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DRUGS

federal prosecutor notified her last year in writing she was the target of a grand-jury investigation, and the Department of Justice was preparing to seek criminal charges against her. She said she has been assigned a federal public defender, Ryan Maguire, of Tampa. She said government agents have threatened to imprison or deport her.

It wasn't otherwise clear whether the UF research employee or other students — identified in federal court records as co-conspirators — have been charged or arrested. The UF employee worked in the stockroom of one of the university's research labs, prosecutors said.

FENTANYL AND COCAINE SHIPPED TO CHINA

The materials smuggled to China included what the government described as purified, non-contagious proteins of the cholera toxin and pertussis toxin, which causes whooping cough. Cholera is a generally non-fatal intestinal infection that can cause severe dehydration. Whooping cough is a highly contagious bacterial infection that can lead to violent coughing, vomiting and even respiratory distress — but is preventable with a vaccine.

Other materials smuggled to China included small amounts of highly purified drugs — known as analytical samples — of fentanyl, morphine, MDMA, cocaine, ketamine, codeine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, acetylmorphine and methadone, court records showed. Such small samples would generally be used for calibrating scientific or medical devices.

The substances can't legally be exported to China.

Prosecutors described one student involved as a Chinese citizen who was majoring in marketing in the business college last year and agreed to change her UF email signature to falsely represent that she was a biomedical engineering student to purchase items without raising suspicions, court records showed. One line across hundreds of pages of court documents in the case cited an excerpt of an email that her first name was "Leticia."

Zheng, a senior marketing major in the business school, is president of the Chinese students and scholars group, which describes itself as officially approved by the Chinese Embassy. Zheng was enrolled as recently as the spring semester that just ended, university records showed. Fresh Take Florida, a news service of the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, identified "Leticia" as Zheng using biographical clues in university records shared by none of the other 58,441 UF students enrolled last semester.

Zheng, who said she has lived most of her life in China, said in a tearful interview Friday at her apartment complex she was deceived and victimized by the scheme's organizers, who she said solicited help finding paid interns from the Chinese-student organization. Foreign students on educational visas are limited in how or whether they can work for pay.

"This case seems to be really big," she said. "What I was doing was, like, just a little work, and I didn't get paid that much."

Zheng said in hindsight she noticed red flags such as a lack of paperwork or consistent payments for the administrative work that she did. She said she wasn't familiar with the substances that she was

directed to order. The man described as the scheme's ringleader — who has pleaded guilty in the case — reassured her, and she didn't realize she was in trouble until the Department of Justice contacted her, she said.

Zheng said she hopes to be allowed to finish her degree and said she doesn't understand how the university didn't have policies in place to protect her.

"I do need help, honestly," she said, adding: "I would like to see if there's anything that can help me not get charged and get out of this whole mess."

This year, Zheng's organization issued a statement calling Florida's new law restricting Chinese students in university labs as "nationality-based discrimination" and said it violates principles of academic freedom and openness and impedes international exchanges.

UF EMAIL ADDRESSES USED TO BUY DRUGS

The scheme's organizers also paid UF students other than Zheng to allow use of their UF email addresses to order the substances, prosecutors said. Organizers paid the UF research employee with Home Depot gift cards worth hundreds of dollars and paid for trips and loans, court records showed. Prosecutors said organizers also used the email addresses of two UF researchers who had already left the university by 2015. They were not described as co-conspirators.

The university said it has been cooperating with the Department of Justice for weeks but declined to answer directly whether anyone has been fired or kicked out of UF.

"We will have more details to share regarding UF's administrative actions as the DOJ's criminal case unfolds," spokesman Steve Orlando said.

"Employees who break the law will be separated from employment, and students who break the law will face suspension."

The scheme ran from July 2016 to May 2023, the government said. Former Republican Sen. Ben Sasse — who was a leading China hawk on Capitol Hill and once described the threat from Beijing as the "defining national-security challenge of our age" — took over as the university's president in February 2022.

The plot is sure to supercharge the raging policy debate over countering China's ascension as a global power and curtailing its influence. Florida has already banned TikTok on universities and colleges and prohibited citizens of China and some other countries from owning homes or purchasing property in large swaths of the state.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-

“ I DO NEED HELP, HONESTLY. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT CAN HELP ME NOT GET CHARGED AND GET OUT OF THIS WHOLE MESS.

UF student Nongnong 'Leticia' Zheng

Fla., the ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee and said to be under consideration by former President Donald Trump to be his running mate, has warned Florida lawmakers about what he called a foreign-interference effort by China targeting universities.

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association's faculty adviser, Eric Jing Du, a professor in UF's Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering, said Friday in an interview he

was unaware of the criminal investigation and Zheng never told him she was ordering biomedical supplies.

Du — who condemned the plot described in court records — said the two have worked together in the two years he has been the group's adviser. He separately hired her briefly in 2022 to produce some images for an academic proposal, he said.

"It's like some UF students are trying to make a profit on this without knowing the potential



Effective June 1, 2024,
Dr. Daniel Komlos will no longer be affiliated with HCA Florida Aventura Orthopedics, located at 21097 NE 27 Court, Suite 540, Aventura, FL 33180.

Our Aventura practice is open for your patient needs. Your office medical records will be maintained at 21097 NE 27 Court, Suite 540, Aventura, FL 33180. To obtain your office medical records please call 305-933-9440.



**CITY OF DORAL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY MEETING** on **June 12, 2024 beginning at 5:30 PM** to consider text amendments to the City's Land Development Code. This meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:
RESOLUTION No. 24-

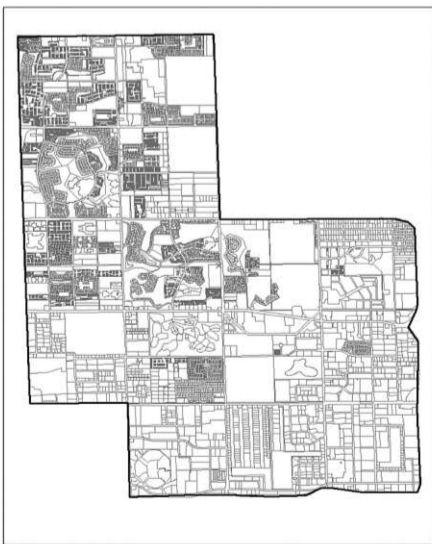
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL / DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY, TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF DORAL CODE, TO ADOPT AN ALCOHOL BEVERAGES CODE FOR THE CITY OF DORAL, AND CREATE CHAPTER 34; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-06-DOR-06

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City Manager's Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve amendments to the City's Land Development Code to adopt an alcohol beverages Code.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the City Commission of the City of Miami, Florida on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133 for the purpose of granting the following:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENT(S), BY A FOUR-FIFTHS (4/5THS) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AFTER AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING, PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-B(A) OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED, AND SECTION 18-72(B) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED, AUTHORIZING THE SALE, WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESTRICTIONS AND AUTOMATIC REVERTER PROVISIONS, OF THE PROPERTIES APPROXIMATELY LOCATED AT 2115 NORTHWEST 18 STREET AND 1924 NORTHWEST 26 STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A", ATTACHED AND INCORPORATED, TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM, AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM, ("COLLECTIVELY PROGRAMS"), AS MAY BE AMENDED, AND ANY OTHER APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, FOR SAID PURPOSE

The Miami City Commission requests all interested parties be present or represented at the meeting and may be heard with respect to any proposition before the City Commission in which the City Commission may take action. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the City Commission with respect to any matter to be considered at this meeting, that person shall ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including all testimony and evidence upon which any appeal may be based (F.S. 286.0105).

Pursuant to Miami City Code Section 2-33(o), whenever a scheduled City Commission meeting is cancelled or is not held due to a lack of a quorum or other emergency, a special City Commission meeting will be automatically scheduled for the Tuesday immediately following the cancelled meeting. In the event of one of the aforementioned circumstances, the special meeting would be held on June 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Commission chambers located at Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133. All of the scheduled agenda items from that cancelled meeting shall automatically be scheduled as an agenda item at the special City Commission meeting.

The City Clerk shall notify the public of the special meeting that is to take place by placing a notice of the special City Commission meeting at the entrance of City Hall and the City's main administrative building, placing a notice on the City's website, and, if feasible, placing an ad in a newspaper of general circulation before the special meeting on the immediately following Tuesday. There shall be no additional notice by publication required for any such scheduled agenda item that is moved to the special City Commission meeting.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 250-5361 (Voice) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding. TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding.



Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk
Ad No. 43511