



COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

August 16, 2024

Honoring the Legacy of Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Mitten: A Trailblazer in Merced's History

The Merced Fire Department mourns the passing of retired Fire Chief Kenneth Mitten. Kenneth Mitten dedicated over 44 years of service to the City of Merced as a firefighter, eventually retiring as Fire Chief in 2010. His commitment and leadership had a profound impact on the community, establishing him as both a trailblazer and an iconic figure in the city's history. Chief Mitten was known for his dedication to public safety and his significant influence on the fire department's growth and development. His legacy continues to inspire those who serve today.

Interim Fire Chief Casey Wilson expressed, "Chief Mitten was a cornerstone of our department, known for his leadership, commitment, and the lasting legacy he left behind. His contributions to our community and the brotherhood within our ranks will never be forgotten." At one point in his career, Chief Mitten had personally hired every single firefighter in the department, a testament to his deep involvement and impact on the team. His influence will be felt for generations to come.



Honoring Fire Captain Sickler: Merced Fire Department Steps Up

On Thursday, August 15th, the Merced Fire Department lent a hand to Fresno Fire by covering Station 5. This support allowed Fresno firefighters to attend the funeral of Retired Fire Captain Sickler, who sadly passed away from job-related cancer.

Captain Sickler's service and dedication made a lasting impression on many. Showing true solidarity, Merced Fire personnel—Captain Akers, Engineer Lee, Firefighter Basulto, and Firefighter Garcia—ensured that Fresno Fire could pay their respects without interrupting public safety.

This act of support highlights the strong relationships shared among firefighters everywhere.



Exciting Update: Bocce Courts at Merced Dog Park are Almost Ready.

Bocce is a fun and social game where players aim to roll their bocce ball as close as possible to a smaller target ball (the "pallino"). With the help of community volunteers, the City of Merced Public Works, and Parks and Community Services teams installed over 2 tons of crushed oyster shells to create a smooth playing surface. Get ready to roll—just in time for those perfect morning and evening temps.





New Officer Joins the MPD Family

On Saturday, August 10, Officer Ian Perez successfully completed the Stanislaus Police Academy. The Merced Police Department welcomes Officer Perez to the team and looks forward to the positive impact he'll bring to our community.

Back-to-School Event at 7-Eleven

Last week, the Merced Police Department made a special visit to the 7-Eleven on Gerard Ave, where officers distributed school supplies to neighborhood children to help them gear up for the new school year. In addition, officers shared information about upcoming events and programs offered by the Merced Police Department. It was a great opportunity to support our community and connect with families.



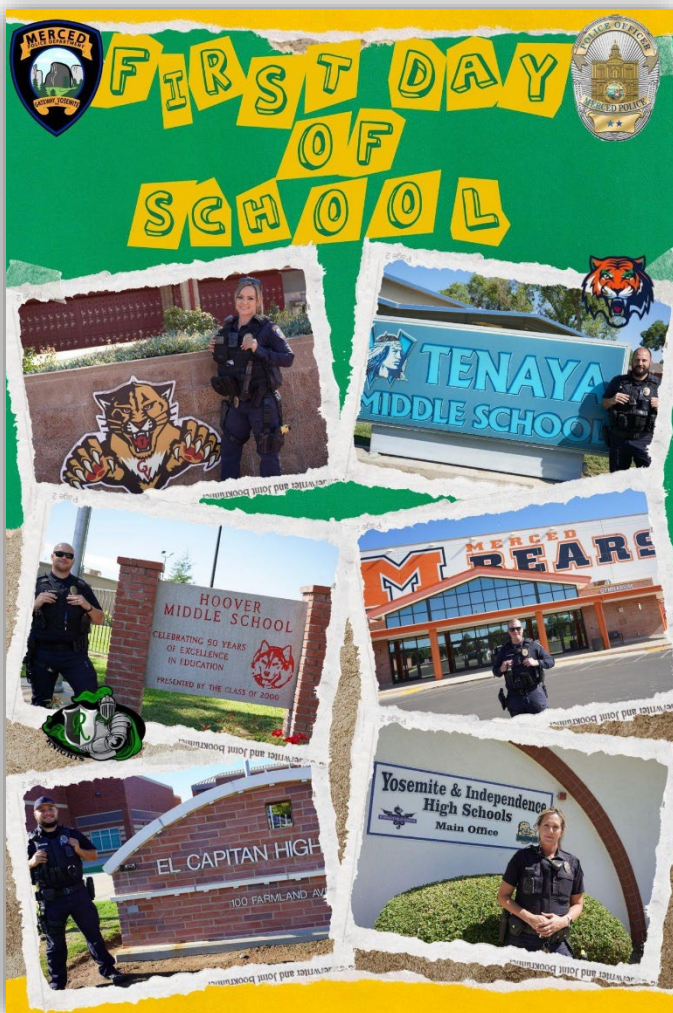
Sprouts National Night Out

The Merced Police Department participated in a National Night Out event hosted by the owner of Sprouts. Merced PD shared details about upcoming events, including the 4th Annual Cops for Critters Car Show on October 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and highlighted programs like the Community Academy, starting on October 2nd. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with the community and spread the word about what's coming up.



A Special Visitor at the Merced Police Department

This past Tuesday, the Merced Police Department welcomed a very special guest—5-year-old Nico, who dreams of becoming a police officer and joining the SWAT team one day. When asked why he wants to be an officer, Nico proudly said, “I want to help people.” During his visit, Nico and his family received a full tour of the department, along with some souvenirs and a special toy. He even had the chance to meet the Chief of Police, command staff, and several officers. It was a day to remember for Nico and everyone at MPD.




It's Back to School for Merced Students

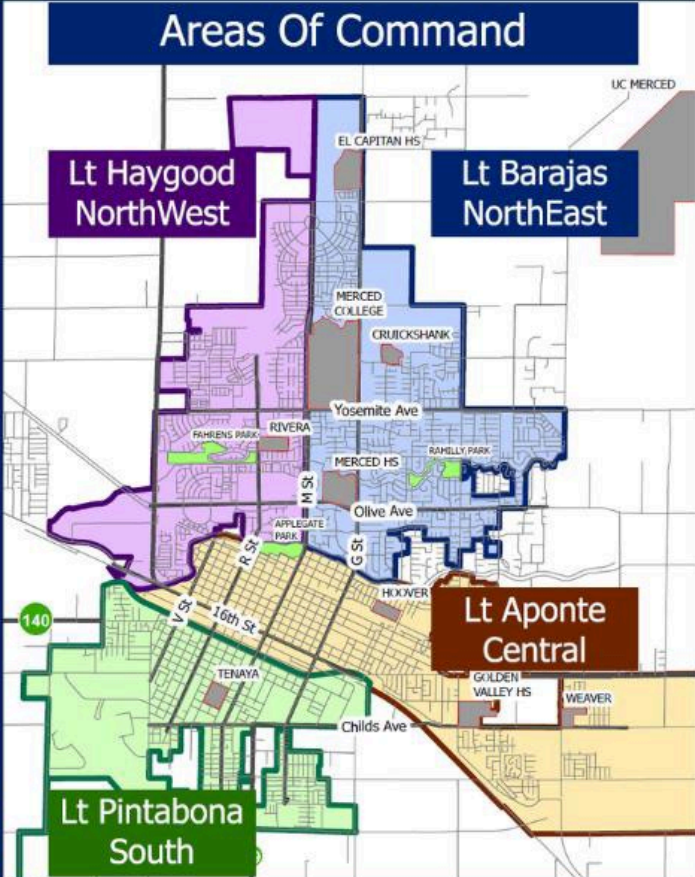
As the new school year begins, the Merced Police Department extends well wishes to all Merced students for a successful and safe school year. The first day of school can bring a mix of excitement and a few jitters. MPD's dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) will be available to support students and ensure a safe, positive environment. Whether students attend Golden Valley High with Officer Shaw, Tenaya & Cruickshank with Officer Avery, Hoover & Rivera Middle with Officer Dennis, Merced High with Officer Thompson, El Capitan High with Officer Trevino, or Yosemite & Independence High Schools with Officer Aponte, MPD will be available to support students throughout the year.

Upcoming Merced Police Department Town Hall Meeting


On August 27th, from 6-8 p.m., the Merced Police Department will hold a town hall meeting at Rivera Middle School's gymnasium. Hosted by Lieutenant Haygood, the meeting will cover important topics such as local crime statistics and trends, community policing initiatives, the role of technology in law enforcement, and an open forum for community feedback and concerns. Each Area Commander will be hosting a meeting in their respective areas, so keep an eye out for details on locations.




You are invited to our LAW ENFORCEMENT TOWN HALL MEETING





MEET YOUR AREA COMMANDER



**HOSTED BY:
LIEUTENANT HAYGOOD**


 **AUGUST 27TH, 2024**

 **6:00PM- 8:00PM**

 **Rivera Gym
945 Buena Vista Dr,
Merced, CA 95348**

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- Crime Statistics and trends in the area
- Community Policing Initiatives
- Use of Technology in Policing
- Community Feedback and Concerns



Open to the public!

Join the Merced Police Department's Community Academy

The Merced Police Department is excited to offer an opportunity for community members in Merced County. Starting on October 2nd, the department be hosting a Community Academy, which is a 10-week program designed to educate the community about the inner workings of the MPD and foster trust between the department and the public. The academy is free and open to anyone 18 years or older. Participants will gain insights into the hiring process, community engagement, training standards, field operations, investigations, and more. Classes will be held every Wednesday evening from 6-9 p.m., running from October 2nd through December 2024.

Event starts on:
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2024
611 W. 22nd,
Merced, CA 95340



Learn more about your Police Department!

- Class Activities • 10 Week Program
- Interactive hands on exercises!

Merced Police Department is hosting its Community Academy. This 10-week class is hosted twice a year. The goal of the program is to educate the community about the MPD and build trust. The academy is free to anyone who lives or works in the Merced. Participants must be at least 18 years of age to enroll.

Sgt. Rinder
 (209)388-7765
rinderb@cityofmerced.org



JOIN OUR

COMMUNITY ACADEMY



LEARN ABOUT :

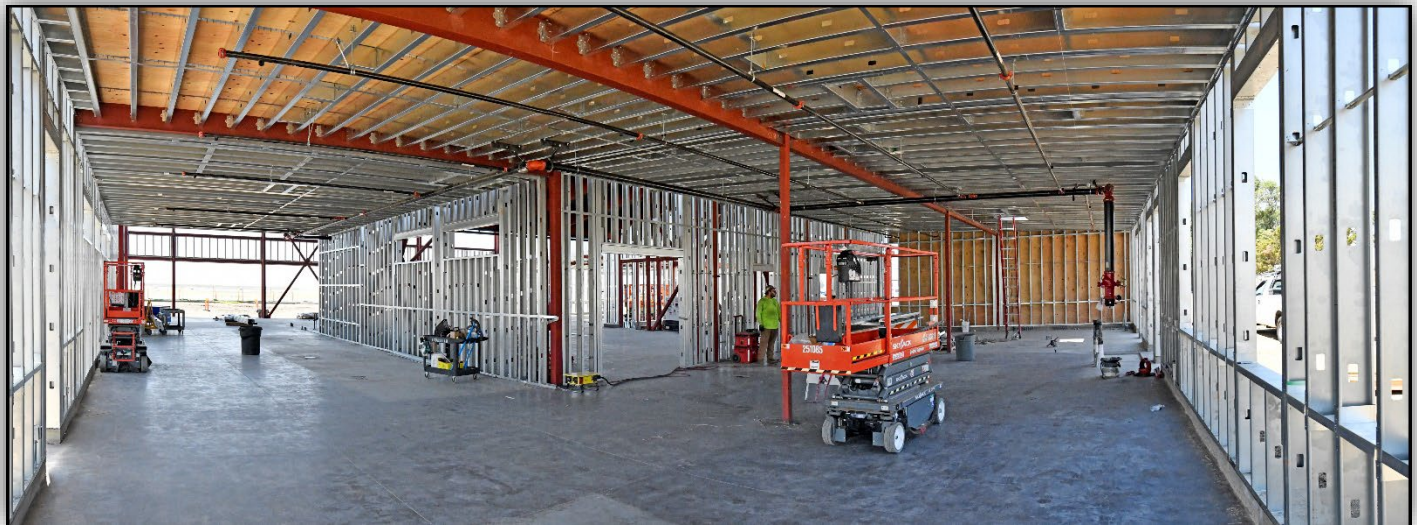
Hiring Process
Community Engagement
Training Standards
Field Operations
Investigations and more!

SCHEDULE:

The classes are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Wednesday night starting Oct 2nd with a week off during the Thanksgiving week and a graduation ceremony on Dec 2024!

Airport Terminal Replacement Project Update

Work is underway on the airport terminal replacement project, with crews starting the installation of the exterior plywood walls. This marks an exciting step forward in the development of the new terminal. Stay tuned for more updates as the project progresses.



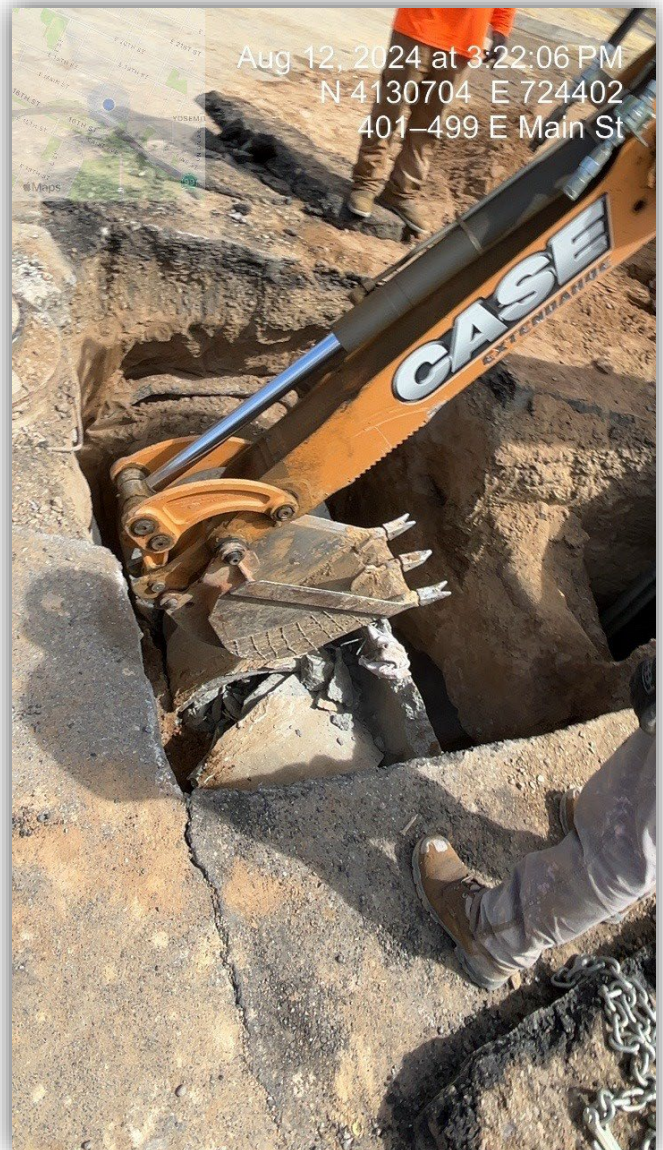
Community Park 42 Update

Additional hardscaping has been completed at CP 42, with the installation of driveways and parking areas for Phase 1 and Phase 2 now finished. Work is progressing on preparations for the pickleball courts and blacktop areas, which are expected to be underway soon.



Orchard Sewer Main Replacement

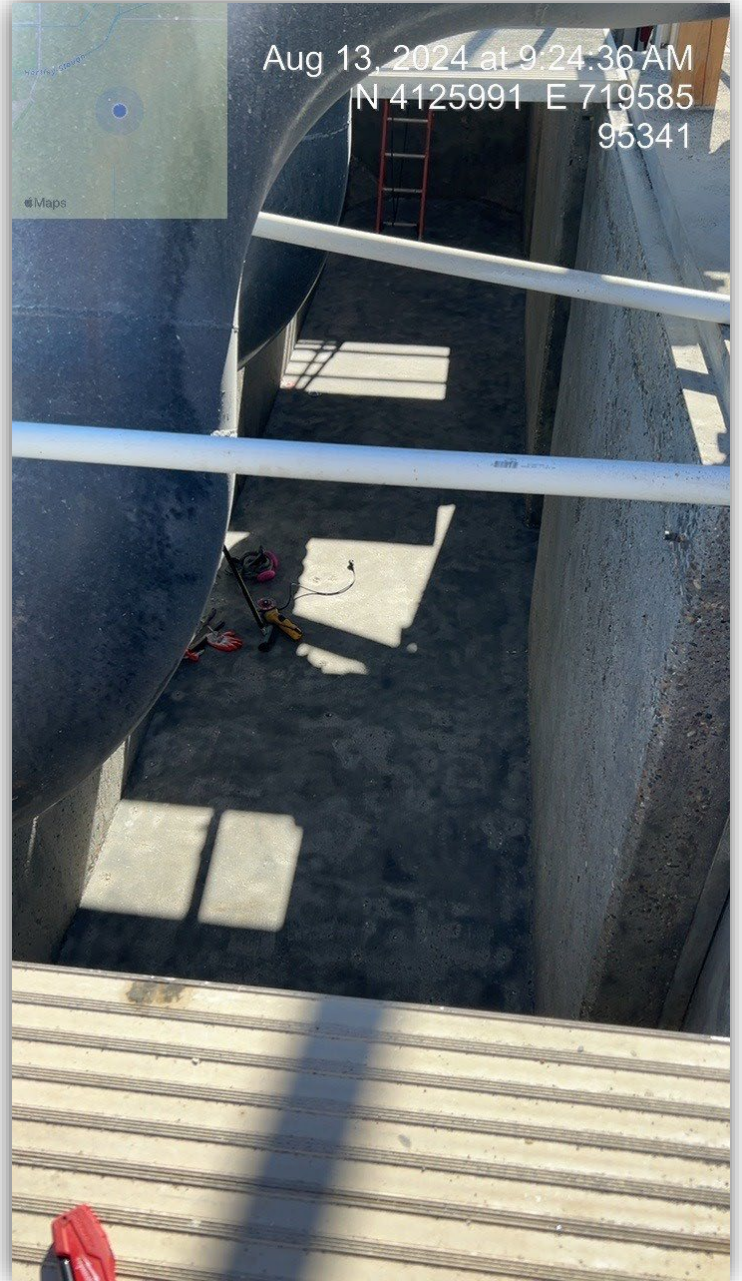
Crews drilled into the existing manhole to connect to the new sewer line.



Wastewater Treatment Plant

Crews installed conduits into the new manhole.





COMMUNITY MEETINGS



WHEN:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024
FROM 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

WHERE:
LIBRARY AT
WEAVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
3076 E CHILDS AVE

TOPIC:
MULTI-USE PATH INSTALLATION

The City will be installing a 15-foot-wide curb, multi-use path, and drainage swale, on the existing City of Merced Right of Way, which may affect your property. New multi-use path will run on the north side of Childs Ave. between Weaver Middle School and Golden Valley High School.

Existing driveways will be replaced with brand new concrete driveways.

The City invites the community to a meeting to discuss the scope of work and answer questions or concerns.

City Staff Will be Present

Bring Your Questions or Concerns

All Local Residents are Welcome

CITY OF MERCED

678 W 18th St. Merced, CA

95340

For additional info. contact

Vannesa Mendoza

209-385-6820

MendozaV@Cityofmerced.org



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



Let's make every school journey safe for ALL students!

WHEN DRIVING TO SCHOOLS FOR DROP-OFF/PICK-UP, BE PATIENT AND COURTEOUS IN YOUR SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SAFETY, AND FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OTHER STUDENTS.

DRIVERS:

- ⚠️ **SLOW DOWN**, be patient & keep speeds below 25 MPH.
- ⚠️ Comply with drop-off & pick-up procedures.
- ⚠️ Never double park, & do not block crosswalks.
- ⚠️ Yield to people waiting to cross.

PEDESTRIANS:

- ⚠️ Never enter the street from between cars.
- ⚠️ Use extra caution before entering the street. Obey crossing guards & follow crossing signals.





CITY OF MERCED

City Council Chamber
Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

6:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the right-hand side of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 3 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 10, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 2 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 3 minutes each and for over 10 speakers, 2 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

Material may be emailed to planningweb@cityofmerced.org no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 2 minutes if there are more than 10 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

D.1 [24-819](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of August 7, 2024

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of August 7, 2024

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

E.1 [24-768](#) **SUBJECT:** Conditional Use Permit #1279 and Minor Use Permit #24-11, initiated by Darren Warren, on behalf of Jose Ramirez, California, property owner. This application involves a request to develop two four-plex units on a 15,000-square-foot lot at 1250 W. 9th Street. This lot would subsequently be split in two so that each lot has one four-plex. A Minor Use Permit is required to deviate from the City's Specific Design Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings, and for interface review to allow the development of a commercial lot adjacent

to or across from a Low Density Residential (R-1-6) Zone. The subject site is generally located on the south side of 9th Street, approximately 120 feet east of T Street. The site has a General Plan designation of Neighborhood Commercial (CN) and is zoned Neighborhood Commercial (C-N). *PUBLIC HEARING*

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify
1) Environmental Review #24-20 (*Categorical Exemption*)
2) Conditional Use Permit #1279
3) Minor Use Permit #24-11

SUMMARY

The subject site consists of 0.34 acres located in south central Merced at 1250 W. 9th Street (Attachment B). The applicant, Darren Warren, is requesting approval to construct two four-plex units on a 15,000-square-foot lot. This lot would subsequently be split in two so that each parcel has one fur-plex. The subject site is within a Neighborhood Commercial (C-N) Zone, which requires a conditional use permit for residential dwellings per the land use table at Merced Municipal Code 20.10.020 - Land Use Regulations for Commercial Zoning Districts. The subject site also requires a Minor Use Permit for Interface Review, as required for high impact projects adjacent to, or across from, low impact zones (Merced Municipal Code Section 20.32 - Interface Regulations). In this case, Interface Review is required as the developer is proposing to develop within a Neighborhood Commercial Zone that is adjacent to a Low-Density Residential Zone west of the subject site. Planning staff has reviewed the proposal and is recommending approval subject to the conditions found within this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #24-20 (*Categorical Exemption*), Conditional Use Permit #1279, and Minor Use Permit #24-11, including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A of Staff Report #24-768, subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B.

E.2 [24-808](#)

SUBJECT: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #24-01, initiated by the City of Merced. This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code) which would amend Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 (Regulation of Commercial Cannabis Activities - Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Required). This amendment would clarify the process to amend or provide supplemental application materials, clarify the

responsibility of the applicant relative to meeting the requirements of the Selection Criteria, clarify the process to correct potential scoring errors, clarify the Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business Application List timelines and clarify the process if there is a failure for a business to meet the clarified timeline and various other amendments. *PUBLIC HEARING*.

- ACTION:** PLANNING COMMISSION:
 Recommendation to City Council
 1) Environmental Review #24-21 (*Categorical Exemption*)
 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #24-01
- CITY COUNCIL:
 Approve/Disapprove/Modify
 1) Environmental Review #24-21 (*Categorical Exemption*)
 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #24-01

SUMMARY

The City is proposing modifications to the City’s current cannabis ordinance found under Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 - Regulations of Commercial Cannabis Activities - Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Required. This ordinance amendment would clarify the process to amend or provide supplemental application materials, clarify the responsibility of the applicant relative to meeting the requirements of the Selection Criteria, clarify the process to correct potential scoring errors, clarify the Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business Application List timelines and clarify the process if there is a failure for a business to meet the clarified timeline and various other amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #24-21 (Categorical Exemption) and Zoning Ordinance Amendment #24-01 as outlined in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution #4139, subject to the findings/considerations in Exhibit A of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A.

E.3 [24-822](#) **SUBJECT:** Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

ACTION
 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

E.4 [24-823](#) **SUBJECT:** Cancellation of September 4, 2024, Planning Commission

Meeting due to a lack of items

ACTION:

Cancel the Planning Commission Meeting of September 4, 2024

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1 [24-820](#) **SUBJECT:** Report by Temporary Director of Development Services of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [24-821](#) **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

- Aug. 19 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- Sept. 3 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**Tuesday**)
- 4 Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m. (**To be Cancelled**)
- 16 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 7 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
- 21 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- 23 Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT