



CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

PLANNING SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Planning Commission

From: Christopher Hadwin
Planning Director

Subject: Comprehensive Zoning Code Update Preliminary Study Session

Summary:

On February 8, 2024, the City Council awarded a professional services agreement to Code Studio, Inc. to undertake a comprehensive update to the City's Zoning Code. This will be the first comprehensive update to the Code in many years.

As the City's regulatory framework that guides development, a modern and easy to understand Code is crucial to ensuring that future development meets the needs of current and future residents and effectively reflects the City's long-term goals and objectives. An updated code must also implement the recently approved Housing Element and other changes to the General Plan that are soon to be adopted and be consistent with other changes that have been made to State law.

The team from Code Studio will be visiting Palm Springs for their first on-site visit as part of the background phase of the project, which will include site visits and tours to gain an understanding of our urban fabric and assess the challenges and opportunities we are facing under our current zoning framework. As part of their visit, they would like to meet the Planning Commission and hear directly from the Commissioners what opportunities and challenges they see with our current regulations and processes and learn about how we might remove barriers to development, find efficiencies in our process, and facilitate the kind of growth that is needed to support our residents and businesses.

The overall timeline for this process is anticipated to be 20-24 months, and this initial study session is the beginning of what will be a robust engagement process as we work towards modernizing and updating the Zoning Code.