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<u>2</u> 3		MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING PINOLE PLANNING COMMISSION					
5		September 27, 2021					
7	NEV	DUE TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY – THIS MEETING WAS HELD PURSUANT TO AUTHORIZATION FROM GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS – CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS WERE NO LONGER OPEN TO IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE. THE MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE.					
l 5	A.	CALL TO ORDER: 7:07	P.M.				
5 7	В.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANO					
3))		Commissioners Present:	Benzuly, Kurrent, Marti Moriarty, Chairperson Ba	nez, Menis, Vice Chairperson anuelos			
		Commissioners Excused:	Wong				
		Staff Present:	David Hanham, Planning Alex Mog, Assistant City	, ,			
		Planning Commissioners welcomed Rafael Menis to the Planning Commission.					
	C.	CITIZENS TO BE HEARD					
		Planning Manager David Hanham reported there were no comments from the public for this item.					
	D.	MEETING MINUTES:					
		Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2021					
		MOTION with a Roll Call Vote to adopt the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2021, as submitted.					
		MOTION: Moriarty	SECONDED: Martine	Z APPROVED: 6-0-1 ABSENT: Wong			
	E.	PUBLIC HEARINGS:					

1. Conditional Use Permit CUP21-03 Cortez Body and Tow Shop

Request: Consideration of a Conditional Use Permit for the purpose of

establishing a tow truck and body shop business in an existing

building located at 730 San Pablo Avenue.

Applicant: Isael Cortez

730 San Pablo Avenue Pinole, CA 94564

Location: 730 San Pablo Avenue (APN: 402-210-002)

Planner: David Hanham

Planning Manager Hanham presented the staff report dated September 27, 2021, and recommended the Planning Commission adopt Resolution 21-10, as contained in Attachment A to the staff report, subject to Exhibit A, Conditions of Approval.

Responding to the Commission, Mr. Hanham acknowledged the Office Industrial Mixed Use (OIMU) Zoning District had not identified a time limit for the storage of vehicles but the applicant had limited public parking and any storage of vehicles must be done inside regardless. He had been informed by the applicant that if vehicles were stored it would not be for long since they would be routed to another location in Contra Costa County.

Mr. Hanham also confirmed the applicant and property owner were two different entities. The property owner had signed-off on the application and the applicant would be leasing two of four buildings from the property owner. He also clarified the application would be an intensification of an existing use but the applicant would not be expanding any of the buildings. The business would be confined to the existing buildings on the property and there would be five parking spaces at the front of the site, two of which were designated for tow trucks, with ten parking spaces behind Building 2. As to whether the applicant had contracted with insurance companies for the use of the tow trucks, he suggested the applicant provide clarification.

Julia Cortez, 730 San Pablo Avenue, Pinole, speaking on behalf of Isael Cortez, explained that the company currently did not contract with anyone for the use of the tow trucks although they hoped to in the future. She confirmed there were five parking spaces in front of Building 1, two of which had been designated for the tow trucks, with ten parking spaces behind Building 2. She suggested there was adequate parking between the existing parking spaces for Buildings 1 and 2. She also described the process for the body shop and the efforts to manage the storage of vehicles so that vehicles did not stack-up.

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Ms. Cortez also clarified there were currently no plans for a painting booth to paint vehicles since they had another shop in the City of El Sobrante that would focus on the paint work. The Pinole body shop would focus solely on body repairs.

Mr. Hanham commented that if the applicant wanted to utilize a paint spray booth they would have to come back to the City to obtain approval from the Development Services Department, and depending on size and other specifications may require Planning Commission approval.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Hanham reported there were no comments from the public for this item.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

The Planning Commission discussed CUP21-03, Cortez Body and Tow Shop and offered the following comments and/or direction to staff:

- Pleased the OIMU District was being maximized for its use. (Kurrent)
- Pleased the site would be used to its fullest extent, leading to more jobs, resulting in more resources coming into Pinole, and representing an improvement for the City as a whole by providing additional services. (Menis)
- Welcomed all the new opportunities the business would provide including new jobs, sales tax revenues, and much-needed improvements in the City. (Martinez)
- Wished the business operators the best of luck in their new business venture. (Moriarty/Benzuly)
- Pleased to see the business expand, congratulated the applicant on the business, and hoped it would add to their success. (Banuelos)

MOTION by a Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution 21-10, A Resolution of the Planning Commission of the City of Pinole County of Contra Costa, State of California, Approving a Conditional Use Permit (CUP21-03) For a Tow and Body Shop at 730 San Pablo Avenue, APN: 402-210-012, subject to Exhibit A: Conditions of Approval.

MOTION: Menis SECONDED: Benzuly APPROVED: 6-0-1
ABSENT: Wong

Chairperson Banuelos identified the 10-day appeal process of a decision of the Planning Commission in writing to the City Clerk.

2. Comprehensive Design Review DR21-11 Vista Woods Senior Apartment Complex

Request: Consideration of a Comprehensive Design Review for the

purpose of constructing 179 units for low-income senior households that consist of 16 studios, 128 one-bedroom apartments and 35 two-bedroom units. The complex will provide management offices for the new residents, two outdoor deck areas on the 2nd and 3rd floors, a community kitchen, a dining/game room, a TV room, and fitness area. The complex will provide 88 parking spaces as well as bicycle

parking.

Applicant: MRK Partners

108 Standard Street El Segundo, CA 90245

Location: 600 Roble Avenue, 1106 San Pablo Avenue and 1230 San

Pablo Avenue (APNs: 402-023-007, 402-023-002 & 402-023-

003)

Planner: David Hanham

Planning Manager David Hanham provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Vista Woods Senior Apartment Complex, and recommended the Planning Commission approve Resolution 21-11, approving the Comprehensive Design Review, Tree Removal Permit, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption, subject to Exhibit A: Conditions of Approval.

Responding to the Commission, Mr. Hanham clarified the following:

- A cell phone tower located on the parcel at San Pablo Avenue would be 100 feet away from the building and met the 100-foot radius requirement of the Public Utility Commission (PUC).
- The roof would be wired for solar panels, to be clarified by the applicant.
- As a condition of approval a Transportation Development Management Plan (TDMP) would be required to be submitted to the City.
- The applicant would have to pay Traffic Impact Fees as part of the project.
- A traffic signal at Roble Avenue may not be warranted but a High Visibility Crosswalk at the location could be considered as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

- As shown in the September 27, 2021 staff report, the project would be consistent with the General Plan and Three Corridors Specific Plan. A request from Commissioner Kurrent to add a statement in the resolution of approval that the project was consistent with State law regarding affordable housing could be considered for projects in the future.
- The four-story height of the project would impose some impacts to neighbors on the corner due to the topography of the property in that the building was taller on the Encina/Roble Avenues side as compared to the San Pablo/Madrone Avenues side, but with the proposed landscaping and the buildings pushed back there would be fewer impacts to the neighbors. While the buildings would have a less than significant environmental impact there would be views of the third to fourth stories.
- The building setbacks were clarified as detailed in the staff report.
- The project would be required to meet Title 24. The City could not require
 the building to be all electric at this time but the topic had been discussed
 with the applicant. As previously indicated, solar panels on the roof and
 electronic vehicle (EV) parking stalls would be provided.
- The differences between the designs of the proposed project as compared to the Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA) project were described.
- The colors and mixture of materials along the frontage were again highlighted. Staff had requested some different articulation for the balconies which the applicant had provided by adding some design features between Wings A and B to add more color and distinction to the buildings.
- A new bus stop/shelter would be provided as part of the project.
- Staff understood that consideration of a stop sign at Roble Avenue had been included in the CIP but needed to be verified by staff, and staff acknowledged the need to ensure the safety of the senior residents to be served by the project.
- Recommendations by Commissioner Martinez for larger/mature trees to provide shade and cover over the seating areas at the entry way; greater dialogue between the City Council and WestCAT regarding the types of services to be provided to the senior population to be served; and a recommendation for storage to be prohibited on the outdoor balconies, were noted.

- The Shadow Study prepared for the project had originally shown an existing home on Encina Avenue where the sun was shaded up to the garage through the winter solstice, with some adjustments made to the setbacks to meet the three-hour requirement for shading.
- The design and color choices had been made by the applicant and the Planning Commission may request some adjustments.
- Condition 15, as shown in Exhibit A, which was blank, was an error in the spacing in the document which would be corrected by staff.
- The applicant would need to clarify battery storage for power and retaining wall details.
- The project would not be on-line for another few years and WestCAT would likely have to add additional buses to existing routes to serve the residents of the project. City staff would have to work with WestCAT and the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) to address any unmet transportation needs.
- The City of Pinole had a balcony inspection program and inspected balconies every five years to ensure all requirements were met. Since the project involved a tax credit program, a maintenance program would be part of the project to ensure the tax credits were maintained throughout the life of the project.
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety and the fact that seniors would not be able to access the Senior Center easily or safely from the subject site were noted and staff acknowledged Planning Commission support for consideration of a stop light at Roble Avenue.
- Land Use and Economic Development Element, Policy LU4.1: Ensure all new development, renovation or remodeling preserves and strengthens Pinole's residential neighborhoods by requiring projects to be harmoniously designed and integrated with the existing neighborhood; staff determined the project met this finding given the very high residential zoning of the property, the fact the property met all the zoning requirements, there was high density residential located on the back side which was not as dense, and the project had been compared to the residential areas that surrounded it and not necessarily the commercial properties next door and across the street.

- Housing Element Policy H.2.1: Enhance neighborhood identity and sense
 of community by designing new housing to have a sensitive transition of
 scale and compatibility in form with the existing neighborhood; staff
 determined the project met this policy since the property was located along
 San Pablo Avenue where there were buildings with zero lot lines at the front.
- State law and Density Bonus requirements connected to affordable housing could be reflected in future findings as similar projects moved forward.
- Staff acknowledged a prior request for a map of future projects proposed along the San Pablo Avenue Corridor which staff was in the process of preparing, to be presented to the Planning Commission at a future meeting.
- The landscape plan included the removal of existing trees on the project site and replacement with new trees. The applicant would plant 48 trees plus shrubs and ground cover. The project would replace approximately 51 existing trees. There were three heritage trees on-site. The City could not mitigate against the value of the heritage trees lost, but could require the applicant to plant trees similar in nature in the hopes they would eventually grow to the size of the lost heritage trees.
- The City had not imposed a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification requirement for the proposed project.
- The width of the sidewalk along San Pablo Avenue in front of the project was approximately 5 feet in width with the right-of-way (ROW) at the back of curb.
- Concerns with the speed of traffic along San Pablo Avenue was noted.
- Staff acknowledged that while the building colors had improved and there
 had been more articulation provided on the façade since the project had
 been reviewed by the Planning Commission Subcommittee, there remained
 concerns from some Planning Commissioners on the paint color choices.
 Staff would need direction and more parameters on the preferred color
 choices as to whether the colors should be consistent with the existing
 neighborhood or something that would better accent the building.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Jeni Jackman, Pinole Venture LP/c/o MRK Architecture, 5230 Pacific Concourse Drive, Suite 350, Los Angeles, thanked staff for their guidance and assistance. She provided a PowerPoint presentation which identified the Project Team; MRK's development background; boundaries of the property; description of the project for 179 units for low-income senior households 62 years and older consisting of a mix

of studio, one- and two-bedroom units, indoor and outdoor common areas and amenities targeted to the senior population, including secured bicycle storage and 88 parking stalls. The construction timeframe for the project would be February 2022 through March 2024.

Ms. Jackman also detailed the numerous community benefits associated with the project including 100 percent affordable units serving Low and Middle Income seniors; fine architectural finishes; enhanced site improvements along the major bus corridor; bicycle parking; the project would meet City and State housing production targets with a range of incomes; focus on higher density development; socially responsible development with Green Initiatives including energy efficient appliances, water fixtures and mechanical systems, solar array on top of the roof to address 30 to 40 percent of usage on the property, and with batteries being considered as backup to the solar.

There would be an emergency generator on-site with a focus on the loading zone with options for the senior population with transportation and transit opportunities. Of the 88 parking stalls, a portion would be located in the parking garage; EV charging stations would be provided; a vehicle dedicated to hourly rentals; infrastructure to be provided to electrify most if not all of the parking stalls; the senior population would be less likely to have vehicles and the project had been designed with that sensitivity while also providing options. In addition to the bicycle options, all electric ride share vehicles would be provided; a new bus shelter; and EV hourly rentals all located adjacent to the main entrance of the building.

Programs to be offered to the residents included a large activity room with community kitchen preparation and service area; designated fitness area and recreational room which would allow multiple uses; dedicated laundry area on the same floor with hookups in the units; and the lobby would have a combined mail room. A number of lounges and seating areas would be provided throughout the building and various activities/classes would also be offered. As part of the health and wellness services, on-site health screening, flu shots, vision and hearing tests, exercise classes, health and wellness speakers/classes and resident vegetable gardens would be provided.

Ginna Nyugen, Studio Director, Relativity Architects, provided an overview of the background of Relativity Architects and walked through the Vista Woods site plan and design intent with the building to follow the property lines and be true to the topography and the site itself. The building would step down with four different elevations as the site sloped to the east, the building would step down with it and each wing would be lower than the previous wing to the west grounding it into the hillside. All amenities in the main entry, lobby and bus shelter would be oriented towards the southern façade to provide a main frontage on San Pablo Avenue, providing an identify of visual access and an active front to the San Pablo Corridor.

The landscaping had been inspired by the area, with the Bay Area nature reflected via iconic landscaping and with the outdoor areas designed to have different gardens. A redwood grove would be located at the front entry, sycamores would be formally laid out framing the entry facing east and towards San Pablo Avenue. and a walkway and exercise area with built in seating benches would provide a nice path for the seniors. The main entry, loading zone and bus stop were identified with seating areas for residents/guests, loading zone adequate for vans and ride shares in close proximity to the front door providing good access between the sheltered bus shelter and the ride share.

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As to the color palette, inspiration had been taken from the Bay Area with golden brown hills, blue of the Bay and oak trees, a natural palette with the intent for something that was soft, warm with texture and color and not too contrasting, and which offered a residential feel with pops of color. The accent colors would occur with each balcony which would have a partition wall, with each partition wall to have a different color, between blues, yellow, green and rusty red. Balconies would also have a gold painted railing or a warm tan paint color with a softer offwhite base for the building.

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Wood-like material (actually metal) would be long-lasting, would not chip or peel, and would wrap every community space on the ground floor at the dining room, game room, and main lobby entry. The open balconies above would be wrapped in the wood panel that had a high color variation but from a distance offered the warmth of wood. This material would also be used on all facades where there were stairwells or other community spaces which would be accented by the more neutral stucco with the warm wood material. There would be a tan color around the window frames.

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Balconies would be larger than usual for affordable housing, the units would have built-in shelving, extra storage closets, outlets for washers and dryers, full electric ranges with ovens and dishwashers, all units would be adaptable if not already fully accessible, and all units would be electric with built-in lighting within the units.

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Mr. Hanham reported there were no comments from the public for this item.

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PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

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Olivia Ervin, Principal, Environmental Consultant, M-Group, clarified why the Shadow Study had been conducted during the winter solstice, the period of time when there would be the least amount of sunshine to identify the greatest amount of impact to assess the worst case scenario.

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As to the TDMP, Mr. Hanham suggested that once developed the TDMP could be presented to the Planning Commission.

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Ms. Nguyen clarified the corridors between the units would be enclosed, all windows in the units would be operable, and along the corridors fixed windows had been placed to bring light into the interior corridor. Large windows had been proposed for the bedrooms and in the living rooms opening to the balconies. The doors would be fully glazed with a light around it, with extra width from door to height with glazing and the corridors had added windows where possible for breaks. The windows would be operable for safety and ventilation in order to meet certain egress code requirements; HVAC codes also required a high rated filter for particulates meeting the requirements facing San Pablo Avenue which had a higher rate of vehicular traffic. The HVAC units would consist of heating and cooling units and there would be a large awning over the main doorway at the front entry with ample room for several people to gather while waiting for WestCAT or guests.

The Planning Commission discussed Comprehensive Design Review DR21-11, Vista Woods Senior Apartment Complex and offered the following comments and/or direction to staff:

- Encouraged consideration of a traffic signal at Roble Avenue. (Martinez)
- Suggested the applicants had designed a very interesting project, appreciated how the design had moved onto the land, and appreciated the applicants' response to the input from the Planning Commission Subcommittee and the changes made to the design. (Moriarty/Benzuly)
- Liked the layout of the interior, recognized the challenges of the site, acknowledged the thought put into the design of the units and the landscape areas along with the intention of the colors and materials that had generated a lot of questions early on, and clarified with the applicant the guard rails for the balconies would be solid. Also liked the overall height and bulk, with the building fitting into the area in terms of size and height, and while the high density was unusual for the area it could inspire other projects in the future. Suggested the applicant had responded to all of the comments and commended the project that would be nice for the future residents. Looked forward to the completion of the project. (Banuelos)
- Recommended Finding 1, of Resolution 21-11, as shown on Page 2 of Attachment A be revised to read: The proposed project is consistent with the objectives of State law and of the general plan and complies with applicable zoning regulations, planned development, master plan or specific plan provisions, improvement standards, and other applicable standards and regulations adopted by the city; and recommended an additional Condition of Approval to Exhibit A: Conditions of Approval, to read: Condition 15: The City of Pinole shall conduct a Traffic Study to

determine if a traffic signal shall be needed at the San Pablo Avenue/Roble Avenue intersection. (Kurrent)

Assistant City Attorney Alex Mog commented the City was to conduct the traffic study, which was appropriate, but that would be something for the City Council to direct in that the applicant would have no control whether that occurred.

- Acknowledged that changes were occurring in Pinole and the State was changing the requirements necessary for affordable housing. Suggested the project would change Pinole, particularly given future projects and hoped citizens were prepared with what would occur. (Kurrent)
- Suggested the color schemes used by the applicant, particularly the
 example that reflected an orange color was more direct and based on the
 description from the architect he now understood how the accent walls
 provided a pop inside the units, although he was uncertain what effect the
 accent walls would have from the street elevation. The gray/brown color for
 the balconies and edges created more of a harmonious effect but may be
 too far in that direction and he preferred more pop. Suggested the images
 in the PowerPoint presentation were better than the colored renderings in
 terms of showing how the colors worked. (Menis)

Ms. Nguyen explained that the dividing walls were perpendicular to the road and that was where the different pops of color were located.

- Liked the dividing walls as accents but had issues with the brownish/gray colors of the balconies themselves which made it look more homogenous. Suggested the balconies could be painted a darker brown like the trim at the entryway. Commented that the brown/gray color did not work well with the other colors used for the rest of the building. (Menis)
- Agreed the colors in the PowerPoint presentation were more intense than the colored renderings that had been provided but suggested the colors and the metal/wood panels would look good and be durable. (Banuelos)
- Recognized the colors in the PowerPoint presentation were more intense
 than the colored renderings provided but the brown/gray shade adjacent to
 the yellow shades of color would be seen at the top right balcony wall, and
 while nor jarring, felt off as compared to the other colors in the color palette.
 As to the Sustainability Element, read into the record Policies SE4.3, SE4.5,
 SE5.3 and SE8.7 and suggested several elements of the project tied into
 core parts of the Sustainability Element.

However, Policy SE7.4 had not been mentioned in the staff report and should have been included since the project had been oriented around transit, such as the bus stop and bicycle parking. Policy SE3.4 would be addressed with electric charging stations built-in to the parking stalls by default and Policies SE3.4.5, SE3.4.6, SE3.4.7, also read into the record, should also have been highlighted in the staff report.

In addition, Policy SE7.1, was built-in as part of the conditions of approval and should be noted as being included in the Sustainability Element and in effect. Further Policies SE8.2, SE8.3, SE8.6, SE8.6.2, SE8.6.3, SE8.6.5, SE8.7.1 were all read into the record, applied to the project and should have been identified in the staff report and in the resolution of approval. The City had a great Sustainability Element but many policies had not been implemented for many reasons and should be highlighted in a staff report since it would have impacts on the City in the future.

The applicant had done a great job meeting the demands of the Sustainability Element and working towards a more sustainable City in terms of the density and how the project had integrated transit needs. All of those policies should have been highlighted in the staff report before the project moved forward to the City Council so that the City Council and the public could see how the Sustainability Element worked in practice. (Menis)

Mr. Hanham acknowledged that the numerous polices identified could be added as talking points in future staff reports.

Chairperson Banuelos agreed that future resolutions could also highlight the success of a project in obtaining sustainability.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Menis to adopt Resolution 21-11, with Commissioner Menis requesting an additional WHEREAS clause to read:

WHEREAS, this project successfully implements numerous policies of the Sustainability Element of the General Plan.

There was Planning Commission consensus to add the additional WHEREAS clause as proposed by Commissioner Menis but not to add the modifications proposed by Commissioner Kurrent.

MOTION by a Roll Call Vote to adopt Resolution 21-11, A Resolution of the Planning Commission of the City of Pinole for a Comprehensive Design Review (DR21-11) to Construct a 179 Unit Senior Apartment Complex and Make Site Improvements, Located at 600 Roble Avenue, 1106 San Pablo Avenue, and 1230 San Pablo Avenue (APNs: 402-023-007, 402-023-003-5 & 405-023-002-7), subject to Exhibit A: Conditions of Approval, and subject to an additional WHEREAS clause to read:

WHEREAS, this project successfully implements numerous policies of the Sustainability Element of the General Plan.

MOTI

MOTION: Moriarty SECONDED: Menis

APPROVED: 6-0-1 ABSENT: Wong

Chairperson Banuelos identified the 10-day appeal process of a decision of the Planning Commission in writing to the City Clerk.

The Planning Commission expressed its appreciation to the applicants and the members of the Planning Commission Subcommittee for all their hard work.

F. OLD BUSINESS: None

G. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>: None

H. <u>CITY PLANNER'S / COMMISSIONERS' REPORT</u>

Mr. Hanham reported the projects at 2151 Appian Way and 2801 Pinole Valley Road should be presented to the Planning Commission by the end of the year or the beginning of 2022; he was in the process of preparing information on the Specific Plan Corridors to be presented to the Planning Commission at a future meeting; the City should have a new Community Development Director in the next six weeks; and Planning Commission e-mails were now available and he would send them to Commissioners through their regular e-mail addresses this week cautioning that the e-mails were subject to the requirements of the Brown Act. In addition, the Zoning Administrator would meet on Wednesday, September 29 at 2:00 P.M. to consider one agenda item. The Planning Commission would be notified of the Zoning Administrator's decision and that decision would be subject to the 10-day appeal period.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty inquired of the status of a legislative update of Senate Bills (SB) 9 and 10 intended to help alleviate the affordable housing crisis, and Mr. Hanham suggested an update be provided at a meeting in October. He would also confirm whether or not the next Planning Commission meeting set for October 11, 2021 was a holiday with the possibility the meeting may be canceled. He added current projects in the Planning Department included administrative design reviews, tenant improvements for some of the commercial areas, and the permit yield remained high.

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**: None

J. <u>NEXT MEETING</u>

The next meeting of the Planning Commission to be a Regular Meeting scheduled for October 11, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

1	K.	ADJOURNMENT :	10:33 P.M.
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3		Transcribed by:	
4		·	
5			
6		Sherri D. Lewis	
7		Transcriber	