

Moore: Engaged communities are foundation of successful result

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the nicest-looking medians in District 2. Additionally, I'm committed to having benches installed along the corridor. Benches aid pedestrian activity and encourage walking safely because they provide a place to take a break. Then, I will ask Duke Energy about potentially upgrading incandescent lighting to state-of-the-art LED lighting on the corridor. However, I cannot commit to specific timing on installation as I do not control this private company. I am thrilled to work with Duke's new area contractor, as he is very responsive to our re-

quests. But, with upgrading to LED lighting, the responsible agency must appropriate additional money in annual budgets and the company must complete the work.

Nevertheless, I am very hopeful I will be successful in installing benches on the street which wins the top award, "Corridor of the Year" for District 2.

So, yes, I believe it is important to compete. The winner will be announced on Saturday, October 16, at the Orange County Neighborhood Services Conference and judging takes place Saturday, October 2.

Now, if you live on or along one of these four

corridors, I would like to make some suggestions on how you can get involved. First, be sure your neighborhood's frontage is trash-free, the wall is mold-free, the landscape beds weed-free, and some fresh mulch is seen from the roadway. You might need to contact your HOA leadership to let them know you are willing to help. The HOA might be organizing a work day or you could simply give an hour the morning of October 2 sprucing things up before the judges arrive at 10 a.m. The judges will consist of some top Orange County staff with no ties to any of these four corridors. The judging matrixes

will be posted on my county Facebook page. It is an open book contest. I want every corridor to be its absolute best! There is no downside to competing.

Now, I hope if you are interested in participating with the following corridors - Hiawassee, Sheeler, Magnolia Homes, or Wekiwa Springs roadways - you will want to know the criteria the judges will be considering.

They will be inspecting each subdivision for clean walls, well-mowed frontage, and beds filled with healthy plants and fresh mulch. Each street will receive a percentage of subdivisions that meet

these criteria. Other points can be earned from special projects over the past year such as tree planting, community clean-ups, grant applications for wall improvements, and percentage of neighborhoods having won the HOA or Neighborhood of the Month Award.

Engaged communities are the foundation for success in any city or county. Thus, this award is about inspiring more engagement and collaboration between neighbors and neighborhoods.

I have noticed several things in my two-and-a-half years as your county commissioner. The more

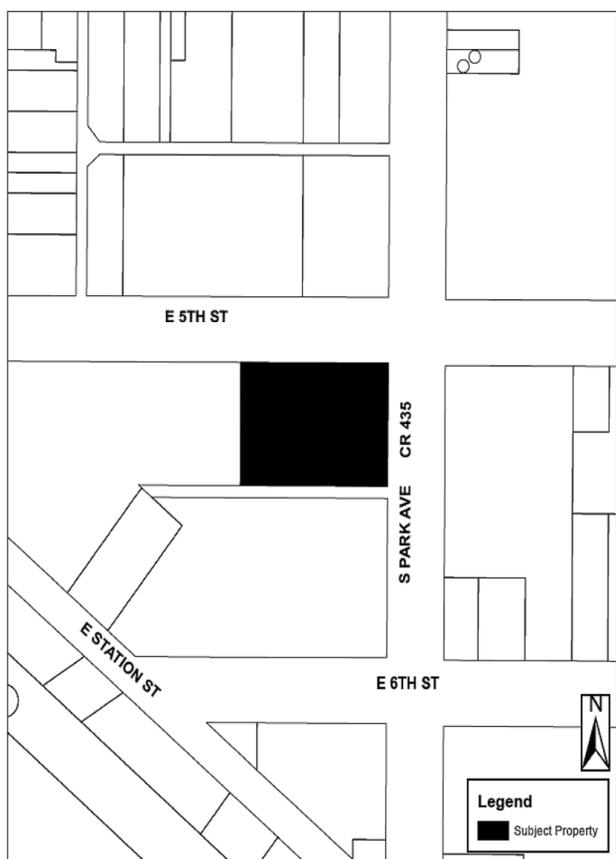
engaged a community, the better its infrastructure. The more conscientious a neighborhood, the higher the property values. The more involved an area is, the more investment takes place in new businesses and retail establishments. It's really that simple.

If you live in a neighborhood off one of the four finalist corridors and do not know how to contact your neighborhood leader, please call my office at 407-836-5850. I want to get you plugged into the neighborhood network which is truly making a difference and improving the quality of life in District 2.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Chris Sagherian** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW A SMOKE SHOP IN THE MU-D (MIXED-USE - DOWNTOWN) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located on the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Park Avenue



Parcel Identification Number: 09-21-28-0196-50-790
Contains: 0.71 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the special exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

July 30, 2021

Publish: The Apopka Chief

169272

Byrd: Solutions to problems in budget meetings not easily found

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our beginning teacher salaries in the state by requiring a minimum salary of \$47,500. He provided a big sum of money to fund it and districts had a couple of years to get to the minimum goal.

Orange County was one of a few districts that was able to get there and all our beginning teachers were lifted to the \$47,500 salary last year. The remaining money in that salary allocation from the state had to be divided up in a specific manner as prescribed by the state. Needless to say, it didn't leave much for the remaining teachers, especially our veteran teachers who have been with the district for a long time.

While the idea of

boosting our beginning teacher salary in the state is a good one and certainly will entice new teachers to come to our state to teach, the compression caused by the increase has caused much frustration by our seasoned educators, many of whom are now earning close to the same amount as a new teacher they are mentoring after teaching with the district for 10+ years.

This year's budget has the same allocated teacher salary category and Orange County received \$2.4 million for raises. Out of that, we have to maintain the \$47,500 salaries from last year and then distribute the remaining money as prescribed by law based on teacher ratings.

The results are not great, our teachers are

not happy, and it's easy to understand why. They showed up at our meeting to express their discontent with once again being undervalued and undercompensated for a very difficult job.

As an educator who remembers that feeling and a parent who sees the amount of work that our teachers put into the lives of our children, it's difficult to hear.

The continued underfunding of public education in this state is appalling. We are receiving only \$465 more per student from the state than we were getting in 2007.

Think about that.

This is a fight we have to continue to battle for our teachers but more importantly for our children who deserve better.

Hayden: Enjoying comradarie of two friends always benefits me

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the plethora of real things to wrestle with to gain understanding. The keys to my joy of learning, as I said before, were the people who filled my life with new concepts and ideas on how to approach different tasks with determination and zeal.

There are two who come to mind today. One was a truck driver (Lil Ed), and the other was a warehouse manager (Roy). We called him Lil Ed because his daddy was Big Ed. Makes sense, right? Not only did he make deliveries for our company, but he was the best public relations man I have ever met! When he made a delivery, the places he delivered to knows they are getting the best of the best.

Always smiling, he was ready to help with placing the product and making others feel as though they were an important part of keeping

the company growing and prospering. His humility and willingness to share with others has impacted my life with understanding of how to achieve contentment with what I have, and patience for the things that I have not.

Roy is the man you first meet when you go to pick up products, and, even when he has men working for him in the warehouse, he is the first to load your truck and to engage you in a lively conversation.

His expertise in warehouse management keeps the whole shebang running smoothly and without hang-ups. His attitude in daily ministrations is one of excellence and perseverance. He takes time to make the clients feel as though they are the only ones there and he takes pure joy in filling their needs.

When these two men get together to load the trucks, they share the task and just being out there lis-

tening to the banter as they complete their loading and joshing each other gives the feeling of enjoyment and of being with family. I see and hear so many people today who position themselves as victims and whine about their station in life and yet I see the example of these two great men in action every day!

Both are black and I thank God their character shines through the race or color of their skin. They may never be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (they should be!) but they will always know the honor and admiration that others have for them because of their honesty, integrity, and their concern and love for other people. I salute each of them for being my teacher, counselor, and my friends.

See what I said about Apopkans? We light up Central Florida with our united efforts to be the best part of "E Pluribus Unum!" Thank you, Apopka!

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall.....	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office.....	407-703-1701
City Administrator.....	407-703-1649
City Clerk.....	407-703-1704
Community Devel.....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement.....	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.....	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept.....	407-836-8550
County Mayor.....	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney.....	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue.....	407-836-3111
Solid Waste.....	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept.....	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities.....	407-836-5515
All other departments..... 407-836-3111	
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.).....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Val Demings (Dist. 10).....	321-388-9808
State Representatives	
.....	352-742-6275
Kamia Brown (Dist. 45).....	850-717-5045
State Senators	
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11).....	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore.....	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief.....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441