

# Nelson: Council asked to rescind

Continued from page 2A

the Mayor under our Strong Mayor form of government. This portion of the Charter was reviewed by Michael Rodriguez, our current City Attorney Cliff Shepard and two other third party attorneys and all agreed that the Apopka City Council did not have the authority to fire Michael Rodriguez but the charter does require that the City Council "must" approve new directors such as the recently hired City Administrator Jacob Smith and Michelle Boylan our new Economic Development Director. Both were approved unanimously as was Michael Rodriguez several years ago.

The Censorship vote was brought forward by a former City Commissioner for political reasons and had nothing to do

with public policy. Prior to the Censorship vote, the prior City Commissioner asked a city employee to meet him at a restaurant near his place of business. During the meeting, the City Employee was told that if I would not run for another term as Mayor, the Commissioner would drop the censorship vote. The City Employee has agreed to swear under oath and/or take a lie detector test to prove that this meeting actually happened. I waited until the formal Florida Commission on Ethics ruling of no probable cause of an ethics violation before releasing the "basis" for the censorship vote last year was based on politics and not policy. For these reasons I have asked the Apopka City Council to rescind the Censorship vote dated August 2nd, 2023.

Mayor Bryan Nelson

# Explanation is given on reason Juneteenth is national holiday

Editor:

I am writing to you today to highlight the profound importance of June 19th, a date of monumental significance in American history, now recognized nationwide as the National Juneteenth Holiday.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipa-

tion Day, commemorates the momentous occasion on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of slavery in the United States. This was a pivotal moment, as it marked the liberation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confed-

eracy, over two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had formally set them free.

The celebration of Juneteenth stands as a testament to the enduring strength, resilience, and spirit of African Americans

See JUNETEENTH Page 8A

# Byrd: I'll be serving 4 more years

Continued from page 2A

that session feeling very hopeful that legislators on both sides of the aisle want what is best for our public schools. I was pleased to hear that none of them are happy with Florida's recent move to 50th in the nation for teacher pay in the k12 school system.

The legislators that were present seemed motivated to work to change that and we expressed how difficult it is to find people to come to work in our districts when we can't offer them a competitive salary or even a salary that allows them to live comfortably without relying on second jobs.

Overall, it was a positive conference that always leaves me feeling proud to be among others that are

working to advocate for a public school system where all children are provided a quality education.

After arriving home, I was able to slip away for a few days with my daughters for some much-needed quality time together.

But the rest didn't last because it was soon time to come home and finish work on my campaign for my next term on the school board. The second week in June is qualifying week where candidates have to submit the required paperwork and fees to the Supervisor of Elections to qualify to be on the ballot in August.

I got my documents and fees paid and I'm very proud to say that at the end of the qualifying period, there were no other candidates that had filed to run

against me.

Therefore, I became reelected to the school board seat that I have served in for the past six years, to serve another four-year term.

I am thrilled beyond belief to be blessed to continue to serve our community, our schools and our children. It has been an honor to serve and I truly feel that my lifelong passion for education has led me to exactly where I am supposed to be as a school board member.

There have been many accomplishments over the past six years but there is still so much to do.

Next week I would like to share more on this, but until then, thank you for allowing me to be your school board member again!

# Moore: Action steps updated annually

Continued from page 2A

and re-education requirements for Florida to explore opportunities for future enhancements.

4. Consider the use of technology-cameras for speed enforcement along high-crash corridors.

5. Create and utilize a Target Zero checklist to be considered on all relevant roadway projects to assist with proper project scoping.

6. Incorporate Complete Street/Safety "walk and talk" training during new employee orientations and provide similar training for existing employees on a semi-annual basis.

7. Collaborate with law enforcement through Community Traffic Safety Teams

to review emerging tools and street designs to develop key guidance materials for traffic enforcement at locations with these new designs.

8. Coordinate with local law enforcement and safety professionals to identify the top three transportation safety issues to inform, educate, and enforce traffic safety along key corridors.

9. Create a safety-related webpage on FDOT's District 5 website that includes resource materials, key data, upcoming events, and a quarterly Safety Central Newsletter.

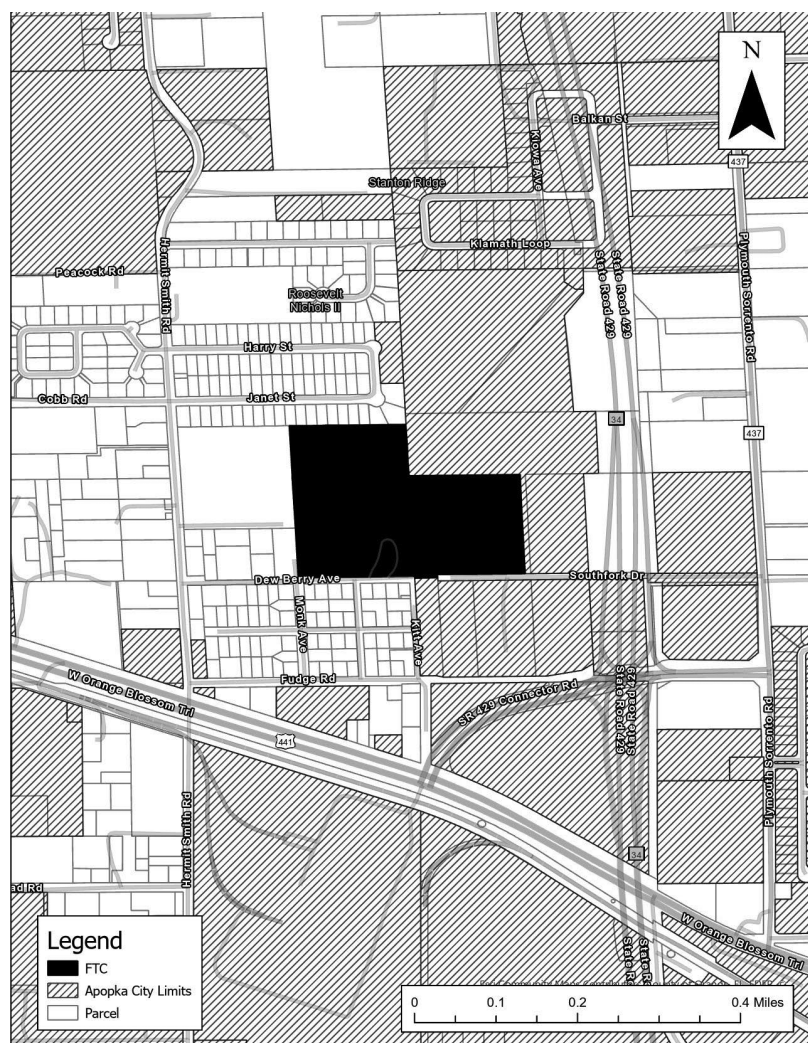
The Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan envisions a five-year program where the action steps are updated annually to adjust to issues and create collaborative safety solutions with our partners.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3) (a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Floridian Apopka Phase 1 Owner, LLC** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3061

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF SOUTHFORK DRIVE AND NORTH OF DEW BERRY AVENUE, OWNED BY FLORIDIAN APOPKA PHASE 1 OWNER LLC, COMPRISING 24.33 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Number(s): 27-20-36-0000-00-068, 27-20-36-0000-00-074, 27-20-36-0000-00-048, 27-20-36-0000-00-085, 28-21-06-7172-60-040, 28-21-06-7172-16-042, 27-20-36-0000-00-066, 27-20-36-0000-00-083, 27-20-36-0000-00-047, 28-21-06-7172-16-040, 28-21-06-7172-21-60-030  
Contains: 24.33 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3061 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, July 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use Application can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. 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.

June 21, 2024

Apopka City Council  
Community Development Department

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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# Hayden: We must not be divided

Continued from page 2A

al identity, and we cannot blame this administration for it all. The guilt belongs to all of us who pander to these different cultures because of our greed and desire for the almighty dollar. We kick aside our nationality and show that we have no qualms about capitulating to another culture and language just to make a buck, and you show them that we have turned into a wide-open society, with no morals, no standards, and no dedication for anything but greed.

I have nothing but respect for any of the true legal immigrants. I live among different cultures in my neighborhood, and we are true neighbors. We

take care of and watch out for one another. I celebrate their different holidays, sometimes joining in their festivities, and we enjoy those times that bring us closer together, but they are doing their best to learn English to help themselves assimilate into our national identity.

Too many people are making their way into our society for ulterior motives, and we Americans need to weed them out. They are not here for our great nation; they are not here to embellish our way of life. They have come to our shores as an invading army hell-bent on making America a tyrant-led, Communist enclave. They have already begun dividing our people by using cultural differ-

ences. Do you honestly think that Antifa, BLM, or the anti-Semitism group are trying to build a better America?

What do they all have in common? They hate America and the American way of life. Whatever drives them is not love. We, The People, had better wake up and take action, or one day we will wake up under the cloak of slavery and by then, the American nationality will be replaced with the chains of Communism.

Let us get back to the place where our immigrants want to see the "Baffaloes" again and desire to belong to a nation whose motto is "E Pluribus Unum," out of many ONE.

## 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

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)	352-241-9220
<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

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# Richmond named to trustees' list

William Richmond of Apopka was named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the spring 2024 semester.

Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive

semesters. Richmond is majoring in Software Development.

Making the Trustees' List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vt. with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland.

# Censure: Ethics complaint is separate issue

Continued from page 1A

He also said the mayor "need to pay his bills and we need to stick to the same hire that was voted on the first go-round" and urged the commissioners to "stand up for the people of Apopka one time" instead of supporting the mayor.

City attorney Cliff Shepard said that the bill was already paid, and referred to such information in the City Council agenda packet.

The ethics complaint is a separate issue from the censure and does not influence the censure, although Butcher did mention the censure in the complaint, it was said at the City Council meeting.

On April 5, 2023, the City Council voted 3-2 to recommend firing Rodriguez. Since then, there had been much debate about whether the 3-2 vote made

Rodriguez's recommended termination official or "ceremonial," a word Nelson used to describe the vote.

Because of this, on April 19, 2023, the City Council voted 4-1 of declaratory judgment, to hire a third-party attorney to look at the city charter related to Rodriguez. Rodriguez announced his resignation on May 3, 2023, and tendered his letter of resignation the next day.

On June 21, 2023, it was revealed that the city would still cut Rodriguez a weekly check until July 7, 2023, when his resignation would go into effect.

At that meeting, Nesta said according to documents he obtained, Rodriguez got paid similarly every week since his May 3 resignation except for the previous week when Rodriguez cashed in his paid time off in the amount of around \$7,000.

Also from viewing the documents, Nesta said Rodriguez's termination date was July 7, 2023, and would be compensated 13 weeks of his base salary, equivalent to between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

On August 2, 2023, the City Council voted 3-1 on the resolution to censure Nelson "for misleading the City Council, and by the same actions, the people of Apopka through untruthful public comments regarding the employment status of the former City Attorney" Michael Rodriguez. Nelson voted 'no.' City Commissioner Alexander H. Smith was absent from that meeting.

### Reappointing a board member

The City Council voted to reappoint Robert Ryan to a three-year term on the Planning Commission.

Ryan was originally appointed to the Planning Commission on August 1, 2018 and was reappointed on September 8, 2021. His term expires on September 8, 2024. He has indicated he would like to be reappointed.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, the Planning Commission serves as the City's "Local Planning Agency" when reviewing and recommending to the City Council, any future land use amendments to the comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.

There are seven members that are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. Members are appointed to three-year terms and must live within the city limits. The Planning Commission normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE REZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Floridian Apopka Phase 1 Owner, LLC** has made application relating to the following described property.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3060**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2840, WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE "FLORIDIAN TOWN CENTER" PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD), GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF W. ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND WEST OF S.R. 429, COMPRISING 73.93 ACRES MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Parcel Identification Number(s): 27-20-36-0000-00-093; 27-20-36-0000-00-075; 27-20-36-0000-00-052; 27-20-36-0000-00-068; 27-20-36-0000-00-074; 27-20-36-0000-00-048; 27-20-36-0000-00-085; 28-21-06-7172-16-020; 28-21-0671-7216-040; 28-21-0671-7216-051; 28-21-0671-7216-070; 28-21-06-7172-16-060; 28-21-0671-7216-050; 27-20-36-0000-00-066; 28-21-06-7172-16-042; 27-20-36-0000-00-083; 27-20-36-0000-00-047; 28-21-06-7172-16-040; 28-21-06-7172-16-030  
 Contains: 73.93 +/- Acres

### Vicinity Map



(THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

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June 21, 2024  
 Apopka City Council  
 Community Development Department

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