten

years with the Rabbi has been there. Their former

Rabbi is in, he's also very good, he is leading our

services sometimes when Rabbi Weinburg is not here.

And he's Persian American and he's Sephardic right

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Jewish and he does our Ashtranoshic right Jewish stuff. But it's, we're just so inclusive. I'm gay. I'm welcomed there. I, it's extremely just ultrainclusive and we welcome anybody to come in there. We need, we need the bodies to come in and be there and make it a living place. And it is a living place. And I, I got two weeks' notice about this. I saw this and I'm really shocked. I just, this has been going on for seven years I just heard. We were never told anything about this. There're so many people in the entertainment industry, civil rights, you know, that would, that have made that their home. There's as he pointed out, there's bar mitzvahs and weddings and all kinds of events there. It is a big community center, and it is Jewish based, but it is not a Jewish, by any stretch of the imagination. It is a community center. And after services on Saturday, I'm there all day as a community center. It is a valuable place for the community. And we will lose the most, one of the most valuable places other than this building, if this synagogue goes. We need time to think about this and call people who have been around and just been in that synagogue and made

1777 that synagogue their home or their home away from 1778 home. This is just a core group of us that found 1779 this out two weeks ago with the big sign. Thank you 1780 very much. 1781 (Clapping) 1782 Gillig: Thank you, Doug. And Mr. Workman was our last 1783 public speaker. Jones: 1784 You said that was our last public speaker, David, 1785 correct? Okay. So now the applicant has the 1786 opportunity to rebut. They will have five minutes. 1787 No? Okay. The applicant is waiving their rebuttal 1788 of time. So, with that, we may still call you up to 1789 the podium, Patrick, if that's okay. Do we have 1790 Commissioners who have questions for the applicant 1791 at this time? Commissioner Matos go ahead. 1792 Matos: Thank you, Chair Jones. I have a question for the 1793 applicant if you could please approach the podium. 1794 As part of this plan, has there been any 1795 consideration given to relocation assistance for 1796 the synagogue or outreach to the members of the 1797 synagoque? 1798 Tighe: I'm the architect. I'm not prepared to answer 1799 questions outside of the realm of the design. And I 1800 know you want answers from me, but I'm not, I'm not

1801 prepared or capable of answering those questions. 1802 My job was to design the project and we spent eight 1803 years doing that. I can't answer those questions. I 1804 wish there was someone else here to do that, but I 1805 can't give you those answers. 1806 Matos: Okay. 1807 Do we have additional questions for the applicant Jones: 1808 at this time? 1809 Tighe: There is a representative that could answer those 1810 questions. Do you want him to approach? 1811 Yes. Jones: 1812 Tighe: Okay. 1813 Jones: Please. Thank you. 1814 Nazaria: Good evening. My name is Mike Nazaria. I'm the 1815 Chairman of the Board of Director of Jewish Center, 1816 Jewish Federation. Good, with my good heart, 1817 heartness, I practically signed the lease once 1818 Temple Bethel agreement with us to stay there for 1819 ten years. I wanted them to be there. Two blocks 1820 down the street there is Chabad. The school here, I 1821 don't want to talk too much. They're very 1822 controversial, but to finding helping them, not for 1823 tomorrow. This process would take another three, 1824 four years before we acquire permit. All these

1825		people are upset here, many of them, I promise you,
1826		many of these people. I want to ask that Australian
1827		guy, when was the last time he went to the
1828		synagogue.
1829	Jones:	Sir, sir -
1830	Nazaria:	Yes.
1831	Jones:	I understand this is heated and many people are
1832		feeling emotional, but we are, you are -
1833	Nazaria:	We can relocate them, yes. I will accept the
1834		responsibility to find them a place. They can go
1835		two blocks down the street, not now, four years
1836		ago, four years when we acquire the permit, to go
1837		to Chabad or I find them a place in Pico Boulevard
1838		or somewhere close by.
1839	Unknown:	Unbelievable.
1840	Nazaria:	Unbelievable. Yes, I am telling you the fact.
1841	Jones:	No cross talk. No cross talk. We can't have - we
1842		will adhere to the rules of order. Everybody gets a
1843		chance to speak but you are just being asked to
1844		speak at this time and response to one of the
1845		Commissioner's -
1846	Nazaria:	I appreciate for the time, but I promise you, I
1847		will assure these tenants will have sufficient time
1848		to move and I will do whatever it takes to find

1849		them the right place.
1850	Unknown:	Sure.
1851	Nazaria:	Yes.
1852	(Background tai	lking)
1853	Jones:	And I'm, just out of curiosity to build on
1854		Commissioner Matos' question. Are you, sir, are you
1855		in a position to guarantee something like this? I
1856		just want to make sure.
1857	Nazaria:	Yes.
1858	Jones:	Okay.
1859	Nazaria:	Yes.
1860	Matos:	So just to piggyback off of Chair Jones' follow-up
1861		question, you would be willing to codify this in
1862		the resolution as a condition of approval on this
1863		project, right?
1864	Nazaria:	Yes.
1865	Matos:	I guess I would have a follow-up question for
1866		staff.
1867	Jones:	Let's wait. Let's wait, if that's okay.
1868	Matos:	Absolutely, Chair Jones. Thank you for answering
1869		the question.
1870	Nazaria:	I appreciate. Thank you.
1871	Jones:	Thank you. Do we have any additional questions for
1872		the architect or the applicant at this time?

1873		Commissioner Lombardi?
1874	Lombardi:	I'm not pressing the right button.
1875	Jones:	It's okay. Mine is not working.
1876	Lombardi:	I do have questions about the design, but I also
1877		feel like there may be other questions out there
1878		first. So, I would defer to some of the other
1879		Commissioners to make sure that we don't have other
1880		issues.
1881	Jones:	You're welcome to ask your questions about the
1882		design at this time.
1883	Lombardi:	I would like -
1884	Jones:	Sure.
1885	Lombardi:	Okay. Sure, let's do it. Okay. Thank you. So, first
1886		question I guess I want to ask since it was a
1887		brought up in various ways by the public. What is
1888		the timeline for permitting and construction for
1889		this project?
1890	Tighe:	Well, after we receive entitlements, then we start
1891		the construction document process. That could take
1892		six months to a year. And then we would do bidding
1893		process. Construction could start a year to year
1894		and a half after, after this time.
1895	Lombardi:	Including demolition?
1896	Tighe:	That would happen around the same time.

1897	(Background tal	lking)
1898	Lombardi:	Okay. Let's look at the pavilion for a minute. I
1899		have some questions relating to that. Wood louvers
1900		that are called out, are those round or they are
1901		rectangular? What's the idea there? Are they metal
1902		clad?
1903	Tighe:	I'm sorry, the what?
1904	Lombardi:	The wood louvers on the pavilion.
1905	Tighe:	Oh, right.
1906	Lombardi:	Yeah.
1907	Tighe:	So, the pavilion was seen as a transparent floating
1908		volume and in front of that there's a screening
1909		device. It's not 100 percent worked out, but we see
1910		it as a series of louvers, vertical louvers. So, it
1911		has some depth to control sun. Also, to provide
1912		some kind of privacy.
1913	Lombardi:	And what's their profile? I may not have heard that
1914		in your -
1915	Tighe:	It's not worked out 100 percent, but it would be a
1916		louver of some type.
1917	Lombardi:	And then I know in design review we discussed the
1918		super graphic, the address. It looks like it's a
1919		little bit fainter in the rendering. Have you made
1920		a change with your intent there? Is that adjust to

1921 some of our comments? 1922 Yeah. It's a placeholder really. We feel like Tighe: 1923 there's a way to make that louver screen more three 1924 dimensional, maybe adding some kind of graphic in 1925 there. We showed a number, the number of the 1926 guiling, but again it's up for discussion and we 1927 need to develop that further. 1928 Lombardi: Okay, thank you. And then you've advanced the 1929 treatment under the pavilion. I guess I'm still a 1930 little bit confused with exactly that intent. So, 1931 it's like a metal material? 1932 Well, again, It's conceptual, right? So, the, we Tighe: had some really great feedback during the design 1933 1934 review subcommittee meeting, and we totally agree 1935 that the presence of that underside of the pavilion 1936 is prominent. So, we want, we want to make a 1937 feature out of it. And it's a great opportunity for 1938 us to have an art piece of some kind. Because the 1939 pool is close by. We had this idea of maybe 1940 creating some kind of piece that had some idea of 1941 reflection. And again, it's just an idea. Whether 1942 it's metal, whether it's a graphic, whether it's a 1943 three-dimensional relief, that's all to be worked 1944 out, perhaps part of the percent throughout

1945		program, you know, to be determined. But the idea
1946		that surface needs attention is something that I
1947		think we all agreed we wanted to pursue.
1948	Lombardi:	Okay. And during design review we also discussed
1949		the idea of potentially having the pool move a
1950		little bit north so that it was in a sunnier
1951		position, but I'm beginning to understand why maybe
1952		you have the pool where it is. And I see that you
1953		swapped the position of the pool with the heated
1954		pool. Is that correct?
1955	Tighe:	Well, the pool is in the ground.
1956	Lombardi:	Yeah.
1957	Tighe:	It's not above the parking structure. So, the
1958		location of the pool is essentially in that zone
1959		where we don't have subterranean parking.
1960	Lombardi:	So, is that does that explain why you swapped the
1961		positions but overall kept that footprint in the
1962		same location?
1963	Tighe:	Yes. Yes.
1964	Lombardi:	Okay. On the art component, do you have a point of
1965		view on that because I saw some call outs on the
1966		plans that I wasn't quite sure what they were
1967		referring to. It looked like there was a multi
1968		liter, I have to find what page it was on. But it
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1969 looked like there was a few designated positions 1970 for art. Don't know if that was an error or can you 1971 clarify? I might be able to find it on here. One 1972 second. 1973 Tighe: Yeah, I think we, we talked about integrating some 1974 pieces into the landscape at one point. And then we 1975 also talked about the art percent, perhaps behind 1976 the underside of that surface. So, it might show up 1977 in two different areas. Lombardi: 1978 Okay. I'm looking at sheet L220 on Exhibit C. It 1979 says proposed marker for art percentage. Yeah. So, because we're giving back a lot of this 1980 Tighe: 1981 landscape area along the sidewalk there's an 1982 opportunity for kind of a pedestrian experience and 1983 the idea was, we could have some kind of markers or 1984 bollards or some kind of device, art piece, tied 1985 into the landscape. That was one idea. And then the 1986 underside of the pavilion was another idea. So, two 1987 ideas for art. 1988 Lombardi: I see. Okay. That helps with understanding the 1989 intent there. Since you brought it up, I did want 1990 to ask about the ha-ha wall, and it looked like in 1991 the renderings that was shown sort of tucked away 1992 in the landscaping. But in the section that was up

1993 during a presentation, I think I saw the wall 1994 closer to the sidewalk. So, I understand the intent 1995 to create this sort of concealed wall, especially 1996 from the resident's side looking out, but what is the experience at the street level and where is 1997 1998 that wall located? 1999 Tighe: It's not a wall, it's a fence. 2000 Lombardi: Fence, yes. 2001 Tighe: It would be held back from the sidewalk. I can't 2002 remember the distance, but it's ten feet plus. And 2003 the idea is that it would be heavily landscaped. 2004 The fence is a way disappears. The landscape takes 2005 over. So, you don't see the barrier. All you do is 2006 see the green. 2007 Lombardi: Okay. Thank you. I also want to ask about from a 2008 design perspective as you heard earlier in 2009 Commissioner questions to city staff, the fire lane 2010 and this 30-foot distance that was measured from 2011 the outside of the park lane. which allows for the 2012 northern portion of the building to be a very close 2013 to Crescent Heights, much closer than any of the 2014 adjacent buildings. So, looking at the plans, I'm 2015 wondering it seems like you could make up that 2016 difference if we had a, if the calculation were

done from the curb, which I believe is precedent in the past, by reducing the footprint of some of those units and then pushing that volume back a little bit more from the curb. Do you feel like this is something that can be worked out? Because it does seem like it's not consistent with how we've measured that 30-foot dimension on other projects?

Tighe:

Yeah. We go by what the city tells us to do, what the fire department tells us to do, and that's what we did in this case. We certainly could push the building back. The whole building is pushed back. There's only one portion of the building at Crescent heights where the entry is brought to the street maintaining that urban edge. So, from an urban design standpoint, you could argue that it's actually good where it's at, but you could also argue that it could be pushed back. But I mean the whole building is pushed back. But either way, we can make it work either way.

Lombardi:

Okay. Yeah, I appreciate the overall design. But six feet and a little bit extra is very close in that one element. So that is a concern that I have that it feels like it's really approaching the

2041		street, much more than any other building in that
2042		zone. But it sounds like you might be able to work
2043		through that.
2044	Tighe:	Yeah, sure.
2045	Lombardi:	And then I do have questions about landscape
2046		design. Do you have a landscape architect here?
2047	Tighe:	We do. Studio Gray Green.
2048	Lombardi:	Is the landscape architect prepared to answer
2049		questions?
2050	Tighe:	No. They're not here.
2051	Lombardi:	Oh, they're not here?
2052	Tighe:	No.
2053	Lombardi:	Okay. Well, then I probably have fewer questions.
2054		This was something that wasn't fully resolved
2055		during design review and I'm looking at the sheets
2056		that we were presented as part of the exhibits
2057		here. And what I see in the renderings versus what
2058		I see in the plans look different. The plans look
2059		very placeholder. I think you have an excellent
2060		opportunity here with landscape, but from what I
2061		can see, and I'm not an expert in this, it feels
2062		like there's a very, sort of uniform selection of
2063		some generic plantings and there's an opportunity
2064		for pollinators in terms of the planting

selections. I know during design review we talked about sort of a mini or micro bioswale or the idea of collecting water and using that for that zone as well. These are all things that I feel landscape architect could, could work on as well as the tree species. A member of the public brought that up as well. So, I guess my thought is there's a lot of potential here and it might need to be worked on more so maybe we could see more of that in some capacity. But could you explain where you are in the design and what was shown in your presentation versus here, what's changed or is sheet L220 representing the current design?

Tighe:

Yeah. So, as I noted in my presentation landscape is the driver for the project. It is the, it is the architecture in a way. We're required to have 2,000 square feet of open space, we have almost 20,000, 12,000 on the ground level. So, we're, we're making a big deal about the landscape. And it will be a lot of thought and study and more detailed drawings and plans that will go along with the project as we develop the project. So, I agree with you. For me to say that the project is so much about landscape and then not have it completely worked out, I can

2089		see the, your frustration. But I can assure you
2090		that the landscape is probably one of the most
2091		important aspects of the project and something that
2092		we certainly won't let, let go.
2093	Lombardi:	Okay. Thank you. That was my last question.
2094	Jones:	Any additional questions by - Vice Chair Thomas,
2095		please go ahead.
2096	Thomas:	Thank you, Chair. On the plans on page 47 of A210
2097		there's a bedroom at the basement level. Is that a
2098		manager's unit?
2099	Tighe:	No.
2100	Thomas:	Is it, what is that bedroom?
2101	Tighe:	So, there's a ten-foot differential from, on the
2102		site from Crescent Heights down to Fountain. So,
2103		what appears to be a basement level, is actually at
2104		grade. It's not a basement.
2105	Thomas:	Oh. Okay. Okay, thank you. Looking at the south
2106		elevation from Fountain, there are two large
2107		elevator overruns. Is there a reason that they're
2108		so prominent and that they couldn't be better
2109		integrated into the design of the project?
2110	Tighe:	They, they, they probably could be. I'll take a
2111		look at it.
2112	Thomas:	Okay. Because they're, I mean they're protruding at

2113		the top of the project and it's just, it just
2114		doesn't look very aesthetic. So, if we, if we could
2115		look at that, that'd be great. But then that would
2116		need to come back to design review, correct? Well,
2117		sorry.
2118	Tighe:	I think -
2119	Thomas:	We'll do that in deliberations.
2120	Tighe:	Vice Chair Thomas, consider too that the elevation
2121		is, some of those are set way back, right? So,
2122		they're not all at the front. When you look at
2123		those elevators, they're kind of terraced back. So,
2124		you wouldn't, you wouldn't actually see them from
2125		the street. Just keep that in mind.
2126	Thomas:	How far back are they?
2127	Tighe:	I'm sorry?
2128	Thomas:	How far back?
2129	Tighe:	I don't have the dimension but if you look at the
2130		plan you can see that they're not at the front of
2131		the building.
2132	Thomas:	Okay. I'll take a look at it.
2133	Tighe:	But point well taken.
2134	Thomas:	Okay. I'll take a look at that while you're
2135		answering other questions and I'll circle back to
2136		that. The driveway exits on Crescent Heights, is,

2137		I'm very interested in the pedestrian car
2138		interactions. Is there going to be a bar, a light,
2139		a sign, or something that indicates to pedestrians
2140		that cars will be exiting so that there's not any
2141		sort of negative interaction between the cars and
2142		the pedestrians?
2143	Tighe:	Well, I wish I could remember the history. Years of
2144		study that went into the placement of the driveway.
2145		We had it multiple places. We worked in tandem with
2146		the city, department of transportation, that was
2147		the desired result. We also increased the, the
2148		drive aisle I believe in that area to, to help with
2149		the flow of traffic in that zone. So, I don't have
2150		all the answers, but I can assure you that it was
2151		well thought out, not just by me, but by the city.
2152		And that, that was, that location and the design of
2153		the driveway, and the way it interacted with the
2154		sidewalk was, was well vetted.
2155	Thomas:	Well, it's less about flow and it's more about
2156		public safety.
2157	Tighe:	Uh-huh (AFFIRMATIVE).
2158	Thomas:	That's, that's the question that I have. About cars
2159		coming out, pedestrians walking by. Is there
2160		anything, is there some sort of warning to

2161		pedestrians that cars will be exiting so that if
2162		somebody is walking down the street there's not a -
2163	Tighe:	No. There isn't anything planned for that at this
2164		time.
2165	Thomas:	Okay. And my last question is this project does not
2166		have guest parking so where, what are your thoughts
2167		on where guests would park in this area?
2168	Tighe:	Well, we are providing the required amount of
2169		parking for the building. Keep in mind not everyone
2170		is going to have a parking spot, so there are,
2171		there will be some spots in the building, and we
2172		are providing more parking spaces along the street
2173		than there are now. So, we're adding, we're adding
2174		spaces all along the street.
2175	Thomas:	And how many spaces are you adding to the street?
2176	Tighe:	I don't know. I'll have to get back to you.
2177	Thomas:	Chair, those are my questions for now.
2178	Jones:	Thank you. Any additional questions for the
2179		applicant at this time? Commissioner Copeland,
2180		please go ahead.
2181	Copeland:	Thank you, Chair. Hi. I just wanted to circle back
2182		to a question that I had asked of staff earlier
2183		about this western border with Havenhurst and it
2184		seems like it was, it's unresolved, maybe there
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2185		will be some plantings or some trees. But as far as
2186		the noise impact, are there any other mitigation
2187		measures planned at this time for, for that border?
2188	Tighe:	Well, we, we can definitely introduce landscape and
2189		more landscape. The, towards the northern edge,
2190		there's more opportunity for landscape and I think
2191		we have some of the native soil in there as well.
2192		We could certainly introduce more along the entire
2193		edge.
2194	Copeland:	Okay. That will be the, I guess with the, the
2195		rooftop area, it shows in the renderings like a
2196		wide screen TV or movie screen. Where in relation
2197		would that be used for as facing? What would that
2198		be, that be facing?
2199	Tighe:	It's not -
2200	Copeland:	Right now -
2201	Tighe:	The renders, the TV placement isn't 100 percent
2202		figured out.
2203	Copeland:	It's not figured out yet, okay.
2204	Tighe:	We can definitely design those areas so that the
2205		attention will be more towards the courtyard and
2206		less towards the Havenhurst side.
2207	Copeland:	Okay. I think most of the other questions that I
2208		had have already been asked at this time. Thank
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2209		you, sir.
2210	Tighe:	Thank you.
2211	Copeland:	Thank you, Chair.
2212	Jones:	Thank you. Any additional questions for the
2213		applicant at this time?
2214	Lombardi:	Chair, I have one follow up question.
2215	Jones:	Please go ahead.
2216	Lombardi:	I forgot to ask earlier. We talked about the PV
2217		cells that were on the roof previously. It doesn't
2218		look like that design has evolved too much, but
2219		maybe I missed something in the plans.
2220	Tighe:	I'm sorry, the what?
2221	Lombardi:	The photovoltaic cells, just making sure that
2222		they're integrated, and they don't just feel like a
2223		utilitarian thing that's stuck on the top because
2224		it's going to be quite visible. Is that, are you
2225		intending to continue to finish that?
2226	Tighe:	Yes. Absolutely. I think we have; we have PVs
2227		integrated into the trellises of some of the
2228		outdoor spaces. And then the remaining PVs will be
2229		placed on the, on the roof. But I understand. We'll
2230		make sure that they're done in a proper way.
2231	Lombardi:	Okay. I know there's a lot of wires and, you know,

2233		So that's my concern with the current design is
2234		there might be some extra stuff that isn't seen in
2235		the rendering but would be there. So maybe some
2236		additional louvering or something underneath to
2237		help make that feel more like a structure.
2238	Tighe:	Sure.
2239	Jones:	Just leaning down to see ya.
2240	Lombardi:	Thank you.
2241	Jones:	Any additional questions for the applicant at this
2242		time? All right. I think you're, thank you,
2243		Patrick, sorry. Thank you.
2244	Tighe:	Thank you.
2245	Jones:	Appreciate it. Thank you. Okay. I am going to go
2246		ahead and close the public hearing at this time,
2247		and we will move into deliberation. Go ahead.
2248	Matos:	Thank you, Chair Jones. I actually have a couple
2249		questions for staff and then I want to follow up
2250		with a couple of comments. So, my first question is
2251		for the city attorney. Are we able per Housing
2252		Accountability Act law at the state level, to given
2253		that the applicant has agreed to it on the record,
2254		include a condition on this project or noted in the
2255		resolution, that the applicant has agreed to do
2256		relocation for the synagogue and school?

||Rosen:

The Commission would need to, and is limited with respect to conditions of approval, to those that would bear what's known as a rough proportionality to the impact of the proposed development. And so, you can't, or I would say a requirement with respect to relocation is not related to the project approvals that would be considered as part of the Housing Accountability Act Project.

Matos:

So that being said, we could, we could actually add

that as, in the resolution, it would just have the

disclaimer that it's not part of the Housing

Accountability Act, is that what we're saying?

Rosen: The condition could only be added if it bore a

rough proportionality to the proposed development.

And I think that the question about whether or not

a private party could be required to relocate items

on an existing site is outside the, the contours of

the housing project that's being considered. So

beyond just Housing Accountability Act Project, the

issue would be a condition like that is outside of

sort of the scope of, of the project before the

Planning Commission. And in addition, I think to

the extent there is issues between the lessor or

the property owner and the lessee or who occupies

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the site, that's a relationship that's private and separate from that between what the city decision makers are considering as part of project entitlements.

Matos:

Okay. Thank you. So, I have a couple comments and then I do have two things that I wanted to bring up. The first thing is, you know, I want to thank everyone who came out and spoke today. I think it's, you know, very, very noble for everyone to show up and have your opinion heard before the Commission and the city process. I think that is extraordinarily important. So, I want to applaud everyone who took the time out of their evening to come join with us this night. You know, as you just heard, there's something in this state called the Housing Accountably Act. This Housing Accountability Act was drafted, I'm going to try to do this with justice. The Housing Accountability Act was drafted in response to a statewide housing shortage, especially as it relates to affordable housing, which this project has. They lay out two very specific criteria that has to be partnered with a finding of substantial evidence in order for a project to be denied that has this level of

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affordable housing. They are one, the development would have to have specific adverse impact on public health, or safety, unless disapproved or approved at a lower density. And, two, there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact other than the disapproval or approval in a lower density. So, what we're really saying here is that state law, this Housing Accountability Act is guiding the decisions that this body is able to make. There are things that we're able to condition, and as you heard just now, there are things that we're not able to condition per that state law. So that makes it very challenging because again, I have deep respect and I feel for members of the public that came out and spoke tonight on behalf of their community and on behalf of their synagogue, but state law makes that really challenging. With that, there are two things that I really wanted to see be integrated into this project. The first thing is I really do think that in line with previous projects that I've seen in my time here, we should be stipulating in the resolution the breakdown of the inclusionary units. So, there's 14 total units, 7

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of them are very low income, and 7 of them are moderate income. To my understanding per this meeting and per the staff discussion, 9 of those units will be very low income one bedrooms. Or 9 of those units will be one bedroom, and 5 of those units will be two bedrooms. So, I'm hoping to have that memorialized in the resolution as part of the approval process for this. The other thing that was brought up in my comments was the setback requirement for the front of the property, which is on Crescent Heights Boulevard. It sounds like there is precedent per the fire code for us to be looking at the setback of 30 feet starting from the curb rather than 8 foot from the curb, which is the parking lane. So, I would also ask as, if this project were to move forward tonight, to have that be considered prior to plan check. So that we would be working with the fire department and the director of planning and development services to examine opportunities to maximum the setback in accordance with the code and with fire code. And that would also help the frontage of building be more uniform with the rest of the street. So those are the two things that I would ask out of this

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project. You know, when we look at this project objectively, we see an exceptional amount of parking. State density bonus law only requires them to have 45 spaces and they're having 125 spaces. You know, there's exceptional open space. There is new affordable units. There's a lot of great aspects to this project and I would applaud the applicant for that. But, you know, obviously I am very sensitive to the cultural and historic concerns given, with the synagogue. I, my heart is broken hearing some of that public comment and I just want to speak from a human level. But at this time, you know, given what we've heard from our city attorney, I'm really, really unsure on what legally we have the ability to do given the Housing Accountability Act. So, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues about, you know, their thoughts on this project and the items surrounding it. But, you know, I would introduce just those two caveats. One being the inclusion of the bedroom, size of the inclusionary units. And two being an item to reexamine the setback that's outlined in this project looking to maximize the setback and do it 30 feet from the curb versus 30 feet from the

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parking lane. And I'll just leave it there. Thank you.

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Thank you. I just want to ask a guick guestion about the setback. Just to be clear, this is something that the fire department, which not in keeping with their previous requirements had requested of this project, correct? It wasn't arbitrary on staff's part? Okay. So, it wasn't the applicant's choice, and it wasn't staff's

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recommendation? It was the fire department's

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requirement, correct? But that's not been in

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keeping with their previous requirement. Okay.

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Thank you. Who'd like to go next? Commissioner

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Copeland, please go ahead.

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Copeland: Thank you, Chair. I have a couple of questions for

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staff, if I might first. Just to clarify for the

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benefit of the public that contacted us as well as

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showed up tonight. Do we have any discretion at

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this point to suggest that this go to HPC for

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further review or back, and then back to design

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review after the landscaping and so forth being

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unresolved issues are completed? Or do we have the

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discretion to continue to a date certain to return

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with a closer review of the historic assessment and

2401		the, have the landscape architect on board? Do we
2402		have the option to do either of those things at our
2403		discretion?
2404	Alkire:	There's really nothing that's been presented that
2405		would support sending this to the historic
2406		preservation commission for any reason.
2407	Copeland:	Okay.
2408	Alkire:	And, and the second, second part of that was, I'm
2409		sorry?
2410	Copeland:	The second part of that was -
2411	Alkire:	Oh, the landscaping.
2412	Copeland:	The requirement that it come back to design review
2413		after it's complete or that we continue this to a
2414		date certain to, once they have a landscape
2415		architect available to answer questions so -
2416	Alkire:	There is -
2417	Copeland:	Do we have any discretion on any of those at this
2418		point?
2419	Alkire:	Yeah. There's nothing, there's no objective
2420		standards in the code that have not been met on
2421		landscaping.
2422	Copeland:	Okay.
2423	Alkire:	And so, what we can offer is that we will have an
2424		extra condition to review the landscaping prior to

2425		issuance of building permit. But again, there was -
2426	Copeland:	When would that review take place? Would it go to
2427		design review, or would that be internally?
2428	Alkire:	Design review as a, as a component of this body
2429		doesn't have any authority or discretion.
2430	Copeland:	Right.
2431	Alkire:	So, it would be a director's review.
2432	Copeland:	Okay. Thank you.
2433	Alkire:	Uh-huh (AFFIRMATIVE).
2434	Jones:	Thank you. Additional questions for staff or
2435		deliberation at this time? Commissioner Lombardi,
2436		please go ahead.
2437	Lombardi:	Thank you, Chair. Well, I don't know where to start
2438		with this one. I do appreciate all of the public
2439		feedback. I know this is a very sensitive topic and
2440		a really tough one. I'm not sure how much we as a
2441		Planning Commission can do here and what's possible
2442		within our role. We're here reviewing this project
2443		that has reached this stage. So, I'm just going to
2444		keep it short and move on past that. With regards
2445		to comments that have been brought up by
2446		Commissioners thus far, I'm in alignment with most
2447		everything that's been said so far. I do think that
2448		we should have some clarification of the breakdown
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2449 of the units, and I do think that's an excellent 2450 idea to have that included in general as projects 2451 are cued up for our review. I guess one guestion I 2452 would ask is we can state that there's nine one 2453 bedrooms and five two bedrooms. I'm not sure beyond 2454 that knowing the very low income versus moderate 2455 income, if I got that right, how, what the mix is 2456 between that, or we need to distinguish that or we 2457 just leave it to be determined. I don't have a 2458 strong opinion on that other than we should discuss it. So, I'm not sure what the precedent would be 2459 2460 there or if staff has an opinion. 2461 Alkire: In general, our housing department would make those 2462 decisions based on what they, what they see as the 2463 need based on our -2464 Lombardi: Got it. 2465 Alkire: Lists and things like that. So that really should 2466 rest with them to make that final determination. 2467 Lombardi: Understood. Thank you for that clarification. 2468 Regarding the setback, I do feel like this building 2469 is extremely close to the street compared to others 2470 and that one portion for the structure. So, I would 2471 think that there's some way we could put that into 2472 the, a condition within the resolution

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approved by the fire department so if they declined it for any reason then, then it wouldn't be done, right? And then I do think that there is precedent in the past for projects including housing projects to come back for design review for something like a component that wasn't reviewed prior, the landscape design. I could see there being a benefit to having that being an open forum and getting some feedback from the panel since it didn't happen before and maybe can run in isolation of the approval of the project because that information wasn't presented. So, I would, I would request that that become a condition within the resolution as well, that the landscape design be presented to the design review subcommittee so that we can help that along as part of the process. I don't think that that's within

understanding that it does need to be reviewed and

Langer:

One thing I would say to that is it did used to be a more common practice quite a few years ago before the housing laws got so strict. And so, I don't remember us sending anything back that's a Housing Accountability Act project conditioning it for further design review. I hope you can hear me with

the realm of an unusual request.

2497 this on. Further design review, subcommittee review 2498 after this body has issued its approval. Remember 2499 with Housing Accountability Act projects, we have a 2500 five-hearing limit. We have very strict timelines 2501 to get things approved and get them through the 2502 plan check process and in fact, I think there's new 2503 laws going it affect January 1 that are even going 2504 to make the building review process even quicker. 2505 And so, I would be hesitant to condition a project 2506 to go back to design review if there's not a 2507 specific code or a specific objective thing that 2508 they're looking at. And I believe Ms. Alkire said 2509 that the project meets all the landscape 2510 requirements in the code at this time. And the architect has committed that the landscape is, you 2511 2512 know, essential important focus of this project. 2513 So, I would be hesitant to put something that adds 2514 more time on to the process for a housing project. 2515 Unknown: Why not? 2516 No cross talk please or I'll ask you to leave the Jones: 2517 auditorium. Please respect the process. Thank you. 2518 Lombardi: Thank you. I think that also when you look at our 2519 city's goals and objectives, and we talk about

climate and urban design, these are all important

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things. My perspective is that the landscape isn't necessarily going to have an impact on the architecture design and how that moves forward. Now I realize there's a permitting process that can't be slowed down. So, I feel like there's a, there's a way where this could be leveraged where we're providing design review but it's not holding up any of that process and it would allow for some good input. We're talking about some swapping out plantings or making adjustments to that within designated areas considering we have so much landscape on this project. I don't know that would, I'm not seeing how that would slow down anything. I think it would just be an added benefit since we didn't get to see it prior.

Maybe I can make a suggestion that would help us get there. If the applicant is amenable to it, if the Commission wants to let us know what in particular is being looked for in that process, what is missing off of the plans that you would like to make sure that is or what is on the plans, you want to make sure stays. And we can, we can memorialize that and then ensure in the plan check process that it remains in the plans or that they

add something that isn't there.

Lombardi:

Sure. And along those lines maybe my suggestion would be that it be reviewed with UDAS and also be presented with, maybe receive and file, but I would still recommend that it be presented to the Design Review Subcommittee. I feel like we could work that in, and I think we could tie it specifically to review of the landscape plans and planting selections, so that it limits and defines what the scope is.

Alkire:

I would still like to know what we're looking for. Because I don't to leave it so open ended so that there's, you know, a lot of discretion implied in that where the subcommittee or even staff isn't quite sure what the intent of the Commission is in that and we want to make sure that we're, so if there's something, you know, if you want it to match the plans that we have or you want the certain number of trees or something like that, I think that would help us a lot when we go to review it to make sure we know what exactly you want it to capture.

Lombardi:

Well, because the design doesn't feel resolved, I'm not sure how to answer that. So, I think it really

2569		is review of the planting plans and the tree
2570		selections as intended for the project by the
2571		landscape architect.
2572	Jones:	Are there objective standards that you feel the
2573		project isn't meeting in terms of the landscape
2574		plans? Because I think that's the legal standard,
2575		is it not?
2576	Lombardi:	I think that I think that we're supposed to see
2577		landscape plans when we're reviewing projects. And
2578		it seems like the design we're seeing right now
2579		hasn't implemented that plan as included in the
2580		exhibit.
2581	Jones:	I'd lean on legal, but can that be the basis for us
2582		to leave the landscape plans to go back to design
2583		review? I just want to make sure we're not walking
2584		a line we don't want to walk here.
2585	Alkire:	If you can give us one minute. So, the objective
2586		standard in the zoning ordinance is for preliminary
2587		landscaping plans to be provided and then final
2588		landscaping plans to be provided prior to the
2589		building permit issuance. They have, they have
2590		complied with the requirement in the zoning
2591		ordinance at this time.
2592	Lombardi:	Perhaps we could request that it be reviewed with

2593 UDAS and presented as received and filed to the 2594 Design Review Subcommittee. 2595 I would ask the applicant because this is, it's an Langer: 2596 unusual request and it's not something that we have 2597 been doing in recent years since the housing laws 2598 have changed so much. 2599 Tighe: I understand your request and I understand why you 2600 would want to see it. The thing is we have a much 2601 more developed landscape plan, I just didn't bring 2602 it because it's not required. This came up on 2603 another job where it was clearly stated what was 2604 required at this point of the process and it's what we provided you. So, you're asking for something 2605 2606 that's actually due at a later phase. I have no 2607 problem giving it to you, I actually have it, but 2608 it's not in the set. It's not required, so you 2609 really can't ask for it. But I don't have a problem 2610 giving it to you. We have it. 2611 Lombardi: I don't want to belabor this topic too much, but I 2612 do feel like we usually see a little more detail, 2613 so maybe receive and file or something else, but 2614 I'll leave my time for the other Commissioners. 2615 Carvalheiro: Jennifer, can you, the Commission seems to have 2616 this misconception that drawing packages that come

2617		to us have to be completely resolved to some
2618		degree. And typically, we see schematic
2619		presentations at best, design development, maybe
2620		three quarters of the way through. Is it a
2621		requirement for applicants to bring fully developed
2622		drawings to Planning Commission?
2623	Alkire:	No. That, typically most of the development of the
2624		plans into the greater detail happens during the
2625		plan check process.
2626	Carvalheiro:	Right. And you are not required to submit stamped
2627		landscape drawings until the end or toward, before
2628		the issuance of the permit.
2629	Alkire:	That's correct.
2630	Carvalheiro:	And they've met all the requirements that they need
2631		to pass this hurdle at this point.
2632	Alkire:	That's correct.
2633	Carvalheiro:	Thank you.
2634	Jones:	Vice Chair Thomas, please go ahead.
2635	Thomas:	Thank you, Chair. So first I just have a couple
2636		notes. I agree with the staff's interpretation of
2637		the frontages being on Crescent Heights and
2638		Fountain. I appreciate the generous setbacks. It
2639		provides for more improved pedestrian experience. I
2640		appreciate the use of sustainable materials as
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described by the urban designer and, but as much as I love the sustainable materials, I do have a criticism that the expanses on the northern most part of the project facing Crescent Heights, there are these large white sections of steel panel, and it doesn't feel very aesthetic to me. On Sheet A015, the northern most part of this building facing Crescent Heights, it's just these large expanses of uninterrupted white steel cladding that the southern elevation does a better job of articulation and use of color. I, the elevator runs are pretty large and significant. They're the most defining feature of the roof. And I looked at the renderings again and it doesn't matter how far back they are, they're just very large and obtrusive. I do like the terrace theme at the corner of Crescent Heights. I'm never comfortable approving projects with no quest parking, but as we've, as we've said, this is an HAA project so, you know, it is what it is. But more than that, I'm not particularly comfortable with this project in that for me, and I understand what are expectations are as Commissioners, but until the community is satisfied with how their cultural resource, which I don't

2665		understand how it's not historic is the Whiskey is
2666		historic. I'm a little, I'm confused about that.
2667		But again, that's not what I do.
2668	(Clapping)	
2669		I, I need for the community to be comfortable with
2670		how this resource is either integrated into the
2671		project or relocated before I feel comfortable. And
2672		I understand that my job as a commissioner is, is
2673		not that. But I personally need to know that the
2674		community is comfortable with something that is so
2675		valuable and important to them before I feel
2676		comfortable moving this project forward. But that's
2677		just me. And those are my -
2678	(Clapping)	
2679		Those are my thoughts.
2680	(Clapping)	
2681	Matos:	Chair Jones, is it all right if I ask a follow up
2682		question?
2683	Jones:	Sure.
2684	Matos:	Cool. So, we did ask if there was able to be, given
2685		the applicant agreed to do it, an opportunity for
2686		there to be a requirement of replacement,
2687		relocation, relocation of the existing synagogue.
2688		How, we know Housing Accountability Act doesn't
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2689 allow that? My question would be if the Housing 2690 Accountability Act doesn't allow for that to be 2691 considered as part of the resolution in this 2692 project, is there an opportunity for the city to 2693 help via cultural services relationships, human 2694 services relationships, to help the members of the 2695 synagogue get to a place where they feel like 2696 critical elements of their cultural resource is 2697 being preserved ahead of the deconstruction of the 2698 site or they're able to find an opportunity for new 2699 house of worship, a temple, a synagogue? Is there 2700 anything that the city can do to help address that 2701 concern outside of the resolution that is required 2702 by the Housing Accountability Act? 2703 Alkire: That would be entirely up to the City Council. 2704 Matos: Okay. Alkire: 2705 I don't, we don't have any say or purview over 2706 that. 2707 Matos: So, if this item were to pass here tonight, is it 2708 possible for this body to make a recommendation to 2709 City Council with that? 2710 Jones: Is that even in our purview? I don't want to be 2711 argumentative; I usually wait until the end to 2712 speak. But I want to be really careful here about

2726 || Langer:

how we are framing our conversation about this because the reason that many people came here tonight and the grounds by which we are allowed to consider this and candidly our role here, are very different. So, I just want to make sure that we're playing the role that we're supposed to play. And if there are, you know, I just don't know that those kinds of things are, I kind of don't know how we got here in the first place. Candidly, I don't know what happened with this project where like this is happening. But I would, you know, defer to staff and city attorney for guidance here because this is an unusual situation.

I agree. And I think it's hard for staff to speak to what communications happened between the community center and the synagogue and what type of notice was provided. But and I think Commissioner Matos, you said this really well before that you're having to deal with these competing interests, which is a community that's losing their house of worship and also a state that's in a housing crisis and having very strict housing laws to try to build as many units as possible in a short amount of time. So, you're right that the role of the

Gregoire:

2737 Commission, we look at applications that are given 2738 to the city and you look at whether it meets the 2739 requirements in the code and the requirements of 2740 state law and that's the Commission's role. And the 2741 application was filed with the city, the staff 2742 processed it, looked to see if it was compliant 2743 with city code, and brought it to you for a 2744 decision. So, finding an alternate location for the 2745 synagogue is not something that we can put as a 2746 requirement on a housing project before we can 2747 approve it. And the, the landowner said tonight 2748 that they will do their best to try to help the 2749 synagogue relocate, find another location, and 2750 that's probably part of their lease if they're 2751 ending early. There's things that we don't know so 2752 much about their lease relationship. But the focus 2753 tonight should really be on the application, does 2754 it meet the standards that we set out in the code 2755 and then when they build, how they build, how they 2756 help out their tenants, it's going to be between 2757 the landlord and the tenant in this case. 2758 Thank you for clarifying that and appreciate it. Matos: Commissioner Gregoire, please go ahead. 2759 Jones:

So, I don't really have a lot to add other than

2761 what is already been said. I have to say I was 2762 really, really emotionally moved by what I heard 2763 tonight. This is by far been the hardest Planning 2764 Commission I have attended. It, you can't help but 2765 sit here and feel really bad about what we have to 2766 do tonight under the Housing Accountability Act we 2767 have to approve this project tonight. We can't 2768 continue this to another night. We can't deny this 2769 project. If otherwise we won't be in compliance 2770 with the law. So as heartbreaking as it is, I have 2771 to, I will have to vote yes to approve this project 2772 this evening. You know, but I don't feel good about 2773 it. But that's what the law compels us to do this 2774 evening.

(Background talking)

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Jones: No crosstalk please. No cross talk please.

Commissioner Carvalheiro.

| Carvalheiro: Yeah. I agree. This has been a really difficult

hearing. I understand what the community is

struggling with and trying to find a new location,

but as everybody has said and legal has confirmed,

it is not part of our purview. We are not the City

Council. We are here to approve a project that's

been presented to us. And from a design point of

Jones:

2804 | Thomas:

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view, I think the applicant has done a great job of responding to the context in a meaningful way that will bring value to this corner and to the opposite corner. I actually met with the owner of La Fontaine and reviewed the project with him, and he is very happy about what he sees. He likes the relationship between the two courtyards. He appreciates the ability to be able to see out into the, up to the hills more than they probably can now. He's in support of it. And the applicant has been very responsive with design review. The only thing that I can remember that we talked about that wasn't implemented were trellises on the upper level, but I understand, you know, there are different types of outdoor activities and we have covered patios and I'm on board with this project from a design perspective.

Thank you. Do we have additional comments? Vice Chair Thomas.

Thank you, Chair. My only other comment is that I'm not comfortable with the project not understanding the pedestrian and car interaction and the architect's inability to answer that question is a little confusing to me and I feel like I need to

2809		know the specifics of that. With all these cars
2810		that are going to be coming out and then the number
2811		of people who walk on Crescent Heights, I need that
2812		question answered also in order for me to feel
2813		comfortable moving forward with this, with this
2814		project. And like I said, there's no answer to
2815		that. So, to me there's just too many elements to
2816		this project that are not completely baked. So
2817		that's part of my reasoning as well, so I just
2818		wanted to add that.
2819	Carvalheiro:	Can I respond to that?
2820	Jones:	Yeah. Go ahead.
2021]	
2821	Carvalheiro:	There actually are examples of that across the
2822	Carvalheiro:	There actually are examples of that across the street and the next block down where you have a
	Carvalheiro:	-
2822	Carvalheiro:	street and the next block down where you have a
2822	Carvalheiro:	street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering
2822 2823 2824	Carvalheiro:	street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel
2822 2823 2824 2825	Carvalheiro:	street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel and Havenhurst, you have buildings coming out or
2822 2823 2824 2825 2826	Carvalheiro:	street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel and Havenhurst, you have buildings coming out or parking areas coming out on the street and
2822 2823 2824 2825 2826 2827	Carvalheiro: Thomas:	street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel and Havenhurst, you have buildings coming out or parking areas coming out on the street and pedestrians and cars interact all the time in a
2822 2823 2824 2825 2826 2827 2828		street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel and Havenhurst, you have buildings coming out or parking areas coming out on the street and pedestrians and cars interact all the time in a safe way.
2822 2823 2824 2825 2826 2827 2828 2829		street and the next block down where you have a large apartment complex where people are entering and exiting often. And if you go up and down Laurel and Havenhurst, you have buildings coming out or parking areas coming out on the street and pedestrians and cars interact all the time in a safe way. That's nice, Commissioner, but I don't have the

2833	Thomas:	I don't know the architect could not provide those
2834		answers so that's all I'm saying is that they
2835		architect did not answer the questions and I would
2836		like those answers. That's all.
2837	Carvalheiro:	Okay.
2838	(Background ta	lking)
2839	Jones:	Anybody else? Commissioner Copeland, please go
2840		ahead.
2841	Copeland:	Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Just one more final
2842		question for staff if I could. If this is approved
2843		and the community and the Historic Preservation
2844		Alliance and so forth still have some questions and
2845		concerns about whether the historic resource
2846		assessment was thorough and complete, there is an
2847		appeal process for this, is that correct?
2848	Alkire:	Yes, that's correct.
2849	Copeland:	Okay. Thank you. That's all I have, Chair.
2850	Jones:	Commissioner Lombardi, please go ahead. Sorry,
2851		Commissioner Copeland. Thank you.
2852	Lombardi:	Is Commissioner Copeland finished?
2853	Copeland:	Yes.
2854	Lombardi:	Thank you. I just wanted to add, look we're in a
2855		very unusual position right now with making these
2856		decisions. There's things that I feel are outside

of my purview here as a commissioner. We do happen to have a project that is quite resolved, and the architect has made a substantial effort to accommodate everything that was discussed during design review and with UDAS, and with staff, landscaping the part that we didn't really get to see. So, you know, end of the day I think for me the conditions that we were looking at before, the breakdown of the units and then also the setback of 30 feet, seeing that could be adjusted all pending the review by the fire department of course. And then maybe this is streamlined enough requesting that the landscaping be presented and reviewed with UDAS if it's not for us. But that's it for me. I mean otherwise we actually have a really excellent project here. But I really appreciate all of the feedback and comments that we've received from the public and it's definitely touched me and has me concerned about how we got here. But I also don't know what there is that we as a Planning Commission can do.

2878 || Jones:

Commissioner Copeland, please go ahead.

2879 | Copeland:

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I know I've been asking questions all evening mostly of staff, but I did want to comment, and I

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Jones:

am very concerned about some of this and how we

arrived here as Commissioner Lombardi said. But now that we're here I do have to also say that as for the design itself, for the most part overall I think it's one of the better ones that we have seen recently as far as the design itself. And I appreciate that quite a bit. A lot has gone into it. A lot of open space and there are a lot of things that I absolutely do appreciate and would like to see more of as far as the design itself. So, I did want to add that. Thank you. Thank you. Unless anyone else motions to me, actually I have some comments that I'd like to make. And I'm going to try to split them up kind of into some of the comments that we've gotten tonight and the actual merits of the project itself. First, you know, we all say this, and it merits repeating because it's important. We are all residents of the city of West Hollywood as well and we very much appreciate you all coming out here tonight. Whether you are a resident of the city or someone who attends synagogue in the city or both, you know, we are meant to be your representatives here so we truly can't do our jobs without you. We also know

2905 what it's like because each of us has probably done 2906 this, come to a meeting that you probably don't 2907 know the structure and come out and take time out 2908 and prepare comments. And again, we really can't do 2909 this without you. But I didn't have any background 2910 on really other than what was contained in the 2911 staff report, kind of about the, notice that, you 2912 know, the members of the congregation had and I 2913 only surface this really again because it's truly 2914 not within our purview here as the Planning 2915 Commission and I don't say that to absolve us of 2916 responsibility, but I don't know who told the, like 2917 the people who are members of the temple that 2918 coming to the Planning Commission meeting was going 2919 to be able to save the, to save the synagogue 2920 unfortunately. It's, as I understand it and I'd 2921 like to ask this question of staff, the Iranian 2922 American Jewish Center are the owners of this 2923 property, correct? 2924 Langer: That's correct, yes. 2925 Jones: So, it's not fascist like destroying a synagogue. 2926 And I don't mean to make light of this at all, but I really do deeply want to understand kind of what 2927 2928 happened here. I don't understand what, how, how we

arrived here where we have an auditorium that we've seen be more full for a terrible reason than we have in probably three and a half years because there wasn't communication between a leasee and the people who are leasing that property. And again, I say this with so much sympathy for people who clearly there's a person who is almost 100 years old. I will probably not live to be that old, most of us probably won't, and again, we're so appreciative of all of you coming out. But I just, there's not really anything that we can do. I don't know what happened here. I don't know what happened with the neighborhood meeting, but I just kind of want to separate that out from the reasons by which we are actually able to consider this project. And the tenant leasee like relationship is not, is just not one of those. It's very unfortunate. This is, I can think of only one other Planning Commission meeting that I've had that has been as contentious as this and it was about a cell phone tower and a church.

(Background talk)

2951 | Jones:

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No crosstalk please. Please respect the process.

So, with all of that being said, I do want to

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address one of the commentors notes about a request for a continuance and I'm using air quotes because a request for continuance can be made by staff, or it can be made by an applicant, or it can be considered by the Commission if we feel that there is a reason for a continuance. But I need to call this out and I feel like this has been happening a lot. Disagreement with the assessment of a professional, and the professionals that we have on staff is not grounds for a continuance. And if a person who is a professional as a historic consultant says that this property does not meet the criteria for historic designation and staff comes to the agreement that it also does not, then I tend to agree with the people who are paid to do this for a living. So, I just want to, I just need to say that for the record because I just think that there's a lot of misunderstanding about grounds for these things. Like I'm not going to pretend like I know more than people who have gone to graduate school and who have gone to a law school to do these things know more about this than I do. I don't. Again, all of that being said, there's so much ground to cover for things that I

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just did not realize we were going to be talking about tonight. In terms of the project itself, I do think there are so many things to recommend this project. I think it's an excellent project. Again, I think as many of my fellow Commissioners have said, there are a lot of elements that I think we wish we saw in more projects that came before us for consideration. I would agree with my fellow Commissioners who had comments about the setback. I don't know if that's something that staff can work with the fire department on because it sounds like pretty roundly that that's not the applicant's choice and it's not staff's choice, but that's something that the fire department requested. So, if we can make that, maybe not a condition of approval should this move forward tonight, but, or maybe we do make it a condition, but that's something I do think is worthy of exploration especially given that, as Commissioner Matos noted and Commissioner Lombardi noted, this is not something that has been a rule or a condition of, for projects before. So, speaking of consistency, I think it's important that we say that for posterity. I also just want to note, I'd generally

be comfortable with the breakdown of the inclusionary units if that's something we want to do, but doesn't condition 3.3 in the resolution generally cover that? Again, I'm fine with including it, I'm just wondering if that, if it's duplicative.

Gallo:

3.3 of the general statement, we can just add one more since it's 3.1 to address Commissioner Matos' concerns.

Jones:

Okay. Okay. I'm comfortable with that. Before I forget, in so far as the landscape plans. I understand that there is a level of discomfort with us not having those. I also recognize that it's not legally required and again, we're here to make sure that West Hollywood follows the law. Whether we like the law or not, we are legally obligated to follow it. So, I don't know if, you know, review by, you know, the Urban Design Architect Studio, UDAS or, you know, I don't think it's appropriate to send it back to design review. I'll just say that. I don't, I don't, especially for the Housing Accountability Act project, I just feel like there's a very narrow, we're not walking down a very wide hallway, we'll just say. So, I personally

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don't feel comfortable with that. But other than that, and again there's a lot more that I can say because I recognize too that we're talking about people's lives and their memories and things that are important to them, and that is incredibly meaningful. But again, I think that there's been some misunderstanding about the role of this Commission and our ability to, per the law, to be able to affect real change for you. It's very unfortunate that you find yourselves in this position and that this wasn't better communicated to you because there is a process for this and I don't know where the wires got crossed, but clearly something happened here and we're terribly sorry for that. I know, I get it like people are upset. There's nothing I'm going to say that's going to make you less upset, but I'm just trying to help you understand the reasons that we're here and what we're allowed to consider. So, with all that being said, I'm inclined to move this project forward with the conditions that Commissioner Matos numerated as regards the breakdown of the inclusionary units and a recommendation to staff that they work with the fire department to further

3049 study the setback and maybe request that we can 3050 move that and keeping with the previous projects. 3051 Alkire: Yeah. We have some language that we can read into 3052 the code on that condition. Isaac. 3053 Rosen: So the two conditions or revised conditions in line 3054 with the discussion by the Commission would be 3055 potentially a new condition 2.4 that prior to 3056 issuance of building permits, applicant shall 3057 consult with the Planning and Development Services 3058 Director and Fire Department on the feasibility of 3059 a 30 foot setback from curb of the project site and 3060 if feasible under fire code requirements, project 3061 shall be revised to accommodate the revised setback 3062 subject to approval by planning and development 3063 services director. And then to add to the 3064 exhibiting condition 3.1, which includes the 3065 existing breakdown of affordable inclusionary 3066 units. A new sentence that states that there will 3067 be nine one-bedroom inclusionary affordable units 3068 and five two-bedroom units. 3069 Jones: Okay. Now that the language is read into the 3070 record, do we have a motion? Commissioner 3071 Carvalheiro has motioned. Do we have a second? 3072 Commissioner Matos has seconded. Unless there's

3073 further deliberation, anything wants to say 3074 anything, we can call the question. 3075 And the motion passes noting six eyes and Vice Gilliq: 3076 Chair Thomas voting no. There is an appeal process. 3077 The resolution the Planning Commission just 3078 approved memorializes the Commission's final action 3079 on this matter. This action is subject to appeal to 3080 the City Council. Appeals must be submitted within 3081 ten calendar days from this date to the city 3082 clerk's office. Appeals must be in writing and 3083 accompanied by the required fees. The city clerks' 3084 office can provide the appeal forms and information 3085 about waiver of fees. 3086 Jones: Thank you, David. Okay. So, we have moved out of 3087 our public hearings for this evening. Our next item 3088 is Item 11A, that's new business. We are going to 3089 take a quick break. It will be somewhere in the 3090 realm of five minutes. Don't hold us to it, but 3091 emotional, emotional release. 3092 (Off record) 3093 (On record) 3094 Okay. So, we're going to call the meeting back to Jones: 3095 order. We are headed into item 11A. 11 is new 3096 business and Item A is 9160 to 9176 Sunset

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Boulevard, Draft Environmental Impact Report comment period. I just want to give a guick kind of prelude to the report that staff is planning to give. This is actually not technically a public hearing. Staff will run everybody through including us kind of CEQA, the draft EIR period, the actual environmental impact report period and what this connotes, but essentially what this will be is an opportunity for everybody here whether they've already submitted a comment in writing, whether they're on Zoom, whether they're here in the room, and for us as Planning Commissioners to give feedback about this project. All of the feedback that we provide, whether it is again verbal comment, written comment, whatever it may be, will be incorporated into the final environmental impact report, which will then be responded to in the final document. So, I just want to make clear there's not decision being rendered tonight. This is not to move a project forward. It's, we're in the very early stages of this. So, I just want to make that clear. Appreciate everybody coming out. With that I'm going to hand this over to staff. Thank you. Joe, can we get the, there we go. Thank

Purificacion:

you. Good evening, Chair and Commissioners, and members of the public. My name is Dereck Purificacion, Associate Planner for the City of West Hollywood. The project before you is located at 9160 to 9176 Sunset Boulevard and the proposed project is a five-story commercial building with integrated digital billboard as well as three floors of subterranean parking. As Chair Jones had mentioned, this item is at the draft EIR comment period stage, and what does that mean? Basically, it just means that the comment period is a stage in the environmental review process where staff receives comments that are generally limited to the draft EIR document and staff will take those comments and respond to them in the final EIR document, which will be returned to the Planning Commission at that time. So, for tonight's meeting, the Commission will not be deliberating on merits of the project or deciding to support or oppose the project at this time. And with that being said, I'd like to turn it over to Hena Guta, she is the environmental consultant with Ultra Systems Environmental.

Guta:

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Good evening, everyone. I'm Hena Guta with Ultra

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Systems Environmental. We are the CEQA environmental consultant, and we are helping the city prepare the CEQA environmental review documentation for this project. Just to give an overview of the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA requires state and local agencies to evaluate and consider the environmental impacts during the decision-making process. It informs decision makers and the public about the proposed project and potential environmental impacts. It provides an opportunity for agencies and the public to comment on the environmental issues and identify ways to reduce or avoid environmental impacts through mitigation and or project alternatives. It also helps disclose significant and unavoidable impacts. Going over the CEQA EIR review process, the process starts with preparation of an initial study. After that a public sculping meeting is held. After collecting initial comments during the public scoping meeting, we prepared the draft EIR. For this project we are, we prepared the draft EIR and circulated it for public review and comment and we are now at step six of this process here where the intent of this meeting is to collect comments

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on the draft EIR. I would like to remind everybody that after this meeting, we will review all the comments and prepare responses to those comments, which will be included in the final EIR. The final EIR would be revised as needed to address those comments and additional opportunities would be provided for the public and the public agencies to review the final EIR and provide some CEQA comments during some CEQA meetings after this. The project is located at the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Cory Avenue. Carol Drive is another minor arterial which is located further east of the project. This shows an aerial view of the general vicinity of the project area. Coming to the project overview, the project applicant proposes an office and high turnover restaurant building approximately 53,000 square feet, five floors above the ground, three floors below the ground. The three floors would include a subterranean parking garage. The first-floor uses would include a high turnover restaurant, office, and outdoor dining space. The upper floors would include office uses. Terraces and planting areas would be provided on the third, fourth, and fifth floors. The subterranean parking

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garage would provide parking for 86 vehicle parking spaces and then two loading spaces. These species would also include two shared parking spaces, 20 charging EV charging spaces and the project would provide 16 bicycle parking spaces. The project also proposes a digital billboard on level three through five for solar shading, signage, advertisement, and public art. The building would be an all-electric building and levels two through five would be set back along the eastern and the southern façade. Over here we have a conceptual project site plan. Vehicular entry to the project site would be provided through driveways along Cory Avenue and another alleyway which can be accessed through Carol Drive. This here is a schematic section showing the building design, a cross section through the building, which shows the setback profile of the building towards the south. Restaurant use is on the ground floor and office use is on the upper floors. Here's the conceptual rendering of the project looking east from Sunset Boulevard. This is a view along Sunset Boulevard and here's a conceptual rendering showing the view of the project looking southwest from Sunset

Boulevard. Here's a view towards the south of the building near the residences on Cory Avenue and the setback profile of the building. The environmental topics that were considered in this draft EIR included aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, transportation, travel and cultural resources, utility, and service systems, and wildfire. The topics highlighted in yellow here are the ones where we found that there is potential for impacts and mitigation measures were included and recommended in the draft EIR. For all of the topics highlighted in yellow, the mitigation measures would help reduce the impacts to a level below the significant threshold. The only issue that was found to have significant and unavoidable impacts was related to noise. The draft, in the draft EIR it was determined that construction noise, impacts related to construction noise would be significant and unavoidable. Thank you.

Jones:

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Great. Thank you very much. I wasn't ignoring you,

3241 I just wanted to make sure you were finished. 3242 Fantastic. So again, I mean the normal order of 3243 this would be for us to ask questions, but this is 3244 a comment period. So, I think if city attorney is 3245 amenable and staff is amenable and the rest of my 3246 fellow Commissioners are amenable, that we open 3247 this up to the public right now both in chamber and 3248 on zoom and allow everyone to speak. David, can you 3249 tell me how many public speakers we have right now? 3250 Gillig: We have approximately 20. 3251 Twenty. Okay. So, it's 10:08. I think what I'd like Jones: 3252 to suggest, and I'm, I can be moved on this. I 3253 think what I'd like to suggest is that we limit 3254 comments to two minutes each. Are those sighs of 3255 consternation? I'm really not trying to limit it, 3256 but I do want to make sure that everyone has an 3257 opportunity to speak. 3258 (Background talking) 3259 Jones: Commissioner Thomas, Vice Chair Thomas has a 3260 question for staff. Go ahead. 3261 Thomas: This may actually be two questions. So, there was a 3262 full light study that was completed by Francis 3263 Craig, the same firm that did the city's MND for 3264 the billboards on Sunset. And so, this is, this

3265		will be the same methodology that the city is using
3266		for our offsite advertising program. Is that
3267		correct?
3268	Alkire	We're, so at this time we're really just taking
3269		comments.
3270	Thomas:	Sure.
3271	Alkire:	We want to make sure that we're responding to
3272		everything globally in -
3273	Thomas:	It's just a yes or no question because the 495-page
3274		document that I just thought that people might have
3275		missed that in the, in the document. So, it's -
3276	Alkire:	Okay. If it's a simple answer, we can answer that.
3277	Thomas:	Yes.
3278	Alkire:	Was the methodology -
3279	(Background ta	lking)
3280	Alkire:	We don't have an answer for that right now. It was
3281		not the same analysis; it was a different analysis.
3282		So, whether it was exactly the same methodology
3283		used as that MND is not something we're prepared to
3284		answer.
3285	Thomas:	Okay. But there was a light study done?
3286	Alkire:	Yes. There was.
3287	Thomas:	Okay. Can I ask, I know, I'm sorry. Just one last
3288		question. Do you, in this light study, was it found

3289 that there would be light hitting the north side of 3290 the project? That, that it would be hitting any of 3291 the properties north of the project. 3292 When you say light hitting -Guta: 3293 Thomas: The trespass. 3294 Guta Yes. So, the level of light trespass was studied I 3295 the lighting study and there's thresholds that 3296 explains what the perceived, how much light would 3297 affect, would be, would be considered perceived 3298 change. 3299 Unknown: Can you speak up louder? We can't hear you. 3300 So, the lighting study does evaluate the levels of Guta: 3301 light at the properties to the north of the project 3302 site and the EIR is based on the analysis in the 3303 lighting study which concludes that the impact 3304 would be less than significant because there's 3305 thresholds that the lighting study studies and that 3306 is based on data which explains how much light 3307 would cause human annoyance and would cause a 3308 significant change in the environment. And the 3309 lighting study determined that the level of light 3310 that would be introduced by this project would be 3311 below the threshold. And it also took into account 3312 distances of those properties. So as the distance

3313		from the project site increases, the level of light
3314		trespass levels decreases as well.
3315	Thomas:	Great. Thank you so much. That's it, Chair.
3316	Jones:	Thank you. Okay. With that being said, we are going
3317		to open this up to public comment. David, you said
3318		we have 20 speakers.
3319	Gillig:	Yes.
3320	Jones:	Okay. So, I'm going to leave it at three minutes. I
3321		don't want anybody to feel like they're not being
3322		heard this evening. So, we'll leave it at three.
3323		Doesn't mean you have to take all three, but you
3324		are entitled to three should you like that. So,
3325		with that, I think we can take our first public
3326		speaker, David.
3327	Gillig:	Sure. Thank you, Chair. We'll do chambers first
3328		then when they're finished, I might have a couple
3329		records to read into, a couple emails to read into
3330		the record that came in after the public comment
3331		closing. Our first public speaker will be Ellen
3332		Evans. She will be followed by Leo Pircher. Please
3333		state your name and city of residence and you have
3334		three minutes.
3335	Evans:	My name is Ellen Evans and I live in Los Angeles.
3336		Good evening, commissioners. And I want to thank, I
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want to thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm president of the Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association. Our mission is to protect the safety, security, and serenity of our neighborhood which is composed of the 2,000 households in Los Angeles in the hills above the sunset strip. While we don't reside in West Hollywood we dine in West Hollywood, we shop in West Hollywood, we walk our dogs in West Hollywood, and most of us can't leave our house without going to or through West Hollywood. The proposed digital sign presents a threat to the safety and serenity and health of our hillside eco system. The DEIR states that light from the billboard will have a less than significant impact. This is simply not credible, and I want you to know that we hired an illumination engineer who will explain in writing in a stamped report exactly why. Here's why you should treat the lighting portion with skepticism. The billboard is the same height as the reef, and if you don't know what the reef is, it's this one. It's the same area as one of its faces and the reef is extremely impactful. This proposed billboard is roughly equivalent to the reef except of being on top of a tall building of a

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freeway, it's on sunset. At least the reef has to turn off at 11 p.m. You might think that West Hollywood illumination limits will limit impact. Did you know that the West Hollywood limits far exceed the illuminating engineering society's guidelines? If we take the position that West Hollywood is similar to Vegas or Times Square, which would put us in Title 24's Lighting Zone 4, then West Hollywood's limit is 2.33 times the recommended limit. But that standard is not supposed to apply to residential areas. Not even urban residential areas. Therefore, the limit is nearly five times what's recommended. The reef also doesn't face directly into a residential neighborhood. This is going to be extremely impactful and also fails to, the DEIR fails to recognize the significant biological resources in our neighborhood, which other governmental bodies recognize. The entirety of our neighborhood is the Santa Monica mountains and is part of the rim of the valley study area. We're also part of the proposed LA Wildlife District, where there will be special rules and restrictions in preserving habitat and the health of our eco system, our eco

3385 systems. In the rules are illumination standards 3386 aimed at protecting wildlife because nighttime life 3387 is a threat. This must be recognized. West 3388 Hollywood would not approve projects that undermine 3389 the ability of LA to protect wildlife in line with 3390 policy goals. Thank you. 3391 (Clapping) 3392 Gillig: Thank you, Ellen. 3393 (Clapping) 3394 Our next speaker will Leo Pircher. Leo, you will be Gillig: 3395 followed by Mary Hart Sugarman. Leo, you have three 3396 minutes. Please state your name and city of 3397 residence. 3398 Pircher: My name is Leo Pircher. I'm a long-time resident of 3399 West Hollywood having lived in Sierra Towers for 3400 the past 22 years. I'm also president of the Sierra 3401 Towers Homeowners Association. On behalf of myself 3402 and as president of the association, I want to 3403 register our strong opposition to the portion of 3404 the proposed project that consists of the digital 3405 billboard. This is a truly awful addition. It will 3406 negatively impact all the property in West 3407 Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles within

its line of sight. The massive size of the

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billboard is 14,000 square feet, 90 feet high, larger than any other billboard in the area, quarantees that thousands of residents will be impacted by this sign in their homes. The sign will have particular impact on Sierra Towers. Sierra Towers as you may know is a 32-story apartment building containing 146 units. As such it has hundreds of residents. It is located on Doheny Road one block from the proposed project. And the direct line of sight to the proposed digital board. The digital board will shine directly into apartments in Sierra Towers, particularly those located on the north and east sides 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The residents will be deprived of a principal reason why they bought their apartments, which is the view. They will be forced to use blackout drapes on their windows facing the sign. The value of all the apartments in Sierra Towers will be negatively impacted. The negative impact of the billboard on the residents and their homes won't be the only problem as you know the billboard will face in three directions and tower over the intersection of Sunset Boulevard, Cory Avenue, and Doheny Road. That intersection is now a virtual

3433		parking lot during portions of each day,
3434		particularly in the evening hours. Cars cannot
3435		avoid blocking the box during this period. Safely
3436		crossing the street as a pedestrian is always a
3437		challenge. There, you can imagine how much more
3438		dangerous it will become for pedestrians and
3439		drivers when they're further distracted.
3440	Jones:	Sir, thank you.
3441	Pircher:	With visual images.
3442	Jones:	Your time is up.
3443	Pircher:	Thank you very much.
3444	Jones:	Thank you very much. I just want to make sure
3445		everybody has their three minutes.
3446	Gillig:	Thank you, Leo. Our next speaker will be Mary Hart
3447		Sugarman, and she will be followed by Paul C.
3448	Sugarman:	Good evening, Commissioners and thank you for
3449		taking this time and for what you do and after what
3450		we saw just a few minutes ago, obviously the
3451		decision-making process is not an easy one. I too
3452		am here. I'm Mary Hart, I live in Sierra Towers
3453		right here in West Hollywood. My husband and I have
3454		been here for a number of years and before that we
3455		lived right up in the hills in Truesdale. So, we
3456		are extremely concerned about the impact of this

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huge, again 45,000 square feet of billboard, LED lighting that wraps around the entire building, which is 50,000 square feet. I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like that except maybe in Time Square. Maybe in Las Vegas. But that's not us. That's not who we are. And I understand progress and the need for it. Heaven only knows things change, but I don't believe that this EIR study even considered Sierra Towers. I don't recall hearing that it was mentioned whatsoever. And we're in a position where we literally will be staring at this building. And I can't, I can't begin to describe how horrified we were to imagine that we'd be looking into neon lights. Not just in the evening, but 24 hours a day. So, if you get up early, right now, maybe the lighting impact isn't too bad. But by 4:00 in the afternoon, and then going on through the evening hours, I also think it is going to be extremely detrimental to traffic. I think the impact, the shock of going eastbound on Sunset Boulevard and going to Cory and coming through a beautiful, quiet not highly lit up residential area, to suddenly be blasted with this giant LED billboard is going to be a tremendous

3481 distraction. I think we're going to have trouble 3482 with traffic, which we already do. As Leo just 3483 said, it's a parking lot down there. Going to work 3484 during rush hours in the morning. And if you're 3485 trying to, like we do, probably 80 nights a year 3486 try to make that left on Sunset to go down to 3487 Dodger's Stadium, whether you start at 5:00 or as 3488 we've moved it up to 4:30 and 4:00, it is a parking 3489 lot. I think it's going to get so much worse with 3490 this. So, I really do also question the veracity of 3491 the study that has been done and I think we need to 3492 look more into it and the impact it will have on 3493 the neighbors to the north. Thank you. 3494 (Clapping) 3495 Gilliq: Our next speaker is Paul C. Paul will be followed 3496 by Jack Suzar. Paul, please state your name and 3497 city of residence. You have three minutes. 3498 Paul C.: Yes. Good evening, everybody. My name is Paul C. 3499 I'm also a resident of the Sierra Towers. And yes, 3500 just like Mrs. Mary Hart and Mr. Pircher was 3501 stating that this will impact our building 3502 tremendously not only in a traffic sense, but also 3503 in response for medical services, fire departments. 3504 It would become like a six, six street bridge type

3505 of situation where everybody is going to stop, want 3506 to take pictures. You, we're inviting a lot of 3507 unwanted company to our area. Not only that, but 3508 the impact that is has of our infrastructure of not 3509 only power outages. We constantly already have 3510 power outages so having a billboard that size and 3511 the electricity demand in the area, it's going to 3512 impact the infrastructure of the city. So, all 3513 those things being said, it's going to take, in 3514 less than three minutes for a fire truck to go by, 3515 it's going to take ten, 20 minutes. So, we're 3516 thinking about people's safety and people's lives here too. Thank you very much. 3517 3518 (Clapping) 3519 Gilliq:

Thank you, Paul. Our next speaker will be Jack
Suzar followed by Fred Gaines. Jack, you have three
minutes.

Suzar:

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I can still say good evening. A few more minutes we can say good morning. First of all, I'm not going to repeat too much of what's been said. I want to say though thank you for being here and being responsive, certainly after witnessing the session before us. I really appreciate the way you've expressed yourself. So, I've been a resident of

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Sierra Towers West Hollywood for over 20 something years. I'm not going to repeat what's already been said. I want to focus on something I just recently experienced. I just want to bring it to your attention and perhaps it included the sum of the studies that you're doing. I had to take a DMV test the other day and it in were two things that I found very interesting. One, the majority of accidents and injuries and serious ones, take place in intersections. Not on the highways as we would think or in some other country road, intersections. Pedestrians and car accidents. The other is that under the current set of circumstances, people are distracted by either Apps on their phone, their car, or now in this case, will be this signage. The amount of time it takes for the person who is distracted by this sign to refocus on what they are trying to look at in the intersection was surprising to me was 10 or 15 seconds for the average person to be able to refocus. You can check the DMV on this, pretty well I'm iterating what it said. To me that represents a serious concern about accidents and injuries and who is going to be responsible if they, someone is seriously hurt and

found that the person causing the accident was distracted by the sign? Who do they go after? They're going to go after the building, they go after the city for having approved this, and having then the financial fiscal responsibility. I think all of this needs to be taken into consideration despite the revenue earned by the city on these signs which are substantial, and I understand. But I think health and welfare are civic responsibilities to care for our citizens and the community and I just want to be sure the study includes all aspects of the concerns about traffic and distraction and certainly the light study, which does not seem to include the Sierra Tower building, us facing this directly. I can say we're impacted by this directly and I am concerned about, you know, my, the way my life is going to be distorted as a result of this. Thank you for the time. I appreciate it. I appreciate what you do. Thank you.

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3573 (Clapping)

3574 ||Gillig:

Fred Gaines followed by Leonor May.

3575 || Gaines:

Thank you, madam Chair, honorable Commissioners. My name is Fred Gaines with the Law Offices of Gaines

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and Stacy land use counsel for the Sierra Towers Homeowners Association. The project includes a fully discretionary development agreement for construction of this 14,000 square foot digital billboard. The billboard on the Pendry, which you know, that's 2,000 feet. This is 14, seven times larger. It's basic, and this one is fully animated, three sides, lit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are many inconsistencies in the draft EIR, most notably the billboard shown in the draft EIR renderings. In fact, the one shown to you tonight, the one shown in the staff report, is not the billboard that's now been awarded the sunset arts award. The sign that won the award is contained in Appendix R, where it mentions they got a bigger billboard approved, but there's still no impact. So, the studies, everything that's been done is on the smaller billboard that, and that's what their showing you even though that's not what they're trying to do. The draft EIR states the post project would introduce lighting that could potentially cause lighting and glare impacts, however the proposed lighting and glare were modeled, and the results were found, according to the study, to be

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under significance thresholds. So less than significant impacts, zero mitigations. Zero. Why did this happen? Well, one, they didn't include Sierra Towers (UNINTELLIGIBLE) user. So absolutely no analysis of will people whose windows face this building 90 feet tall lighting, will there be glow in their room, will there be glow in their bedroom? Not analyzed because Sierra Towers is not identified as (UNINTELLIGIBLE). The study fails to account for animated mature so the study, the light study, does not look at animated, doesn't look at motion, doesn't look at a video footage, doesn't look at flashing affects, strobe light, color changing, none of that is included in the lighting study that is, that this relies on in finding that there's no impact. The lighting study offers no reference or citation to architectural specifications of the physical layout. Nor does the study publish actual densities that were modeled in the simulation. None how are these lighting densities it's not stated. The lighting study is a highly technical exercise the results of which are abstracted, quantitative data, but nothing specific to what the impact of that light will be at that

intersection in the windows of these residents.

Nothing about traffic. The traffic study doesn't even recognize that this will be lighted.

Absolutely nothing on whether this will cause distraction or not cause distraction to traffic on the Boulevard. We ask, we are now in the process of getting studies done. We ask that in addition to your comments tonight that you recommend that the, noted that the comment period be extended an additional 45 days, so we're not forced during this holiday period to come up with a complete and total comments on this. Thank you very much.

(Clapping)

Gillig:

Our next speaker will be Leonor May; Leonor will be followed by Nancy Lainer. Leonor, please state your name and city of residence. You have three minutes. Oh, it's Linda, I'm sorry.

May:

Thank you. And it was, thank you very much for all that you do and especially after listening to the last series of people and the issues. I'm also, my name is Linda May and I live in West Hollywood. I also live at Sierra Towers where I've lived for 27 years. The reason, I'm a real estate broker and the reason I chose to live there is that I thought that

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it was the most fabulous location that anyone could live in in Los Angeles. And I have never changed my mind. I love being in that location and we're all very concerned about this proposed building and billboard, which you've heard the comments, which will be like living in Time Square, a 14,000 square foot billboard that's flashing 24 hours a day, with ads and whatever they're going to have on it. The billboard is only going to be ten feet off the ground. It's a 90 story, 90-foot building. So that means people not only are we being, we're having this terrible glare, many people in our building will have terrible lighting issues affecting their health and their wellbeing because it will interrupt your rhythm of living and how you want to live. So that, that in itself is a serious issue for all of us that we're, as you can hear, terribly concerned about, and was not really properly addressed in the DEIR at all. The other thing is the traffic problem at Cory. It's the gateway to West Hollywood. This is a significant intersection in our city. And whether you're going east It's the gateway or you're leaving to go to work or whatever you're doing. And we used to walk frequently to go

3673 across the street. I mean we walked to Sunset Plaza 3674 all the time, but the idea of walking as we are as 3675 the last few years it's just gotten to be like a 3676 genuine problem. I don't need to tell any of you 3677 that because you all pass through there I'm sure 3678 every day. So, these are the issues that are on our 3679 minds. The health and safety of all of us wanting 3680 to live our lives and continue to live our lives in 3681 Sierra Towers which is the most iconic building in, 3682 one of them in West Hollywood, and one that, you 3683 know, has the admiration of people all over the 3684 world for its architecture. And we have fought hard 3685 to maintain that building to have the reputation 3686 and significance that is has. And we're asking that 3687 the city of West Hollywood care about that building 3688 and the residents and our lifestyle to continue 3689 living there. Thank you. 3690 Gilliq: Thank you. 3691 (Clapping) 3692 Our next speaker is Nancy Lainer followed by Brian Gilliq: 3693 Roskam. Nancy, you have three minutes. 3694 Lainer: Good evening. Thank you. My name is Nancy Lainer, 3695 West Hollywood. I'm also a resident at Sierra

Towers. And I'm opposed to this project as it's

that this project has less than significant impacts in the areas of noise, transportation, light and aesthetics is completely flawed. Perhaps the most egregious is the enormous three-sided digital billboard. You say you want a landmark building to welcome people to WeHo and to create a sense of community for local residents, this is not a landmark building. This is an advertising revenue scheme disguised as an office building. The design is utterly out of place.

(Clapping)

It's in congress to its built environment. A 90foot tall, 14,000 square foot digital billboard
that will be illuminated 24 seven is distracting
and disruptive, overpowering and overwhelming
everything in its wake. The DEIR is incomplete in
that it only goes so far west and north as 9233
Doheny Road and egregiously omits the gargantuan,
the impact of this gargantuan building on Sierra
Towers at 9255. Am I to believe that no one at
Firing or Gensler or the city can see our iconic
tower from that street corner? Who chose to exclude
our building from the study and what was the basis

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for that decision? The (UNINTELLIGIBLE) light study in the report speciously avoids actual modeling of the impact of this building's light and animating affects onto our building and in our units. The study also doesn't, excuse me, account for the compounding effect of all the competing light sources from nearby billboards. Who decided to exclude these factors from the study? How is it that people living within the radius for noticing purposes are absent from the radius of the environmental study? We're not in there. I live on the northeast corner on the 8th floor of this, of Sierra Towers, which means my unit faces directly down on the project site. The billboard of this size and magnitude will upend my personal right to quiet enjoyment in my home. The constant barrage of light and motion in my unit could impact sleep, cause headaches, perhaps nausea, dizziness. If allowed this billboard would destroy the quality of lives of everyone in my building and put a stain on Sierra Towers forever. I have so many other comments to say, but I just want to say that in general the report says this building would promote livability. All I see is an eyesore that will

3745 continue to destroy this neighborhood. The project 3746 as designed is not creative. It is chaotic. It is 3747 not glamourous or neighbor, but harmful to our 3748 mental health, dangerous for our streets, and 3749 invasive in our lives and homes. It would be better 3750 for all of us if the stress of being bombarded by 3751 constant light all day and all day is avoided, and 3752 instead you consider an alternative build without 3753 off site signage. In the meantime, I think the DEIR 3754 needs to be revisited and revised to more 3755 adequately and comprehensively study the real 3756 impacts of this project on the community. Thank 3757 you. 3758 (Clapping) 3759 Gillia: Thank you. Brian Roskam will be followed by Hollace 3760 Brown. 3761 Roskam: Good evening. My name is Brian Roskam, I live in 3762 Los Angeles. I lived in West Hollywood on Bonner 3763

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Drive and still own my house there and some other property. And here is what I'd like to talk about. Let me pull my phone up again, sorry gentleman. Here we go. Okay. In the CEQA it's section LU-16.3. It's part of the long, you know, it's a 400-page document but it's part of where they're explaining

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what everything means, how they interpret the rules, this is what it says. Policy. Consider impacts to surrounding neighborhoods when evaluating off site signage. This is in the document. Their reply. The project is surrounded by commercial development on all sides except at southern side where there's single and multifamily homes. The digital billboard would not be located on the southern portion of the building where the proposed building abutts residential land users. Instead, southern side most dominant feature is landscaping to soften the views to adjacent residential land use. Therefore, the project would be consistent with this policy of consider impacts to surrounding neighborhoods when evaluating off site signage. We've already heard about Sierra Towers. I live in Sierra Mar Drive. I would think you would think I live a long way from Sunset. Actually, I live 500 yards from the project. Keep in mind this project is, the billboard itself if you look at the drawings, the billboard is 55 feet tall. Also, it is over 14,000 square feet. That's one third of an acre to keep in mind. Where I live, we have a beautiful view of the city. We really do.

And I'm privileged to live there. However, billboards of course like the HBO Building that everyone who lives in our area, that's the eyesore. You know that big side of the building, when you look out the window, boom, that's what you see. In this case, what we're going to be having here is flashing colored animated lights that I will see out of every window in my home. If I walk up to the window, I will see those. I'm not part of the study group. You know, I won't be notified of these things. But when, just give you two examples. One, when you redid Lottman Plaza, maybe eight years ago, ten, when they put in the white lightning that wraps the building on different floors, we were basically told you're not going to notice this at all. Yes, we do. It's blue light. It cuts through everything else. Even that's a small, small point. Anyway, I've made my point about this. With my 12 seconds I just want to talk about traffic briefly. That intersection you are narrowing from huge wide sunset onto little sunset. It's a terrible place to have this massive thing that's going to, I can barely look at the new Cory billboard that just went up. It's so bright when I drive up. It causes

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me to have to put my visor down. This would be catastrophic to traffic. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Gillig:

Thank you, Brian. Our next speaker will be Hollace Brown. Hollace will be followed by Erin Razoma. Hollace, you have three minutes.

Brown:

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much. I'm Hollace Brown. I live in the Los Angeles part of the Sunset strip. I've lived in the hills above Sunset strip for 44 years and I object to the massive digital billboard proposed. The DEIR persistently fails to acknowledge the presence of our residential neighborhood. The billboard will impact us horribly. It should not be facing private homes directly across the street. I know. The Pendry Hotel, right below me, with its huge digital light show, just proved the negative impact of billboards and hotels on Sunset Boulevard. Severe traffic congestion, have you tried to drive there? Sunset Boulevard is a parking lot. You've heard that from everyone. And this construction will only make it worse. In fact, what you're about to do looks like a synchronized moto cross of big, bright billboards. So, about that DEIR, if the light

levels are so low, why don't you build these things on Melrose Avenue? La Cienega Boulevard? Santa Mónica Boulevard? The DEIR fails to analyze the effects of light from this project on people and animals and does not seem to comply with the requirements of California Environmental law. Build, big billboards will continue to degrade the quality of life, ruin people's health, and ruin our property values. We know the revenue from this project and similar ones will go to our city services, but negative impacts on our health and on the sunset strip community will be severe. Please don't do this to us. Please do not allow this massive bright billboard to move forward without a complete and accurate, accurate study of how its substantial light field will affect me, my family,

(Clapping)

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Our next speaker will be Eric Razoma followed by Cheryl Advil. Eric? No. Cheryl? No Cheryl? Okay.

and our neighbors. I thank you all very much.

Jordan Cockeram followed by Hamit Amrani.

Cockeram:

Hello. My name is Jordan Cockeram and I'm a resident of West Hollywood. I support development tonight. I understand not only are projects like

these necessary, but even if you don't like art or support them, they are inevitable. However, new developments need to respect the integrity of the neighborhoods they are in, and I don't believe this project does that. The location of this proposed project is in a neighborhood of beautiful one to two story houses that have been around since before the inception of this city. Adding a six-story building with a 14,000 square foot billboard in this location will not only dramatically change the entire character of the neighborhood, but it will negatively impact the residents who live nearby with the increased light, traffic, and noise. A building like this seems more suited in neighborhoods where there are other tall buildings with large, bright displays. I'm all for development. It brings office space, housing, jobs, and more to our city, but this project in this location are just not a suitable match. I'm speaking today to oppose this project. Thank you.

(Clapping)

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Our next speaker will be Hamit Amrani will be followed by Rhian Williams. Hamit? No? We have none? Thank you. You have three minutes.

Williams:

I'm going to keep it brief. So straight off the bat, I'm sorry. My name is Rhian Williams. I live on North Doheny Drive. I'm a relative newbie. I've been there for two years. Look, I really think given the comments made by, I think by Mr. Gaines in particular who went through the report and found a lot of inaccuracies, it looks like this report was actually based on a smaller version of what's now been submitted. So, the findings that are in the report are -

Unknown:

Can you speak up please?

3900 | Williams:

Maybe not that much. No, my concern is the report is based on a much smaller build. So, all the recommendations and findings that have been made don't apply to the building that's now being proposed. And that's something that I think we really do need to take a look at. A lot has been made of the impact of light. I can't comment to that, but I would hope that serious research is done into that element. Also, as you can tell from my accent, I wasn't born and raised here. Now, looking at the type of building this is and the billboards, the digital billboards, in countries where they have been introduced, they're actually

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quickly banned because if you look at the new science reports into this, even the national road traffic association here did a similar report. They found that those advertising billboards, the digital ones, they doubled road fatalities and the number of accidents on the road increased exponentially. Now that applied for pedestrians as well as, as well as cars, bicycles. You know, I know there are going to be 16 bicycle spaces in this new build, you know, good luck getting there because a lot has been made of the traffic, but I really do hope when we look at this carefully that there is research into the impact, like the just on health and safety of anyone using that road. Because I think it's going to be an absolute disaster. But there are reasons why these digital billboards have been banned. It's because they caused deaths. And that's one of my main objections to it. I don't object to commercial buildings, although if you walk up and down Sunset, the number of commercial buildings that we have now with lease, for lease signs on them going into recession, I'm afraid this is probably going to be a great, big, white elephant. So yeah, let's wait

and see.

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(Clapping)

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Gillig: Our next speaker will be Terrie Jacobs. Terrie will be followed by Tony Williams.

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Jacobs:

Hi. I'm Terrie Jacobs. I live right behind Sierra Towers on North Doheny above Sunset. And I've got to tell you, digital billboards that are out there, the flashing, glowing that's going on down there in the view, is just wiped out. I mean the light impact that this has on humanity as well as a community, as well as safety, as well as wildlife, really, you guys really please take a look at this. We've got to stop selling out our communities to the highest bidders of advertisers or builders or whatever. And I'm in real estate. I'm all for making money and, you know, and doing the right thing. But this isn't fair. It's not safe. It's not healthy. We really need everybody, every one of you to take a hard look at this. Really look at these studies and even the people that are paid by the people that are doing this, you've got to have a conscious somewhere on this because it's ugly. It's really ugly to have that flashing light 24/7 and I mean the people in Sierra Towers, they're bearing

the brunt of it but I'm up the hill, but it's still obnoxious, not to mention all the wildlife that are suffering. And the safety. If you've gone through that intersection, you know already it's distracting. That's it.

(Clapping)

Tony Williams.

Good evening. I'm Tony Williams. I hadn't planned

to get up and speak, but I just wanted to quickly

3970 sort of double down on what Ms. Jacobs brought up

3971 and that's about the wildlife. We've heard a lot

3972 about traffic. We've heard a lot about the lights,

annoying the, intruding on people's apartments. But

the wildlife is something I think definitely needs

to be considered. I live at Sierra Towers. I live

on the 27th floor. And I want to speak on behalf of

the red-tailed hawk that picnics on my balcony

several days a week. Gophers, squirrels, rats, he

thinks of it all and brings it up to visit. It's my

understanding that at Los Angeles airport one of

the ways they've used to remove birds from runway

incidents is strong lighting. There are a number of

studies and hope that we will consider those

studies, on how the lighting can chase away various

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Williams:

wildlife. This particular billboard in my opinion has a greater impact on wildlife than any other board in West Hollywood because of its proximity to the flats of Beverly Hills. Not only do we have the Hollywood Hills to the north, but just to the west of this billboard is the greenery of Beverly Hills. So, I hope that we will give great consideration in the coming days, weeks, and months as we continue to investigate pursuing this to the wildlife. Not just the red-tailed hawk on my balcony, but the various other animals that live in our community. Thank you.

(Clapping)

3998 ||Gillig:

Thank you. I want to give these last people a chance to, if they're here or not. Ericka Zoma, Cheryl Advil, Amid Amrani. That is our last public speaker in chambers. I have two records to read into the record. These were received after public comment closed online. This first one is from Allen Willion, and he states, I oppose the 9160-project item 10C in particular on basis that the electronic sign is limited to 1500 square feet and here the sign is 14,000 square feet, virtually the entire building is transmuted into a massive sign or

media. And the last one that came in is from Stephen Blue. He says my name is Stephen Blue. I reside in Sierra Towers, which looks directly onto the proposed development site on the property formerly occupied by Hornburg Jaquar. I urge the city of West Hollywood to oppose the installation of a massive digital billboard that is a central part of the development proposal for the 9160 to 9176 sunset boulevard property. I'm not opposed to the development of the site, only the construction of the digital billboard. Certainly, a more reasonable approach can be found. Thanks for your attention to this matter, Stephen Blue. And that's all we have in chambers. I'll turn it over to the Zoom platform. If there is anybody on the Zoom platform that would like to comment and speak on this item, if you're calling in hit star nine for me. And if you're on the Zoom platform, just raise your hand and we'll give you three minutes to

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At this time, we would like to have Lynn

Hoopingarner speak and please state your name and
city of residence and you will have three minutes.

Star six to unmute.

speak. Okay.

|| Hoopingarner:

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Hello. This is Lynn Hoopingarner. I live in the city of West Hollywood. And I'd like to speak to three major areas. The scope of the study, or lack thereof, the accuracy of the study, and the detail assumptions made by the study, or the lack of disclosure of those assumptions. I find it very perplexing that people live within the noticing range, i.e., 500 feet of this project are excluded from the study content of this project. That seems to be a huge deficiency and should be immediately addressed prior to the FEIR. Related to that, there seem to be a number of assertions made in the studies, especially as relates to lighting, that are based upon assumptions that are not disclosed. As someone who does a lot of financial projections, I can make up numbers all day long. But if I don't tell you I'm assuming that taxes are at 12 percent and mortgage rates are at 7 percent, my calculations are meaningless to you. The same applies to lighting. And I'm sure Commissioner Lombardi can probably give everyone an education on this subject. It's disturbing that in addition this project is roughly 12 times larger than the largest project under the SE, the Sunset Arts and

Advertising DEIR that, excuse me, FEIR, that was originally approved, which limited digital billboards to 1500 square feet. The size of this is 12 to, depending on the math, 14 times bigger. That scope far exceeds the original scope of the original study. To note to everyone, this is in fact on council's agenda on Monday night to review the latest draft EIR, excuse me, the latest version of the sunset Pacific Plan and the Sunset Arts and Advertising and I have not had time to review that, but it might be material. There's just so many elements of this that do not incorporate detailed valid table data. If you give me data and I can't validate it because I don't know the assumptions, then you've given me nothing. It's artwork on paper. And I assure that the attorney who made the point, a very good point, about needing sufficient time to do their own studies in order to validate this data, would very much appreciate knowing the underlying assumptions made for these studies in order to validate the data. Thank you.

(Clapping)

Joe:

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Our next speaker is the person ending in the cell phone number of 9751. Please state your name and

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city of residence and you have three minutes, and star six to unmute please.

Wendell:

Thank you very much. Jamie Francis Wendell, off of the Sunset Boulevard area of Haven Hurst Drive. I just wanted to mention I am a pedestrian mostly and I utilize that part of sunset Boulevard to get to Westwood as well as to run into Beverly Hills. I understand there's a consensus with the homeowners and please be aware that there are locals who are not fortunate enough to live in that part of Sunset because of the extreme wealth gap. But I do agree and want to, you know, add to the consensus that we are here as residents, and we don't approve of the way that advertising billboards are dominating the sunset boulevard area. I've seen it change, size and scope of these billboards. I run, and I have to be extra vigilant, because people do like to engage and use it as Thorofare and it's quite alarming to see how many people are going there for photo ops or they're trying to immerse themselves in this. It is. It's like Sunset Boulevard is a way for people come from all over the world. And those of few who are fortunate enough to live in the city, I struggle to maintain residency here. Others are

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fortunate to move here 40 years ago and reside in Sierra Towers. Congratulations on that. However, there's those of us who are renters who live below Sunset Boulevard. We are still part of your community. We might live eastbound, but we're impacted because we are commuters, whether it be on bikes, on foot, by bus, we're the ones that we have no protection. And it's very important that the Commissioner understand that those of us who live here, it's going to gentrify this neighborhood even more. It's going to allow a money-making opposition of billboard's revenue and advertising to dominate. It's nice to live in the community, I just don't want to be outpriced and overlooked by someone who is a tourist or someone who is basically staying here who has a lot more money who has more say that I do. That's very discouraging. And West Hollywood has become a victim of its own success. And I hate to say victim, but you've been a beneficiary. And this will just add to the money-making venue or the machine of making money. But let's be advised that residents who are fortunate to be homeowners, condo owners, remember us who live below Sunset Boulevard or the Doheny Sunset Resident Alliance, the

4129 neighborhood alliance. Just know you have neighbors 4130 below, okay. Maybe not the owners, but we're the 4131 ones that are also advocating on your behalf, so 4132 recognize that and at least show some gratitude or 4133 at least some acknowledgement to those that are 4134 renters because it goes all the way to Crescent 4135 Heights to Doheny. I get all these -4136 (Bell) 4137 8150 as well as the Harper, and those are also big 4138 (UNINTELLIGIBLE) projects so please be aware of 4139 that. Thank you very much. I oppose the project. 4140 (Clapping) 4141 Gillig: And Chair, that is our last public speaker on this 4142 item. 4143 Jones: Okay. Thank you very much everyone. Okay. So 4144 normally we could close the public hearing but it's 4145 not a public hearing so I think what we can do is move into deliberation. IT's not deliberation, I'm 4146 4147 sorry, let me be very clear about this. Nothing is 4148 being deliberated tonight. We're just providing 4149 comments for the record. So, do I have comments? Do 4150 we have comments? Okay. Commissioner Carvalheiro. 4151 Carvalheiro: So, there's no discussion, right? We're just taking 4152 down notes because I have a couple of pages of

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them. So, when I went through the DEIR, I kind of was, a couple of things jumped out at me. First, it feels biased. It's not factual. And let me go into my point. So, on Page 15, scenic quality regulations, it states the proposed project would develop the desired landmark building for the project site with high quality permanent building materials. And hear me out because I'm building an argument here. Later the DEIR states that this is in line with the Sunset Specific Plan which requests the mix use building of landmark quality that dramatically marks the entrance of West Hollywood. So, we have permanent materials, and we have the entrance of West Hollywood. So, for me, you know, the first thing when I thought when I read this was how come we consider a digital wall a permanent building material when likely that technology is going to be updated on a regular basis. So that question, that made me question that requirement of it being a permanent building material. The DEIR also implies that the building would be less than landmark without the 14,000 square foot digital billboard. And then you go to the alternatives, and it's, one of the alternatives

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is a building without the digital billboard. And it states, let me catch up here. Under this alternative, the following objective would be partially met. Deleting the digital billboard would make the building a less dramatic landmark. So, where I'm going with this is that, A, I don't feel like the digital billboard is a permanent material, a building material, because it needs to be updated often. And then we have this whole idea of the Sunset Specific Plan requesting a landmark building at that location. And then the DEIR implying that a landmark building needs to have a digital component, or this landmark building needs to have a digital component to be a landmark building. And we all know that landmark buildings, there are landmark buildings all over the world without digital components. But I feel as I read through the DEIR that it is biased in that, in that, in that definition of landmark. And I fundamentally disagree with that. Where did I go? So, one of the questions I had, and I know you can't answer it, but in the presentation, there was an image with the digital on and one without. So, what I didn't understand from those two images is that a building

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without the billboard and then one with the billboard or was the one on the right just the building with the digital billboard turned off? You know, because if it is turned off or if we did consider alternative number 2, a building without the digital billboard, and the DEIR states that the billboard is fundamental to it being a landmark building, the argument falls apart for me because we know that, you know, we could go to someone like Frank Gerry, and he could design a landmark building on that corner and it likely wouldn't have to have digital. And then I think one of the public comments was, you know, how, and for me I was thinking how can this project get around the Sunset Billboard Program and just go ahead and put up this giant billboard on that corner without the review of SAASC or even the selection committee that reviewed all the sunset billboards. So that feels awkward to me. And then I went to, you know, I remember the western gateway proposals. You know, and there was, there's a proposal that I saw over the last year, year, and a half where we have this big art installation in the meridian right in front of Boa Café, I think it is, or just right before

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that intersection. And then the DEIR sort of states they want a landmark building here to mark that moment. And then I remember hearing, listening to, you know, other billboard hearings where, you know, they wanted to be sort of the exclamation point or, you know, the entry to West Hollywood. And I'm just, you know, Rios Clemente Hale is proposing floating balloons over this intersection. And some of these other proposals are, you know, they're painted graphics on the intersection and landscaping and furniture around the intersection. And I'm kind of, I guess what I'm trying to say in the end is that I would like to see this intersection considered as a total composition. Like what is our end goal. Is our end goal just to have this building be the landmark or is our end goal to have this intersection be a monumental, not a monumental, but a point of entry into our, into our city that's coordinated. Because I feel like the Sunset Specific Plan, sorry, the Sunset Billboard Program, set out to have a curated set of billboards around Sunset, along Sunset, that worked as a whole. And now we're just plunking this in there, which I'm not saying is good or bad. But I

just don't get that. I don't feel like the DEIR really looks at it objectively in its context and I agree with all the comments that have been made tonight and I appreciate everybody coming out. I just, there's something missing in this. I would like to see this, this DEIR kind of feel less biased and understand that a landmark building doesn't have to have a digital component. And then my last comment would be about power because later on in the DEIR it talks about how not having a digital billboard would have 55 percent less energy consumption. And in the world that we now find ourselves in, is that not a good goal? Would not, not having that power consumption even though the building itself has less than significant impacts on power, just the fact that taking the billboard out would take out 55 percent of the energy consumption. That's a good thing. And I think it should be considered given our -

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Given the environmental sort of situation we find ourselves in. So those are my points.

Jones: Thank you. Commissioner Lombardi go ahead.

Commissioner Matos, you're next.

Lombardi:

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Thank you. There's probably a lot I could say also my brain is quickly winding down as it gets later every minute here. I could certainly provide, just for background, I am a lighting designer. I've been, probably worked in over 400 projects and have been doing this for over 15 years. So, I guess that puts me in a unique position when I see something like this. And I'm of course happy to answer any questions although I know we're not really deliberating right now. But I guess there's, and we're hearing it from public and thank you for being here and, you know, into this late hour right now. And it's great to hear like all of your input and all of your concerns. And I guess maybe for everyone to think about while we're considering this project. There's two things. There's light trespass, which I think you hear about a lot and is covered in this report. And then there's also glare. I think a lot of the concerns that I'm hearing right now are more about glare than light trespass. So light trespass is covered in the study. And I would say that that relates more to illuminance. So, taking foot candle measurements of property lines. And that's really the amount of

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light bouncing off the surface. So, you look at things like a desk wants 30-foot candle, a corridor wants 5-foot candles, those sort of ratios. But then there's glare. Glare is very hard to define. There's a couple of different ways to look at it. But the end of the day it's how much light is in your eyeballs relative to what's around it and your eyes can only adapt to so many things at once. So, you can be in a very bright space with very high light levels and your eyes can adapt. But if you have a very bright light source and a very dark surround that's glare and then you have difficulty seeing. Your eyes don't know how to adjust and your, your vision is actually obstructed. So, I think that's something that we're dealing with here. And something that we need to think about. And what a lot of the concerns are that I'm hearing right now from the public and we've heard it before on projects on Sunset as well. So just wanted to start with that. And could go into it more. But I would say that there's, there's illuminance or foot candles, which are covered pretty sensibly in this report. And then there's' luminance, the candelas per meter squared and part of that is the signage,

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which they're saying is limited to 300 candelas per meter squared. That's the directional light that comes at you. And I think that's what our concern, or at least my concern is here and has not, in my opinion, been fully addressed in this report. So, if you take a step back for a minute and look at the Sunset Billboard Policy, there was also an EIR that was created for that. And if I remember correctly there were assumptions that were made in terms of the number of signs and the size of the signs that would exist along Sunset Boulevard. The digital signs being 500 square feet. And I think that at one point it was raised to a number of ten signs, but maybe the city could help clarify. What I'm getting at with this is the whole framework of the Sunset Billboard Policy and what that was, set a sort of assumption on how many of these signs would exist. This project, from what I'm seeing in the reports, is using a lot of the numbers and criteria that were established from that policy on this project. However, the sign area is 14,000 square feet. So, if you do some quick math that's equivalent to about 28 billboards, if we were looking at the 500 square foot static, or digital

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billboards that were assumed all in one space in one area. So, there's the intensification that's associated with that as well that needs to be taken into account. And I don't think the report is covering that right now. We encounter this a little bit with the Whorl, and that project came back to us, I'm sorry I don't remember the address right now. But we had the Netflix sign I believe it was across the street that was creating glare on that façade. And then that raised the concern of a very large sign and what that would do on being the Whorl project and the reflections that would occur on that project and its façade. That hasn't been addressed in this report at all. So, we have a lot of neighbors here that are concerned, many within 500 feet, many who were not counted in the data points that were presented here. But I think we also need to look at the luminance and see what's happening with the buildings around the site. That was not addressed at all. We have several buildings. I don't have the addresses, but I want to say one is 9200, that may be where the steakhouse and soho house is. There's also that medical building across the street, that may be

9201. These all have glass facades. So, in addition to all the light that's coming off of this building, we also have glass facades that are going to reflect that light and scatter that light towards residents and that will also intensify what people are seeing. And we haven't even discussed that today. These are not in the report, and I think they need to be because there is a magnification that happens when the light bounces off these facades and we've seen it with a small sign, I can only imagine what would happen with a 14,000 square foot sign. So that's —

(Clapping)

Lombardi:

That's something that, thank you. That's something that I think needs to be studied for sure. And there's so much more I can say about all of this, but I think that's the key right there is that we need to look at what's happening with the buildings around as well. Also, the assumptions in the report are not really clear to me and I'm a lighting designer so I feel like there is probably something missing here. I couldn't find even in appendix C, which is the more extensive portion of the report, anything that actually stated what the signage area

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was that was used in the model. So, we know that AGI32 software was used, but I don't think it stated the assumed signage area, what type of surface was put into the model, and just that that surface was set at 300 candelas per meter squared. So, there's to think about as well. Additionally, the report is looking at LZ4 lighting zones and I'm amazed that some of the audience knows what that all is. That's a very specific zone that's usually designated for an area like Time Square. I know that in the original EIR for the Sunset Billboard Policy, there was a suggestion to change the immediate commercial area to LZ4. It does allow for a higher threshold for both illuminance or light trespass on property line and other criteria as well including glare and numerous other lighting criteria. But we haven't actually proceeded with that process so that's a loophole right there. I feel like we're missing something. And then we do have the neighbors that are LZ3 zone, and I think there was an attempt in the report to address that with light trespass, but we haven't looked at it fully with glare. And then I'll just get into one thing that's a little bit more specific. I saw in

the report that there were some glare studies and it looked like they were taken to kind of show what the luminance measurements were existing on the site and some average measurements. It wasn't apparent to me how those were taken or how they were averaged or how they really relate without seeing a model that looks at the building and shows what the brightness is in comparison to the surround. I just don't know how those can be translated over into what that means on the site versus the project and then likewise to other properties. So, I know that's a lot there in the technical realm, but there's also one other thing that I want to point out here. Going back to the sunset strip policy again, there's an Appendix D in that policy and that EIR done by the same lighting consultant. And that said that to comply with these regulations that were set, the thresholds for light levels, signs will be either greater than 250 feet from a residential use or reduced sign area, or reduced sign luminance. So, I think we need to think about those things. I think we have some sites that are very close. We have some buildings that may reflect that sign as well that are very

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close to buildings and that needs to be taken into account. And then we have a massive sign area. So, I think that throws those numbers such as 300 candelas per meter squared that we're using completely out the door. And we need to think about what that suitable level would be for that amount of area. I probably have other things I could talk about too, but I need a break at this point. But those are numerous concerns that I have right there.

(Clapping)

Jones: Commissioner Matos, please go ahead.

Matos: Thank you, Chair Jones. I just want to think

everyone who came out tonight to take the time to

submit public comment as part of the draft EIR

process and the overall EIR process. It's vital,

important part of the overall EIR process. I want

to get into a little bit deeper on some of what was

brought up and I agree with all of it. One of the

things that noticed about the draft EIR is that

there were two options that were presented to

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commissioner Carvalheiro's point. It was either the

building with the billboard or the building without

the billboard. When we look at EIRs they typically

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have multiple different alternative projects or iterations that could be considered not just one or two. So, I guess if we're talking about comment to help guide this document moving forward and into finalization of the EIR, I would hope to see more expansion upon different alternative projects that do not encompass a 14,000 square foot building façade billboard. You know, is there something more in line for example to Commissioner Lombardi's point, in line with the criteria that we have specifically outlined in the sunset strip offsite signage policy initial study and declaration document. You know, is there something that's more in line with that as far as the sign's square footage. So, I want to see the build out of more alternatives I guess as the EIR moves forward in that process. The next thing that I want to raise attention to is if we refer to the draft EIR before us right now and we're looking at Page 4.1-11, 4.1.5, thresholds of significance. The guidelines for the EIR checklist it gives several thresholds for aesthetic impacts, right? One of them is A, have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. When you scroll down onto the next page, it

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talks about a public comment that was received regarding from the city of LA, regarding concern for impacts to scenic vistas in that area. The report goes on to say that there is, you know, per the, I'll just quote it directly. Per the Los Angeles CEQA threshold's guide, when we're talking about scenic views and scenic vistas that could be impacted, you can't consider private space, you can only consider public space. And then it goes on to say that, you know, the only scenic highway that's near the site, north of it, is Laurel Canyon Road which is approximately 1.7 miles to the northeast. I would want to see more, more kind of, a deeper dive into what that means because it's a very definite statement to say that there is less than significant impact or no significant impact on scenic vistas, and then to not consider things like, you know, I would have questions like was Mulholland Drive considered as a public scenic vista. Was Fryman Canyon park in the city of LA considered a public scenic vista. These are all things that are located northeast, in the same direction as Laurel Canyon Road and things that should be considered before making a definite

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statement like there's no significant impact or less than significant impact on scenic vistas. So, I kind of want to see more in line with that as well. The other thing that I do want to touch on a little bit is the framework in the document, or framework in the city policy rather because, you know, this Commission is all about policy. I think that, you know, the framework was originally intended to be 24 billboards at 1,000 square foot max for digital billboards. So, when we consider that I would hope to see more in-depth analysis on the impact on the overall billboard policy and on this specific project of one single 14,000 square foot sign, specifically related to the light and the glare. I'm not a lighting expert like Commissioner Lombardi is, I'm not a design expert like Commissioner Carvalheiro is, but I think that the document doesn't do justice, the weaving between our city-wide policy and this one specific project. If we're going to consider city wide policy as the primary role of this commission, I would hope to see especially in a document this comprehensive, more in-depth analysis on that. The next thing is I do think that when I read the draft

4537		EIR there was not as much analysis done on
4538		residential impacts and neighborhood impacts of the
4539		surrounding communities, specifically to the north.
4540		And I think that there should be more consideration
4541		of that. You know, we want to address what those
4542		impacts would be or actually consider them. You
4543		know that's the whole point is having that analysis
4544		to consider what mitigation efforts can go forward
4545		in the EIR. The last thing I wanted to do is ask
4546		what, when does the public comment period close for
4547		this draft EIR?
4548	Purificacion:	The last day is December 12 th .
4549	Matos:	December 12 th ?
4550	Purificacion:	December 12th. That's the end of the, that's the
4551		last day so December 12th at 5:00.
4552	Matos:	Okay. And how long has that been open?
4553	Purificacion:	Since October 27 th .
4554	Matos:	Okay.
4555	Purificacion:	So, 45 days.
4556	Matos:	Okay. Thank you very much. I just wanted to get
4557		that on the record, and I will yield the rest of my
4558		time. Thanks.
4559	Jones:	Okay. Thank you. Commissioner Copeland. Please go
4560		ahead.

Copeland:

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Thank you, Chair. I'll try to keep it brief. I do concur with my fellow Commissioners on all the points they've brought out, some of which were on my list and one of the things that concerns me is I don't see us taking into consideration the possible future cumulative impacts with other nearby billboards that are proposed. Because right now we have the second round of projects being preliminarily proposed. 9121 Sunset, 9225, 8919, 8850. These digital billboards, what is the cumulative effect of having all of these within a couple of blocks of one another in their comparative sizes and so forth? We're talking about impacts on traffic and on public and I mean accumulative affect certainly should be taken into consideration and studied, I think. And there are other things. Definitely the neighbors to the north and elsewhere that could be impacted by this. This needs to be included. We need to expand that scope. I would like to see that. And there was a mention about even something like parking. They're expecting up to 100 workers to be on site at any given time. And the answer for that was they'll be using some nearby lots. To me that's not very

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specific when you talk about 100 people showing up. And the majority of them in their cars. You know, which lots are going to accommodate that and how will that affect visitor parking or anyone else's parking. So, I'd like to see more specificity with things like that as far as the area impacts. And the alleyway that's proposed to be used a loading dock. You know, I was there today, it was very narrow. And it's in ingress to the building directly behind that alley. People drive in the alley to go in. You've got a loading dock there, you've got cars there, people unloading, it's a problem for emergency vehicles and it's a problem for the electrical use. And I just, I think that needs to be looked at a little more closely as well. So, there are a lot of little things that I think are impactful and not little, they're impactful, but when we are talking about the light trespass, I know that's the major concern on everyone's mind right now and quality of life issues. But I definitely think that there's a lot missing on this draft that needs to be considered and expanded upon and even the traffic study, you know. We're talking about a very busy intersection.

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Are we adding into that? As somebody mentioned earlier, not just light but animation, motion, the constant movement. How does that distract, and do we have an accident report for that intersection?

Is it more severe than other intersections already?

Do we have those kinds of studies? So, I would like to see several of these things expanded upon to start with. And those are my beginning comments so thank you very much, Chair.

(Clapping)

Jones: Commissioner Gregoire.

Gregoire: I'm not going to repeat what everyone else has

said. Everybody has been so eloquent up here

tonight. I was just going to call attention.

Commissioner Copeland just sort of touched on it a

little bit. But on Page 4.1-16, Page 88 of my PDF.

It says concerns were raised and written public

comments on the additional studies about impacts of

the digital billboards on driver and pedestrian

safety. It says high light levels or intense glare

would have the potential to impact driver and or

pedestrian safety. However, high light levels and

intense glare would not be produced from the

digital billboard. Therefore, the project would

have a less than significant impact in this regard. What I, I don't understand how the conclusion was come to that there won't be high light levels or intense glare from this digital billboard so I think you should look at that. But also, and I heard the public comments tonight you know, any sort of distraction at an intersection could have a major impact on driver and pedestrian safety. It seems to me that anything about the project that could distract a driver should be reviewed as a potential significant impact on the project. So, to the extent the draft EIR really hasn't looked at the potential impact of something as distracting as a 14,000 square foot digital billboard seems to be, they should go back and consider that. I might suggest a 14,000-foot billboard that even wasn't digital or illuminated could have a significant impact on driver or pedestrian safety. So, I quess I wouldn't just wave that off as a concern. So, I would like to see that addressed a little bit more as they're reviewing this going forward. That's all I have.

4655 || Jones:

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Thank you.

Thomas:

Not really, Chair. I asked my questions prior to

public comment, but I do want to piggyback on what Commissioner Copeland had asked for which was the, to find out the cumulative effects of these billboards. I had actually asked for that; I think like a year and a half ago before we approved the Everly project. And because I had concerns then about the cumulative impact of all of these billboards. So, if it is possible to get that I think that would be really helpful so that we and the public know, you know, what, what the impact will be of all these billboards. So, if it is possible to get that I'd love to.

Jones:

Great. Thank you. I don't have a ton to add. I do want to just piggyback on what Commissioner

Copeland and Vice Chair Thomas mentioned just as I have been serving on SAASC now, the Sunset Arts and Advertising, Sunset Arts and Advertising

Subcommittee, sorry, it's getting late. For, I really think since its inception. And I think really one of the things that's been really challenging about it, and we've talked about this with staff and with applicants before is that, you know, we tend to view, receive projects in kind of a vacuum. So, like we'll be getting a, you know, a

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proposal for a billboard and then there's actually going to be a billboard like two buildings away from it, but we don't know that, so there's no way to know what it will look like within the finished streetscape, if you will, once all of the billboards are there together. So again, I don't have a ton to add. You know, someone said this more eloquently than I will earlier. And I saw it mentioned in some of the public correspondence that we received about this, but this very much does seem to be a very large ad in search of a building. You know, candidly, and we're still in very early phases of this, I really don't know that I feel there's a lot to recommend an office building with, you know, proposed gigantic billboard on it. Yeah, I don't, I don't know. I don't know that I, sometimes I think that we can do, I think we can do better than this. There's also some things about, you know, other orientations for the signage. Certainly, the surface area, again all of these things have been said. I think we probably have a little bit more; you know, we live with this because it's not a housing project. If any of you were here earlier, congratulations for making it

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this far. But, you know, we're pretty limited and what we can consider for housing projects because this is an office building, it's a little different. Yeah, I don't think I have a ton more. The light trespass, the glare. Commissioner Lombardi's comments. I don't have, I don't think I have anything else to add at this time. So, I think my concerns has been enumerated. Again, if you were here earlier you know that we're all residents of West Hollywood. I'm sorry. We're all residents of West Hollywood and I think it's probably fair to say most of us traverse Sunset Boulevard, you know, maybe almost every day, every day. I know I do. So those are my comments. Does anyone have anything else they'd like to add? Commissioner, Vice Chair, Thomas, you can go ahead.

Thomas:

Just a few small things. I just wanted to cheerlead I guess the fact that this will be the first all-electric building in West Hollywood history which I think is worth noting. Also wanted to note that most of the billboards on Sunset or, yeah, the billboards will have 17, was it 17 and a half percent of public arts and civic engagement and this one will have 25 percent, which is obviously

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above what they needed to do. So, I just wanted to highlight some of the positive things about the project and there was one other thing that I can't think of right now, but I did want to at least mention those things and say that those are, oh. Also, I'm always championing for local hire and in the draft EIR they did mention that employees from the local work force will be hired during both the construction operational phases of the project and would not require workers outside the region. So, I was just really happy to see that because I'm always, like I said, championing for local hire and it was mentioned by someone in the public earlier about how we need to do more local hire, so I thought that was really great to see in the draft EIR. And so, I just wanted to note that. And those are my only three things I wanted to mention. Thank you. Commissioner Lombardi. Thank you. I just wanted to circle back on a couple

Jones:

Lombardi:

Thank you. I just wanted to circle back on a couple of the things that I discussed previously very briefly with a little additional clarity, just for the record. So, first of all, the table that's on page 1-2, this maybe is a more obvious one in glare as less significant. I would think that at least it

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would need to be written in as less than significant with mitigation because we know that there's light monitoring and dimming required to even get the billboards to function at the assumed calculations that are in the report. So, I would think that's something that would need to be clarified there. And then going back to the lighting studies, just to kind of summarize more on glare and glare off of buildings and perhaps the Whorl project and what was provided by that applicant could at least be referenced, the idea that it's not just foot candle readings at property line, but the views that show the brightness and also the brightness off of buildings. I think that needs to be done given the scale and size of this sign. And then relating to that since we're supposed to compare alternatives, I don't think that there's a lot of context in any of, of that sort of report or data. We also see it without or see it with maybe the signage area that's allowed per the billboard policy, which I believe is at 1,000 square feet as Commissioner Matos said, not 500. I may have said 500 earlier. So, I think that that would be a basis there too including looking

at buildings and seeing how much glare we're getting and seeing what it would be if it were 1,000 square feet or none. I don't think that's in here right now and it should be as part of what this study is about. And then I think we need to be a little bit more extensive in terms of where our sensitive receptors or areas are on the property so that's been discussed as well. And then I think materiality was a really great thing that

Commissioner Carvalheiro brought up as well. I mean if this is going to be here for a long time, how does that façade get maintained and what does it mean if it's a LED billboard and how does that prove itself to be a lasting building that needs to be considered.

Jones:

Thank you. Commissioner Copeland.

||Copeland:

Thank you, Chair. I'm sorry, just one more brief thing. As we talk about expanding the scope of the impact on nearby residents, I agree with the public comment earlier that should also include the wildlife that's impacted in those areas as well. So, this should be for all living creatures that would be affected and by expanding that scope. Thankyou. That's it.

4801 Jones: Any additional comments? 4802 (Clapping) 4803 Go ahead. Jones: 4804 Matos: I'm just going to make this really quick. I know 4805 that we have a lot of people from the public who 4806 are interested in it. I'm just wondering what the 4807 timeline for this, if you could say it on the 4808 record or if it's available somewhere. No? Just so 4809 that the public is aware. 4810 Alkire: There is no established timeline for this project. 4811 Matos: Okay. 4812 At this time right now what we will do is collect Alkire: 4813 all of the public comments including what was heard 4814 this evening, what was heard last night at 4815 transportation commission, anything that has been 4816 sent in writing from now until December 12th. That, 4817 just to add, also I heard from the public and I 4818 heard from some of the Commissioners, you know, 4819 like things like I have so much more to say but 4820 I'll stop or that they didn't have enough time. We 4821 are, we can receive any comments in writing so if 4822 there's more to say put it in writing and send it 4823 to us and it will be incorporated into the record 4824 and included in the comments and responses to

4825		comments. So that is open. But what we'll do is
4826		we'll take that information, we'll revise the draft
4827		if needed, and come back and so it will be probably
4828		at some point in late Spring at the earliest. It's
4829		really hard to say at this point because there's a
4830		lot of work yet to be done.
4831	Matos:	Okay. So, the only date right now in mind would be
4832		the December 12 th end of public comment period,
4833		correct? Okay. Thank you.
4834	Thomas:	Could we also let the public know where they should
4835		send those comments?
4836	Purificacion:	You can send them directly to me. I think my
4837		information should be posted in the agenda. Or, you
4838		know, you can send it to Planning@weho.org and it
4839		will get routed to me.
4840	Matos:	Could you state your name for the record?
4841	Purificacion:	Sure. It's Dereck Purificación so it's, so my email
4842		is Purification. So, it's D-P-U-R-I-F-I-C-A-C-I-O-N
4843		at weho.org. Hopefully you guys can remember that,
4844		or <pre>planning@weho.org</pre> which is a lot easier.
4845	Jones:	Thank you. Commissioner Carvalheiro.
4846	Carvalheiro:	Yes. We're all sort of recapping what we said. I
4847		guess one of the comments I was trying to, one of
4848		the points I was trying to make was having worked

4849 on sort of the gateway entries when I was an arts 4850 commissioner and kind of looking at the west gateway looking at the east gateway and just 4851 4852 looking at the Santa Monica gateway. In this DEIR 4853 the assertion that the building must be landmarked 4854 because it is the gateway to the city, but also 4855 knowing that the city is planning other 4856 installations like the large light sculpture in the 4857 meridian, this Rios Clemente idea that you might 4858 have floating balloons, or you have the painted 4859 intersection. I really want to see it considered as a whole because we have those other billboards too 4860 4861 across the street and they all need to be 4862 considered as a composition and really understand 4863 whether this billboard really needs to have that 4864 much digital installation. And I'll leave it at 4865 that. 4866 Thank you. Commissioner Lombardi. Jones: 4867 Lombardi: I have one question as this project moves forward.

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So oftentimes we'll see the EIR come to us with the project itself. I just think that could be a little bit challenging in this case, so I, maybe that's something to be coordinated between the city and the applicant. But obviously there's some extensive

4873 information that we're hoping to see included in 4874 the EIR and given that some of it, such as the 4875 signage is so integral to the building, it would be 4876 very hard to, you know, have both of those go 4877 together, verify that all the information is 4878 correct and then also approve the building, you 4879 know what I mean. So, I don't know what the plan is 4880 with this one versus a Housing Accountability Act 4881 Project since this one would not be any, any 4882 thoughts on process moving forward? 4883 Alkire: We can take that into consideration. 4884 Okay. Anything else? Speak now. Okay. Thank you. Jones: 4885 Thank you everyone for coming out. We're moving on 4886 to our next item. Item 12, Unfinished Business, 4887 there is none. Item 13 is Excluded Consent 4888 Calendar, there is none. Item 14 is items from 4889 staff, we have item 14A as a planning manager's 4890 update. 4891 Alkire: Just give me one guick second. Okay. So, discussion 4892 of upcoming agendas. We have quite a few items 4893 coming up on the next couple of meetings. So, we 4894 have a meeting on December 1st. We will have the 4895 continued public hearing for 8555 Santa Monica. It 4896 will -

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If we could please keep it down, sorry. We're trying to finish our meeting here.

Alkire:

That item was continued to a date certain from the November 3rd meeting. We will also hear four subdivisions similar to the one that we heard this evening, subdivision of a new condominium building. These were properties that were already approved and have expired. We're bringing that as one consolidated public hearing fifth four resolutions attached. And then we will be here, actually think that that's, at this point that's all that will be on the December 1st agenda. There are several items that were to be on that agenda that will need to be continued because of the disruption that happened when 8555 got moved. So, we will have several items on December 15th as well including the general plan consistency for 8465 Santa Monica Boulevard. A billboard at 8497 Sunset Boulevard. And looking at some language for zone text amendments regarding West Hollywood West Design Review standards and accessory dwelling units. And then on December $1^{\rm st}$ we'll also be talking about our calendar for 2023 and any cancellations of meetings that conflict with holidays or so forth. So, at this point I know

4921		earlier in October we didn't have any items lined
4922		up for December 15th, so we had talked about not
4923		having that meeting. But since we had 8555
4924		continued and it pushed some of the other items off
4925		that meeting, we do need to have the December $15^{\rm th}$
4926		meeting on the calendar so if there are any
4927		absences or any anticipated conflicts, can, if you
4928		can just let us know about this.
4929	Jones:	Well, this may be, the next meeting may be my last
4930		but if I am still on, I will not be here on
4931		December 15 th . I will be away.
4932	Matos:	I'm going to have to get back to you on my
4933		availability for the December $15^{\rm th}$ meeting.
4934	Alkire:	Okay.
4935	Matos:	I don't think I'm going to be able to make it. But
4936		I want to triple check.
4937	Alkire:	That's fine. All right. Upcoming for subcommittees.
4938		We don't have anything scheduled in the upcoming
4939		meetings for design review subcommittee for Sunset
4940		Arts and Advertising subcommittee, we are looking
4941		at scheduling a meeting on January 10 th , 2023.
4942		Yeah, is that is that correct? Let me just double
4943		check. It's actually the $12^{\rm th}$, sorry. January $12^{\rm th}$,
4944		2023. So, the members of the sunset arts and

4945 advertising subcommittee can let us know if that 4946 seems reasonable or if there are conflicts. And 4947 then we have, so that one would be 8501 Sunset, 4948 which we've been trying to find a date for. So, it 4949 would be good to nail that one down soon. And the 4950 long-range planning projects subcommittee, next 4951 meeting would be December 15th. There are three 4952 items currently on that agenda or on the look 4953 ahead, parking minimums, hotel rooftop additions, 4954 and tree canopy standards. So again, like I always 4955 say, if there's a bunch of items on that meeting 4956 because it has such a short time, you just, we'll 4957 get through the material that we can. And that is 4958 all I have this evening. 4959 Thank you, Jennifer. Item 15 is public comment. Jones: 4960 David, do we have any public commentators? 4961 Gillig: We have no public comments in chambers. We have a 4962 few people left on the Zoom platform. If anybody is 4963 calling in that would like to speak, star nine. 4964 Anybody else raise your hand. And, Chair, it looks 4965 like we're all clear. 4966 Great. Thank you. Item 16 is items from Jones: 4967 Commissioners. Do we have anything? Go ahead, Vice 4968 Chair Thomas.

4969	Thomas:	I would like to congratulate our Chair on her
4970		nuptials.
4971	Jones:	Oh, thank you.
4972	Thomas:	And say that the fact that you're here today just
4973		really shows your dedication to this commission and
4974		appreciate you being here.
4975	Jones:	Oh, thank you.
4976	Thomas:	I would also like to acknowledge the public that is
4977		now gone in the corner over there and thank the
4978		public for being a part of the process and sharing
4979		their thoughts this evening. Just appreciate
4980		everybody who took the time and stayed through the
4981		evening to provide public comment. And that's it,
4982		Chair.
4983	Jones:	Thank you very much.
4984	Thomas:	Oh. And I'd also like to congratulate Lindsey
4985		Horvath on being our new supervisor.
4986	Jones:	Well, since you said that now I can say it too and
4987		that is that Lindsay Horvath actually officiated my
4988		wedding. The only thing that could have made my
4989		wedding better was finding out that she had pulled
4990		ahead my wedding and that's when we did find out
4991		that she did pull ahead so I'm very happy to hear
4992		this evening on breaks that she has claimed victory

4993		and her opponent has conceded. So, I wouldn't be
4994		here without her. So, I'm very happy for her. All
4995		right. Anybody else? Oh, Commissioner Copeland, go
4996		ahead.
4997	Copeland:	Just a quick congratulations to you as well.
4998	Jones:	Oh, thank you.
4999	Copeland:	And also, a very safe and happy Thanksgiving to
5000		everyone. And thank staff once again for your
5001		patience and your help. And that's it for me.
5002	Jones:	All right. All right, thank you everyone. I'm going
5003		to adjourn this meeting. We will adjourn to our
5004		regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December
5005		1st at 6:30 p.m. right here in West Hollywood
5006		Council Chamber Meeting Room. Thank you.
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Planning Commission Minutes November 17, 2022 Page 210 of 210

5008	PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the
5009	City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 15 th day of
5010	December, 2022 by the following vote:
5011	
5012	AYES: Commissioner: Carvalheiro, Copeland, Gregoire,
5013	Lombardi, Matos, Acting Chair
5014	Thomas.
5015	
5016	NOES: Commissioner: None.
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5018	ABSENT: Commissioner: Chair Jones.
5019	
5020	ABSTAIN: Commissioner: None
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5022	Many 1
5023	MARQUITA THOMAS, ACTING CHAIRPERSON
5024	ATTEST:
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5029	Jalley .
5030	DAVID K. GILLIG, COMMISSION SECRETARY
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I, Sherry Coleho, hereby declare as follows:

I am located at 5837B E. Los Angeles Avenue, Somis, California 93066. I am the person who transcribed the Planning Commission Meeting minutes of November 17, 2022. Present were Planning Commissions- Stacy Jones, Marquita Thomas, Rogerio Calvalheiro, Kimberly Copland, Dvid Gregoire, Michael Lombardi, Erick Mateos. Staff-Jennifer Alkire, Adrian Gallo, Lauren Langer, Rodger Rath, Derick Purification, Isaac Rosen, and David Gillig. Public speakers-Patrick Tighe, Rabbi, Barbara Protov, Racheal Aflalo, Isaac Nikfar, David Peake, Judith Alcalay, Steve Bruscino, Joseph Alexander, Lyudmia Praviana, Phillip Mora, Allen Nazarian, Doug Workman, Ellen Evans, Leo Pircher, Mary Sugarman, Paul C, Jack Suzar, Fred Gaines, Linda, Nancy Laines, Brian Roskan, Hollaer Brown, Jordan Cockeram, Rhian Williams, Terre Jacobs, Tony Williams.

I have transcribed this transcript to the best of my ability and certify that this written transcript is a true and accurate account thereof. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties in the foregoing matter or in any way interested in the outcome of the matter set forth in this transcript.

EXECUTED this 30th day of November 2022, at Somis, California.

Sherry Coelho

Shurry Carlho

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