

MIAMI TODAY

WEEK OF THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

A Singular Voice in an Evolving City

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FUTURE SHERIFF, OTHERS GET OK TO MOVE THEIR HEADQUARTERS OUT OF MIAMI, PG. 3



PLANES ON THE BAY: Miami is one step closer to again being home to an active seaplane base on Biscayne Bay after a March 10 vote of city commissioners. They approved a utilities deal with Miami-Dade County that is vital for construction of a new seaplane base on Watson Island. The city owns the man-made island that connects mainland Miami with Miami Beach via the MacArthur Causeway. It leases property to Nautilus Enterprises LLC, which together with Chalk's Airline Inc. have planned a seaplane terminal and related businesses on the site. Commissioners authorized the city manager to negotiate an agreement between the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department and Nautilus Enterprises for water and sanitary sewer services at 1000 MacArthur Causeway. Nautilus plans to build a terminal and hangar and add parking. The proposed agreement between Nautilus and the county says: "The developer intends to construct and connect to the county's water and sewer systems 30,483 square feet of full service restaurant and 10,209 square feet of airport concourse common area."

CITY CENTRE OK: The expansive Brickell City Centre is clear for construction of its next phase, which will bring more housing and retail/entertainment to the neighborhood south of the Miami River, after action by the Miami City Commission. On March 10 commissioners approved a Perpetual Sidewalk Easement from Brickell City Centre Project LLC for public pedestrian access to portions of sidewalk constructed on the 25-foot corner radius at Southeast First Avenue and Southeast Fifth Street, and Southeast First Avenue and Southeast Sixth Street. The next phase of construction is to include about 350 residential units, 106,828 square feet of retail/entertainment uses, parking for 775 vehicles, and a temporary fire station. Swire Properties Inc. is the main developer of the project, which began in 2013. It includes two condominium towers, two Class-A office buildings, a hotel, and a more than 500,000-square-foot shopping center that opened in 2016.

TESTING REVAMP: This spring will be the final time public-school students will take tests known as the Florida Standards Assessments, as Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a measure Tuesday that revamps state testing, replacing it with "progress monitoring" tests, which require that students be administered exams at the beginning, middle and end of each school year. Progress-monitoring tests in English-language arts will be administered to students in grades 3 through 10 three times a year. Math assessments for grades 3 through 8 will be given to students on the same schedule.

GAS PRICE FLAT: Average gasoline prices in Miami didn't change in the past week, averaging \$4.39 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey. Prices in Miami are 90 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and \$1.49 higher than a year ago. The national average, unchanged at \$4.32, is up 83.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and \$1.47 from a year ago.

THE ACHIEVER



Photo by Marlene Quaroni

Jose Dotres

Superintendent battling covid fallout, teacher vacancies

The profile is on Page 4

Inflation far above level for total US

Inflation is engulfing South Florida far faster than the rest of the US, which itself is at a 40-year inflationary peak.

As the national year-over-year jump in consumer prices hit 7.9%, South Florida's increased 9.8%, US Bureau of Labor Statistics data through February reveal.

In almost every comparison, the area of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach far outpaced the nation as a whole in price rises that are battering consumers.

The two outliers were gasoline prices, where the South Florida climb was 37.8% year over year, a bit under the jaw-dropping 38% for the nation as a whole, and the cost of food consumed at home, which leaped 8.6% nationally over the 12 months but edged down two-tenths of one percent in South Florida.

The federal reports for the nation and region don't explain the causes of spiraling prices that have been rising monthly, but clearly supply chain breakdowns during the pandemic, coupled with a global semiconductor shortage, were key contributors. So were repeated shipping bottlenecks that saw ships jam ports and an ultra-tight labor market in which many employers scramble for fewer willing workers, ratcheting up labor costs.

The report predates the economic and consumer fallout from carnage in the Ukraine, which is likely to factor into inflation figures for the months ahead.

The February report shows a 3.3% spurt in consumer prices in South Florida in just the past two months, accelerating inflation that was already higher here than the rest of the nation.

Factoring out the volatile prices of energy and food, all other consumer costs in South Florida rose 8.3% for the 12 months ending in February, far faster than the 6.4% for same basket of goods nationally.

The energy increase in South Florida was far higher than the rest of the US in the 12 months, soaring 37.3% here versus 25.6% nationally. The keys to increase in energy here were electricity, up 37.8% over the year versus a national electric cost jolt of 9%, and the 37.8% gasoline increase.

County OKs longer notice in big rent increases

By GABRIELA HENRIQUEZ STOIKOW

Concerned over skyrocketing rents and housing costs, Miami-Dade County commissioners on Tuesday approved an ordinance requiring residential landlords to provide minimum 60-day notices to tenants when they are to increase rent by 5% or more.

The legislation also increases from 30 to 60 days the notification period related to termination of month-to-month contracts.

The legislation by Eileen Higgins, adopted unanimously, applies to incorporated and unincorporated areas and requires landlords to notify tenants in writing. After the notice, the tenant must accept the proposed amendment, reach an acceptable compromise, or reject the proposed amendment to their tenancy.

If the required 60-day written notice is given and the tenant doesn't agree with the proposed amendment or no mutual agreement is reached, the landlord then may impose the amendment terms or move forward to vacate the unit.

Commissioner Keon Hardemon said the legislation would harm the same people commissioners are trying to protect since the notice period is out of sync with the other notice periods in the Florida Statutes.

"What that means is that those of you who are

here and care about having a month-to-month tenancy, you'll find that your landowner won't offer you that month-to-month. Instead, they'll offer you a week-to-week," Mr. Hardemon said. He suggested the notice time should be different on monthly and yearly tenancy contracts.

Commissioner Higgins said she had previously adjusted the notice period on monthly tenancies from 15 days to 30 and the same concerns were brought up. "I have spoken this week, since our last meeting when you brought this up, with the community justice groups and the folks that have been doing this [and] they did not see any of the changes that we were nervous about," she said.

Ms. Higgins also suggested to Mr. Hardemon that he could bring another item to modify the section of the code to address the unintended consequences.

Commissioner Raquel Regalado said that although there might be unintended consequences to month-to-month tenancies, commissioners would have an opportunity to work with state partners to make changes to the notice periods.

"I don't think it's perfect, because it will have somewhat of a negative impact on month-to-month tenancies, but I think that those are being

eliminated as a nature of what we're seeing in the market," Ms. Regalado said.

The ordinance doesn't list a penalty for failing to comply with the notice requirements.

Commissioner Joe A. Martinez asked attorneys what residents could do if landlords didn't comply and to which office people could report them. Assistant County Attorney Terrence A. Smith said that if a landlord moves to evict a tenant, the person could raise a defense and a court could then dismiss the case and have the landlord reissue the notice.

"This legislation is anticipated to have a beneficial impact for residents and will help renters navigate the highly competitive rental market by providing more time to adjust to higher rents or seek alternative housing," Chief Community Services Officer Morris Copeland wrote.

A 2019 Rental Market Study by the University of Florida's Shimberg Center for Housing Studies found 2.6 million renter households in Florida and that almost half of Miami-Dade's 895,801 households were renting.

"This gives the opportunity to the tenants and owners and everything for a fair notice for the rent," said Commissioner Rebeca Sosa in voting in favor. "We are not controlling rent. That is a private thing."

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Miami aids homeless, emergency rental plan

BY JOHN CHARLES ROBBINS

In these continuing tough days with an economy majorly impacted by the pandemic, City of Miami leaders are allocating funds for programs designed to help keep people in their current residences and off the street.

On March 10, city commissioners approved funds to programs for helping the homeless, and rental assistance for city residents.

The legislation establishes a special revenue project titled 2022 Miami Homeless Assistance Program Challenge Grant and accepts and appropriates up to \$90,277.

This consists of a grant from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) through the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, for a 12-month period to enhance the homeless helpline and outreach services provided to homeless individuals and families in Miami-Dade.

The approved resolution authorizes the city's required match of in-kind services up to \$22,569.25, for a total not to exceed \$112,846.25.

The city manager is authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement to accept the grant award with the option to renew for three additional 12-month periods, "subject to the city's receipt of the pass-through funds, the trust's future allocations to continue street outreach with the grant, and the city's availability and appropriation of matching funds and budgetary approval at the time of need," the resolution says.

The city commissioners also ap-



Miami Manager Arthur Noriega.

proved legislation allocating Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program 1 Round 1 Reallocation Funds of \$409,925.36, from the US Department of the Treasury.

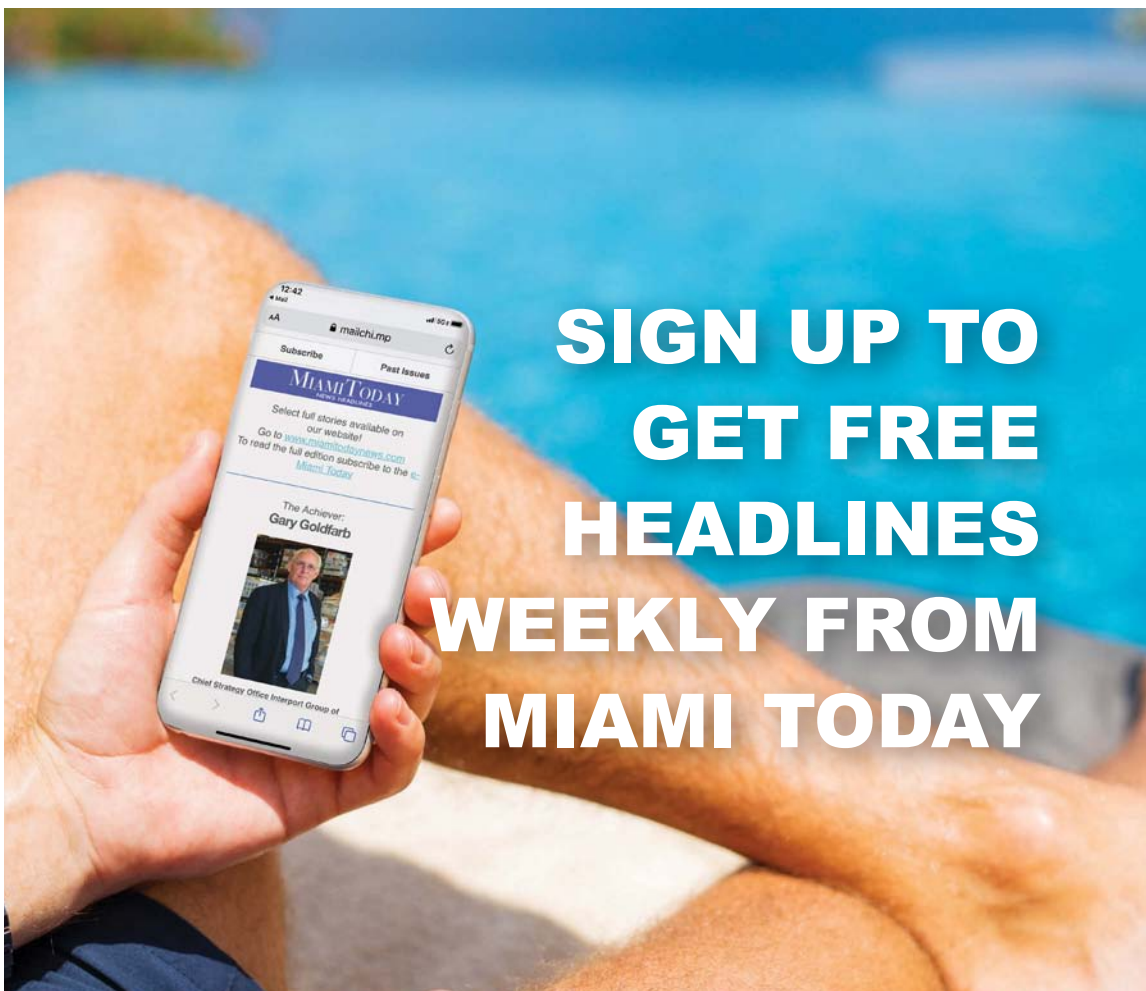
The program is designed to provide financial assistance and housing stability to eligible households.

A background memo shows that on April 30, 2020, the city commission approved the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible low-income tenants in the city who have lost their jobs due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

On Jan. 7, 2022, the Treasury announced the allocation of ERA 1 Round 1 Reallocation totaling \$239,930,522, which included \$409,925.36 to the City of Miami.

"There is a need to allocate these funds to continue promoting housing stability for eligible households as stipulated in the guidance from the Treasury," the memo reads.

ERA 1 Round 1 Reallocation must be spent by Sept. 30.



Contact: people@miamitodaynews.com and write Headlines in the subject line

MIAMI TODAY

Area economic summit eyes outlook, tech boom

BY LAUREN LAMB

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Economic Summit is being held March 30 at the Rusty Pelican on Virginia Key. The 2022 South Florida Economic Summit will have a panel of experts to the economic outlook, another to discuss capitalizing on Miami's new technology boom and a third looking at the future of work.

Moderators include Tom Hudson, vice president of news at WLRN 91.3, and Saif Ishoof, the founder of Lab22c.

The opening noon luncheon on the Economic Outlook has a panel made up of Shari Bower and Brent Meyer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and an interview with Robert Hau, the chief financial officer of FISERV.

Afternoon sessions include the technology boom led by Felice Gorodo, CEO of eMerge; Jalak Jobanputra, founder of Future/Perfect Ventures; and Anthony Vanaki, CEO of Deliver Capital.

The final session, "One Size Does Not Fit All," has a panel made up of Magda Demeritt, licensed clinical social worker at Florida International University, and Frank Lopez, executive vice president and chief human resource officer of Ryder System.

The summit will finish with networking on the Rusty Pelican's terrace at 5:30 p.m. It is open to anyone. It will cost \$159 for the chamber's members, \$179 for others. A table of eight is available for \$1,200.

DETAILS: www.miamichamber.com

THE LAST WORD

DAVID WAGNER'S ADVICE: "Don't focus on money and title, focus on the mission and do the right thing," said **David Wagner**, market president for South Florida of health insurance company Florida Blue. Do what you love, focus on good outcomes and treating everybody great and then everything else comes after that, is his advice to 20-year-olds. Mr. **Wagner** oversees the operations for the company in South Florida, providing service to close to 8 million residents, a big portion of the Florida market. "There's a saying that I learned from my uncle, we call it STM [and it] stands for Savor the Moment," he said. "Try to stay off the phone and stay focused in the moment, in your family and who's next to you, your true legacy."



David Wagner

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, March 24, 2022 at 9:00 AM at City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida, 33133 for the purpose of executing a revocable license agreement with PADL LLC for a kayak and paddleboard kiosk rental service pilot.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENT(S), BY A FOUR-FIFTHS (4/5THS) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-85(A) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED ("CITY CODE"), AFTER AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING, RATIFYING, APPROVING AND CONFIRMING THE CITY MANAGER'S FINDINGS, ATTACHED AND INCORPORATED AS EXHIBIT "A," WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDDING PROCEDURES AS NOT PRACTICABLE OR ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY") FOR THE PROVISION OF KAYAK AND PADDLEBOARD KIOSK RENTAL SERVICES AT CITY OF MIAMI WATERFRONT PARKS WITH PADL LLC ("PADL"); ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECT ENTITLED "PARKS KAYAK AND PADDLEBOARD KIOSK RENTAL PROGRAM 2022-2023"; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE PARKS PILOT KAYAK KIOSK PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND PADL, IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO THE CITY ATTORNEY; FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS, RENEWALS, AND EXTENSIONS, ALL IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, SUBJECT TO FUTURE ALLOCATIONS, APPROPRIATIONS, AND BUDGETARY APPROVALS MADE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND PROVISIONS OF THE CITY CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to LaCleveia Morley, Department of Parks and Recreation at (305) 416- 1332.

All interested persons are invited to appear at the meeting and may be heard with respect to the proposed resolution. 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).

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



#38499



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