

To: Islands of Cocoplum Homeowners Association, Inc

The Cocoplum Civic Association, Inc

From: Miriam Soler Ramos, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables WSVC

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Board of Architects (BOA) Appeal Regarding

Cocoplum Entrance Features

Date: March 21, 2019

On August 16, 2018, the Islands of Cocoplum Homeowners Association, Inc. (Cocoplum 2) submitted plans (AB-18-04-3802) to the Board of Architects (BOA) for modification to entrance features located in the City's right-of-way at the intersection of Cocoplum Road and Los Pinos Blvd. The BOA provided some general comments and deferred the item. On January 10, 2019, a set of revised plans that included the replacement of the entrance features at Cartagena Circle (the entrance of Cocoplum) in the City's right-of-way, were presented to the BOA and resulted in a denial by the board. The Cocoplum Civic Association, Inc. (Cocoplum 1), along with counsel, appeared at the BOA meetings where Cocoplum 2 presented the plans and made legal arguments regarding the propriety of the encroachments in the City's right-of-way.

In accordance with Section 3-606(B) of the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code and the Board of Architects Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure), Cocoplum 2 filed an appeal of the BOA denial on January 18, 2019. In accordance with the Zoning Code and the Rules of Procedure, a conflict resolution meeting was held on February 6, 2019. At the conflict resolution meeting City staff and the appellant/applicant reached an agreement, which was memorialized in a Settlement Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A) and approved by the BOA Special Master on February 11, 2019, in accordance with the Zoning Code and Rules of Procedure. As an agreement was reached, no quasi-judicial hearing was required before the BOA Special Master.

¹ At the March 12, 2019 City Commission meeting, the City Commission in Resolution No. 2019-83 approved the encroachment request for new signage in the City's right-of-way at the Cartagena Circle entrance consisting of two stone monuments – one reading "Cocoplum" and one reading "The Islands of Cocoplum," and re-approved the existing encroachment, as originally approved in Resolution No. 2013-06. In the alternative and provided the existing encroachments are removed, the City Commission approved the encroachment consisting of a monument sign, installation of wing walls, and pavers at the base of the Cocoplum Road Bridge at the intersection of Cocoplum Road and Vera Court, in the City's right-of-way.

On February 19, 2019, Cocoplum 1, as an affected party, filed a BOA appeal objecting to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. In accordance with the Zoning Code and Rules of Procedure, the BOA appeal will be heard by the City Commission. According to Section 3-606(D), the appeal to the City Commission is to be based on the record, not de novo, and no additional testimony shall be taken. However, the rules do not contemplate the procedural scenario that bore out in this case and which resulted in Cocoplum 1 not having the opportunity to have a quasi-judicial, de novo public hearing with the BOA Special Master. For this reason and to ensure that due process is properly provided and that all parties have a full opportunity to be heard, the City Commission should hear the appeal as part of a quasi-judicial, de novo, hearing². Pursuant to Section 2-301 of the Zoning Code, the BOA "is a design review administrative board created to ensure that the City's architecture meets the design review standards of the Zoning Code, is consistent with the City's regulations, and to preserve the traditional aesthetic character of the community." Accordingly, the scope of any BOA appeal and hearing is limited to design review and aesthetic considerations.

This opinion is issued pursuant to Sections 2-252(e)(1) and (8) of the City Code and Section 2-702 of the Zoning Code, granting the City Attorney's Office the authority to issue opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City.

March 2019

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² This recommendation is based on the specific facts surrounding this matter and does not create any precedent for future BOA appeals.

Exhibit A.

<u>SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR</u> <u>Board of Architects Appeal</u> <u>Cocoplum Entrance Features</u>

This Agreement is made and entered into this 6th day of February, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the Effective Date) by and between the City of Coral Gables (hereinafter referred to as the "CITY"), a Florida municipal corporation, and Cocoplum Homeowners Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Applicant").

WHEREAS, on January 10th, 2019, the Board of Architects (hereinafter referred to as "BOA") denied Applicant's plans as presented (BOA No. AB-18-04-3802), attached hereto as Exhibit "1", for the replacement of the southernmost entrance feature at the main community entrance located on Cartagena Plaza, and the addition of faux metal gates and updated signage on the existing pillars on the median and swales of Cocoplum Road, south east of the intersection of Los Pinos Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, on January 18th, 2019, Applicant filed an Application for Appeal in accordance with sections 2-303(D) and 3-606 of the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, on February 6th, 2019, a Conflict Resolution Meeting was held, in accordance with section 2-303(D) of the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code, and the Applicant presented updated plans, attached hereto as Exhibit "2", addressing all the comments and suggestions made by the BOA at the January 10th meeting, and said updated plans were subsequently approved by the City Architect and the Planning and Zoning Director.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with section 2-303(D) of the City of Coral Gables Code:

In consideration for the full and final resolution of the pending Appeal, Applicant agrees that:

- 1. The attached plans identified as Exhibit "2" are approved subject to the City Commission approving the required encroachment agreement(s).
- 2. APPELLANT AGREES THAT THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FULLY AND FINALLY RESOLVES THIS MATTER.
- 3. THE PARTIES WAIVE TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING OR COUNTERCLAIM BROUGHT BY EITHER OF THE PARTIES HERETO AGAINST THE OTHER ON ANY MATTERS ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH THIS AGREEMENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the day and the year first written above.

APPLICANT: Mignal Dia 2 de la Pontilla Antonney for Applicant State of Florida County of Miami-Dade The foregoing instrument was acknowledge before me this day of February, in the year, 2019, by Miguel Diaz dela Partillas of who is personally known to me or has produced

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ENGA PAULK Commission # FF 987507 My Commission Expires May 01, 2020	NOTARY BUBLIC,

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CITY ATTORNEY:

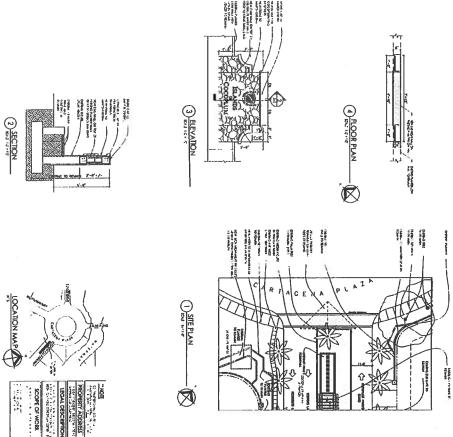
MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS

Driver's License

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-303(D) OF THE CORAL GABLES ZONING CODE, APPROVED BY BOA SPECIAL MASTER:

ARAMIS ALVAREZ . FEB 11/2019

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1 (2009 466-2373 , F (2009) 466-38



COCOPLUM ENTRY MONUMENT

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PROPOSED



EXISTING

COCOPLUM AND ISLANDS OF COCOPLUM ENTRANCE FIXTURES



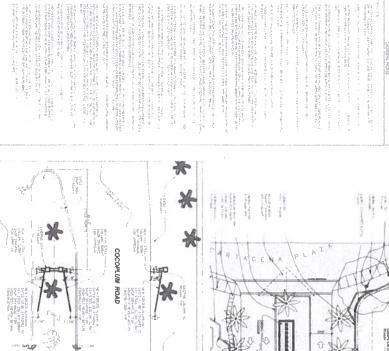




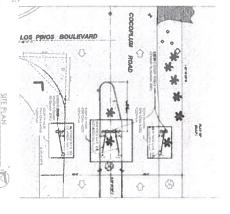
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A-1

ENLARGED FLOOR PLAN

COCOPLUM ROAD

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COCOPLUM ENTRY FIXTURE





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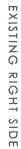


PROPOSED RIGHT SIDE



ISLANDS OF COCOPLUM ENTRANCE GATES

PACHECO-MARTINEZ







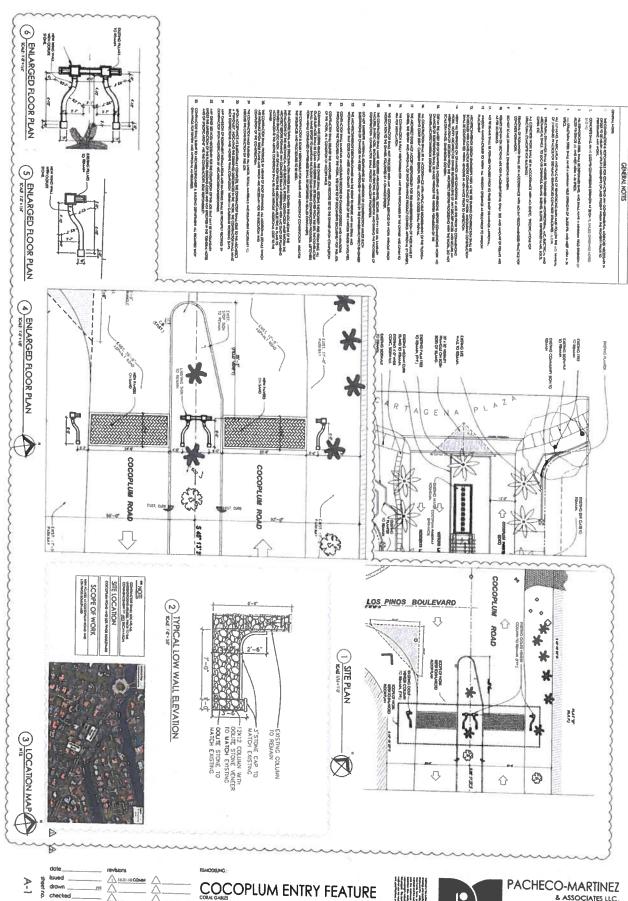
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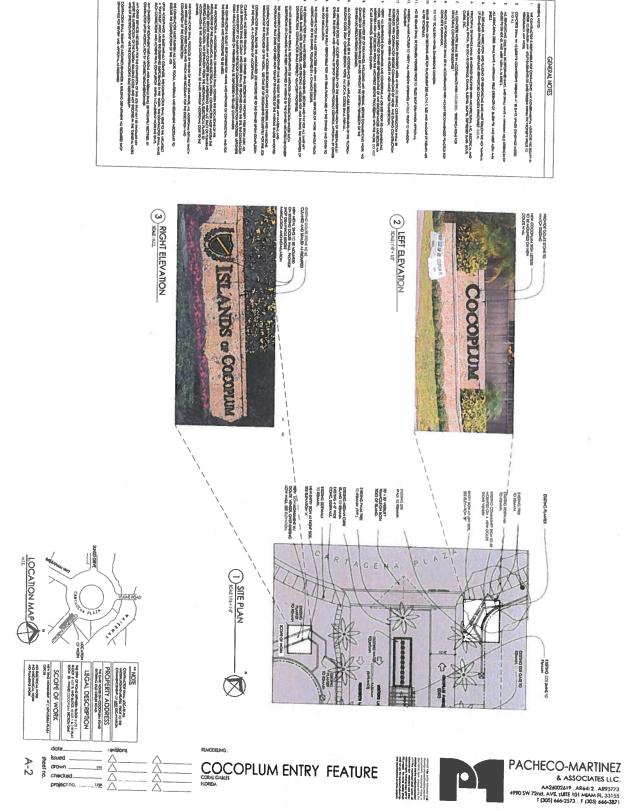
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COCOPLUM ENTRY FEATURE





PACHECO-MARTINEZ & ASSOCIATES LLC., A26002619 , AR6412 , AR9373 4990 SW 72nd AVE JUITE 101 MANA FL 33155 1 (305) 666-2573 , F (305) 666-3871



COCOPLUM ENTRY FEATURE

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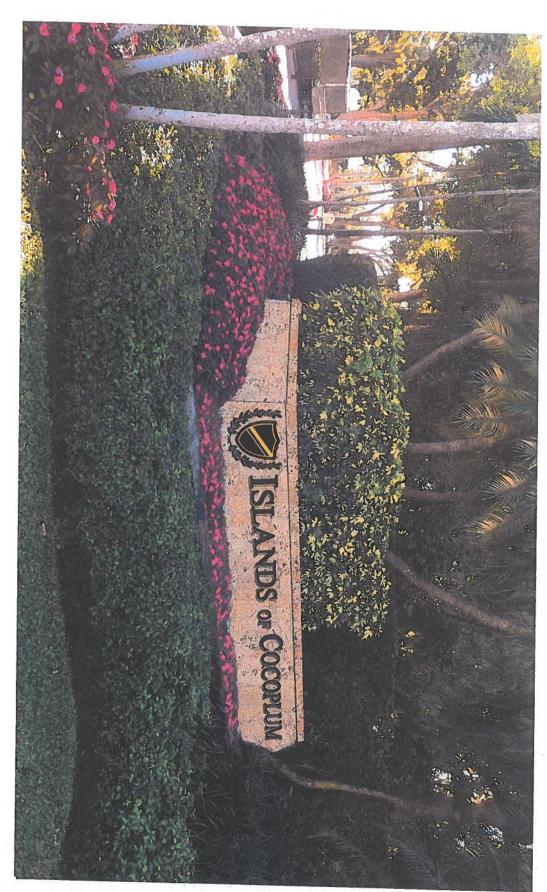
BIRD VIEW



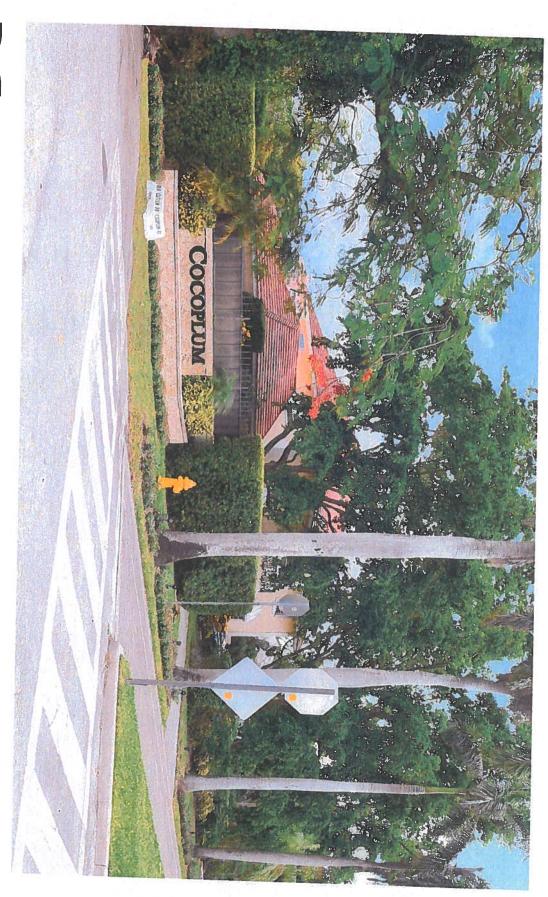
SIGN ELEVATION



ENTRANCE ELEVATION









LEFT SIDE

ISLANDS OF COCOPLUM SIGNAGE AT CARTAGENA PLAZA

CITY OF CORAL GABLES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OPINION REGARDING BOARD OF ARCHITECTS (BOA) APPEAL RE COCOPLUM ENTRANCE FEATURES

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March 2019

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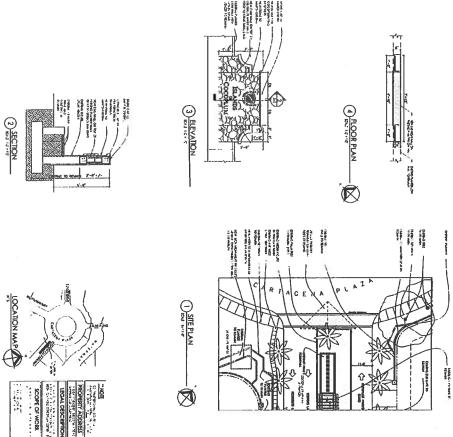
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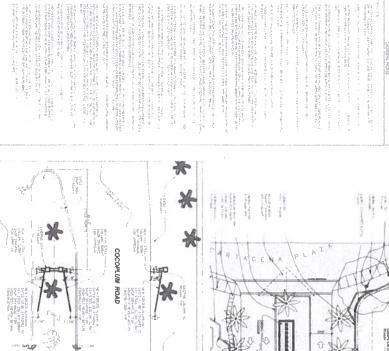




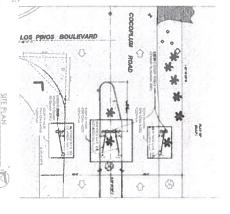
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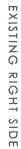


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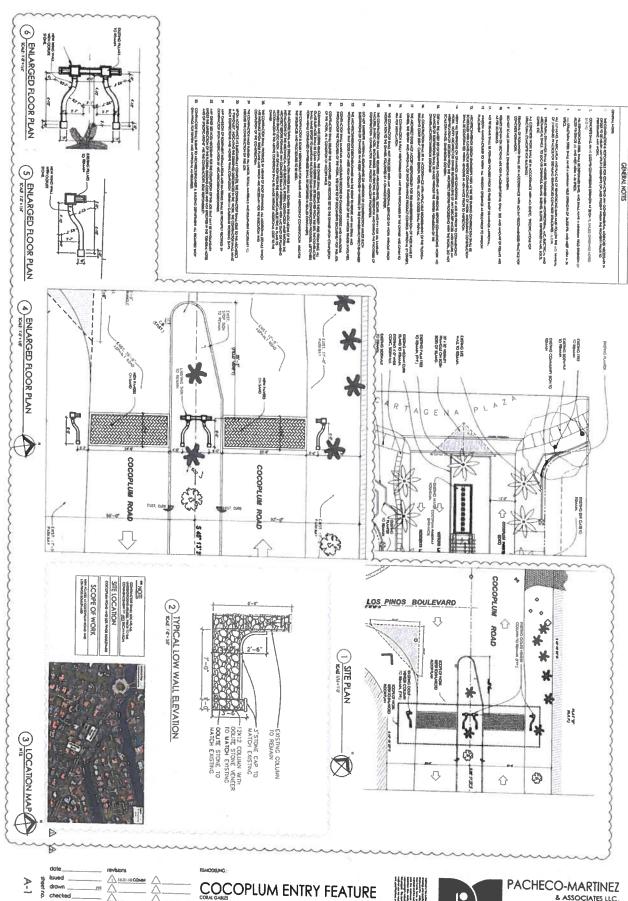
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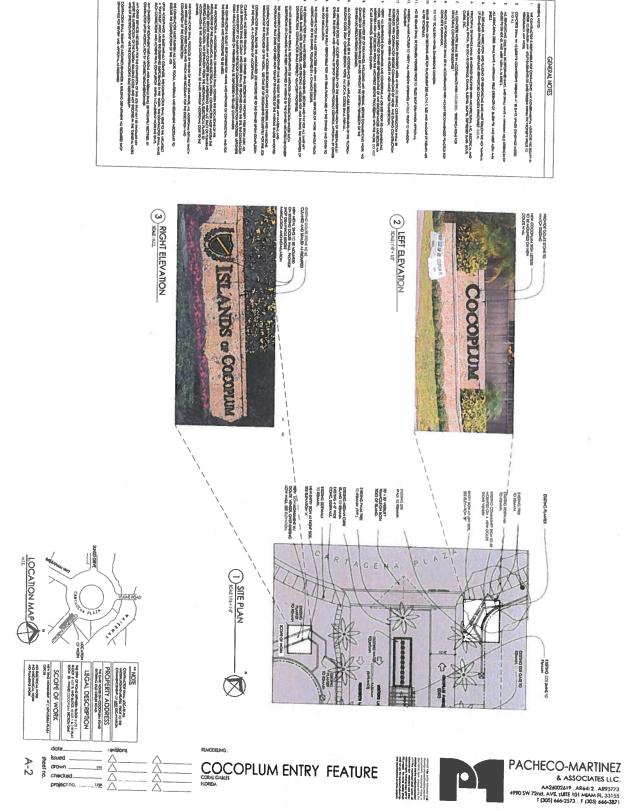
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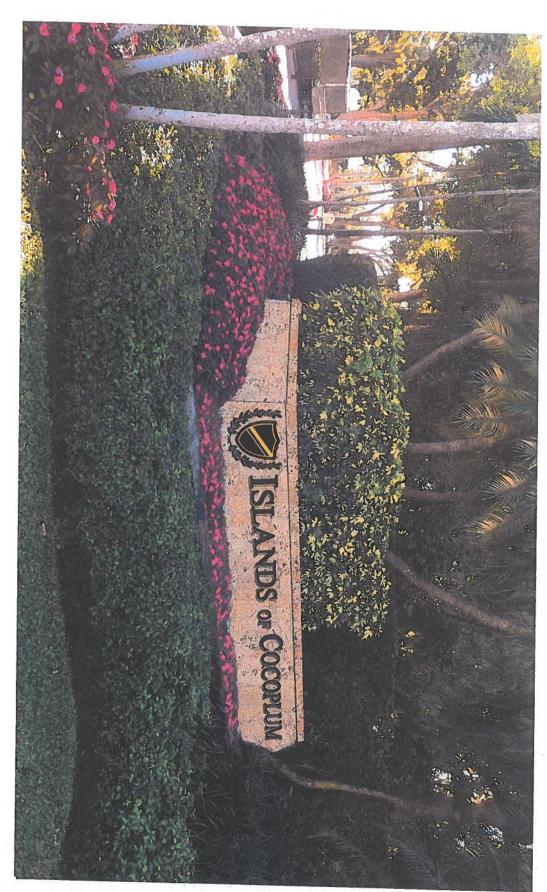
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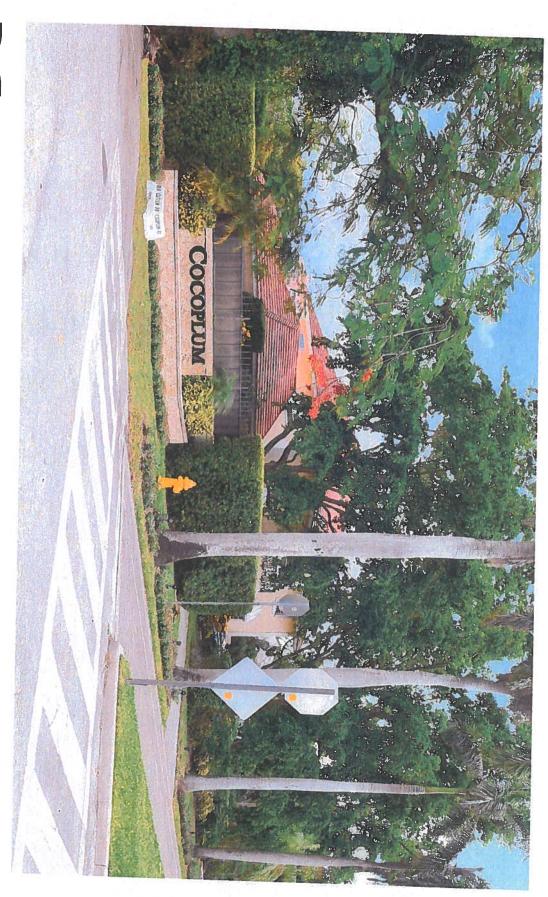
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