City of Albany

Planning and Zoning Commission Minutes September 11, 2013 Meeting

Note: These minutes are subject to Planning and Zoning Commission approval. The minutes are not verbatim. An audiotape of the meeting is available for public review.

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Regular Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER- The meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission was called to order by Chair Eisenmann in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

KOLL CALL

Present: Arkin, Eisenmann, Moss, Pilch

Absent: Donaldson

Staff present: City Planner Anne Hersch

Community Development Director Jeff Bond

Planning Intern Sara Muse City Attorney Craig Labadie

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

 (Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. By approval of the Consent Calendar, the staff recommendations will be adopted unless otherwise modified by the Commission. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Commission Member or a member of the audience requests removal of the items from the Consent Calendar.)

Commissioner Moss asked to pull item 4B.

Commissioner Arkin noted he was absent for the May 8 and May 22 meetings and made a minor correction on the March 27 minutes, where the words "needs fixing" on page 3, line 23, should be outside the parentheses not inside.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar with exception of item 4B: Arkin

Second: Pilch

AYES: Arkin, Eisenmann, Moss, Pilch

NAYES: None Motion Passes, 4-0

A. PA 13-035, 911 Peralta Ave Design Review -The applicant is seeking Design Review approval to convert an existing single-car garage to a finished accessory structure at 911 Peralta Avenue. The existing garage is 171 sq. ft. and the new accessory is proposed to be 240 sq. ft. A new half-bathroom is proposed. The applicant has proposed to replace the existing concrete

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patio and driveway with permeable pavers and landscaping. Parking is provided in the existing driveway.

Recommendation: Review and approve subject to the findings and conditions.

CEQA: Categorically Exempt per Section 15303 "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" of the CEQA Guidelines

B. PA 13-045, 700 San Pablo Ave Conditional Use Permit -The applicant is seeking Conditional Use Permit approval to install a paint spray booth inside the building at 700 San Pablo Avenue, 101 Auto Care. The building is approximately 5,000 sq. ft. and is located on San Pablo Avenue, at Castro Street. The applicant is proposing to offer bodywork sales/installation to the rear of the property, approximately 260 ft. in area. The proposed services will be completely enclosed within the existing public and not visible from the street

Recommendation: Review and approve subject to the findings and conditions.

CEQA: Categorically Exempt per Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" of the CEQA Guidelines

Anne Hersch presented the staff report.

Commissioner Moss- noted he would like to see two illegal items brought to code along with revisions to ADA that would be made because of the addition of the paint booths. These two items are: 1) a pipe that sticks out from the building to the sidewalk, 2) metal box that was added to the front of the building.

Henry Seng- noted the box was not on his property.

Commissioner Arkin- said rather than replacing the pipe, they could find a more inexpensive way to correct this hazard.

The Commission agreed that the changes could be reviewed by staff.

Motion to Approve item 4B: Arkin

-with condition that fire riser pipe is given some protection to satisfaction of City staff and that the pipe addresses ADA concerns

Second: Moss

AYES: Arkin, Eisenmann, Moss, Pilch

NAYES: None. Motion Passes, 4-0

1 2		C. March 27, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
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4 5		D. April 10, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
6 7 8		E. April 24, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
9 10 11		F. May 8, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
12 13 14		G. May 22, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
15 16 17		H. June 12, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
18 19 20		I. June 26, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
21 22 23 24		J. July 10, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
25 26 27		K. July 24, 2013 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes Recommendation: Approve
28	_	DUDUG COMMENT
29 30 31 32 33 34 35	5.	For persons desiring to address the Commission on an item that is not on the agenda please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Brown Act limits the Commission ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.
36 37 38 39		Paul O Curry - would like Measure D rescinded. He said he's been working with the Social and Economic Justice Commission but felt they could not make any decision with Measure B in place.
40	6.	DISCUSSIONS & POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
41 42 43 44 45 46		A. PA 06-053 St. Mary's College High School Mitigated Negative Declaration/Conditional Use Permit/Design Review for a new Music Bldg. The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to review and potentially take action on a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) request, and

 Design Review for a new music building at St. Mary's College High School. The CUP includes a proposal for anticipated new buildings on campus as funding becomes available. If approved the CUP will establish new operating conditions for the school. Design Review is also sought for a new 13,400 sq. ft. music building on campus. This matter was continued to a date uncertain so that neighbors, City staff, and St. Mary's representatives could complete mediation related to Conditions of Approval. The draft Conditions before the Commission are the result of the mediation discussions.

Recommendation: Review and approve subject to the findings and conditions.

CEQA: Review and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that was prepared for the project.

Chair Eisenmann recused herself from item 6A.

Commissioner Arkin- took over the meeting. He asked to see if there was a representative from PPNA that would like to speak for more than 3 minutes.

Commissioner Pilch- asked if the Commission should limit speakers to two minutes due to the large number of items on tonight's agendas. Commissioner Arkin said this would not be necessary.

Anne Hersch presented the staff report.

Commissioner Arkin- asked about the proposed finding for lack of CEQA valuation for the proposed chapel referenced in Attachment 16.

Commissioner Moss- clarified the limit of use in Attachment 13.

Vivian Kahn, Kahn Mortimer Associates- clarified that they are asking for maximum enrollment of 630 students. She said environmental impacts were based on construction occurring in areas where there was not construction before and would not be impacted enrollment. She said the focus of discussions should be on when and where the uses for the chapel would occur rather than what the nature of the uses would be. She noted the maximum capacity for the chapel was 200 people so any events held there would be smaller than events held on other parts of campus. She said the chapel would not serve as a parish church even if it looks like one. She said the applicant objects any indemnification of private property owner. Kahn asked for a waiver of condition A5 which requires that St. Mary's indemnify the City against any litigation. In the event this reaches council, Kahn asked the Commission to make an action so that St. Mary's does not have to bear the burden of condition A5.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

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Anne Hersch- said the June 26th letter was included as part of the formal record. The July 10th letter was an amended request.

Chris Hamilton, 1316 Albina- wanted clarification on whether there was an

amendment made in the June 10th letter.

Kevin Shipp, 1310 Albina-lawyer specializing in CEQA litigation- wanted to know the time period the enrollment cap was derived from. Regarding the chapel, he said there was not sufficient information - for instance there is no indication of when the said events will take place and how many people would be attending them.

Georgia Fishman, 1298 Albina- shared her concerns regarding traffic and trash in her neighborhood.

Susanna Bell-Fishman, **1298 Albina**- was concerned a funding cap may not be sufficient. She asked that the cap be removed or raised.

Donna Dediemar- said the 2008 application was entirely withdrawn and a new application and initial study was submitted in 2011. She pointed out the enrollment here was 609. She also was concerned about the chapels use. She said she wished to see an end to this application. On behalf of PPNA, she suggested the following compromises:

- Maximum enrollment at St. Mary's High should be kept to 609 students after attrition. Enrollment should be measured on one date in the semester which is the school's cutoff date for returning tuition should someone withdraw. Compliance with this condition should be deferred until the 2014-15 school year.
- Within 30 days of CUP approval, St. Mary's must submit a specific list of activities that have occurred in the school the last three school years and those that will be passed to the chapel.

Robin Ramsey, 1529 Beverly Place- said she did not want to speak out against Dediemar's suggestion, but she said she is against St. Mary's position on enrollment.

Hannah Bankier, 1350 Albina- continued Chris Hamilton's topics regarding where as clauses. She said staff seems to indicate only PPNA threatened with litigation. She requested the clause be changed so that it removes any threat of litigation from PPNA.

Commissioner Moss- said there was a law suit threat in public hearing not the closed session. He noted he researched cases that PPNA referenced and said they were not factual and irrelevant. He said did not agree with restricting the religious uses of the chapel.

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Commissioner Pilch- was open to discussion regarding changing language of enrollment but did not have any suggestions.

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Commissioner Arkin- did not see the reasoning behind striking the language "for religious purposes". He agreed with Moss that enrollment at 600 plus 5% for attrition should be kept as the basis. In terms of the chapel operating conditions, he said these were voluntarily provided by the school.

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Craig Labadie, legal counsel-advised that the chapel operating conditions be kept as proposed. He said in the event the school violated the conditions, the City could take court action to prevent future violations.

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Commissioner Arkin- suggested the "whereas" clause mentioned earlier to say "legal issues" rather than pointing out PPNA as the sole party threatening litigation. He was inclined to leave the indemnification as is.

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Motion to approve the negative declaration for item 6A: Moss

19 Second: Pilch

AYES: Arkin, Moss, Pilch

NAYES: None Motion passes, 3-0

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Motion to approve the Use Permit for item 6A: Moss

Commissioner Arkin clarified that the motion was to move Resolution 2013-03, approving the conditional use permit with the "whereas" statement concerning the threat of litigation on page 2 of Attachment 2. Arkin amended the motion -to strike the threat of litigation line and substitute it with "legal issues". Moss agreed.

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Commissioner Arkin- noted that the rain garden project is located in the City of Berkeley. He indicated there will be permits needed for that work and issues related to this matter should be discussed at that time.

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Second: Pilch

AYES: Arkin, Moss, Pilch

NAYES: None. Motion Passes, 3-0

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Motion to approve Design review for item 6A: Pilch

41 **Second:** Moss

> Commissioner Arkin- noted the hours of construction have been modified from what was presented online.

> > AYES: Arkin, Moss, Pilch

45 **NAYES: None** Motion Passes, 3-0 46

B. PA 13-044, 726 Cerrito Street Design Review & Conditional Use Permit - The applicant is seeking Design Review & Conditional Use Permit approval for a new two-story home at 726 Cerrito Street. The existing property is vacant and is 4,452 sq. ft. in area. The applicant is proposing construction of a new 2,425 sq. ft. single-family residence with three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, and two covered parking spaces in an attached garage. The applicant is seeking a Conditional Use Permit to allow a front yard setback reduction that varies between 6' and 7' due to grading and topography of the lot.

Recommendation: Review and approve subject to the findings and conditions.

CEQA: Categorically Exempt per Section 15332 "In-Fill Development Projects" of the CEQA Guidelines

Chair Eisenmann returned to the meeting.

Sara Muse presented the staff report.

Chair Eisenmann- asked for clarification in the staff report regarding the setback encroachment.

Anne Hersch- said the regulations in this district were general. She indicated the Commission could look at existing setback on the block for reference.

Commissioner Moss- asked about how the 785 was calculated.

Ms. Hersch noted there were a garage, staircase, and other space that added to the increased building area. Moss clarified that there would be grading done.

Commissioner Arkin- asked if a perimeter height calculation was conducted for the garage.

Chris Linvill, project architect- said further from the front property line they were, the more excavation would be done. He noted they wanted to find the median between front setback and overall building height. In regards to design review, he hoped they could work with staff on any concerns the Commission may have.

Chair Eisenmann- asked about the decision to the make house closer to the street and narrower. Mr. Linvill said for this particular property the layout design made sense given the orientation of and lighting from the sun. He mentioned it was their intent to maintain some existing mature trees.

James Cleveland, 724 Cerrito St. resident- was concerned this house was a safety risk. He found that the FAR of the proposed property was 238% greater than that of twelve other properties he researched along Cerrito. He raised concerns about the trees on and surrounding the property that could potentially fall and hurt people. He suggested counting the rings on the trees for preventative measures and looking more closely into the potential ramifications of excavation on that site.

Chair Eisenmann- noted a geotechnical report would be done on the site.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Commissioner Pilch- believed staff was well prepared to address Mr. Cleveland's concerns. He noted that the City arborist was available to review the matter. In regards to design review, he had no concerns. In terms of the setback and CUP, he asked if the staff had any additional comments.

Anne Hersch- said this decision was up to the Commission. She noted the only requirement was to consider the surrounding context and streetscape.

Commissioner Moss- said an extensive soil report can be done. He said the City arborist could determine whether the tree should be removed or not. In regards to design, he suggested putting the second story back and stepping the front. He said materials would have lots to say on this. He would want to see more well integrated terraces and working with the land. He had no issues with granting the CUP.

Commissioner Arkin- felt this was a good approach on a difficult site. He thought the design was simple and handsome. He complimented the placement of living spaces on the south side and asked that the applicant verify the window setback. He noted the hillside flows down and it might be a good idea to carry the parapet along the back. He said very detail soil reports will be required. He said the garage level did not need to count towards the FAR. He fully supported the application.

Chair Eisenmann- appreciated many aspects of the project including efforts to reach the setback and the hip roof. She asked that staff determine the safety of that intersection. She also pointed out that the sidewalk would be parked on and asked if the house could be shifted a few feet back. She agreed with Commissioner Arkin that the house was not large and that the garage did not need to be included in the FAR. She added the footings and calculations would be reviewed by the building department prior to the permit issuance. She asked about cars pulling up the front.

Commissioner Pilch- asked how much space was between the sidewalk and the garage door.

Mr. Linvill said from inside face of sidewalk, it was about 14 feet and 12 feet. He noted parking on the sidewalk was illegal so he did not feel accommodating for it was necessary. He liked the idea of having another wall be the retaining wall rather than having the house as the retaining wall.

Chair Eisenmann- noted for the record that the applicant would be willing to park in their garage and unload.

Commissioner Moss- asked if the retaining wall was new or existing and recommended making the sidewalk wider.

Mr. Linvill noted that it was existing wood.

James Cleveland suggested moving the house more south to reduce detractive impacts.

Commissioner Moss-suggested adding a trellis or walk out but the applicant did not feel it would fit in their budget.

Motion to approve Design review for item 6B (including CUP) with additional condition that the sidewalk retaining wall be built with a minimum 12" planning strip and made of compatible materials: Arkin

Second: Pilch

AYES: Arkin, Eisenmann, Moss, Pilch

NAYES: None Motion passes, 4-0

C. PA 13-047, 1017 Ordway Design Review & Parking Exception - The applicant is seeking Design Review and Parking Exception approval for a 2nd story addition and interior remodel at 1017 Ordway Street. The existing home is 1,261 sq. ft. with two bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms on a 3,570 sq. ft. lot. The applicant is proposing a 758 sq. ft. second story addition which will include master suite with bathroom, a second bedroom and bathroom, laundry, closet, two exterior balconies, and access to a roof top deck. This will result in a three bedroom and four and a half bathroom home, 1959 sq. ft. in area, with a maximum height of 26'8". The applicant is seeking a Parking Exception to allow the second parking space to encroach in the front yard setback. The home will change in appearance from a flat roof bungalow style to a Mediterranean style with side gable rooflines.

Recommendation: Review and approve subject to the findings and conditions.

CEQA: Categorically Exempt per Section 15303 "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" of the CEQA Guidelines

Chair Eisenmann recused herself from this item. Commissioner Arkin took over the meeting.

Sara Muse- presented the staff report.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Robin Pennell, Jarvis Architects- gave a general description of the house's design. He noted the garage space was counted, but the storage spaces were not included.

Don Lupino- said he would submit his comments in writing.

Suz-Ana Morandin, 1021 Ordway- voiced concerns regarding: length of construction, height of the house, drainage effects, the extent of excavation, and negative parking impacts. She asked that the Commission look more closely at how the house in the relation to surrounding properties on the street.

Andre Ptaszynski, 1016 Ventura- referenced a letter her sent in and expanded on the concerns he voiced in the letter. He pointed out the homeowner had disobeyed the law before with the illegal second unit and believed he would do so again. Mr. Ptaszynski added a parking exception could be allowed for the accessory structure but not for the new addition.

Commissioner Moss- liked the design. He was concerned the deck on the upper floor would impact the neighbors. He asked if they were reducing the back of the auxiliary structure. He said Albany does not have a View Protection ordinance.

Andre Ptaszynski - said the building would be reconstructed to be in the same architectural design as the house.

Commissioner Pilch- said there would be one garage parking space and there would not be space to park in the driveway so the applicant would need a parking exception. In regards to the view obstruction, he echoed Commissioner Moss's comment that there is not a View Protection Ordinance. He was interested in further discussion on the roof deck and parking exception.

Commissioner Arkin- said the house was not out of scale in relation to the rest of Ordway and showed exceptional design. He suggested making a space in front of the garage instead of granting a parking reduction. He said this could be done by making the garage doors point in. In regards to height, he said bringing the second level ceiling height to 8 feet was more reasonable. He

had no issues with the roof deck, but suggested reducing the railing height to

3 4 Commissioner Pilch- agreed with the parking and railing suggestions. 5 6 Anne Hersch- noted an additional condition in the 2005 application included 7 a deed restriction on the accessory structure. 8 9 Motion to approve item 6C with additional requirements that: 10 -the garage be moved into the rear of the property by two feet 11 -reduce size to 18' in depth 12 -recess door to get 17' clear dimension from back of sidewalk to side of door 13 -overall height be reduced to 6" 14 -railings of roof deck brought down to ridgeline: Moss 15 Seconded by: Pilch 16 AYES: Arkin, Moss, Pilch 17 **NAYES**: None 18 Motion passes, 3-0 19 20 Commissioner Arkin called for a two minute break. 21 22 D. PA 13-040 833 Solano Ave. New Single Family Home Study Session- The 23 applicant is seeking preliminary Design Review feedback for a new two-story 24 single family home at 833 Solano Avenue. The lot is 3,750 sq. ft. with an 25 existing 1000 sq. ft. single story home which is proposed to be demolished. The 26 proposed two-story home will include three bedrooms, two and a half 27 bathrooms, two car garage, and roof decks on the second and third levels. 28 The new home will be 2,060 sq. ft. and 25' in height. The proposed addition 29 has two off-street parking spaces contained in the attached garage. 30 Recommendation: Receive report and provide feedback to the applicant 31 and staff. 32 33 CEQA: Categorically Exempt per Section 15332 "In-Fill Development Projects" 34 of the CEQA Guidelines 35 36 Anne Hersch presented the staff report. 37 38 Ronald Havens, applicant- described his project and experience working in 39 Lake Tahoe. He said that he had little information or assistance in designing a 40 new home so he tried his best and was here for guidance. He mentioned the large FAR was a result of the small lot size. He stated he was most likely going 41 42 to sell the house when it was done. 43 44 Commissioner Eisenmann- asked about the decision to make it a split level 45 design front to back. 46

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the ridgeline.

Ronald Havens- said he did this to mitigate problems with neighbors and reduce the height.

Sarita Mathiason, 836 Washington- said the applicant seems to encourage a height competition among the surrounding houses. She says the house is out of proportion with the rest of the neighbors. She was concerned her view would be impacted and believed there should be a View Protection ordinance.

Mae Young Kwan, 835 Solano- was concerned that the building looks out of place on the street. She also did not like that the applicant was just going to sell the property when he was done and leave her with the consequences.

Ed Weiss, 835 Solano- pointed out that there were discrepancies between a recent survey done on that project and the assessor's map which he used for his plans. He also disagreed with the installation of the decks.

Chair Eisenmann- said the Commission would assume the assessor's map is correct for the time being but they could follow up with the engineering company at a later time.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Commissioner Pilch- liked the split level aspect, the third story tall windows, and the decision to move the house back. He thought the garage being a large feature in the front seemed uninviting.

Commissioner Moss- wanted to see the layout of the neighboring properties on the drawings. He felt the design was a good start. His suggestions included: putting windows on the left side, adding street-facing windows to break up the massing, working on the awkward offset that the applicant's design emphasized, lowering the roof to preserve the view for neighbors, replacing the proposed greenhouse window off the kitchen with a bay popout window, adding a small roof over the entry column to break up the long horizontal line, breaking the garage door into two smaller doors and adding a pilaster in between the two doors or adding a trellis over the garage doors.

Commissioner Arkin- thanked the applicant for bringing this project in early for a study session. He thought the design was a good start. His minor comments included: seeing the sidewalk and curb line drawn on the elevations, having the mid-point of the garage be no higher than sidewalk level, considering moving the center of the gables to the center of the doors, narrowing the spaces between the windows, lowering the height, and moving the stairway out towards the sidewalk to make it a more prominent entry.

Ronald Havens-said he was trying to be conservative with the windows. He noted the building is more sub grade than it appears in the drawing. He said he plans to mitigate the height.

Chair Eisenmann- encouraged the applicant simplify the houses and look at some Albany houses in the Design Review guidelines and beyond to get a better idea of houses in Albany. She suggested putting more rooms on the same level to clean up the elevations, getting rid of some staircases to lower the FAR, and splitting the garage door into two. She also expressed concern of the house being put together hastily and inexpensively and suggested the applicant look at ways to make the house details looks and feel substantial.

Commissioner Arkin- added he liked the roofline where the insulation is.

Motion to continue the meeting 20 minutes: Commissioner Moss

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Anticipated Review Schedule for University Village Mixed Use Project- An anticipated timeline of fall 2013 review for the University Village mixed use project.

Recommendation: Receive report.

Jeff Bond presented the staff report. He noted more application materials have been received and posted online. He said the major agenda items for October would be both the retail and senior living aspects of the UC Village project. He also suggested there may need to be a special meeting at the end of October to finish some business before the end of the year.

B. Radio Frequency Compliance Report- An update to the Planning & Zoning Commission on a recently completed survey of wireless facilities in Albany which were measured for radio frequency compliance in accordance with FCC standards.

Recommendation: Receive report.

Anne Hersh presented the staff report.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/DISCUSSION

(Staff discussion and Commission member announcement of status of previous agenda items and requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on requests for future agenda items).

None.

9. FUTURE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

Next Planning and Zoning Commission hearing: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at		
6:30 pm.		
10. ADJOURNMENT		
The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.		
Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at Albany City Hall		
		
Submitted by: Anne Hersch, City Planner		
Jeff Bond		
Community Development Director		