



SAM THOMAS Fresh Take Florida

Students walk through Turlington Plaza at the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. A University of Florida research worker and an unspecified number of students have been implicated in a scheme investigated by the Department of Justice to fraudulently buy biochemical products that were delivered to a UF laboratory.

consequences," he said. Du said he worried investigations like this could lead to further crackdowns against international students. The new Florida law targets students from so-called countries of concern: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and Syria. "This is a very complicated time," Du said. "I do know the contributions and hard work of the students from the countries of concern, the vast majority of them are doing the right thing and contributing to UF and Florida. I just hope the decision-makers, the leadership, the Legislature won't amplify the impact of this."

**RINGLEADER PLEADS GUILTY**

The man who prosecutors identified as the scheme's ringleader — Pen "Ben" Yu, 51, of Gibsonton, which is near Tampa — has pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on Aug. 2. Yu provided Zheng, the UF student, with a credit

card to place dozens of fraudulent orders last year, the Department of Justice said. At Yu's direction, she wrote to the biomedical company that she was "working in collaboration with other researchers" in biotechnology and requested "a good price since we will be purchasing these items routinely," court records showed.

After the biomedical orders arrived at UF, the research employee would bring them or otherwise provide them to Yu, who shipped them to China, prosecutors said. The UF researcher in charge of the lab — which included the stockroom where the supplies were delivered — was not described as a co-conspirator in legal filings.

"Ben, I believe I have 35 or 36 boxes for you today," the UF research employee wrote in 2016.

Yu paid for the employee's gasoline, \$10 for every hour he drove to meet him. "I will pump the gas for you at the place where we meet," he told the research employee, prosecutors said. Yu disguised the shipments to China as legal "diluting

agents," court records show.

"Faking an affiliation with an academic research lab to obtain controlled biochemical materials, and then sending those materials to China, is not only wrong but illegal," said Matthew S. Axelrod, the assistant secretary for export enforcement in the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security. He said the criminal investigation should put other universities on alert.

Axelrod called it "yet another fact pattern for universities to beware of — the misuse of academic institutions by outsiders who seek to obscure the actual customer of controlled items."

It wasn't clear whom Yu was working for in China. In intercepted messages, the government said he referred to his superior only as his boss. Yu and his defense lawyer, Robert Earl Zlatkin, of Orlando, did not immediately return a phone message from Fresh Take Florida.

A sales executive for Massachusetts-based Sigma-Aldrich Inc., which

**SEE DRUGS, 6A**



**CITY OF DORAL  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY MEETING** on **June 12, 2024** beginning at **5:30 PM** to consider a text amendment to the City's Land Development Code. This 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 Resolution:

**RESOLUTION No. 24-**

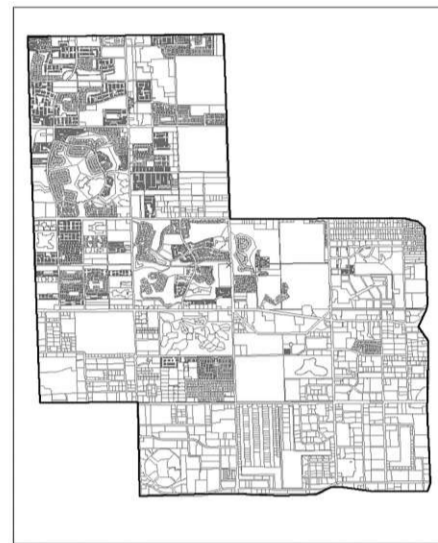
**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL / DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY, A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 53 "ADMINISTRATION", SECTION 53-128(A) "CATEGORY DEFINITIONS" TO CREATE A NEW DEFINITION FOR ACADEMIES; AMENDING SECTION 53-128(B), "USE COMPATIBILITY TABLE", FOR PURPOSES OF INCLUDING A NEW USE CATEGORY ON THE TABLE; AMENDING CHAPTER 68 "LAND USES AND ZONING DISTRICTS", SECTION 68-786, "SAME— WITH SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS" TO INCLUDE LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND HOURS OF OPERATION; AMENDING SECTION 68-820(B) "PROHIBITED USES" TO INCLUDE ACADEMIES AS A PROHIBITED USE IN THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**HEARING NO.:** 24-06-DOR-07

**APPLICANT:** Harborgenix, LLC (the "Applicant")

**REQUEST:** The Applicant is requesting a text amendment to the City's Land Development Code Sections 53-128, 68-786, and 68-820. The Application seeks approval of proposed modifications to the Use Compatibility Table, Industrial Commercial District (IC) Permitted Uses with Special Development Requirements, and Industrial District (I) Prohibited Uses.

**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  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL MEETING** on **June 12, 2024** beginning at **6:00 PM** to consider text amendments to the City's Land Development Code. The City Council will consider this item for **SECOND 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. 2024-16**

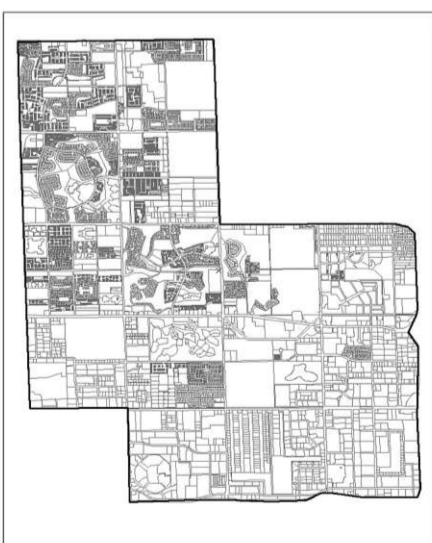
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING/DENYING TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF DORAL CODE, TO ADOPT AN ALCOHOL BEVERAGES CODE FOR THE CITY OF DORAL, AND CREATE CHAPTER 34; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**HEARING NO.:** 24-06-DOR-05

**APPLICANT:** City of Doral

**REQUEST:** The City Manager's Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve amendments to the City's Land Development Code to adopt an alcohol beverages Code.

**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



**TOWN OF SURFSIDE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING –  
SECOND READING**

The Town of Surfside proposes to adopt the following Ordinances on second reading and **Public Hearing on the Ordinances** will be held on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as allowed in the Town Hall, Commission Chambers, 9293 Harding Avenue, Surfside, Florida as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 90-41, "REGULATED USES", BY PROVIDING DRUG STORES EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 70-124 AND 7-126, OF DIVISION 2.—"RESORT TAX BOARD", OF ARTICLE IV.—"RESORT TAX", CHAPTER 70 OF THE TOWN CODE, TO AMEND THE POWER AND DUTIES AND DELETE ANY REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIFIC, MINIMUM ALLOCATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The proposed Ordinances may be inspected by the public at the Office of the Town Clerk. Interested parties may appear at the Public Hearing and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinances.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who need special accommodations in order to attend or to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the Town Clerk, (305) 861-4863, no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceeding in order to request such assistance.

Any person wishing to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceeding and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made; which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made.

Sandra N. McCready, MMC  
Town Clerk