

BANKING/ FINANCE

Q&A: Cineworld CEO on Reopening Regal Theaters in US



Mooky Greidinger, the CEO of Cineworld, which owns Regal, says that almost all of their attention is on safety protocols and sanitization efforts as they gear up for the big day.

by Lindsey Bahr

Regal movie theaters have been closed for almost five months in the U.S. due to the coronavirus pandemic, but they are gearing up to open on Aug. 21. And this time it might just stick. Exhibitors have postponed plans several times as cases spiked in various cities.

Mooky Greidinger, the CEO of Cineworld, which owns Regal, said that almost all of their attention is on safety protocols and sanitization efforts as they gear up for the big day. Masks and social distancing will be required for employees and patrons, they plan to stagger showtimes and have an app that will allow customers to purchase concessions without lining up, as well as ticketing software that will distance groups in theaters. They've also invested millions in refurbishing 12 domestic locations.

Initially, Regal's U.S. cinemas will show classic favorites at a discounted price before Warner Bros. releases Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" on Labor Day.

Greidinger spoke to The Associated Press about their plans, reopening internationally (Cineworld is the second-largest theater chain in the world) and why he's optimistic about the future.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

What's your policy on capacity?

The capacity is varying from state to state and day to day. We are not experts and we are not here to judge the decisions of the authorities. What we are told is what we will do. We're not going to risk anybody.

The cinema sounds like a place with a lot of people and a lot of issues there, but at the end of the day, most of the time that someone is in the cinema, he is in his own seat, he's not walking around. It's not a wedding, it's not a party, it's not a restaurant. And everyone is facing one direction. And people, usually, while seeing a movie are not singing or talking. They're watching the movie. We have dedicated points when we enter and go out and we will stagger the showtimes.

Masks are required except when eating and drinking. Is that up for the individual to regulate or are there going to be people in theaters enforcing the policy?

We will be strongly monitoring the entrance, the lobby area and the restrooms. This is for sure. There is no compromise there. We hope that now most of the people understand the importance of the mask. On the other hand when you sit in the movies and you eat your popcorn, it doesn't have to take too long. And 90% of the cinemas in the U.S. are stadium seating. It's not just the distance between the rows, there is a difference in height.

Were you surprised about Disney's decision to put "Mulan" on Disney Plus instead of in theaters?

In a way I was surprised, but it's not the first time something like this has happened in the last four, five months. Disney are huge supporters of the theatrical business and the theatrical window. Disney has their problems, we have ours. But Disney still has a great lineup for the end of the year, with Marvel and "Black Widow" and Pixar's "Soul."

Would you ever explore anything like the Universal and AMC deal to shorten the theatrical window?

I think the theatrical window is an essential part of our business. I believe this is the wrong move in the wrong time. I don't see any substance in this model.

What do you think the future holds? Could it change again?

A vaccine will come at a certain stage and this will bring things back to normal. I'm sure even before that people can still go to the movies, enjoy the movies, feel safe in the movies.

People want to go out. People have been now locked down for long periods. People are hungry to go to the movies. Since 1929, the industry has proved itself a recession proof business. At the end of the day, we are the most affordable entertainment. We are here to put a smile on the face of the people. I think people will go in a big way to the movies in the very near future.

Lindsey Bahr reports for the Associated Press.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **VIRTUAL COUNCIL ZONING MEETING** on **Wednesday, August 26, 2020 beginning at 10:30 AM**, to consider the following amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the City of Doral for **First Reading**. The meeting will be held with the elected officials, administration and City staff participating via video conferencing.

Governor DeSantis' Executive Order Number 20-69 and extension 20-179 suspended the requirements of Section 112.286, Florida Statutes and the Florida Sunshine Law, that a quorum to be present in person, and that a local government body meet at a specific public place. The Executive Order also allows local government bodies to utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing for local government body meetings.

Public Comments: members of the public that wish to provide comments may do so by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofdoral.com. Comments must be submitted with your name and full address by **Tuesday, August 25, 2020**. The comments will be circulated to the elected officials and administration, as well as remain as a part of the record for the meeting. If you wish to provide comments during the meeting for this hearing item, please email the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofdoral.com by 12:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2020 so that accommodations can be arranged.

The meeting will be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City of Doral's website (<https://www.cityofdoral.com/government/city-clerk/council-meetings>) as well as Channel 77 and Facebook Live.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2020-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING/DENYING AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF DORAL FROM INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (IC) TO OFFICE-1 DISTRICT (O-1) FOR A ±4 ACRE PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED AT 9455 NW 40 STREET ROAD, DORAL, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 20-08-DOR-06

APPLICANT: Orbis Fortium, LLC (the "Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: Shelton Academy

LOCATION: 9455 NW 40 Street Road, Doral, Florida

FOLIO NUMBERS: 35-3028-015-0010 and 35-3028-015-0020

SIZE OF PROPERTY: ±4 acres

CURRENT FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Office and Residential (OR)

CURRENT ZONING DESIGNATION: Industrial Commercial District (IC)

PROPOSED ZONING DESIGNATION: Office-1 District (O-1)

REQUEST: The Applicant is requesting an amendment to the official zoning map of the City of Doral from Industrial Commercial District (IC) to Office-1 District (O-1).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 1 and 2 in Block 1 of "Swiss Chalet Subdivision", according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 140, Page 79, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

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 City of Doral