MEMORANDUM

Date: March 29, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner  
Acting County Administrator

Re: Pima County Historical Commission Update

This memo provides an update on County staff efforts to create a Pima County Historical Commission separate from the City of Tucson in order for each jurisdiction to retain their Certified Local Government in Historic Preservation (CLG) status as authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act through the National Park Service.

While both the City and County anticipated separation of the joint commission in May, the City of Tucson staff now anticipates their completion date to be later in summer 2022, and have requested that the joint commission not be nullified until that time. We still anticipate the County historical commission will be created by May 2022, but to facilitate a smooth transition, we are discussing whether to retain the joint commission until such time that the City has completed its process.

The following summarizes the work undertaken during February 2022 and currently underway:

1. County staff continue to meet with counterpart City staff to ensure the two jurisdictions proceed in parallel to the extent possible. As noted above, the City now anticipates a separation date later this summer.

2. Ongoing progress updates are provided monthly to the current joint Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission.

3. County staff have completed a Code audit of Code changes will likely be necessary. As noted in the previous update, Code revisions will be separated into two phases. Phase 1 will only deal with the creation of a County Historical Commission, and the necessary revisions to substitute the County Design Review Committee with the County Historical Commission where necessary.

4. Office of Sustainability and Conservation (OSC) and Development Services Department (DSD) staff have drafted code text amendments to the following sections of Pima County Code, Title 18:
   - 18.99.030 Design Review Committee
   - 18.101.020 Board of Supervisors
   - 18.73.050 Amenity Landscaping
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- 18.79.060 Non-conforming signs
- 18.95.030 Enforcement
- 18.63 Historic Zone
- 18.99.060 Historical Commission

5. OSC staff have prepared an initial stakeholder list. Once finalized with additional stakeholders from DSD, these individuals who include current Board appointed commission members will be invited to join a virtual meeting where County OSC and DSD staff will give an overview of the reasons for creating a separate County Historical Commission, the code text amendments necessary to create a separate commission, and the eventual nullification of the joint Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission. Stakeholder review is planned for late March with comments due in mid-April.

6. The draft code text amendments will be reviewed by the Pima County Attorney’s Office, and a staff report will be prepared for a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission in April or May.

7. We anticipate the creation of the County Pima Historical Commission and necessary code revisions will come before the Board in May or June, 2022.

8. Phase 2 code revisions will resume once the Pima County Historical Commission is formed and members appointed, and will undergo a similar process as Phase 1.

JKL

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
Carla Blackwell, Director, Development Services Department
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation