

Freedom neighborhood wants to become part of Watsonville

Sentinel staff report

WATSONVILLE — A Freedom neighborhood's attempt to become part of the city is proceeding after a two-month delay.

The Planning Commission will consider rezoning the neighborhood off Green Valley Road on Monday as a first step toward future annexation.

The neighborhood includes some 90 homes on Carnation Drive, Marigold Avenue, Fuchsia Drive and Fuchsia Court.

A majority of registered voters in the neighborhood, led by Gordon Kobayashi, signed petitions

asking to become part of Watsonville. They say the move would offer better police and fire protection and fewer taxes, claims supported by the city.

At a Sept. 27 meeting, several residents opposed or didn't understand annexation, which caused the City Council to delay the matter until a majority of residents could agree on how to proceed.

Planning commissioners will consider three zoning plans, which differ in how property next to the neighborhood along Green Valley Road would be zoned for commercial use.

If the city approves the rezoning and thus the annexation bid, it will pay the \$2,000 application fee to the Local Agency Formation Commission, which makes a final decision on annexations. If not, the Carnation Drive neighborhood may petition LAFCO on its own.

In other action, the commission will consider recommending changing the name of the lower portion of Arthur Road between Main and Marin streets to "Auto Center Drive."

The Watsonville Planning Commission will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chamber, 250 Main St. Watsonville.

Nichols continued. "They have clearly stated (in the study) that

intervals.

The sounds will be measured