

# Censor: Training needed

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not the egregiousness of the conduct.

They’re most often available when the violator knew that he was violating civil rights and didn’t care.

If a violator went through civil rights training in the past, he can’t claim ignorance in the future.

In some cases, First

Amendment training might not make bad actors good. But even the worst actors might think twice about violating someone’s civil rights if the consequences are massive personal liability.

So, for all these reasons, let’s make a habit of subjecting censors to the remedial training they need and deserve.

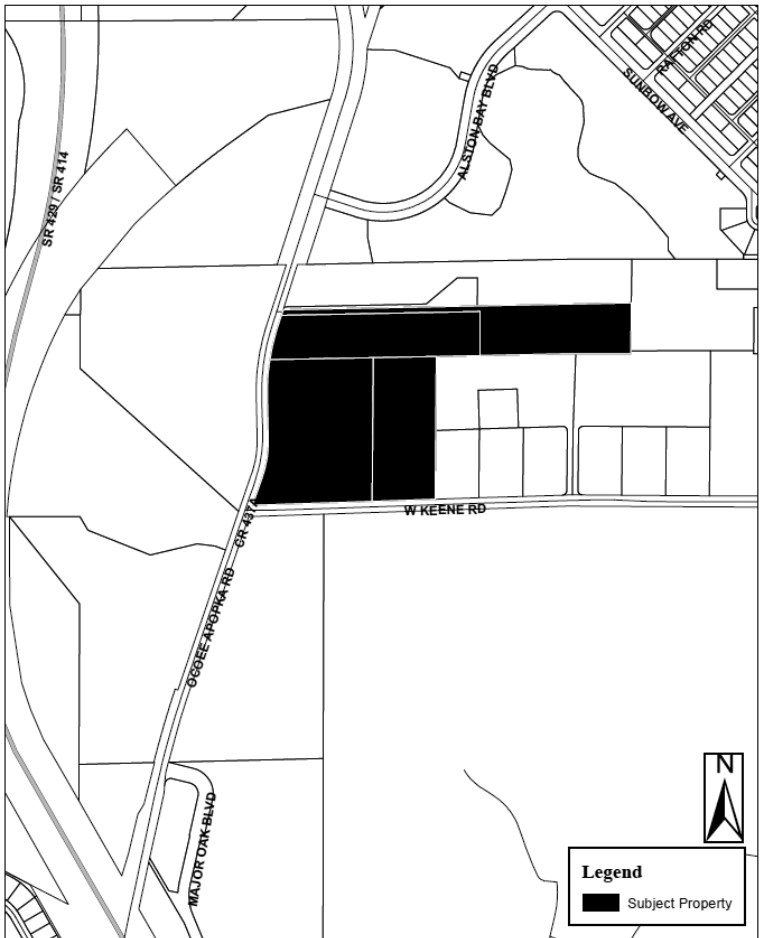
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**The Apopka Chief**  
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka 32712  
For info: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121  
Email: news@theapopkachief.com

**Submit your letter online at  
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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE VARIANCE REQUEST CITY OF APOPKA

The City of Apopka Planning Commission, in accordance with Article II, Section 2.5.5.A of the City’s Land Development Code (LDC), herein advises you that **L. JORDAN DRAPER, P.E. AND JAMIE BENNETT** requests a **VARIANCE** from LDC, Section 5.5.11 Retaining Walls, to allow a maximum height of 10-feet of retaining walls in lieu of the 6-foot height and a slope of 4:1 in lieu of 10:1 in specific locations within the project boundary as demonstrated by the accompanying site plan. This application relates to the following described property:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 20-21-28-0000-00-028, 20-21-28-0000-00-021, 20-21-28-0000-00-025 and 20-21-28-0000-00-024  
Contains: 28.02 +/- Acres

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held in the City of Apopka Council Chambers on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible. The variance application is available for review at the Community Development Department at Apopka City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

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 FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

September 1, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

174650

# Byrd: Much assessment is necessary after storm

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If we are not closing so schools can be shelters then we have to take into consideration the sustained winds that are forecasted. Typically if we are expecting sustained winds in excess of 35 mph then we will have to close because our buses can not safely drive in those conditions.

Depending on the severity of the storm we are preparing for, there are numerous preparations that need to be taken. We know how there can be tremendous preparation to do for

our own homes, imagine making sure over 200 buildings are prepared and prepped as well. Our staff members are amazing and work extra hours to make sure our district is ready.

After a storm passes, district staff immediately assess all the properties to check for damage. Sometimes, schools are not able to open right away depending on damage, power outages and other factors.

Last year we had one elementary school that was completely flooded during Hurricane Ian and the students had to be sent to

another school for the remainder of the year while the school was renovated.

Roads and routes to schools also have to be checked and cleared to be sure that buses can safely get our children to school. After hurricane Ian, we had 28 routes that were obstructed.

Our kitchens have to be assessed quickly by our Food and Nutrition Services Department as well as often, if there is a power outage, the kitchen is not usable. Last year 70,000 meals had to be delivered to schools after the storm to

be sure our children were fed.

There is tremendous thought and action that goes into dealing with storms in the school district. Our staff and administrators take numerous emergency preparedness courses to prepare for these situations.

The school district is prepared for all sorts of emergencies and storms are just one of them.

I am so thankful for each one of them for their never-ending dedication to our schools and our students.

# Moore: Corridor of the Year to be decided

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meeting will be held November 16th. At this meeting we will celebrate the work of the Corridor Chiefs, those who pick up trash and report infrastruc-

ture deficiencies to 311. Additionally, I will announce the District 2 Person of the Year. And probably the most exciting of all, the Most Improved Neighborhood of the Year and the Most Improved Corridor of the Year will be announced.

Votaw Road is representing the Wekiwa Springs area. Eden Park Road is the entry for the Lockhart area. Clarcona-Ocoee Road is the finalist for the North Pine Hills Area and Apopka Blvd. is representing the Southern Apopka area. It will be a tough decision for the judges.

The five judges evaluate the following criteria to determine a winner: walls and fences cleaned and trees trimmed up off the walls, sidewalks and curbs are white from pressure-washing, beds are weed-free and filled with fresh pine bark nuggets, and an absence of trash and snipe signs along the right-of-way. Bonus points

can be earned by proof that residents participated in a neighborhood clean-up. Additional points can be earned by the Corridor Chiefs for that specific corridor by sending a record of removing trash and debris on a regular basis to my office.

I did a preliminary scoring of the corridors over the summer. Apopka Blvd was in the lead. However, I would never count out the Wekiwa Springs, Lockhart, and North Pine Hills teams. These groups have 4-6 Saturday clean-ups scheduled between now and the November 4th judging. I’m also sending letters to the leaders and property owners to remind them of the judging criteria with the hope of them working on a few more details.

Magnolia Homes Road won Corridor of the Year (COY) for 2022. They are and have been receiving many benefits for their effort at working together

to clean-up every neighborhood and segment along the route. Beautiful Lockhart pole banners, street benches, and new LED street lighting have been erected. Remedying sidewalk gaps, making drainage repairs, and completing street resurfacing are other efforts. Plus, there is the prestige of the recognition and team name engraved on the District 2 Corridor of the Year Trophy. It is my hope that I can encourage my fellow county commissioners to start their own Corridor of the Year Contest and then we can offer an Orange County Corridor of the Year Award.

Thank you to the hundreds of leaders and residents who participate in the county and my office’s neighborhood programs. Orange County is truly a remarkable place in which to live and raise a family. I hope you will join in the fun and camaraderie.

Contact the office by calling 407 836-7350.

# Hayden: Dictionary has ‘work’ last

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and stated, “You can’t get there from here!”

As we pondered our fate (sitting on the curb) in the little town of Festus, someone came up with the idea of looking at a map. (Duh!) After finding our way back to Route 66, without combing our hair (only you old timers will understand that), we continued our merry way to the land of promise.

After sleeping in the desert, not too well with all the coyotes howling, we finally arrived in Arizona where one of our group said there was a restaurant that would feed you for free if you could eat their 48-ounce steak meal, which included French fries and a salad, with a drink.

We had quit eating somewhere around Chicago in anticipation of tackling that challenge. I was so hungry I would have cooked one of those coyotes, but they are impossible to catch. It took half

a day for Butch to lead us to the place and when we arrived, drooling now with the anticipation of a big juicy steak, It was CLOSED FOR REMODELING! Short of falling and crying my eyes out in front of those one-percenters, I spied a Taco stand across the street.

The poor fellow that ran the stand was scared half to death when we all made a mad dash for his stand.

Those were the very best Tacos I have ever eaten! They were seven for a dollar and I ate two dollars’ worth. (I told you it was a while ago.) Needless to say, we ate until we could not get on our bikes without finding a place to lay down and take a siesta (we just ate Mexican Tacos).

Finally, we reached the Golden border of California and at last we were going to be in Santa Monica, where we had been led to believe we could pick up the gold nuggets in the street and we would all be-

come movie stars and live happily ever after.

We just about starved to death before we all got jobs and went to work. Not one of those movie directors ever came out to ask me to audition. I was heartbroken, but I learned valuable lessons from that episode. First, the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence (nation). Second, one man’s treasure is not always what you would call treasure (life in Santa Monica). Third, do not ever think that a fifteen-hundred-mile trip would be one of comfort on the back of an “Iron Coffin” (motorcycle). Fourth, the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary (no gold in the street).

There is a lot more I could share about this trip to Nirvana (NOT), but it will have to be later. (Just a teaser – how about almost being arrested when an apple fell out of “Snow White’s” bag at the border of Arizona and California.)

## 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 23, 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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.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. <b>www.apopka.net</b>	

#### 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
<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.) .....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.) .....	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10) .....	202-225-2176
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson .....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) .....	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) .....	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore .....	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment .....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief .....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441