

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Douglas Powers, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Reporter by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Julio Arichavala
Rene Cid
James Portalatin
Ateria Allen

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez, Winna Guzman, and
Doug Powers

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon. I'd like to
call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public
Works for July 28, 2021.

I would entertain a motion to
approve the minutes from July 14, 2021 as written.

MR. POWERS: Make a motion to approve.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence, so we'll
move on to New Business. First item, the bid opening
for Indiana Harbor Belt Trail from White Oak to
Indianapolis Boulevard, from Engineering.

MR. ARICHAVALA: Julio Arichavala,
Engineering. The first bid is from Reith-Riley, amount
of \$1,136,555.50.

1 Protection Agency, LLC, Human Resources. This is a
2 proposal for City Hall and Lobby for control agent. I
3 believe it's a renewal submitted by HR, by Director Pat
Mendez. The rates are the same as previously. Any
questions or comments on this?

4 Miss Mendez asked if I would present
5 this. She couldn't attend the meeting, to renew the
6 amount. Any questions or comments? (None)

7 Entertain a motion to approve
8 Federal Protection Agency renewal.

9 MR. POWERS: So moved.

10 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

12 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
13 Opposed: None

14 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

15 Next we have outstanding invoices.
16 First one we have is from Public Works, Cintas. We have
17 invoice dated 4/30/2021, amount of \$151.40.
18 Explanation, waiting on funds to process payment.

19 MR. CID: Good evening, Board. Rene Cid,
20 East Chicago Public Works Director. I come in front of
21 you to tell you the reason this is being late. We are
22 waiting on funds to process the payment for this
23 invoice.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Is this one of those cases
25 where you have to go to the Council first or do you have
the funds already?

MR. CID: We have the funds. We have
them now.

MR. GOMEZ: Services and the work were
provided?

MR. CID: Yes, they were.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Any questions or
comments? (None) No further questions, entertain a
motion to approve the late invoice from Cintas to Public
Works.

1 MR. POWERS: So moved.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

5 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

6 MR. CID: Thank you, Board.

7 MR. GOMEZ: Next we have from
8 Engineering, late invoice from Robinson -- several late
9 invoices -- from Robinson Engineering. We have three
10 that are dated 1/27/2021, amounts of \$522.00, \$1,755.00,
11 and \$34,746.50; for total of \$37,053.50. According to
12 the Engineering Department, received the invoice late,
13 on 7/19/21. Services have been rendered and the invoice
14 should proceed. Engineering Department is recommending
15 we pay the invoice, correct?

12 MR. ARICHAVALA: Yes.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?

14 MR. POWERS: Just seems like a long
15 period of time.

16 MR. GOMEZ: It does. If the company
17 sends the invoice late, it's on the company basically.
18 Any other questions or comments? (None)

18 No further questions or comments,
19 entertain a motion to approve the late invoice of
20 Robinson Engineering to Engineering Department, amount
21 of \$37,023.50.

20 MR. POWERS: So moved.

21 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

22 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 Next we have Resolution 2021-79 and

1 Agreement. I'd like to inform the members that I spoke
2 to our Chief of Staff and with our attorney -- who
3 couldn't make it to the meeting today -- there are
4 discrepancies in the resolution, so they suggest that we
5 table it for the next meeting. And just for the record,
6 it's an agreement between the City and Housing. They
7 haven't been able to resolve issues because I believe
8 Housing has to put in 72,000, but I had some concerns.
9 Also if you notice on the paperwork, it says Housing
10 Authority of South Bend.

11 MR. POWERS: Is the person that they are
12 reporting to recommending we table it?

13 MR. GOMEZ: Yes. Any questions or
14 comments? (None) We'll table this item and maybe by
15 next meeting they will have it straightened out.

16 Next we come to Sportsfield Inc.,
17 Change Order #1 for Block Stadium. This proposal is
18 from Keith Selvie. The amount of the change order is
19 \$5,000.00. Are there any questions or comments on this
20 change order? (None)

21 No further questions or comments,
22 entertain a motion to approve Sportsfield's proposal for
23 Block Stadium, in the amount of \$5,000.00.

24 MR. POWERS: So moved.

25 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Compliance Report on
Block Stadium, Phase 5. General contractor is Gariup
Construction. Original contract amount is
\$1,791,500.00. Change orders in the amount of
\$97,580.00, potential EEO minority \$19,527.00. Our
custom is just entering this into the record. No motion
is required. Any questions or comments? (None)

COMPLIANCE OFFICER: For the record, I
want to state this progress report on the Block Stadium,
Phase 5, is subject to change because we just received
some additional information that will probably effect

1 the total. Currently we are reviewing eight contracts
2 all related to Block Stadium. So we are seeking as much
3 information as we can, and I am working with our
4 attorney to see how we can proceed in the future.

5 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Thank you.

6 Next we have NSP Consulting. This
7 is from the Building Department.

8 MR. PORTALATIN: NSP Consulting, this is
9 to cover their last invoice for 28 additional properties
10 that were added to the Hardest Hit demolition surplus
11 properties, that demolition was late in the year, that
12 was demolition funding by the Blight Elimination
13 Program. This is 28 properties at a rate of 1,500 for
14 total of 42,000. This finalizes everything.

15 MR. GOMEZ: So this is just the extension
16 of what was previously before the Board?

17 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes.

18 MR. GOMEZ: These are the final
19 properties?

20 MR. PORTALATIN: These were the final.
21 They assisted us with the documentation to close and to
22 submit our claims to Hardest Hit for reimbursement.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
24 (None) Entertain a motion to approve the proposal from
25 NSP Consulting to assist the Building Department in
their final phase of the Hardest Hit program, for the
amount of \$42,000.

MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have notice to proceed.
This is for 4948 Melville, asbestos abatement. The
contract is with MO Environmental Company. The contract
is dated March 24, 2021, and you are recommending we

1 approve the Notice to Proceed?

2 MR. PORTALATIN: Correct.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
4 (None) Entertain a motion to approve, Notice to Proceed
5 with MO Environmental Company.

6 MR. POWERS: So moved.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
10 Opposed: None

11 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

12 We have another Notice to Proceed
13 for demolition at 605 East 150th Street. Contractor is
14 Richardson Disposal, and you are requesting Notice to
15 Proceed. The contract is also dated May 26, 2021.

16 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
18 this one? (None) Entertain a motion to approve.

19 MR. POWERS: So moved.

20 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
23 Opposed: None

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 Next we have AMG Construction,
Change Order #1, for 3724 Main Street, for windows and
doors. This comes from Engineering Department, and this
is just a board up, right? This is just a board up for
this address?

MR. ARICHAVALA: Really I don't know this
work because I never see the change order. Maybe this
is Keith Selvie or something like that. I never know
what happened.

1 MR. POWERS: Are you familiar with the
property?

2 MR. ARICHAVALA: I don't know what is
3 there.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Ateria, how did we get this?

5 MR. POWERS: If I'm reading this right,
this is for windows and doors, four windows and ten
6 doors.

7 MR. GOMEZ: I mean this is under
construction so we are basically covering it until the
8 windows and doors are in?

9 MR. POWERS: Until it's ready to be open.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Is the funding coming out of
Engineering?

11 MS. ALLEN: Yes.

12 MR. GOMEZ: You weren't aware of this?

13 MR. ALLEN: The project started before he
14 came.

15 MR. ARICHAVALA: I really don't know what
this is.

16 MS. GUZMAN: So AMG submitted it?

17 MR. GOMEZ: 3734 Main, the City has been
18 reconstructing this building.

19 MR. ARICHAVALA: Nobody told me nothing.
I don't know what kind of job. I don't know what this
20 change order is. It's news to me.

21 MS. GUZMAN: So we might want to table
this so that the City engineer can review it.

22 MR. ARICHAVALA: I never go over there.

23 MR. GOMEZ: The only thing I'm concerned
24 about here, if the building is completed with the
reconstruction, we need to secure it with no doors and
25 windows. Do you know if the work has been completed?

1 MS. ALLEN: They had to board it, and put
2 this as an emergency so no one could go in.

3 MR. GOMEZ: I think if you can, on the
4 one we sign, can you add that this was an emergency on
5 the paperwork? Usually if it is an emergency we have to
6 have emergency listed on there. Please add that before
7 we sign it. And for the record, this was an emergency
8 situation. The building was completed, here are all the
9 windows and doors. So it might have been deemed an
10 emergency by the previous engineer. We can add
11 emergency.

12 MR. ARICHAVALA: I think we have to ask
13 also who is checking this. How you know the windows is
14 there?

15 MS. ALLEN: We have a project manager.

16 MR. GOMEZ: We'll find out. We can ask
17 Mr. Selvie, I think he's over the projects.

18 MR. POWERS: This one I believe was
19 Tracey Gillis. The City Engineer would be over this.

20 MR. GOMEZ: He's not aware of it.

21 MR. ARICHAVALA: I don't know, maybe
22 windows, maybe it's doors.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Here's what we are going to
24 do. We are going -- I am going to contact Mr. Selvie to
25 see what he knows about the project. He is the City
Project Manager, and if he doesn't know, we'll go down
the line until we find out.

MR. POWERS: He does not oversee the
Redevelopment, so we'll probably have to contact Mr.
Rivera.

MR. GOMEZ: Apparently there's no hurry.
This is dated June 6th. There is no need to panic right
now, but make sure we put emergency on here and find out
when it first came up, put emergency on everything,
because obviously it was an emergency because we boarded
it up.

Next we come to Robinson
Engineering. This is for engineering services for

1 Guthrie Street. I had a discussion with our Board
2 attorney. I was concerned about the date because this
3 is for engineering services and dated April 3rd, the
4 proposal. And I was informed that Guthrie Street
5 project is closing tomorrow by Mr. Selvie. So I
6 requested more information from them as to why we have
7 engineering services when the project is over. I am
8 going to table this.

9 MR. ARICHAVALA: This is supplemental
10 agreement for the late payment, that they have some job
11 in January. We have invoice for January that nobody
12 pay. I never know that because I start in April.

13 MR. POWERS: That's not how this reads.
14 How this reads is for continued construction services.
15 It is not suggesting anything related to a late payment.

16 MR. GOMEZ: Well, the other thing, if it
17 was a late payment, it would be submitted under late
18 payment. So right now, on advice of Carla Morgan, since
19 it's already late since April 3rd, we have time to
20 review why exactly it's entered so late and what exactly
21 -- why Robinson Engineering didn't contact us. And if
22 anything, they should have sent a late invoice and
23 brought it to us as a late invoice. I am going to table
24 this and if need be, require a special meeting, we will
25 address it at a special meeting.

Next we come to First Group
Engineering, Indiana Harbor Belt Trail. This is for
engineering services, right?

MR. ARICHAVALA: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Indiana Harbor Belt,
this is the one by Koski or where is this trail?

MR. ARICHAVALA: Koski Park.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay, that's what I thought.
So, for the record, engineering services we can choose.
We don't have to bid. The amount for engineering
services is \$134,563.00. Any questions or comments on
this project? So once they do their engineering
services, then we'll start the project, right?

MR. ARICHAVALA: I think we are going to
start two months, all depends.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Might not be two months. We
2 have to wait for Council.

3 MR. ARICHAVALA: Because we don't really
4 know how to start this.

5 MR. GOMEZ: For the record, Council did
6 table all our ordinances. Is the funding for the
7 engineering services available or do we have to go to
8 Council for that too? For the engineering services, is
9 the funding available?

10 MR. ARICHAVALA: Yeah -- no -- we have
11 funds.

12 MR. GOMEZ: You don't have to go to
13 Council for this?

14 MR. ARICHAVALA: No. No. I have the
15 funds for this.

16 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
17 this proposal for engineering services for the First
18 Group Indiana Harbor Belt Trail?

19 MR. POWERS: You covered mine.

20 MR. GOMEZ: No further questions,
21 entertain a motion to approve.

22 MR. POWERS: So moved.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Cline Avenue Bridge.
This is for Cline Avenue Attraction Signage. We have a
letter from the Cline Avenue Bridge, terms of agreement
that were sent to the City engineer. All engineering
has INDOT approval. For clarification, cost will be
split three ways, between City of East Chicago,
AmeriStar Casino, and INDOT, Cline Avenue Bridge. Any
questions or comments on this agreement and the proposal
that East Chicago would pay their share of \$8,350.00?

1 MR. POWERS: Is this supplemental to what
2 we were seeking last meeting?

3 MR. GOMEZ: We actually tabled this
4 because we didn't have the full situation. They had
5 listed the total cost and not the split. Our share
6 would be \$8350.00.

7 MR. POWERS: So moved.

8 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

9 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
11 Opposed: None

12 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

13 Next we have Hasse Construction,
14 dewatering of Columbus Drive roundabout, Engineering. I
15 had concerns about this and I spoke with the Mayor's
16 office, and they instructed me to contact Mr. Selvie.
17 What we need to add onto this is emergency
18 documentation. Mr. Selvie said he has the documentation
19 to attach to this. So I'd like to -- and it was an
20 emergency. Apparently there was a big storm and the
21 roundabout flooded, and there was a danger going through
22 the area. At that time that's when they decided to have
23 Hasse provide -- they did the dewatering.

24 So Mr. Keith Selvie said he was
25 going to e-mail me the emergency documentation, but I
spoke to him about ten minutes before the meeting, so
the e-mail is probably there. So I'd like to -- if you
have no questions or comments -- approve it on condition
that we attach all the emergency documentation.

MS. GUZMAN: That's fine.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
(None) Entertain a motion to approve the Hasse
Construction dewatering of Columbus Drive roundabout
proposal, pending on Mr. Selvie's documentation of the
emergency situation.

MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

2 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

3 R & D Construction, Homerlee Avenue
4 alley. I had a discussion with the Mayor's office and
our attorney. We had some questions on this proposal.
5 One question I have for tonight, is this project
started?

6 MR. ARICHAVALA: They start only to
remove asphalt. Not really any pipe or --

7 MR. POWERS: When did it start?

8 MR. ARICHAVALA: Monday. They remove
9 asphalt, is not in this agreement because this is part
of another problem, the alley and sidewalk problem. But
10 we have to do this first to make excavation for the
french drain and the pipe. Really this agreement has
11 not started yet. They start to prepare, but this
preparation will have to be paid by other funds.

12 MR. POWERS: So you are saying the
13 demolition isn't part of the excavation, where the
preliminary work is part of a different contract?

14 MR. ARICHAVALA: Yes. Because if we
15 don't do that first, they can't work on the excavation.

16 MR. GOMEZ: Well, I have some questions
17 on the proposal and I am going to table this item. I
suggest that the Mayor's office -- that we have a
18 meeting to discuss some items on this, and our Chief of
Staff agreed with me. So we are going to table this
one. If we have to, we'll have a special meeting on it.

19 MR. ARICHAVALA: Because really they
20 going to start. If not approved then nothing to do put
repave.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Actually this should have
22 been done first, if they were going to put in french
drains before putting any asphalt down.

23 MR. ARICHAVALA: That's confusing thing.
24 They have to remove all asphalt. Now it is ready for
the french drains and for the pipes. But if this is not
25 approved, we don't do nothing, only asphalt for the

1 alley -- but the Mayor want to do it.

2 MR. GOMEZ: I understand. There is some
3 concern and I expressed my concerns to our Chief of
4 Staff and our attorney. So they suggested that we have
5 a meeting, and I think at this meeting we'll have the
6 Board members and we'll discuss the issues. If we have
7 to have a special meeting to approve this, we will. So
8 for right now I am going to table this until further
9 discussion with the Mayor's office.

10
11 Next, right-of-way applications.
12 Right-of-way applications 2012-03960 and 03961. Any
13 questions or comments on these right-of-way
14 applications?

15 MS. GUZMAN: I think there is one more,
16 03959.

17
18 MR. GOMEZ: Good eye. So it's
19 2021-03959, 03960, 03961. Any further questions or
20 comments? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the
21 Board of Works right-of-way applications.

22 MR. POWERS: So moved.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

25 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes our New Business. I
believe we have no other business. I didn't miss
anything, did I?

MS. GUZMAN: No, we're good.

MR. GOMEZ: Next meeting will be on
Wednesday -- did that have to change? I think -- for
the record -- the Council changed their Council meeting
from Monday to Wednesday, on our time slot. I spoke to
Chief of Staff, and we have a choice either to move to
Monday, where the Council was or we start our meetings
earlier on Wednesday. Their meetings start at six. One
suggestion was we start at 3:30. I don't know if they
are going to approve that. We are going to have to find

1 out. We still haven't received the official notice from
2 the Clerk's office and like I said, they passed it
3 Monday, but I still haven't received anything official.
4 There's a lot involved. It changes quite a bit of
5 things. The Board of Safety is behind us, so they have
6 to move too, and we'd like to keep the same date because
7 the secretary for Board of Works and Board of Safety is
8 the same person. So I don't want to inconvenience her
9 by having their meeting on another date and she would
10 have to come back. As soon as we find out, we will let
11 all the interested parties know, especially the
12 reporter. So any questions on that?

13 MR. ARICHAVALA: I need to know what is
14 the next meeting to approve these tabled things because
15 Councilman Gonzalez wants us to open this street. If it
16 is too long, I prefer to just re-asphalt over the alley
17 or don't do nothing.

18 MR. GOMEZ: I understand. I will speak
19 to you after the meeting.

20 MR. ARICHAVALA: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. GUZMAN: I'd like to make note also
22 that if we do make changes to the meeting time and dates
23 that we forward that on to all the department heads.

24 MR. GOMEZ: We would have to redo our
25 schedule for meetings, notify the security guard, and
once we get the new schedule, submit to the newspaper to
advertise.

MS. GUZMAN: Then we need to get James
back in there.

MR. PORTALATIN: James Portalatin. With
regards to Actin, they were the lowest most responsive
bidder for 1102 East 138th Place, for \$7,990.00 and for
3915 Main Street, for \$32,875.00; for a total of --

MR. POWERS: Excuse me, Mr. Portalatin,
was 3830 included in this as well.

MR. PORTALATIN: No. At this moment
that's being put on hold. I'm requesting award for 3915
Main Street, front and rear, and 1102 East 138th, total
of \$40,865.00. I recommend they be awarded these two
properties.

1 Richardson Disposal, lowest bidder
2 for 602 East 151st, garage only at \$3850.00; 417 East
3 Chicago Avenue, garage only, \$3850.00; for total of
4 \$7700.00. I recommend they also be approved.

5 JM Industrial was the lowest bidder
6 for 505 143rd, for the garage only for \$3800.00. I
7 recommend that they be awarded the bid as well.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Is that it?

9 MR. PORTALATIN: That's it.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
11 the recommendations from the Building Commissioner?
12 (None) Entertain a motion to accept the recommendations
13 for the properties mentioned -- these are all based on
14 being the lowest bidder?

15 MR. PORTALATIN: The lowest most
16 responsive bidder, correct.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
18 (None)

19 MR. POWERS: So moved.

20 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
23 Opposed: None

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 Our next regular meeting -- we'll
get back on the date. There being no further business
for the Board of Works, entertain a motion for
adjournment.

MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

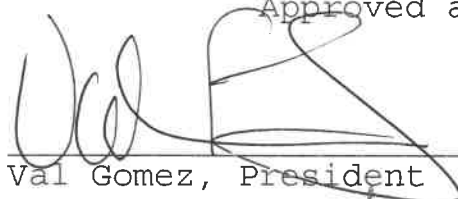
Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries. Meeting
2 adjourned.


3 **** Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.****

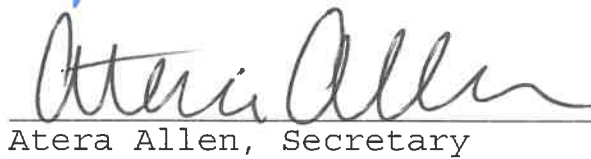
4 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
5 July 28, 2021

6 Approved and Signed July 28, 2021.

7 
8 Val Gomez, President

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10 Winna Guzman, Vice President

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12 Douglas Powers

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14 Atera Allen, Secretary
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 2nd day of August, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



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