

FROM PAGE 1A
BIDEN

he'll need to wage a long — and almost certainly expensive — fight for a second term in the White House.

Biden swung through two fundraisers hosted by deep-pocketed South Florida donors on Tuesday, one in Jupiter and the other in Miami. His campaign did not disclose additional details about the events, but two people familiar with the Miami fundraiser said tickets started at \$3,300 per person and went up to \$250,000 for co-chair tickets.

Among the hosts of the Miami fundraiser was Coral Gables attorney Chris Korge, a longtime Democratic donor and the national finance chair of the Biden Victory Fund, the joint fundraising apparatus shared by the Biden campaign, the Democratic National Committee and state Democratic parties. Korge is also finance chair for the DNC.

Nikki Fried, the chairwoman of the Florida Democratic Party, said the Tuesday fundraisers are an opportunity for Biden to “relight that spark” among the state’s major donors. Unlike 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic upended nearly every aspect of a normal presidential campaign, Biden now has the chance to put himself face-to-face with some of his biggest givers.

“For any type of election, your candidates, your incumbents have to resell the image and resell the dream,” Fried, who planned to attend the fundraiser in Miami, said. “And that’s what he has to do.”

Florida donors have already poured millions into Biden’s political operation during the past year, with some of the largest



President Joe Biden enters his motorcade after arriving at Miami International Airport on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY MATIAS J. OCNER mocner@miamiherald.com

sums coming from Tampa Bay Buccaneers co-owner Avram Glazer, who has sent \$350,000 to the Biden Victory Fund since last April. Kirk Wagar, a prominent Miami Shores-based Democratic donor, put the maximum allowed \$6,600 into Biden’s campaign in September, the same day he gave \$25,000 to Biden’s joint fundraising committee.

The president’s visit to Florida came just days after his wife, First Lady Jill Biden, spoke at a Biden Victory Fund reception in Palm Harbor during the weekend. Joe Biden himself has come to the state five times already since he became president, stopping in most recently last September to tour the damage left by Hurricane Idalia.

Alexander Heckler, deputy national finance chair for the DNC and Biden Victory Fund, said donors would continue to back Biden’s reelection bid regardless of the political hurdles in Florida, but insisted the state is still in play for the president — a message that Biden reiterated during his trip through South Florida.

“We are proud to again host President Biden in Miami,” Heckler said.

“We are happy to send our continued financial support whether or not we send our 30 Electoral College votes. But, I am confident that Florida is still in play and that Dem-

ocrats will invest here.”

Biden isn’t the only 2024 hopeful making a fundraising pitch in Florida this week. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, who’s challenging former President Donald Trump for the Republican nomination, will be in Palm Beach on Wednesday, according to reports.

Biden’s campaign has already made clear that winning Florida isn’t a make-or-break for his reelection chances.

He lost the state in 2020 to Trump by a three-point margin — a relative landslide in a state where presidential elections have often been decided by 1 percentage point or less.

Since then, Republicans have increased their dominance.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis scored a staggering 20-point reelection win in 2022, while the GOP won super-majorities in both chambers of the Florida Legislature.

Voter-registration data released by the state last week showed there are now nearly 780,000 more registered Republicans than Democrats — a stunning advantage that would have seemed unthinkable to many Florida political operatives a decade ago, when there were nearly 450,000 more registered Democratic voters than Republican voters.

Biden’s team has suggested it still sees an op-



President Joe Biden greets Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava at Miami International Airport on Tuesday.

portunity to compete in Florida. The campaign launched a targeted ad campaign in Florida last summer as part of a \$25 million national ad buy, and the president’s surrogates have repeatedly slammed the so-called “Florida Blueprint” — DeSantis’ oft-touted governing agenda — as a failed right-wing policy experiment.

Democrats are also hopeful that a proposed ballot measure that would enshrine abortion rights into the state constitution will give their candidates a lift in November by driving up Democratic voter turnout. The ballot measure has already obtained enough signatures to appear on the ballot, but the state Supreme Court still has to rule on the language put forth in the

proposal.

Still, Biden’s campaign is approaching Florida with caution, wary of pouring too much time and money into a state that has proved stubbornly difficult for Democrats to win in recent years. In an appearance this month on former White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki’s show on MSNBC, Biden campaign spokesperson Kevin Muñoz noted that the president has “many pathways” to victory in November.

“I’m not going to read out a preview if Florida’s gonna be the one or not,” he said. “But I think we are very encouraged by the fact that there are a couple different ways we can win.”

Max Greenwood:
@KMaxGreenwood

Guns and drugs found in car at Broward school, BSO says. 2 teens arrested

BY DAVID GOODHUE
dgoodhue@flkeysnews.com

Two Deerfield Beach High School teens were arrested after guns, ammunition and illegal drugs were found inside a car parked on the campus Monday afternoon, according to the Broward Sheriff’s Office.

A security guard noticed one of the 17-year-olds sleeping inside the car, which was running, around 2 p.m., and called her supervisor, who searched the car, finding a loaded handgun in a backpack, the sheriff’s office said.

The supervisor called a BSO deputy assigned to the school. Deputies searched the car further, finding another loaded gun, loaded magazines, including a drum magazine, MDMA (also known as ecstasy), psychedelic mushrooms and marijuana, according to the sheriff’s office.

Deputies placed the school on lockdown after finding the guns, but there was no known threat to students, BSO spokesman Carey Codd said.

The teen asleep in the car is not a Deerfield Beach High School student, but the other teen is, the sheriff’s office said. Both teens face charges of possession of weapons on school property, possession of MDMA and possession with intent to manufacture or deliver marijuana.

David Goodhue:
305-923-9728,
@DavidGoodhue



RELIABLE POWER SYSTEMS
GENERATORS • ELECTRICAL • GAS SERVICES
POWER WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

\$500 OFF
A Whole Home Automatic Standby Generator*

*Offer not valid in combination with additional offers or promotions. Contact dealer for details.




Why Reliable Power Systems?

- Dependable
- Ready to work
- Relationship-driven
- Your Trusted Experts for Over 20 years
- Team of 100+ Professionals Ready to Assist
- Award Winning Service
- TurnKey Experience
- Dedicated to Your Satisfaction

Request Your Free Consultation
(786) 481-0701
Now offering
5, 7, 10 year warranties



CITY OF DORAL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **February 14, 2024 beginning at 6:00 P.M.** to consider a text amendment to Chapter 68 “Land Uses and Zoning Districts” of the City’s Land Development Code. The City Council will consider this item for **FIRST READING**. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

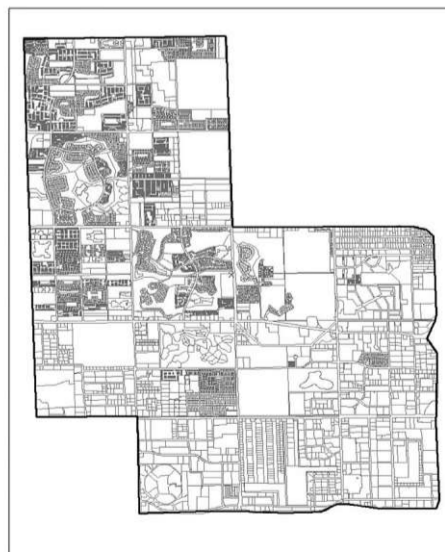
The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2024-09

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 68 “LAND USES AND ZONING DISTRICTS” OF THE CITY OF DORAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO CREATE ARTICLE VIII TO BE ENTITLED “LIVE LOCAL ACT,” TO ESTABLISH THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR MULTI-FAMILY AND MIXED-USE QUALIFYING DEVELOPMENTS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2023-17 LAWS OF FLORIDA, AND PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING OF SAME; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 24-02-DOR-01
APPLICANT: City of Doral
REQUEST: The Planning and Zoning Department respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve an amendment to Chapter 68 “Land Uses and Zoning Districts” of the City of Doral Code of Ordinances to create Article VIII, to be entitled “Live Local Act,” to provide for development standards for multi-family and mixed-use qualifying developments authorized pursuant to Chapter 2023-17, Laws of Florida, and procedures for processing of same.

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