

BANKING/ FINANCE

Biden Bristles at Fox Inflation Query With Hot-Mic Expletive

by Justin Sink and Jennifer Epstein

President Joe Biden called a Fox News reporter a “stupid son of a b----” after the journalist tried to question him about inflation at a meeting with economic advisers at the White House on Monday.

As journalists were ushered out of White House’s East Room, where Biden was meeting with cabinet secretaries and others in his “Competition Council,” they shouted questions about his approach to Russia’s military buildup around Ukraine and his efforts to combat rising prices.

Biden complained that he was being asked about Russia and Ukraine instead of the Competition Council. Then, Peter Doocy of Fox News shouted a question about inflation.

“Do you think inflation is a political liability in the midterms?” Doocy asked.

“No — that’s a great asset,” Biden deadpanned. “What a stupid son of a b----.”

Biden had been discussing his administration’s efforts to discourage greater corporate consolidation and how that would reduce inflation, which has become a threat to Democratic prospects in next fall’s elections for the House and Senate.

Doocy, appearing later on Sean Hannity’s Fox program, said Biden had called to apologize.

“Within about an hour of that exchange, he called my cellphone and he said ‘it’s nothing personal, pal,’” Doocy told Hannity. “And we went back and forth and we were talking about moving forward, and I made sure to tell him that I’m always



SHUTTERSTOCK

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going to try to ask something different than what everybody else is asking. And he said, ‘you’ve got to.’ And that’s a quote from the president so I’ll keep doing it.”

“He cleared the air, and I appreciate it,” Doocy added. “We had a nice call.”

Nearly two-thirds of Americans said the president hasn’t put enough attention on inflation and 58% say the same about Biden’s focus on the economy as a whole, according to a CBS News/YouGov poll released over the weekend.

The president has shown flashes of frustration and indignation with the media in recent days, as his efforts to pass his economic agenda and voting rights legislation have stalled on Capitol Hill.

Doocy frequently asks combative questions of the president and his press secretary, Jen Psaki.

Justin Sink and Jennifer Epstein report for Bloomberg News.

Business Group ‘Evaluating’ Future of Capping Contingency Fees

by Cheryl Miller

The business group behind a proposed initiative to cap contingency fees in California has halted efforts to qualify the measure for the November ballot, sources said.

The Civil Justice Association of California told vendors this week to stop plans to produce and circulate signature petitions, according to the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity and have knowledge of the initiative qualification process.

CJAC President Kyla Christoffersen Powell did not return messages left Friday. A spokesman issued a statement on her behalf: “We intend to pursue our measure and are evaluating our options in light of COVID and other factors.” He declined to answer further questions.

CJAC faces a compressed timeline—and a hefty price tag—to qualify its initiative, which would limit contingency fees to 20% of recovered damages in personal injury and consumer protection suits. The corporate-backed organization would need to submit hundreds of thousands of valid signatures to elections officers by late April. With other proposed initiatives already in the field, professional signature gatherers are charging proponents as much as \$8 a name, sources said.

Filings with the Secretary of State’s office show that the campaign com-

mittee created to back CJAC’s measure had collected just a fraction of the money it would take to pay for signature gathering. Ford Motor Co., Hyundai Motor America, Volkswagen Group of America Inc., General Motors, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, Tesla Inc. and CJAC itself contributed a combined \$660,000 through mid-December.

The plaintiffs-side Consumer Attorneys of California, which has a \$900,000 initiative defense fund, had launched an online campaign attacking the companies behind CJAC.

“We’ve sent a strong message: We will aggressively fight back on behalf of consumers any time multi-billion dollar corporations attack Californians’ access to justice,” Consumer Attorneys President Craig Peters said in a prepared statement.

A separate, Chamber of Commerce-backed initiative that would gut the Private Attorneys General Act is still moving toward the ballot. The so-called Fair Pay and Employer Accountability Act would bar employees from recovering civil penalties in representative actions.

Cheryl Miller covers the California Legislature and emerging industries, including autonomous vehicles and marijuana. Contact her at cmiller@alm.com. On Twitter: @CapitalAccounts.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **February 9, 2022 beginning at 6:00 PM** to consider an amendment to the City’s Land Development Code, Chapter 80, “Sign Regulations,” to create section 80-314, “Billboard Reduction Incentive Program.” 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. 2022-07

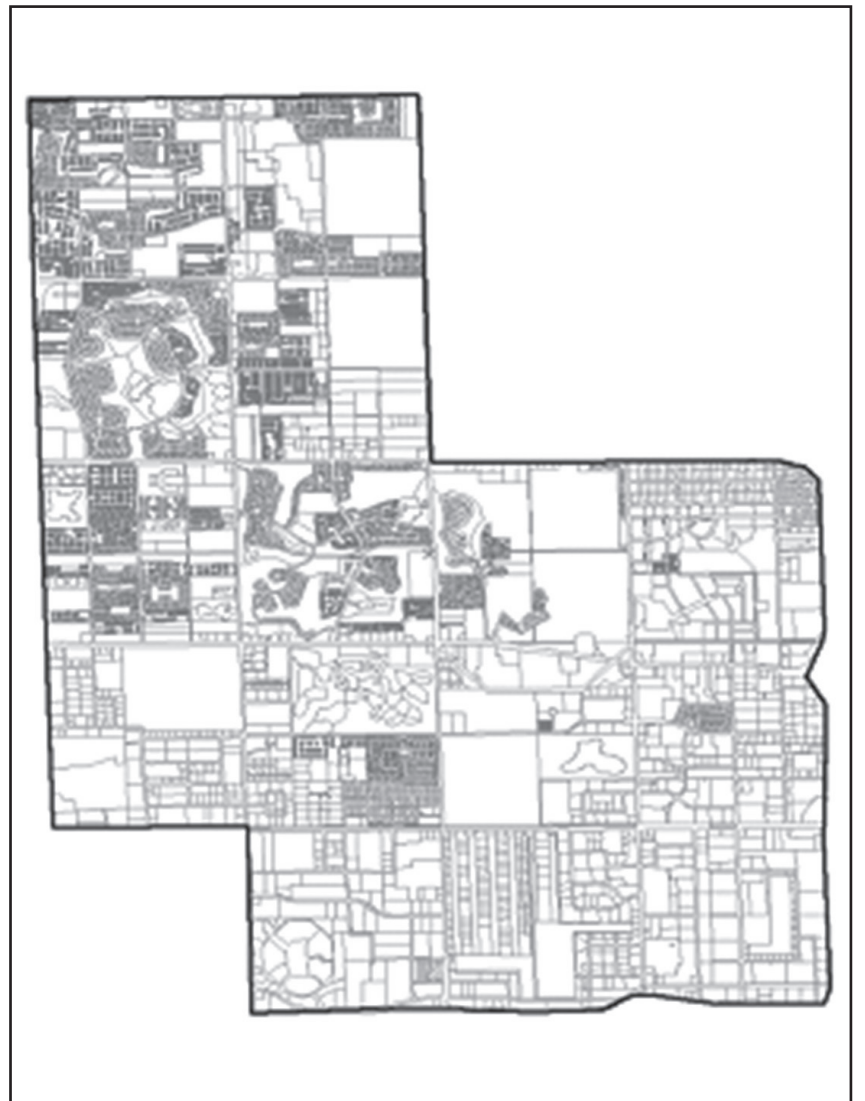
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VI, “OFF-PREMISES BILLBOARD SIGNS”, IN CHAPTER 80 OF THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SEC. 80-314, “BILLBOARD REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM”; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 22-02-DOR-10

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City Attorney’s Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve an amendment to the City’s Land Development Code, Chapter 80, “Sign Regulations,” to create section 80-314, “Billboard Reduction Incentive Program.”

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