

Carter: To honor President’s Carter death, flags will be flown at half-staff

Continued from page 2A

Georgia, to help manage his family’s peanut farm. He worked hard stewarding the land while leading his community as a church deacon, Sunday school teacher, and board member of a hospital and library. His deep faith inspired a passion for pub-

lic service that led him to be elected State Senator, Georgia’s 76th Governor, and ultimately President of the United States. As President, he understood that Government must be as good as its people — and his faith in the people was boundless just as his belief in America was limitless and his hope

for our common future was perennial. With President Carter’s leadership, the modern Department of Education and the Department of Energy were created. He championed conservation, and his commitment to a more just world was at the heart of his foreign policy, leading on nuclear nonpro-

liferation, signing the Panama Canal treaties, and mediating the historic 1978 Camp David Accords. His partnership with Vice President Walter Mondale is one that future administrations strived to achieve. Following his Presidency, President Carter advanced an agenda that elevated the least among us. Guided by an unwavering belief in the power of human goodness and the God-given dignity of every human being, he worked tirelessly around the globe to broker peace; eradicate disease; house the homeless; and protect human rights, freedom, and democracy.

Through his extraordinary moral leadership, President Carter lived a noble life full of meaning and purpose. And as a trusted spiritual leader, he shepherded people through seasons of pain and joy, inspiring them through the power of his example and healing them through the power of his guidance.

As we mourn the loss of President Carter, we hold the memory of his beloved Rosalynn, his wife of over 77 years, close in our hearts. Exemplifying hope, warmth, and service, she

and her husband inspired the Nation. The love Rosalynn and President Carter shared is the definition of partnership, and their devotion to public service is the definition of patriotism.

May President Carter’s memory continue to be a light pointing us forward. May we continue to be guided by his spirit in our Nation and in our world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of President James Earl Carter, Jr., and as an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that, for the same length of

time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations. I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense. I do further appoint January 9, 2025, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President James Earl Carter, Jr.

I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

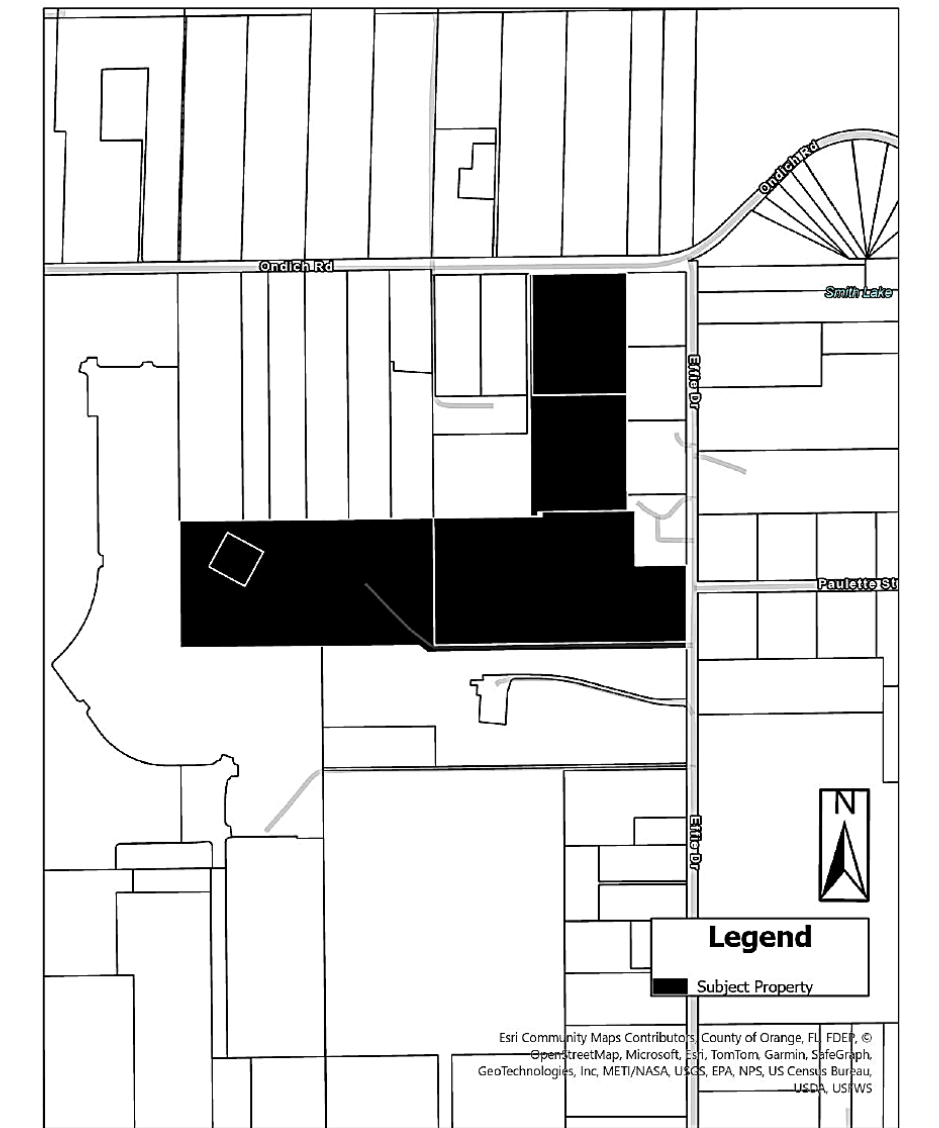
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

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 **Appian Engineering, LLC c/o Luke Classon, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3067
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 COUNTY RURAL TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3068
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO KPI-MU (KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE – MIXED-USE) DISTRICT, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 11-20-27-0000-00-037, 11-20-27-0000-00-069, 12-20-27-0000-00-001, 12-20-27-0000-00-012, 12-20-27-0000-00-046, 12-20-27-0000-00-048
Contains: 54.85 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3067 and 3068 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, January 15, 2025 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications 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.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department
January 3, 2025
Publish: The Apopka Chief 177789

Moore: Apopka incorporated 1882

Continued from page 2A

something I am quite familiar with, serving as a school board member from 2008 – 2018. Orange County Public Schools was organized in December 1869 with William Lovell of Apopka chosen as the county’s first superintendent. It is said he was selected due to having 13 children. However, he was a successful businessman with a dry goods business on Lake Apopka. There is a historical marker located in Magnolia Park commemorating “Lovell’s Landing.” For more information on District 2 school

history, please refer to my book, Ahapopka, The History of Apopka and its Schools.

The next two decades demonstrate the early pioneer’s determination to organize town governments. Orlando was incorporated in 1875, Apopka in 1882, Windermere and Maitland in 1885, Oakland in 1891, Winter Garden in 1908, and Ocoee in 1923. We also know people settled the Tangerine and Zellwood communities during this same period, however, they never incorporated. Lockhart, which recently celebrated 150 years of history,

also never incorporated. Notable events after this founding “town” period is the creation of the original county parks. Warren Park was created in 1924 as a gift from Wilbur and Rose Warren. Dr. Kelly donated and dedicated to Orange County, Rock Springs Park in 1926, and Sadie Connor Trimble donated land for Trimble Park in 1927. Dr. Kelly was an acclaimed physician from Johns Hopkins University who valued saving Rock Springs for public use. Sadie is notable as a wealthy

See MOORE Page 7A

Hayden: Preserve liberty, freedom

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torn between your “to do” list and what your heart tells you what path to take. The business world will condemn you as a failure for not making that extra dollar, but the person you showed love, compassion, and concern for may have just been brought from the brink of suicide, and what is that worth? All of us feel unqualified to give advice reserved for a professional with a doctorate in the field of psychiatry, but it does not take a degree to be filled with empathy enough to show someone they are surrounded by the love of Christ, working through you. A smile and a kind, friendly greeting as you pass someone on the street, or in the hallway may stay

with that person all day, and it will encourage them to pass it on.

Want to make a difference? Be different! Want to change the world? Change yourself! Do something! We have a new year and what we do with it is our responsibility. I may never be able to influence the whole world, but I can influence the world I live in, starting here!

I’ve known failures in my past, and I have scars to prove them, but they are nowhere near as telling as the path to happiness I’m planning to leave as I enter this brand-new year! There is nothing that can separate us that is as strong as our resolve to be united as we stand together as Americans! We owe no apologies for the stupid mistakes of

our past, because our people have been strengthened and humbled by them. We hold no grudges for wrongs committed against us, but we trust justice to work and take her own vengeance by the laws of our land. Our last four years have been weighed in the balances and found wanting, as the hand wrote on the walls of Darius’ palace found in the book of Esther. His was a final pronouncement, but ours is meant to enliven and encourage action and unity as one people, in love with one another, preserving Liberty and Freedom for our babies, their babies, and on and on, as Americans riding the Horse of Democracy through the entry curtains of 2025!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers	Orange County Telephone Numbers	Other Area Numbers of Note
City Hall407-703-1700	Animal Services.....407-836-3111	U.S. Senators
Mayor's Office407-703-1701	Auto/Boat Tags.....850-617-2000	Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274
City Administrator407-703-1649	Building Dept.....407-836-8550	Marco Rubio (Rep.).....407-254-2573
City Clerk.....407-703-1704	County Mayor407-836-7370	U.S. Representative
Community Devel.....407-703-1712	County Commission.....407-836-7350	Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)..... 352-241-9220
Code Enforcement.....407-703-1738	County Attorney.....407-836-7320	State Representatives
Finance Dept.....407-703-1725	Clerk of the Court.....407-836-2065	Doug Bankson.....407-476-6787
Fire (non-emerg.).....407-703-1756	Elections Supervisor.....407-836-2070	Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....unknown
Parks and Rec. Dept.....407-703-1741	Fire/Rescue.....407-836-3111	State Senators
Police Chief.....407-703-1769	Solid Waste407-836-6601	Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045
Police (non-emerg.).....407-703-1771	Garbage Collection.....407-703-1731	Orange County Commissioner
Job Line.....407-703-1743	Health Dept.....407-836-2600	Christine Moore.....407-836-7350
Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731	Hunting/Fishing Lic.....888-347-4356	Orange County Public Schools
Street Maintenance.....407-703-1731	Parks and Rec. Dept.....407-836-6200	Pupil assignment.....407-317-3233
Utility Billing.....407-703-1727	Property Appraiser.....407-836-5044	Bus routes.....407-317-3800
Medical, fire emergency.....911	Sheriff Administrative.....407-254-7000	Superintendent.....407-317-3200
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	Non-Emerg. Complaint.....407-836-4357	School Board.....407-317-3200
	Utilities.....407-836-5515	Miscellaneous
	All other departments.....407-836-3111	The Apopka Chief.....407-886-2777
	Medical, fire emergency.....911	Museum of the Apopkans.....407-703-1707
	www.orangecountyfl.net	Chamber of Commerce.....407-886-1441

City: New contract includes virtual reality tech for training

Continued from page 1A

we have been purchasing new equipment in today’s prices rather than the originally contracted rates as our current contract did not account for growth.”

“After discussion with Axon, we identified the need to consolidate our contracts into a new agreement that incorporates all existing products, locks in today’s pricing and accounts for future growth. Additionally, we explored new Axon products that could enhance the level of service we provide to our community,” McKinley added.

The new piggyback agreement includes not only purchasing 150 body-worn cameras, but also anticipates growth by including five additional cameras and tasers per year for the remaining four years of the contract, locking in the pricing for up to 20 additional units at the current price.

Some of the new features and improvements of the latest equipment include the ability for officers to signal their supervi-

sors for real-time monitoring, an enhanced 13-hour battery life to accommodate the APD’s new 12-hour shifts, bidirectional communications for hands-free interaction with dispatch supervisors, translators, or mental health professionals so they can use the camera to do two-way communication; and a language line to translate whatever language needs to be spoken on the scene.

The proposed contract also locks in the pricing for Fusus in the APD drone platform. At the time of the December 18, meeting, Fusus cost the APD \$65,000 annually and will set the increase at a hundred to \$110,000 next year. Through negotiations, the APD secured a \$70,000-per-year rate for the contract’s duration, including additional data cores at no additional cost, McKinley explained.

Additional benefits of the contract are that the APD will receive six virtual-reality headsets and tablets for advanced training and de-escalation crisis intervention and use-of-force scenarios. The headsets will

allow the APD to do virtual reality training with scenarios that are created by Axon for the life of the contract.

The agreement also includes Draft One, Axon’s AI-powered report writing tool that generates draft report narratives from body camera recordings. This feature is offered at a discount and can be canceled at any time without penalty.

The APD also continues to use Axon’s Evidence.com to manage all of the department’s cases.

Commissioner Nick Nesta said he liked that virtual reality technology is being incorporated into police’s use.

“I really like that we’re implementing virtual reality VR. I think that’s going to be huge for us,” Nesta said. “Staying on the cutting edge of technology for our department, I think is going to help with recruiting and retaining as well as it’s going to increase our safety for our officers and, and our residents. So, it is an increase, a pretty sizable increase, but it’s needed. I think,

again, it helps us compete with other municipalities as well to make sure that we’re recruiting, getting the best of the best. And it does.”

McKinley agreed with Nesta. The police chief then credited the police department’s “very good” fleet of patrol cars as one of the recruiting tools for new officers. What’s more, the chief credited the city with helping the APD sponsor police academy recruits, contributing to the department’s growth. However, the APD is seeing two officers retire in January and one in February, McKinley said.

Resident Leroy Bell pointed out that the money the city is paying for the body cameras aren’t coming from a grant, but taxpayer dollars, therefore, the taxpayers should see the products.

“It’s not only just for the police to wear around that he can get real time, this, that, this, that, and another. It should be where that the citizen can see what they’re paying for,” Bell said.

Toy: In 2023, Orange County residents donated 11,566 toys

Continued from page 5A

ange County youth and family agencies, including the Orange County Neighborhood Centers for

Families, Wraparound Orange, Orange County Public Schools Kids’ Closet, and local nonprofit organizations.

Residents could ei-

ther donate online or drop new, unwrapped items at one of 37 locations around the county. The toy drive serves youth from infants through teens.

Westfall praised the job the Orange County Mayor’s Holiday Toy Drive did: “I think this was amazing. You guys did a great job here. I’ve been in line

for hours at Toys for Tots before in Volusia County, so this was amazing.”

She also acknowledged that the toys from the Orange County toy drive

will make her children happy: “This means Christmas under the tree. It means a good Christmas morning.”

Moore: Rock Springs Park was donated and dedicated in 1926

Continued from page 4A

female pioneer in the Tangerine area of northwest Orange County.

Martin Lockheed, the aircraft and aerospace manufacturer, first opened its Orlando office in 1956. Pine Hills residential areas exist due to the company’s engineers needing quality housing. Subsequently, land has been bought from the company to build the Orange County Convention Center and Universal Studios’ Epic Universe.

In 1958 McCoy Air Force Base was renamed in honor of Col. Michael McCoy from the former name of Pine Castle Air Force Base. The base had been utilized as a training facility for B-17 bombers and chemical munitions testing. McCoy Airport now is the 4th busiest airport in the entire country, known as Orlando International Airport.

Another milestone was the construction of Interstate

4 in 1959. Spanning across the state from Tampa to Daytona Beach, Interstate 4 connects many of Florida’s most visited destinations. The very first section of the highway opened to motorists in 1959.

Florida Technological University (FTU) opened in 1968 out of a growing interest in space travel throughout the 1960s. The initial majors offered focused on science, technology, and engineering to benefit the nearby Kennedy Space Center. In 1978, the university changed its name to the University of Central Florida.

Then comes the years of the expansion of our major industry in Orange County - tourism. In 1971 after years of anticipation, the Walt Disney World Resort officially opened to the public. On the opening day, 10,000 people entered the park. Today, Orange County annually entertains 74 million visitors. Seaworld quickly followed suit in 1973 making Central Florida a multi-park destination. In

1990 Universal Studios Florida opened, tracing its history back to the innovation of film production. We will be celebrating the opening of Epic Universe this coming May.

In 1976, the Board of County Commissioners established a historical commission to carry on the work which led to the 1976 opening of the Orange County Historical Museum in Loch Haven Park. This facility was the precursor to the History Center, which opened its door in 2000 to critical acclaim and national awards in the county’s 1927 courthouse.

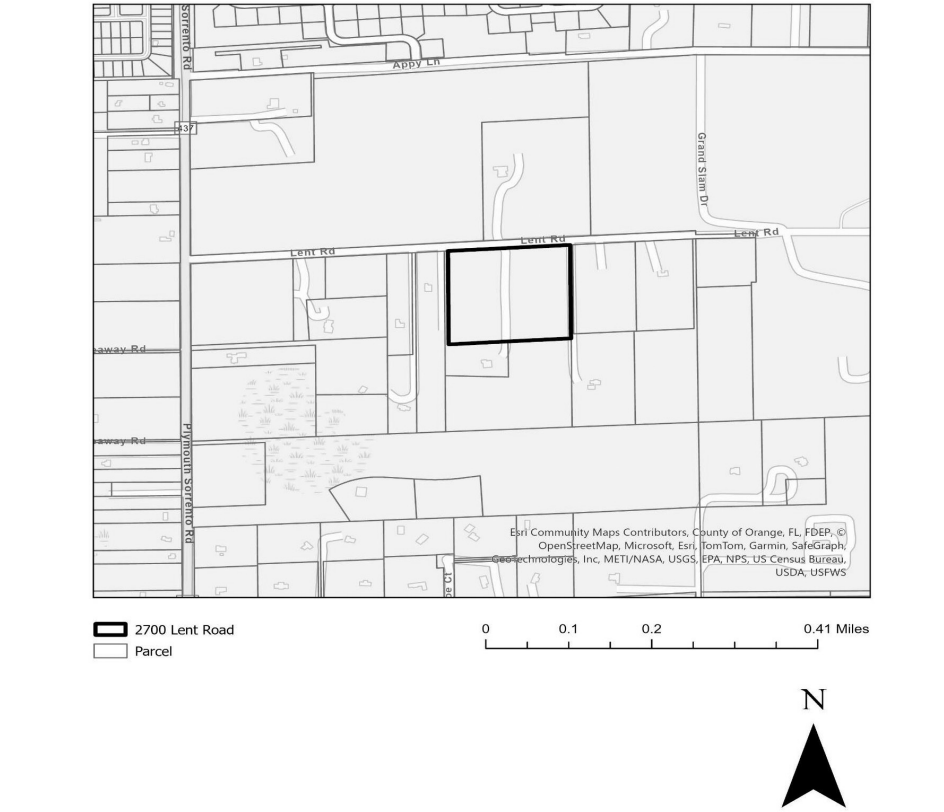
Today, Orange County is the fifth-largest county, by population, in Florida, with world-famous attractions, one of the nation’s largest convention centers, excellent education institutions, a robust economy, vibrant arts and culture. It is a diverse and thriving community.

I hope you are a vibrant citizen, participating in the community, and making it better for future generations.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **John Ryan Adams** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located East of Plymouth Sorrento Road and North of W. Ponkan Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3089
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY GLOBAL INVESTMENTS VAULT LLC; GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD AND NORTH OF W. PONKAN ROAD; COMPRISING 11.12 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-006
Contains: 11.12 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3089 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

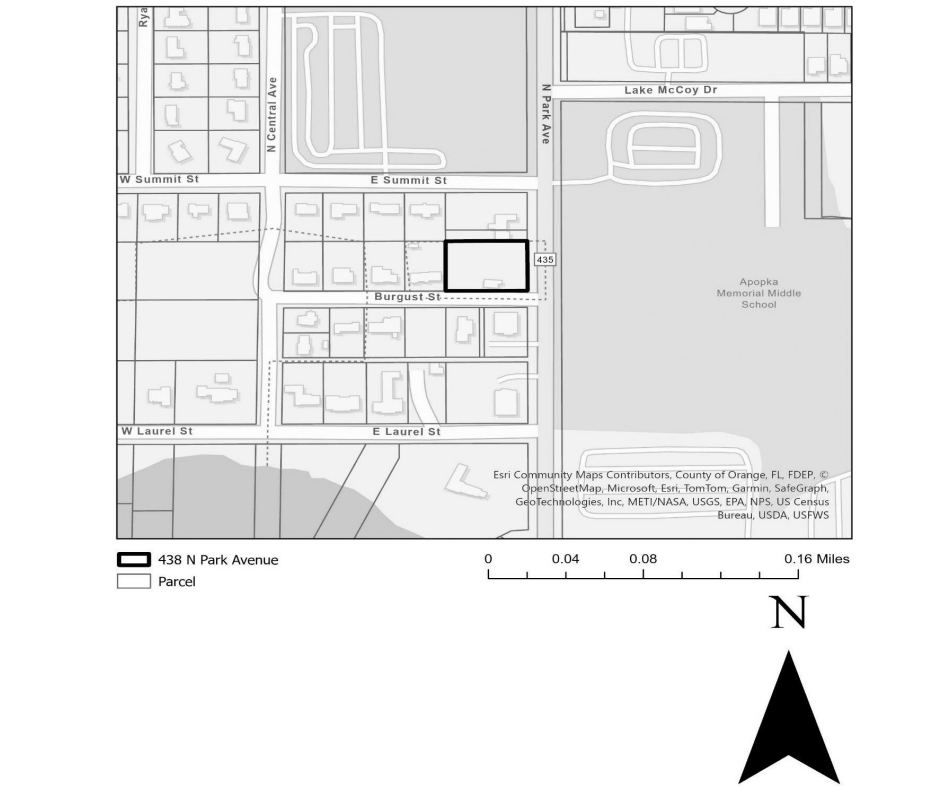
Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised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

January 3, 2025
Publish: The Apopka Chief
Apopka City Council
Community Development Department
177778

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Nick Diangelis** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located on the Northwest corner of N. Park Avenue and Burgust Street. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3090
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY NICHOLAS DIANGELIS AND STEPHANIE DIANGELIS; LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF N. PARK AVENUE AND BURGUST STREET; COMPRISING 0.66 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 04-21-28-2204-01-110
Contains: 0.66 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3090 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Annexation 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.

January 3, 2025
Publish: The Apopka Chief
Apopka City Council
Community Development Department
177779