

FROM PAGE 1A
BELL

on it," he said. "That's when I put it together." Bell's potential direct connection to U.S. slavery remained mostly a family historical footnote until last weekend, when CNN aired a story about the Perrine resident's quest to confirm his father's birth in the waning days of legalized enslavement in the United States. Last month, Bell and his daughter traveled to Homerville, Georgia, for some in-person genealogical research that yielded some emotional moments but no definitive answers. The national coverage brought accolades for Bell, a great-grandfather who already had a high profile in his South Miami-Dade community. Miami-Dade named a county park after Bell, a long-serving elected member of the Redland Community Council and a community activist, in 2021. On Tuesday, he received a county proclamation honoring him and his family.

"I've had a good life," Bell said in an interview after the ceremony. "I've never been hungry. I've always had a clean place to sleep."

A COMFORTABLE LIFE IN PERRINE AFTER A DIFFICULT START

When Bell was born, his mother was 36 and his father was 75. Bell described his father as abusive, which led his mother to move him and his siblings from Lake City to Perrine when he was 3. They didn't have much money, and Bell and his brother took jobs riding a garbage truck. Bell was 10, earning \$11 a week. In Dade County's segregated school system, Bell said he and his classmates used a white school's discarded textbooks. He said he didn't hold a new text-

book until geometry class in 10th grade.

After attending Florida A&M University in Tallahassee for two years, Bell joined the Air Force and was stationed in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

He also started what would be a lifetime practice of buying real estate, building a duplex on a lot that he bought in Perrine. His family lived in one side, and Bell rented out the other. In 1969, while stationed at the Homestead Air Force Base, he used his savings to launch Bell's Short Stop in Perrine, a convenience store that started with a cigar box for a cash register and is still open 55 years later.

He ran for county mayor in 2011, appearing on the ballot as Wilbur "Short Stop" Bell. While that race didn't work out, he has held his seat on the Redland council since the 1990s. He helped found the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade after Hurricane Andrew devastated the area in 1992.

A civics advocate, Bell recited the preamble of the U.S. Constitution from memory during an interview Tuesday and recalled visiting a high school recently and asking the students if anyone there knew it, too. One boy did, saying his father taught him the words. "I went into my pocket, and I came up with a \$50 bill and handed it to him," Bell said. "I told him: 'You earned it.'"

Bell with a proclamation before the board's regular meeting started Tuesday morning.

FAMILY'S HISTORY WITH SLAVERY

Hours after the CNN story aired Saturday morning, Bell received a congratulatory text from Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. The county commissioner representing Perrine, Kionne McGhee, had Levine Cava declare June 18 "Cornelius Bell Family Day" and presented



DOUGLAS HANKS dhanks@miamiherald.com

Wilbur Bell holds a Miami-Dade County proclamation honoring his family history on Tuesday. Last month, Bell went to Georgia for some in-person genealogical research.

"In our midst is a young man whose father — whose father — was born before slavery was abolished," McGhee told the audience. The proclamation came a day before Miami-Dade offices were closed for the county's fourth annual celebration of Juneteenth, a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The holiday's roots trace back to June 19, 1865, when U.S. troops led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger landed on the shores of Texas and began enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln two years earlier.

A military decree, the

proclamation declared enslaved people in Confederate territory as free but left in place slavery in Union states. Slavery was only fully banned once the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in December 1865 by Georgia, the last state needed to make it the law of the land. The Emancipation Proclamation would have freed the Bell family in theory once it was issued, but the presence of Union troops would likely have been needed to actually end their enslavement, said Erin Stewart Mauldin, an associate history professor specializing in Southern history at the University of South Florida.

The end of slavery, she said, came scattershot throughout the South, even for nearby cities.

"It really depended on where you were," she said. "Tampa was freed a year before Tallahassee was."

Homerville sits in Clinch County in southern Georgia, about 20 miles from the Florida line. Given Union dominance throughout much of Florida and Georgia by the start of 1865, Mauldin said there was a good chance that slavery had ended in that part of Georgia by May of that year.

Even so, Mauldin said the historical records of Clinch County suggest slavery might have endured there later than elsewhere in Georgia in the weeks after war's end. Records show the majority of Clinch men joined the Confederate Army and that the county took in Southerners fleeing Union-occupied

territory.

With no battles fought in that area, Union troops might not have been there by May 1865 to enforce emancipation. And while Congress authorized federal offices to assist enslaved people in March of that year, there was no Freedmen's Bureau nearby to hasten compliance with the end of slavery in Georgia, she said.

"The end of the war did not necessarily mean the beginning of freedom, especially in isolated places like Clinch County," Mauldin wrote in an email. "The use of violence to force labor continued, as did the control of freedpeople's movement by former enslavers and the lack of wages or other remuneration for work. It took the Constitutional Amendment to begin the process of making emancipation permanent and assured."

Christopher Lawton, a Georgia Tech history professor, said the timing of when Bell's father was born likely wouldn't have mattered for the kind of upbringing that he experienced in post-war Georgia. "Even as a toddler several years after the war, every single person he knew would have been through the life experience of enslavement," Lawton said. "It would have been a childhood defined by slavery."

At Tuesday's ceremony, elected officials pointed to Bell's family history as a jarring reminder of just how recently enslavement was a part of American life — at a time when Florida's reworking of classroom instruction on slavery has led to claims that the state is minimizing the horrors of enslavement.

"History is meant to teach us," Commission Chair Oliver Gilbert said. "But for it to teach us, we have to study it. And not just the parts that we like."

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PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED CITY OF MIAMI
CONSOLIDATED PLAN FY 2024-2028,
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FY 2024-2025
ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE FY 2024-2028

As per the Code of Federal Regulations 24 CFR 91.200, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires entitlement communities that receive funds under its grant programs to prepare a Five-Year Consolidated Plan and an annual Action Plan, which detail proposed activities to maximize the benefits of federal funding for low income residents and to provide citizens with reasonable notice of and an opportunity to comment on any new allocation and/or amendment of HUD programs. The City of Miami is required to report annually to HUD on projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Home Investment Partnership (HOME); Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) programs.

The City of Miami Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has completed drafts of its 5-Yr. Consolidated Plan FY2024-2028, annual Action Plan FY2024-2025, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice FY 2024-2028. All plans will be available for review and comment for a period of no less than 30 days. The review and comment period begins on **June 23, 2024**, and ends on **July 24, 2024**. The HCD will present these plans to the City Commission on **Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** for plan approvals and authorization to submit all plans to HUD. The Public Hearing to provide the public an opportunity to comment on all plans will take place at City Commission Chambers, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133.

The public is hereby advised of the new allocations to the funding of City programs. **The following are the allocations of Federal Funds for the annual Action Plan FY2024-2025: CDBG: \$5,090,474; HOME: \$2,988,177; ESG: \$470,037; HOPWA: \$14,272,865.**

Allocation of CDBG FY2024-2025 PLUS Prior Year Program Income of \$11,631	Amount	Prior Year Program Income
Program Administration	\$1,018,094	\$0
Public Services	\$763,571	\$11,631
Economic Development/ Sustainable Communities	\$3,308,809	\$0
TOTAL	\$5,090,474	\$11,631

Allocation of HOME FY2024-2025	Amount	
Program Administration	\$298,817	\$0
Brick and Mortar Housing Construction for Affordable Rental and/or Homeownership units and/or Down payment Assistance	\$2,689,360	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,988,177	\$0

Allocation of ESG for FY2024-2025	Amount	Prior Year Unallocated
Program Administration	\$35,253	\$0
Rapid Rehousing and/or Homeless Prevention Program	\$152,762	\$0
Homeless – Street Outreach	\$282,022	\$0
TOTAL	\$470,037	\$0

Allocation of HOPWA for FY2024-2025 PLUS Prior Year Unallocated Funds of \$2,000,000	Amount	Prior Year Unallocated
Program Administration	\$428,185	\$0
Tenant Base and Rental Assistance Rental Payment	\$11,149,541	\$2,000,000
Tenant Based Rental Assistance Housing Specialist and Inspection	\$1,256,579	\$0
Short Term Mortgage, Rent, and Utility Assistance Program	\$700,000	\$0
Project Based Program	\$118,560	\$0
Resource Identification	\$20,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$14,272,865	\$2,000,000

Copies of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan FY2024-2028, annual Action Plan FY2024-2025, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice FY2024-2028 can be obtained at the offices of the Department of Housing and Community Development, 14 NE 1st Avenue, 2nd Floor, Miami FL 33132, City of Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami FL 33133 and the Miami-Dade County Main Library, 101 W Flagler ST, Miami FL 33130, during office hours between 8 am-5 pm. Comments to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan FY2024-2028, annual Action Plan FY2024-2025, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice FY2024-2028 shall be submitted in writing and received prior to 7/24/2024, via email to: rtazoe@miamigov.com, or mailed to 14 NE 1st Avenue, 2nd Floor, Miami FL 33132. Attn: Roberto Tazoe. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing. The meeting site is accessible to the disabled. Requests for special accommodation may be directed at 305-416-2080 no later than three (3) business days prior to the Public Hearing date. (Ad#31630)

CITY OF DORAL
NOTICE OF ZONING WORKSHOP

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Zoning Workshop on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** The Meeting will take place at the City of Doral, Government Center, 1st Floor Multipurpose Room located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.

The following application will be presented:

HEARING NO.: 24-06-DOR-12
APPLICANT: 8800 Doral LLC c/o Toothaker.org (the "Applicant")
PROJECT NAME: Ocean Bank Site Plan
PROPERTY OWNER: 8800 Doral LLC
LOCATION: 8800 NW 36 Street, Doral, FL
FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3028-026-0010
SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±0.4 acres
FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and Urban Central Business District (UCBD) overlay.
ZONING DISTRICT: Downtown Mixed Use (DMU)
REQUEST: The Applicant is proposing a bank with drive-thru facilities.

about the proposed development. The members of the City Council shall not be present during the first session of the zoning workshop.

2. Second Session. The second session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for the City Council to learn about the proposed developments discussed at the first session of the zoning workshop. No quorum requirement shall apply. Developments shall be presented by the applicants sequentially, one at a time, for the City Council's review and comment. The applicant shall again present visual depictions of the proposed development. In addition, the applicant shall be available to answer any questions that members of the City Council may have about the proposed development.

No quorum requirement shall apply nor will any vote on any project be taken, but roll call will be taken, as it is a publicly noticed meeting.

Information relating to this request is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department located at **8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, FL 33166**. Maps and other data pertaining to these applications are available for public inspection during normal business hours in City Hall. Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons 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.

NOTE: If you are not able to communicate, or are not comfortable expressing yourself, in the English language, it is your responsibility to bring with you an English-speaking interpreter when conducting business at the City of Doral during the zoning application process up to, and including, appearance at a hearing. This person may be a friend, relative or someone else. A minor cannot serve as a valid interpreter. The City of Doral DOES NOT provide translation services during the zoning application process or during any quasi-judicial proceeding.

NOTE: Si usted no está en capacidad de comunicarse, o no se siente cómodo al expresarse en inglés, es de su responsabilidad traer un intérprete del idioma inglés cuando trate asuntos públicos o de negocios con la Ciudad de Doral durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación, incluyendo su comparecencia a una audiencia. Esta persona puede ser un amigo, familiar o alguien que le haga la traducción durante su comparecencia a la audiencia. Un menor de edad no puede ser intérprete. La Ciudad de Doral NO suministra servicio de traducción durante ningún procedimiento o durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral

ZONING WORKSHOP PROCESS: The zoning workshop consists of two sessions:

1. First Session. The first session of a zoning workshop shall provide a forum for members of the public to learn about proposed developments within the city. Developments may be presented to the public simultaneously, in several locations within the meeting site. During this session, members of the public are encouraged to ask questions and to provide feedback to the applicant about the proposed development. The applicant shall provide visual depictions, such as renderings, drawings, pictures, and the location of the proposed development. In addition, representatives of the applicant shall be available to answer questions that members of the public may have

Location Map