



City of Arvada

City Council Agenda

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Councilmembers:

Lauren Simpson, Mayor
Randy Moorman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Shawna Ambrose, District 2
Sharon Davis, At large
Bob Fifer, District 4
John Marriott, District 3
Brad Rupert, At large

Staff Members Usually Present:

Don Wick, City Manager
Linda Haley, Deputy City Manager
Alli Scheck, Deputy City Manager
Rachel Morris, City Attorney
Jacqueline Rhoades, Director of Infrastructure
Jessica Garner, Director of Community & Econ. Dev.
Bryan Archer, Chief Financial Officer
Gabriella Bommer, Director of Human Resources
Ryan Stevenson, Director of Vibrant Community & Neighborhoods
Rachael Kuroiwa, Director of Communications & Engagement
Ed Brady, Chief of Police
Kristen Rush, City Clerk

Info: 720-898-7550

WORKSHOPS

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call of Councilmembers
2. Workshops
 - A. Certified Local Government
 - B. Staff Updates
3. Adjournment



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

AGENDA ITEM
2.A.

TO: THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Certified Local Government

Report in Brief

The City team will present an overview of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, which seeks to encourage and expand local involvement in historic preservation activities through a partnership between local governments, the State Historic Preservation Office (History Colorado), and the National Park Service (NPS). Staff will discuss the benefits, disadvantages, and responsibilities associated with being designated as a CLG.

Background

Certified Local Governments (CLGs) are counties or municipalities that have been endorsed by the State Historic Preservation Office (History Colorado) and the National Park Service (NPS) to participate in the national preservation program while maintaining standards consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Currently, there are 68 CLGs within the State of Colorado and approximately 2,100 CLGs nationwide.

Benefits of being designated as a CLG include the following:

- Access to grant funds only available to CLGs;
- Opportunity to receive technical support from SHPO (History Colorado) and NPS staff in order to advance local preservation objectives;
- Exclusive training and networking opportunities;
- Participate in reviews of tax credit projects;
- Opportunity for property owners with local designations to qualify for the 20% State Historic Preservation Tax Credit and access the State Historical Fund preservation grant program;
- Increase property values, assist in promoting heritage tourism, and promote community heritage and identity.

Responsibilities associated with becoming a CLG include the following:

- Enact and enforce a local ordinance that provides a legal framework for a preservation program;
- Create a commission of at least five (5) members that have a demonstrated interest, competence, or knowledge of preservation, and the commission must meet at least four times a year;
- Have at least one commission member attend a SHPO-approved educational/training event each year;
- Maintain a system for survey and inventory of historic properties;
- Provide opportunities for public participation in local preservation efforts;
- Review and provide comment on National Register nominations submitted for properties within their jurisdiction.

The team will discuss the details associated with being designated as a CLG, which includes drafting and adopting a Historic Preservation Ordinance, appointing a Historic Preservation Commission, and submitting a formal application to History Colorado.

Strategic Alignment

This item aligns with Quality of Life as identified in the City Council Strategic Plan: Foster an accessible and inclusive community that preserves and improves quality of life and ensures a safe and thriving place for all community members.

Next Steps

Receive feedback from the City Council, revise materials as needed, and finalize future public hearing and workshop schedules.

Prepared by:

Heidi Van Gieson, Administrative Specialist

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Christopher Sandine, Planner II	09/02/2025
Josie Suk, Development Systems and Administrative Manager	09/03/2025
Rob Smetana, Planning Manager	09/03/2025
Jessica Garner, Director of Community and Economic Development	09/03/2025
Gail Walker, Legal Specialist-Contracts	09/03/2025
Kelsy Sargent, Assistant City Attorney	09/03/2025
Rachel Morris, City Attorney	09/08/2025
Linda Haley, Deputy City Manager	09/08/2025
Don Wick, City Manager	09/08/2025

Enclosure, exhibits & attachments required to support the report

Certified Local Government Program

City Council Workshop
September 23, 2025



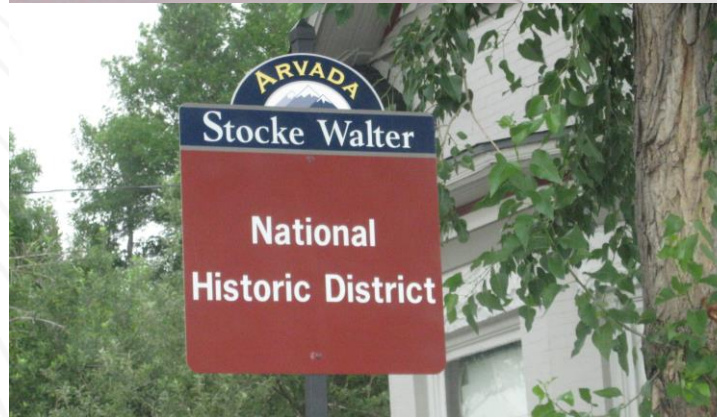
Preservation Highlights

Historic Property Surveys (1997 & 2013)

- Encompassed **120 Acres** of Land in SE Arvada
- Recorded **311 Resources**
- Led to three National Register Historic Districts:
 - **Arvada Downtown (Olde Town) Historic District**
 - **Reno Park Addition Historic District**
 - **Stocke-Walter Addition Historic District**

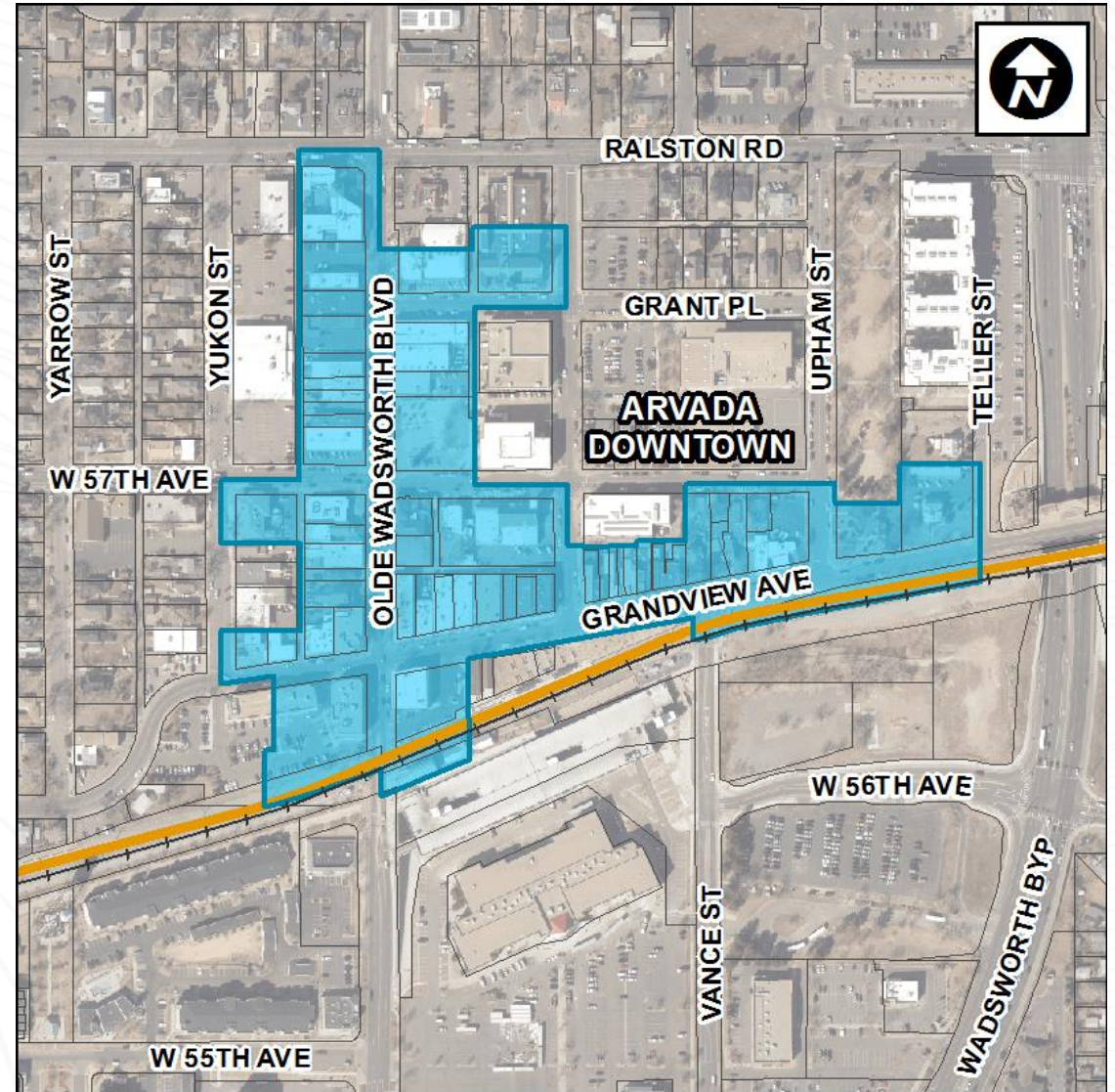
Churches Ranch Historic District (1998)

- The 48.9-acre property near Long Lake Regional Park remains as an important rural, historic cultural landscape.
- Much of the original homestead complex, developed between 1862 and 1910, is intact, and the adjacent fields remain in agricultural production.



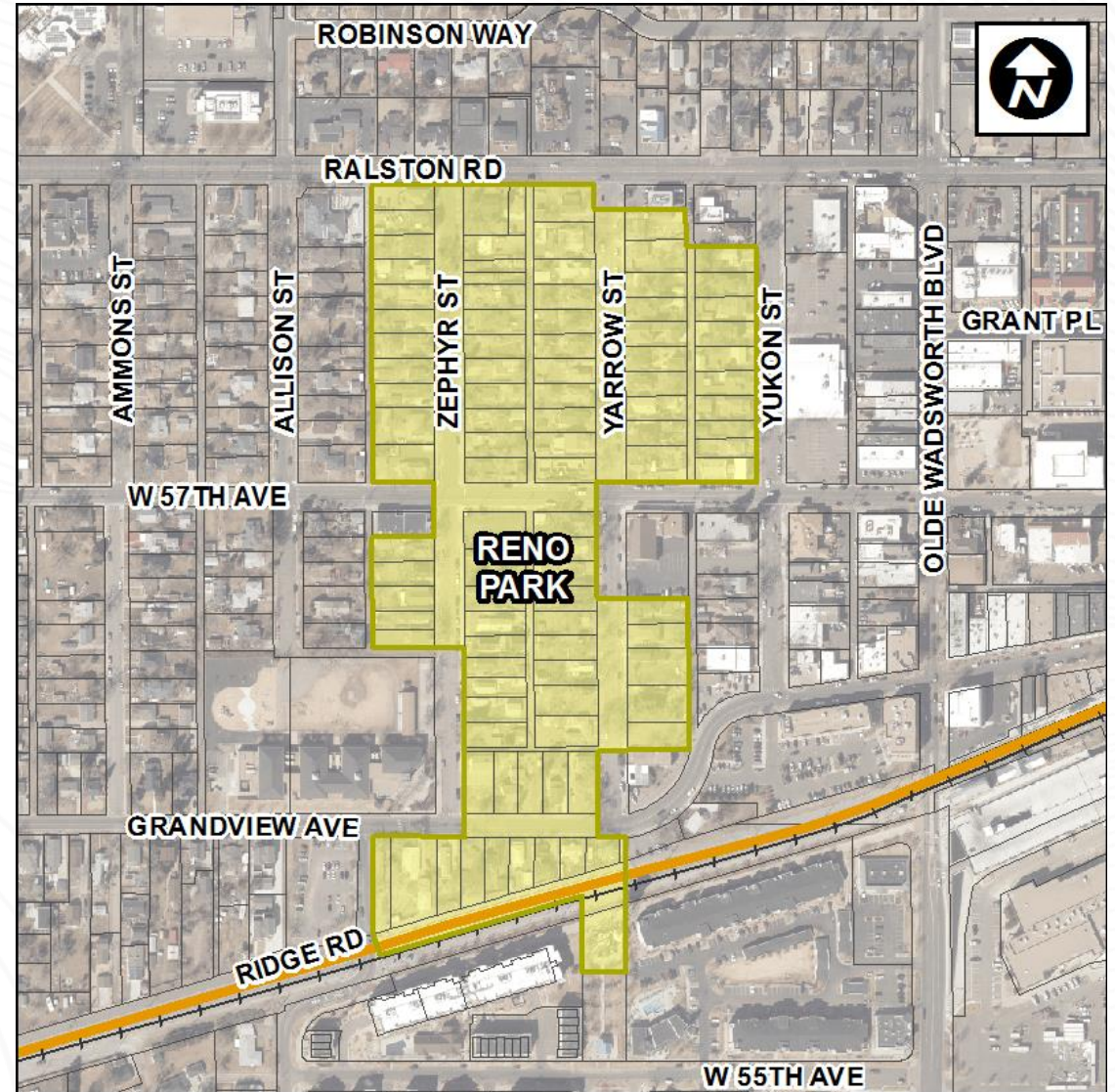
Arvada Downtown Historic District

- Otherwise known as "**Olde Town**", this historic district serves as the link to the city's heritage, culture, past, and future.
- Olde Town contains a wide range of building types and uses ranging from single-family residences to retail, office, and mixed-use buildings.
- Subject to the standards within the **Olde Town Design Guidelines**.



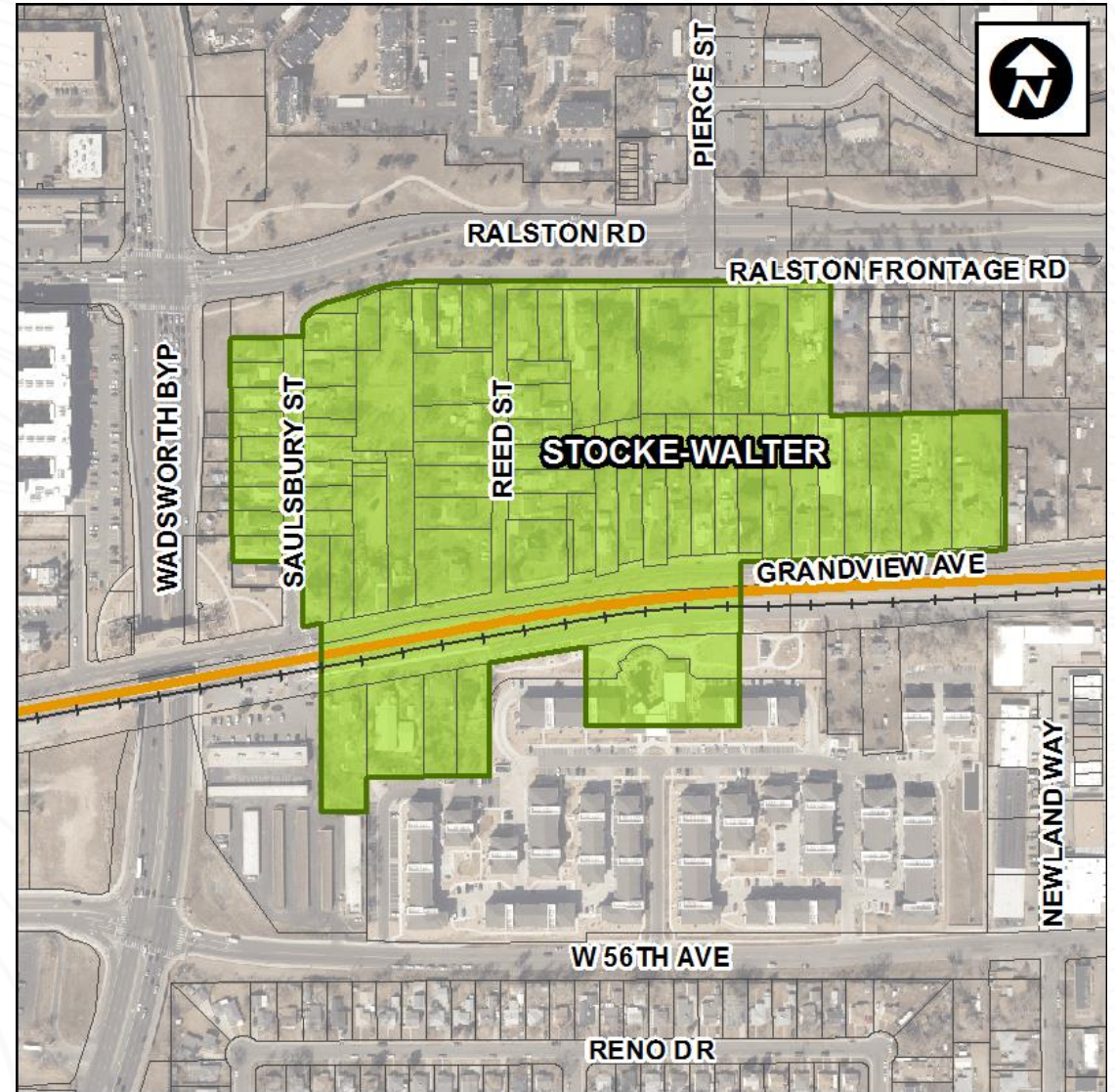
Reno Park Addition Historic District

- Subject to the **Reno Park Design Guidelines**, which are intended to preserve the traditional single-family residential character of the historic district.
- Some of these characteristics include smaller, narrow lots, homes setback from the sidewalk with landscaped front yards, and predominantly alley loaded garages.



Stocke-Walter Addition Historic District

- The Stocke-Walter Historic District is a **single-family neighborhood** containing important historic resources. The Stocke Addition was formally platted in 1904, and the Walter subdivision in 1920.
- Existing and new development is subject to the specific dimensional and design criteria approved in the **Final Development Plan (2009)**.



Plans and Guidance



Arvada City Council Strategic Plan (2024)

“Arvada’s **historic downtown** offers a diverse shopping and dining scene” (Page 4).



2014 Comprehensive Plan

The Community Vision: “Preserving our **historical resources** in Olde Town and other areas where feasible and enhancing Arvada’s small town feel and history” (Page 1-7).



GOAL ED-4: Redevelop and revitalize existing commercial and industrial areas.



POLICY ED-4.2

Olde Town Redevelopment and Historic Preservation



GOAL CC-1: Plan Arvada as a City of different character districts.



POLICY CC-1.1

Variety of Development Types

“The City will include a variety of development types including rural areas, suburban residential neighborhoods, **historic districts**, redevelopment areas, and mixed-use communities that contain services, employment, and higher density housing”.



GOAL CC-4: Preserve historic resources and expand preservation education and awareness in Arvada and Olde Town.



POLICY CC-4.1

Historic Preservation Programs



POLICY CC-4.2

Historic Preservation Partners



POLICY CC-4.4

Olde Town Design Guidelines



POLICY CC-4.5

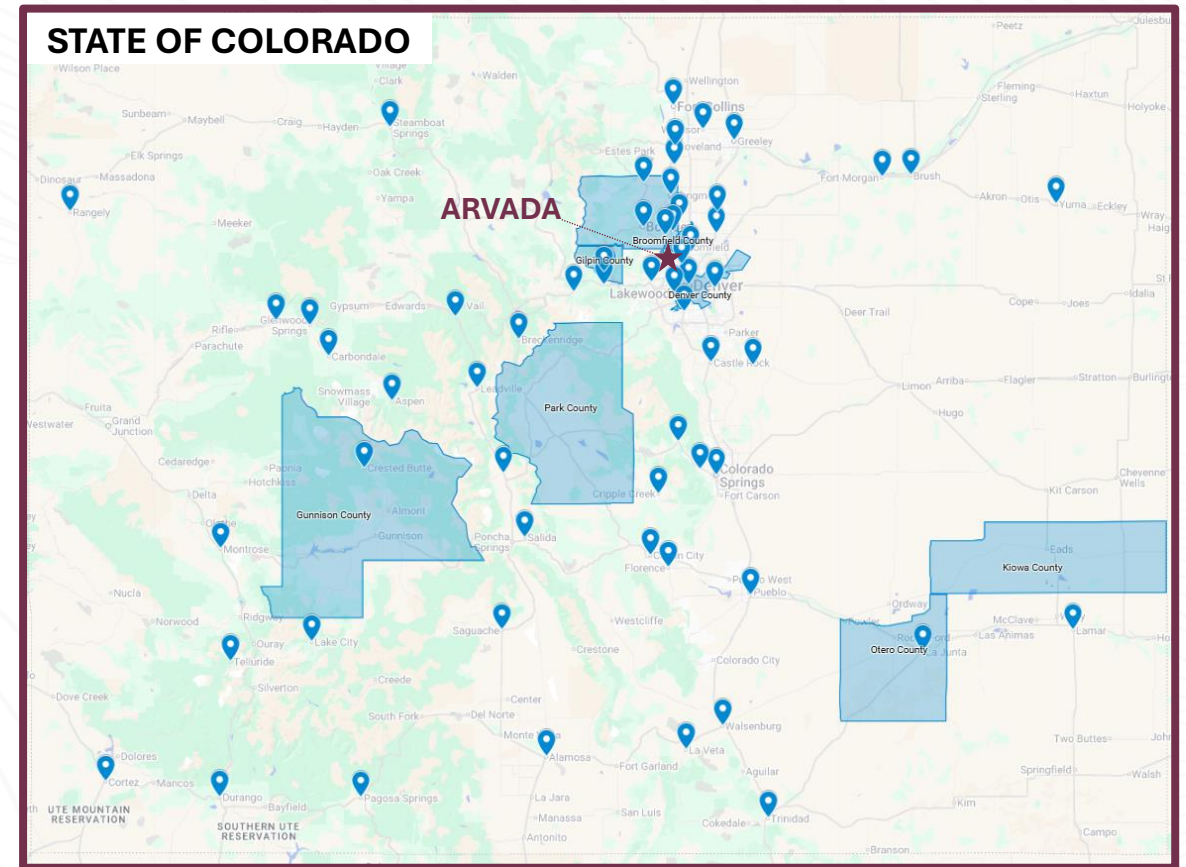
Local Preservation Efforts

“The City will explore ways to expand its historic resources, historic districts, and preservation programs, including: **consider becoming a Certified Local Government**”.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Program

- **130** Local Governments with Preservation Ordinances
- **68** Certified Local Governments
- **~2100** CLGs Nationwide

Certified Local Governments are counties or municipalities that have been endorsed by the State Historic Preservation Office (History Colorado) and the National Park Service to participate in the national preservation program while maintaining standards consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (National Park Service)



CLG Benefits:

- ⊕ Local Preservation Leadership
 - ⊕ Lead Preservation Efforts
 - ⊕ Receive Technical Advisory Support
 - ⊕ Formal Role in National Register Review Process
 - ⊕ Access to Compass (Training)
- ⊕ Access to Grant Funds
 - ⊕ Exclusive CLG Grants (No-Match)
 - ⊕ State Historical Fund
 - ⊕ State Historic Preservation Tax Credit
- ⊕ Comment on Federal Undertakings (Section 106) (Optional)

Potential Concerns:

- ⊖ Private Property Rights
- ⊖ Finding and Retaining Qualified Commissioners
- ⊖ Initial Time Commitment
 - ⊖ Community Outreach
 - ⊖ Updating Ordinances
 - ⊖ Establishing a New Commission

CLG Requirements



**Enact a Local Preservation Ordinance
(Tailored to City of Arvada)**



**Establish a Historic Preservation Commission
with at least five (5) Commissioners**



Provide Opportunities for Public Participation



Maintain a System of Survey and Inventory



**Review and Provide Comment on National
Register Nominations**



Submit an Annual Report



Evaluation Every Four (4) Years

Updates with CLG Status

Existing Design Review Advisory Committee (DRC)

 Third Thursday of the Month

 9:00 AM

 7 Members

The DRC makes recommendations to the Director regarding compliance with the Olde Town Design Guidelines, conditions of approval, or whether a waiver from the Design Guidelines is applicable.

Potential Changes:

- Tweaks to existing processes.
- Name changes are optional.
- Convert the existing DRC into the new Historic Preservation Commission.
- Continue to provide guidance on compliance with Design Guidelines.
- Acknowledge there will be additional opportunities to learn and teach residents about historic preservation throughout the City.

Thank you for listening!

How would you like to proceed?



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM
2.B.

TO: THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Staff Updates

Report in Brief

The purpose of this workshop is for staff to provide City Council with brief updates on projects and issues that do not require a full workshop.

Prepared by:
Chris Koch, CCO Admin

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Enclosure, exhibits & attachments required to support the report