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FANS

mailed. Kanas bought his house in Plantation because what's now called Amerant Bank Arena was being built 4 miles away, which he explained to his wife, Stacy Kanas, on their first date.

"Yeah, honey, I will be there at least 41 nights a year, hopefully up to 60 when you throw in some concerts," he said he told her. "You can get on board the train or get out of the way." She married me anyway."

From his couch in Jacksonville, where he switched Panthers jerseys each period of Game 7 so no jersey would bear the weight of superstition, Pinecrest-raised Dillon Hearn wept for 20 minutes.

Earlier in the series, Hearn said the Panthers on the verge of winning the Stanley Cup felt "very surreal."

Monday, "when it was looking like the possibility of those last moments, it really did feel like disbelief," Hearn said. "That's the followup to that [surreal] feeling. It was a moment that I'd dreamed of and didn't know when it was going to happen. To see it counting down second by second, it was disbelief in a positive, rewarding sense."

Hearn's collection of Panthers pucks, mini-jerseys, pins, jerseys, tickets, merchandise given away at games or special events could start a Panthers-centric sports memorabilia store. He loves the Panthers like a twin brother, which makes sense. They're both born in 1993 and both unconditionally loved by Hearn's father, who grew up in Miami Springs and embraced hockey while playing college soccer in Connec-



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South Florida hockey player and former coach Bob Diamond holds a skate he sharpened for a friend at his home on June 16 in Miami.

ticut. So, when discussing earlier in the series how he might feel when the Panthers won, Hearn said, "I wouldn't know how to feel because it felt so out of reach my entire life."

Perhaps nothing sums up the way Panthers fans can be wary of even the good as what happened on X the morning of Stanley Cup Final Game 4. The Panthers held a 3-0 series lead, a margin only blown four times in NHL history and only once in a Stanley Cup Final.

The X account Mellanby's Dead Rat posted, "Good morning. I've been a Panther fan so long I'm actually worried we could still screw this up."

Mellanby's Dead Rat has 220 followers. The post received 515 likes, 50 retweets, 71 responses and was seen by 36,400 people.

Among the comments in quote postings: "Same, honestly," "I feel seen...," "Yup."

(For those wondering about the account's name: Panthers' Scott

Mellanby killed a rat before the 1995-96 home opener at Miami Arena then scoring two goals, dubbed a "Rat Trick" by Panthers goalie John Vanbiesbrouck. Mellanby led a surprisingly high scoring and successful Panthers team, fans celebrated each goal by throwing plastic rats. The custom lasted only one season, but now happens at the final horn of Panthers wins.)

The third-season Panthers upset their way to a Stanley Cup Final loss in The Year of the Rat, the euphoria swinging public opinion on public financing for a new arena in Sunrise. Ground broke on the arena the day of the 1996-97 home opener. After a playoff appearance in 1999-2000, their second season in Sunrise, the Panthers sank into a mediocrity morass.

They missed the playoffs for 11 consecutive seasons, then an NHL record. They had a winning road record in 2002-03, but missed the playoffs with the fifth-fewest home wins in NHL history. Seemingly cruising to

a playoff appearance six years later, they suffered The Collapse of '09, losing lost nine of their last 16 games and missed the playoffs on the second tiebreaker.

Nothing helped. With six first-round picks over three NHL Drafts from 2001 to 2003, the Panthers should have built the core of a consistent

powerhouse. Instead, they came out with three solid players and three busts who did nothing in the NHL. They took Nathan Horton instead of Eric Staal in 2003. Staal went to Carolina, a Panther division rival, and led them to a Stanley Cup by 2006. Horton asked to be traded from Florida in 2010.

Bierman remembers booster club events at what's now Zoo Miami and people asking "Who are the Florida Panthers? What are they?" And, this was 15 years into the organization."

As disheartening for a season-ticket holder, Bierman said, team executives would give him 2,000 to 3,000 free tickets to distribute and "They would be right on the glass. They weren't cheap seats. It was lower bowl stuff."

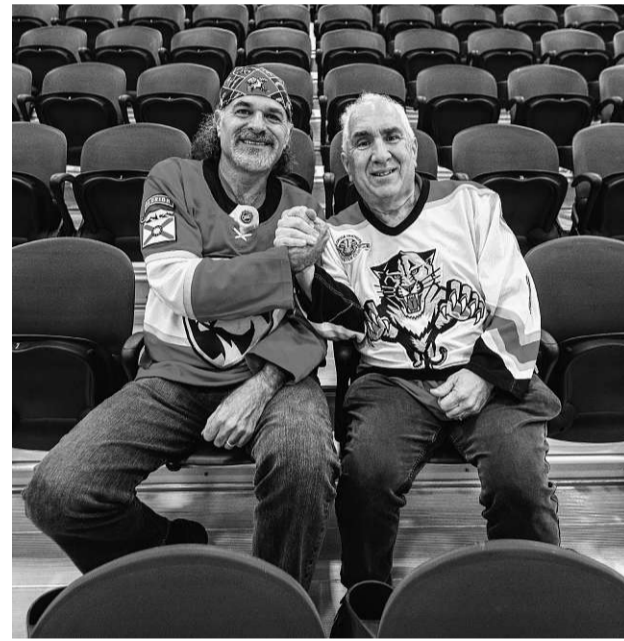
Kanas said each year at renewal time, "I'd delay, I'd delay and something would start getting to me... by the time the deadline is coming, 'Ah, all right, one more. I can afford it.' It's not like I'm robbing my kids' bread money or something like that. This is the first part of my entertainment budget every year."

Longtime Panthers watchers, from inside, around and outside the organization place the swing in the franchise at Doug Cifu and Vincent Viola's purchase in 2013, a year after the Panthers broke their playoff drought.

Coincidentally, when the Panthers had the No. 3 and No. 1 overall picks in the 2013 and 2014 NHL Drafts, instead of the mistakes of earlier years, they drafted current captain Aleksander Barkov and defenseman Aaron Ekblad. They're the two longest-serving Panthers on the Stanley Cup champion team that'll be parading in Fort Lauderdale Sunday.

"I have to see these guys with the Cup in real life," Hearn said. "It's still crazy to me. I've got to get that parade, I've got to get my eyes on that Cup and Barkov holding it. I'm so excited, I can't believe it."

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Carl Kanas, left, and David Bierman have been season-ticket holders from Year 1.



**CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** to consider the following applications:

1. PB-24-014
Applicant: ALL 50 INVESTMENTS, LLC
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA [APPROVING/DENYING] AN APPLICATION FOR TENTATIVE PLAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-4.2 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SEEKING TO SUBDIVIDE A PROPERTY WITHIN THE LOW DENSITY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (RS-3) ZONING DISTRICT LOCATED AT 5865 N. KENDALL DRIVE AND THE RESIDENTIAL ESTATE MODIFIED ESTATE (EU-M) ZONING DISTRICT OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, LOCATED AT 5865 SW 88 STREET; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; CORRECTIONS; IMPLEMENTATION; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2. PB-24-016
Applicant: Robert Kramer
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA [APPROVING/DENYING] AN APPLICATION FOR FINAL PLAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-4.2 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SEEKING TO SUBDIVIDE A PROPERTY WITHIN THE SEMI-ESTATE RESIDENTIAL (RS-2) ZONING DISTRICT LOCATED AT 5400 SW 63 AVENUE; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; CORRECTIONS; IMPLEMENTATION; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

3. PB-24-017
Applicant: The City of South Miami
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VIII "TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT" OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, TO MODIFY APPLICABLE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS; SEVERABILITY; CONFLICTS; IMPLEMENTATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The hearing will be held online and all Board members as well as City staff will participate by video conferencing at **City Hall Commission Chambers, 6130 Sunset Drive, South Miami, Florida 33143** or at remote locations through the Zoom platform, and members of the public may join the meeting via either Zoom at (<https://zoom.us/j/3056636338>), by phone by calling +1-786-635-1003 and entering Meeting ID: 3056636338 when prompted, or in person in the Commission Chambers, and where their appearance will be broadcast on the Zoom platform, and where they can participate.

If you desire to present evidence or you are unable to use Zoom, there are procedures to follow and other options available including a dedicated phone line to listen and participate in the meeting and limited public attendance, all of which is set forth in the meeting notice posted at City Hall and at <http://www.southmiamifl.gov/580/Public-Meetings-Notices>.

The pending application and supporting documentation can be reviewed and copies obtained by contacting the City Clerk at 305-663-6340 or 305-663-6331.

ADA: To request a modification to a policy, practice or procedure or to request an auxiliary aide or service in order to participate in a City program, activity or event, you must on or before 4:00 p.m. 3 business days before the meeting (not counting the day of the meeting) deliver your request to the City Clerk by telephone: 305-663-6340, by mail at 6130 Sunset Drive, South Miami, Florida or email at npayne@southmiamifl.gov.

Nkenga A. Payne, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk



**CITY OF DORAL
INVITATION TO BID NO. 2024-09
TRAFFIC CALMING IMPROVEMENTS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Doral is soliciting Bids from qualified contractors to construct traffic calming improvements in City of Doral Section 7, as described in City of Doral Invitation to Bid ("ITB") No. 2024-09. Electronic responses will be received online via DemandStar <https://network.demandstar.com/> or Vendor Registry <https://vendorregistry.com/>

Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting	Jul 8, 2024, 10:00 AM (America/New_York) Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/582792157 You can also dial in +1 (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 582-792-157
Submission Deadline and Bid Opening	July 30, 2024, 2:00 PM (America/New_York) Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/623562621 You can also dial in +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 623-562-621

Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is recommended as a source of information but is not mandatory. Proposers interested in participating in the Pre-Bid Meeting may join online via the above link or may dial in at the above-referenced phone number.

This ITB is subject to the "Cone of Silence" as more particularly described in the solicitation. Accordingly, all questions regarding this ITB must be made in writing and be directed to Procurement at the following email: procurement@cityofdoral.com. All inquiries must reference "ITB No. 2024-09 Traffic Calming Improvements" in the subject line.

**Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk, City of Doral**