

## BANKING/ FINANCE

# Florida House Speaker Sprowls Says 'Managing Risks' Is Key



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls touted a “cash-rich moment” for the state, which he said gives lawmakers an opportunity to make historic investments.

by Ryan Dailey

House Speaker Chris Sprowls helped kick off the 2022 legislative session by touting a “cash-rich moment” for the state, which he said gives lawmakers an opportunity to make historic investments — or to waste money on “short-term wants.”

In a brief opening speech to House members, Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, placed emphasis on lawmakers “managing risks” during the 60-day session.

“This session, in this House, we are going to be looking at the risk portfolio of our state. Some risks are concrete and specific, like the deficiencies in our state’s cybersecurity infrastructure. Some risks are massive and omnipresent, like the array of problems created by the threat of hurricanes. Some risks are more existential, like what our shared values and beliefs are as Floridians,” Sprowls said.

Speaking later to reporters, Sprowls described the state as being beset by cybersecurity threats. Those threats can come from foreign and domestic actors, Sprowls said.

“We’re Florida. We are a huge target for everybody, your low-level hacker, you know, your 14-year-old who wants to hack and hold a local city or local city government hostage to get money. Hackers from foreign countries, we know that they’re trying to infiltrate,” Sprowls said.

Sprowls used the example of a hacker gaining access last February to the water treatment facility for the city of Oldsmar, in the speaker’s home county of Pinellas, as a cybersecurity breach that “could have been avoided.”

Meanwhile, Sprowls backed a plan by Gov. Ron DeSantis to create a state office that would investigate election-related crimes. House Democrats this week called DeSantis’ proposal “political theater” and “unnecessary,” in part because the 2020 elections were run smoothly in Florida.

But Sprowls said “having a level of expertise” around election-fraud investigations would be helpful.

“I don’t have a problem with people investigating elections. One thing where I think the governor certainly has a point on the election front is, it’s nobody’s job to do that. So you might have a detective who works economic crimes or homi-

cide or robbery, but I doubt you have an elections detective,” Sprowls said.

Lawmakers start the session flush with cash, as the state has received billions of dollars in federal stimulus money and as state tax revenues have far exceeded expectations.

DeSantis released a proposed \$99.7 billion budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year that includes ideas such as providing \$1,000 bonuses to teachers and principals, law enforcement officers and first responders.

Sprowls said lawmakers “haven’t kept up with inflation” and that raising wages for state workers will be a priority.

“I think that we have to take a realistic viewpoint and realize that we have a lot of state workers who haven’t kept up with inflation in their salaries, and we need to address it. How we do that or how much or how fast is all something that’s going to have to be worked out during the budget process, but I share (Senate) President (Wilton) Simpson’s commitment to working on it.”

Asked about the once-a-decade redistricting process that will be a main focus for lawmakers, Sprowls expressed confidence in House Redistricting Chairman Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach, and said the House will take longer than the Senate to draw its maps.

“The only reflection of our timeline is math. The Senate has 40 districts, we have 120. Naturally, that’s a little more complicated to do. We’re happy our friends in the Senate are moving at their pace. We’re probably going to be a week or so behind as a result of the fact that we have more districts, we have more maps to draw,” Sprowls said.

Lawmakers also are slated to consider hot-button issues such as a proposal by DeSantis to cement in law a ban on teaching critical race theory in public schools. On Tuesday, House and Senate Republicans filed proposals (SB 146 and HB 5) that would prevent doctors from performing abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Republicans hold large majorities in the House and Senate, meaning that Sprowls and Simpson have broad power to help usher in DeSantis’ priorities — which Democrats denounced as “culture war” issues.

**Ryan Dailey reports for the News Service of Florida.**



## CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Zoning Workshop** on **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** The Meeting will take place at the City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.

The following application will be presented:

**HEARING NO.:** 22-01-DOR-15

**APPLICANT:** Flightway Ten, LLC (the “Applicant”)

**PROJECT NAME:** Flightway Ten

**PROPERTY OWNER:** Flightway Ten, LLC

**LOCATION:** 6175 NW 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Doral, Florida 33178

**FOLIO NUMBER:** 35-3017-001-0610

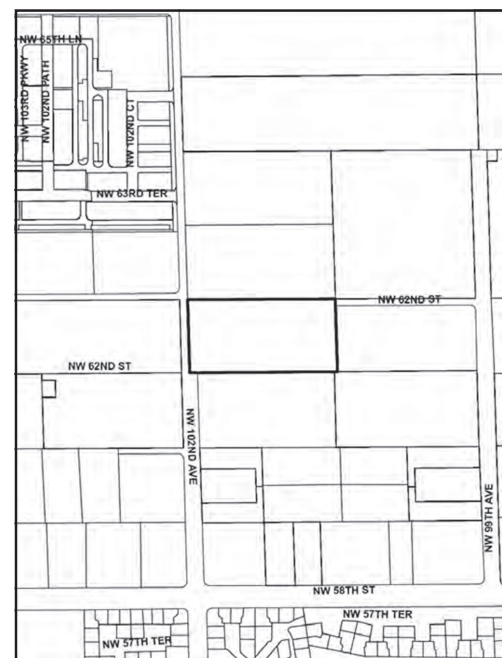
**SIZE OF PROPERTY:** ±4.29 acres

**FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION:** Industrial

**ZONING DESIGNATION:** Industrial Commercial District (IC)

**REQUEST:** The Applicant is proposing to develop three (3) multi-tenant commercial warehouse buildings totaling 86,260 square feet with a mezzanine per unit, composed of 10,689 sq. ft. of retail use, 60,941 sq. ft. of warehouse use, and 14,630 sq. ft. of mezzanine.

### Location Map



**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 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. Any persons wishing to speak at a public hearing should register with the City Clerk prior to that item being heard. 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, 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.

**NOTA:** 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

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