

# Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter

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Community updates and a look  
at Tuesday's Board of County  
Commissioners meeting



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## Hey West Orange County,

I may say this every month, but April really might be the busiest time of year for us! There are awesome events happening all over, and your D1 team has been working to put together a few exciting additions to that list.

This newsletter contains the usual mix of updates, events and an especially important legislative preview. Considering the fact that Earth Week is coming up, our next newsletter will be entirely focused on local events. There's simply too much to fit in one email — a good problem to have! It speaks volumes toward the sense of community that never stops growing in our beautiful district.

As always, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily updates on all things West Orange County, and feel free to reach out to us at [district1@ocfl.net](mailto:district1@ocfl.net). We would love to hear from you.

Certain apps may cut off the end of this email, so **If you're using Gmail, make sure you click the ellipses at the bottom of the newsletter to view the rest of it.**

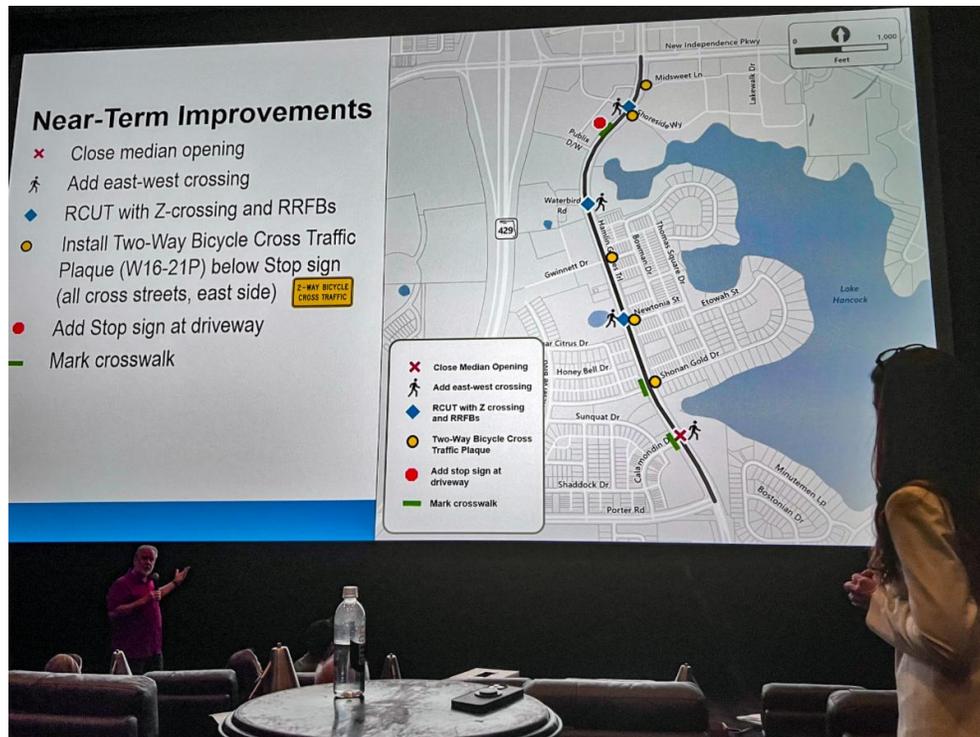
## Updates & Events



Celebrating the groundbreaking of a permanent home for our friends at [iDignity](#), a nonprofit that has spent 16 years working to restore proof of identity for more than 30,000 of our residents in need.



Visiting Finding the Lost Sheep Street Ministry in East Winter Garden, where leader Sharee Hodge brought in D1 kids of all ages to participate in activities to inspire their interest in STEM and business careers.



Yet again, D1 showed up to help us prove that our residents want a walkable, bikeable community! This time, it was at a community meeting where Public Works officials and a consultant presented potential safety improvements to Hamlin Groves Trail.

If you know the stretch between New Independence Parkway and Porter Road, you know how dangerous it is to bike, walk, and drive. The road connects neighborhoods, an active trail and a growing commercial center, but simply crossing Hamlin Groves Trail feels like playing Frogger. We want to change that.

Before long-term improvements come to improve traffic flow, we are moving forward with short-term safety improvements at eight key points along the road. It's still early in the process, but we will provide updates as they come.



This month, our board approved plans to make big improvements to Tiny Road in the near future. Between now and then, pressing issues persist outside Bridgewater Middle School. Last week, the D1 team brought Public Works officials to meet with Principal Klaber and school staff members to help find a possible temporary solution.

This meeting wouldn't have happened without the help of Bridgewater crossing guard and parent Eric Laycock. He joined our in-person Office Hours to discuss the safety issues he sees on a daily basis. The Public Works team is working on a solution now — we will keep you posted.

This Saturday, join us to celebrate our favorite keystone species — it's Gopher Tortoise Day at Split Oak Forest!

This family-friendly event will feature guided hikes, educational seminars, games, crafts, vendors and more.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



### CALLING ALL LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS:

Join us on April 14th for our first ever Small Business Connection! We want to start a dialogue among our area's small businesses, build relationships, and help share the info and resources that you might be looking for.

Our first guest speaker is Dennis Holste, head of Economic Development for Orange County Government. He will discuss available resources and opportunities for assistance that often

# Commissioner Nicole Wilson's SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION

Meet up with your fellow  
small business owners  
and get resources to  
help you thrive!

**L** Monday, April 14th  
10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**P** Peach Cobbler Factory  
Winter Garden  
13848 TILDEN RD,  
WINTER GARDEN, FL  
34787

**G** **Guest Speaker: Dennis Holste**  
Economic Development Administrator,  
Orange County Government

ORANGE COUNTY  
**Nicole Wilson**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 1



go underutilized by our small business community. This meeting is absolutely free — thank you to our friends at Peach Cobbler Factory Winter Garden for co-hosting.

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

The first ever District 1 Safety Expo just keeps getting bigger! We now have over 50 local organizations participating, including a presentation from WESH Chief Meteorologist Tony Mainolfi.

Our first responders will do hands-on demonstrations, local favorites will be supplying food, and dozens of community partners will be there to supply you with info and souvenirs.

Mark your calendars for April 19th now!

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

## THE FIRST EVER DISTRICT 1 SAFETY EXPO

In Horizon West, sponsored by Commissioner  
Nicole Wilson & the O.C. Citizen Corps Council



- \* LIVE DEMOS
- \* FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- \* FOOD TRUCKS
- \* FREE GOODIES
- \* LOCAL VENDORS
- \* MEET YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS

**FREE ADMISSION!**

**Saturday, 4/19**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
\*SPECIAL FIRE RESCUE DEMO AT NOON

**Horizon High School**  
10393 Seidel Road  
Winter Garden, FL



Scan Here



# REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 | 6 to 9 p.m.

West Orange Recreation Center

309 SW Crown Point Road, Winter Garden, FL 34787

[ocfl.net/redistricting](https://ocfl.net/redistricting)



In November, Orange County voters determined that two new commission districts will be established, bringing the total from six to eight.

That means the redistricting process has now begun, and your input is needed! Join us for a community meeting in District 1 on April 23 at the West Orange Rec Center.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the redistricting process, meeting dates and how you can submit a public comment.

## BCC Meeting Preview

### Work Session: Shingle Creek Basin and St. Johns River Basin Technical Studies

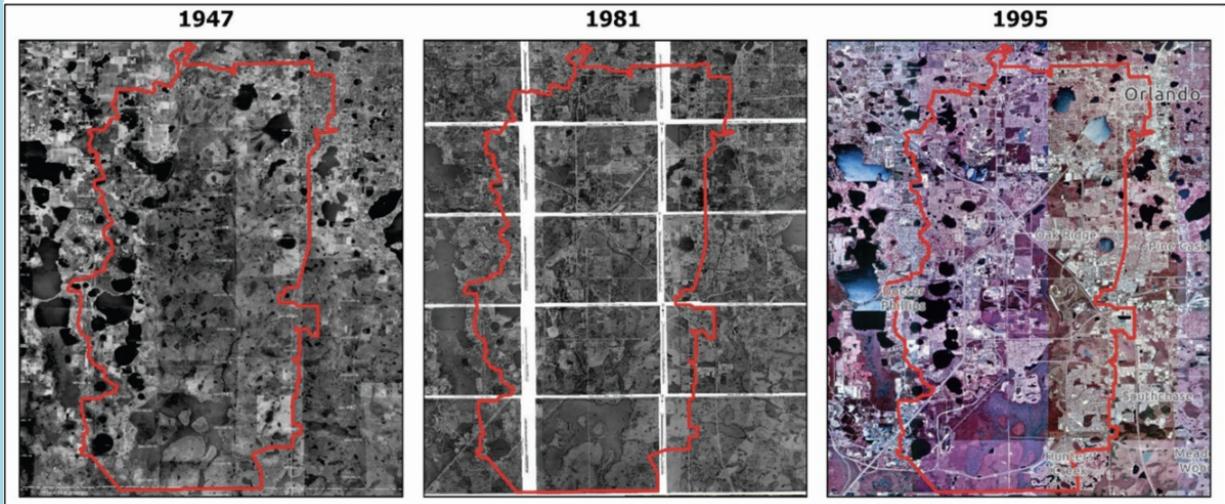
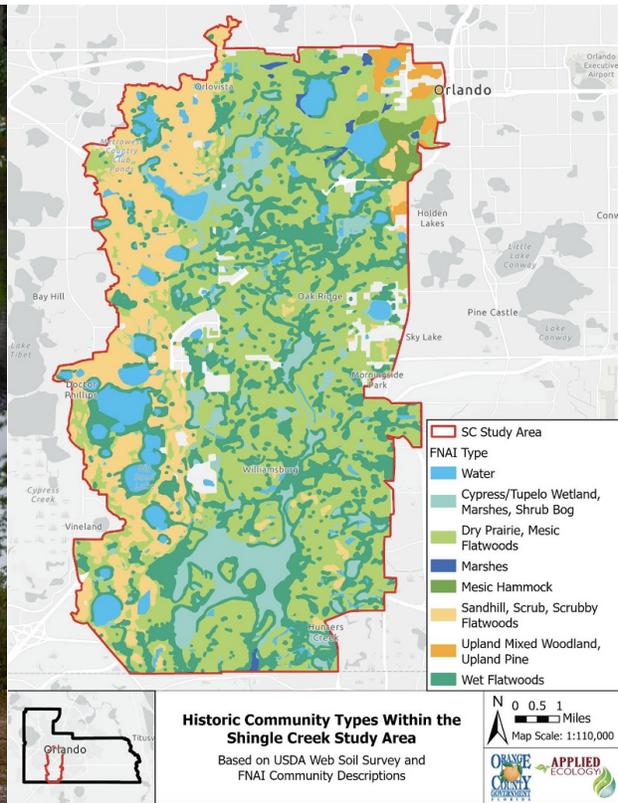
Placing this item first so you don't miss it! This Work Session will actually be the **final item** on Tuesday afternoon's agenda. However, public comment for this item will unfortunately take place at 9:00 a.m. in the BCC chambers. Thankfully, there will be multiple opportunities in the coming months to provide your feedback.

In 2022, I called for a Work Session to discuss past and future protections for the Shingle Creek Basin. The resulting research, and the recommended protections based on that research, are returning to the board on Tuesday. To prepare for these discussions, our Environmental Protection Division brought us on tours of the Shingle Creek Basin and the St. Johns River Basin. The EPD works with local partners like the South Florida Water Management District to study, maintain and preserve what's left of our most valuable natural resource.

For too long, local policy has not reflected the true value of this land. The result is dangerous overdevelopment, leading to an impaired water system and a shrinking biodiversity hotspot. We are hoping to change that. These areas contain our most important and imperiled ecosystems, while providing things like flood mitigation for everyone surrounding them.

The result of these discussions will hopefully be significantly strengthened policies to help protect these areas for decades to

come.



## BCC Meeting: Consent Agenda

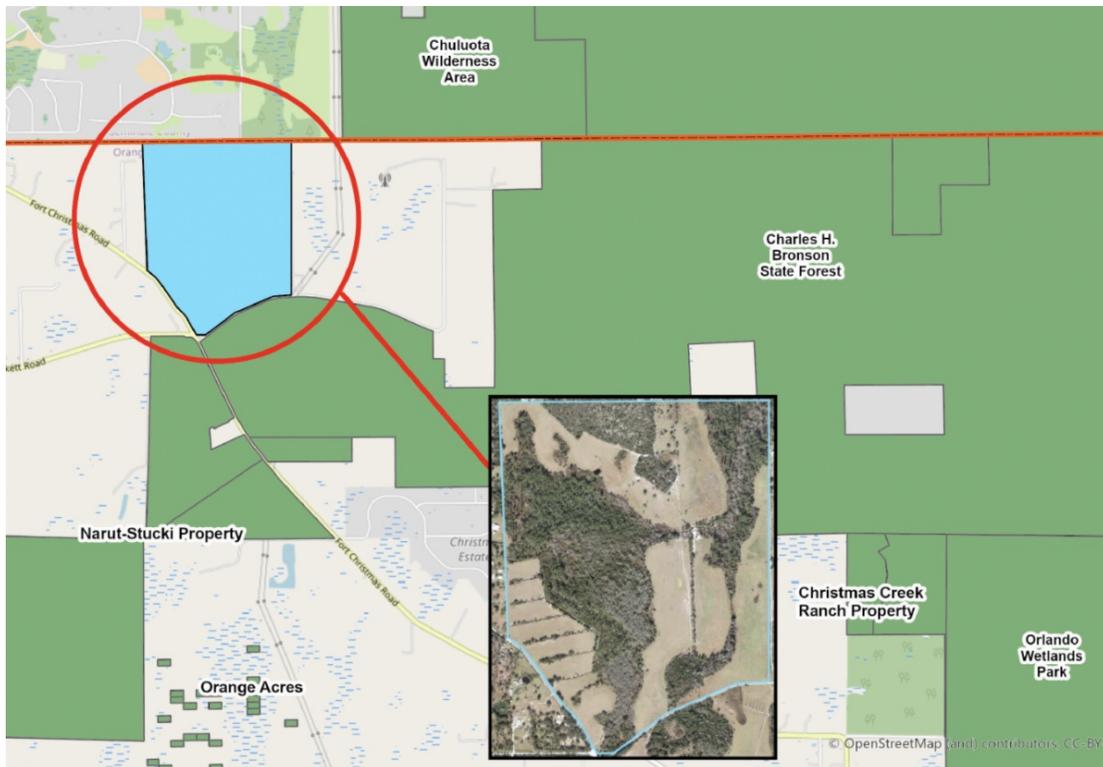
### Approval to award invitation for bids for the construction of Watermark Park.

- This 5.6-acre neighborhood park will be located off Seidel Road at Summerlake Grove Street. Our Parks & Rec Division will hold a groundbreaking ceremony when construction begins — we will let you know when that date is scheduled.

### Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Green PLACE Parcel 160.

- This parcel is located along the northerly quadrant of Brown Road and N. Fort Christmas Road in Christmas, Florida. It

contains a whopping 396.14 acres of environmentally sensitive land, which will now be preserved thanks to our Environmental Protection Division's Green PLACE Program!



## Approval of Neighborhood Beautification Grant for the Hunter's Estates Homeowners' Association

Through the county's Neighborhood Grants program, Hunter's Estates will receive funding for two new signs, pressure washing, and solar lighting. [Click here to see what types of beautification project we could bring to your neighborhood.](#)



## BCC: Discussion Agenda

### United Arts of Central Florida Presentation.

United Arts is one of those organizations that you find everywhere once you start noticing their logo. The county partners with United Arts to grow the presence of arts and culture across our community. As an independent organization, UA is able to do many things to aid individual artists that the county cannot — like helping secure [grant funding](#), or maintaining a massive [directory of local artists](#) seeking work. They shine a spotlight on those who deserve it and bring arts

and culture to a county that is hungry for it!

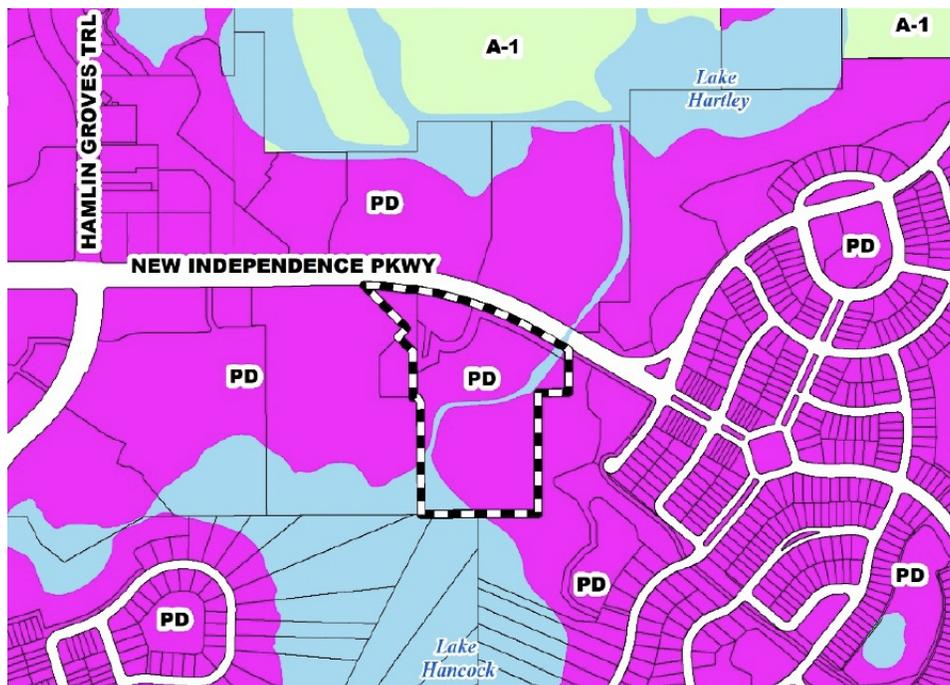
# MAKE ART THRIVE



United Arts is the leading local arts agency in Central Florida. We fund and fuel the organizations and events that shape our community.

## BCC: Public Hearings

**Item E-14: Hamlin Planned Development Unified Neighborhood Plan (UNP) / Waterside at Hamlin - a portion of Corporate Campus Mixed-Use District 3 Development Plan ([Click here for more info](#))**



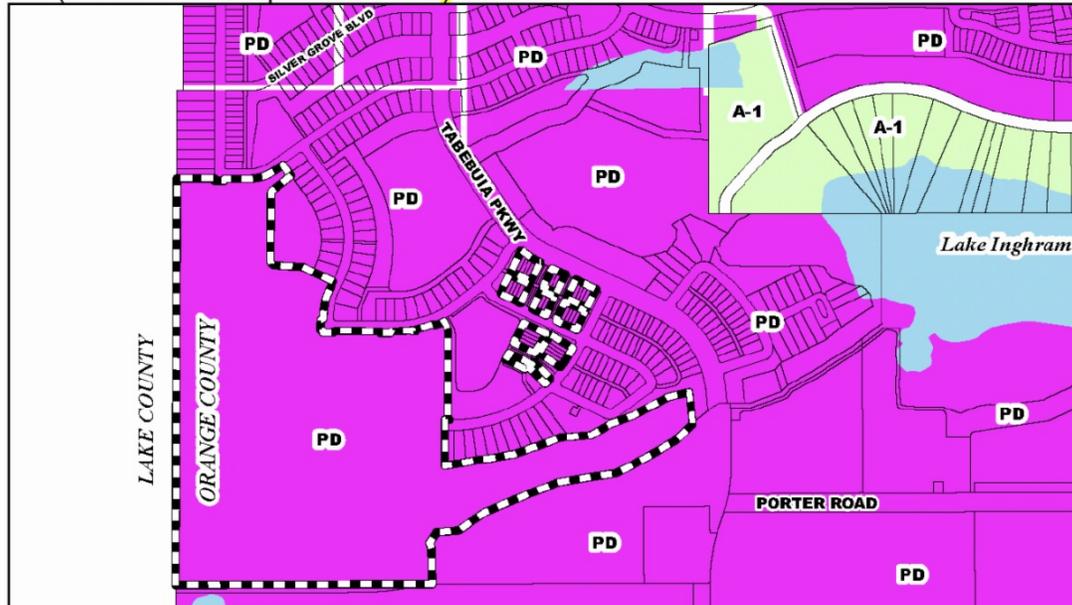
**Item G-16: Silverleaf Planned Development Phase 3 (Tract FD-1) Preliminary Subdivision Plan ([Click here for more info](#))**

- This 6.19 acres of subject properties, located within the Silverleaf PD, generally south of Silver Grove Boulevard and west of Avalon Road. The Silverleaf Phase 3 Preliminary Subdivision Plan is approved for 449 residential units.

- Through this request, the applicant is requesting a waiver to allow a mechanical unit side setback of zero (0) feet from the property line for internal units of rear loaded townhome buildings in lieu of the two (2) foot setback from the property line. In addition, the plan proposes to revise the lot numbering.

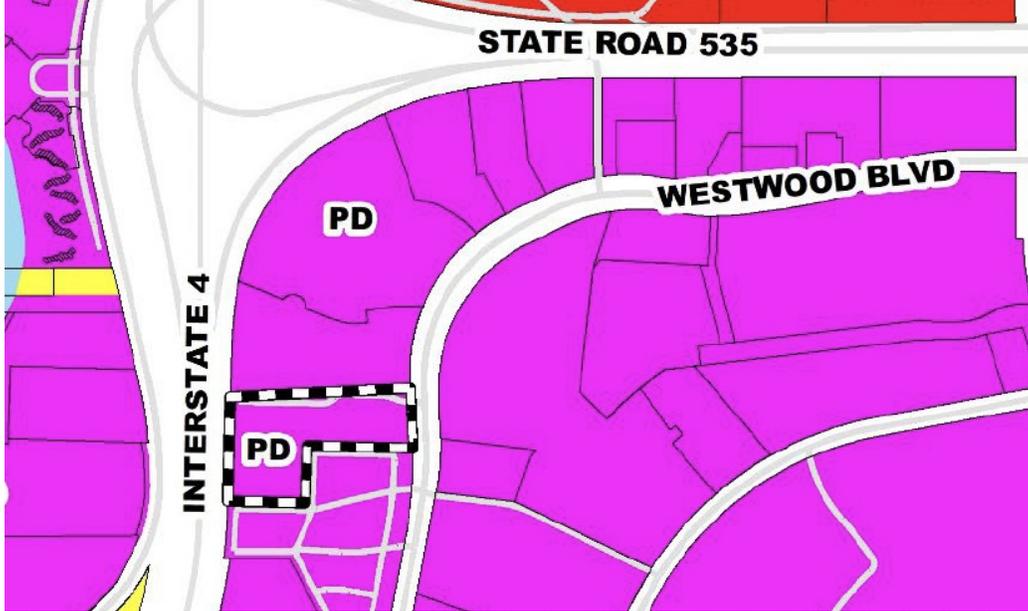
## ZONING

PD (Planned Development District)



### Item H-17: Orangewood N-1 Planned Development amendment ([Click here for more info](#))

- The subject property is located north of Central Florida Parkway, south of State Road 528, east of Interstate 4, and west of Westwood Boulevard.
- The PD currently allows tourist commercial uses and is currently developed with an office development. The request is to add a development program to the subject portion of the PD consisting of 160,000 square feet of office use and 300 multi-family dwelling units to the subject site.
- This case was continued at the March 11 Board meeting to further discuss vesting and concurrency requirements.



## ABC's of the BCC

The Board of County Commissioners meets every other Tuesday.  
Come on down!



Board of County Commissioners meetings occur every other Tuesday with a morning agenda and an afternoon agenda.

The early agenda allows public comment on any topic at 9:00 a.m., where a constituent may come to the Orange County Administration Building in person and give your thoughts on any item except for a public hearing, which is later.

Work Sessions or items on the Discussion Agenda are up for debate by the Board and are not voted on.

Public hearings begin after 2:00 p.m., which include zoning variances, public appeals, ordinances, and more. This is where constituents can submit public comments in person on a specific issue.

To attend the BCC, please find information [here](#).

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns at [district1@ocfl.net](mailto:district1@ocfl.net)

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