

FOCUS LATIN AMERICA

Inside Trump Administration Turmoil That Shook Homeland Security



While Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen had doubts at times, she had dutifully carried out President Donald Trump's orders, taking ownership of his most divisive policies and spending months trying to broker arrangements with Central American countries.

by Jill Colvin and Colleen Long

President Donald Trump had had it. The flow of migrants at the southern border was surging. Another caravan appeared to be forming. And his government had run out of holding space, forcing the release of tens of thousands of families apprehended at the border. During a meeting with senior aides on the last Thursday in March, Trump demanded drastic action to make good on the threat he'd tweeted that morning: Shut the southern border. Curbing illegal immigration was his signature issue, he railed. Why couldn't he deliver?

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged the president to reconsider. Her agency had already diverted hundreds of border agents away from certain crossings to process migrant families elsewhere, creating what would soon become considerable bottlenecks. Closing ports completely, she reasoned, would only encourage migrants to cross elsewhere — illegally.

Trump wasn't having it. Shut the ports at El Paso, Texas, at noon tomorrow, he ordered. End of meeting.

The directive set off a frantic behind-the-scenes push to get Trump to change his mind, and he ultimately relented. But the episode launched a turbulent 12-day stretch that would lead to the eventual resignation of Nielsen, the potential dismissal of much of her agency's top leadership and the beginning of a new phase in which immigration hard-liners at the White House are determined to wield considerably more influence over Homeland Security.

This account is based on interviews with 20 administration officials, congressional aides and people familiar with the events, many of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

Trump and Nielsen's relationship was never especially close. Nielsen had been picked for the top Homeland Security job at the urging of her predecessor, John Kelly, who left to become Trump's White House chief of staff. Trump had always been suspicious of her, in part because she'd worked for former President George W. Bush. She had been widely expected to leave the department last fall after Kelly's departure from the White House, but she appeared to get back on Trump's good side during the government shutdown, when she served as one of the top defenders of his push to build a southern border wall.

But Nielsen took the brunt of Trump's fury over rising border crossing numbers, and the situation was only getting worse. Aides spent months desperately trying to come up with new solutions, and some tried to steer Trump away from more drastic measures, including his talk of reinstating the family separation policy that prompted international outrage.

While Nielsen had doubts at times, she had dutifully carried out Trump's orders, taking ownership of his most divisive policies, including the family separations, and spending months trying to broker arrangements with Central American countries, including Mexico. But it also fell to Nielsen to explain to Trump the legal limits of things he wanted to do. And he didn't like it.

It didn't help that Kelly had been critical of Trump in appearances since he left the White House, something Trump held against Nielsen. Or that John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser, had been pushing for Nielsen's ouster since last fall, telling Trump he didn't think her leadership or policies were effective.

Jill Colvin and Colleen Long report for the Associated Press. Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **Council Zoning Hearing** meeting on **Wednesday, April 24, 2019 beginning at 6:00 PM**, to consider the following amendment to the future land use map of City of Doral Comprehensive Plan. The City Council will consider this item for **SECOND READING**. 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 Ordinance:

ORDINANCE No. 2019-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF DORAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO THE SMALL SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES IN SEC. 163.3187 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES FROM INDUSTRIAL (I) TO PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION (PPR) FOR A ±5 ACRE PARCEL LOCATED AT 6255 NW 102 AVENUE, DORAL, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 19-04-DOR-06

APPLICANT: City of Doral

PROJECT NAME: Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the City of Doral

PROJECT OWNERS: City of Doral

LOCATION: 6255 NW 102ND Avenue, Doral, Florida

FOLIO NUMBER: 35-3017-001-0360

SIZE OF PROPERTY: ± 5 Acres

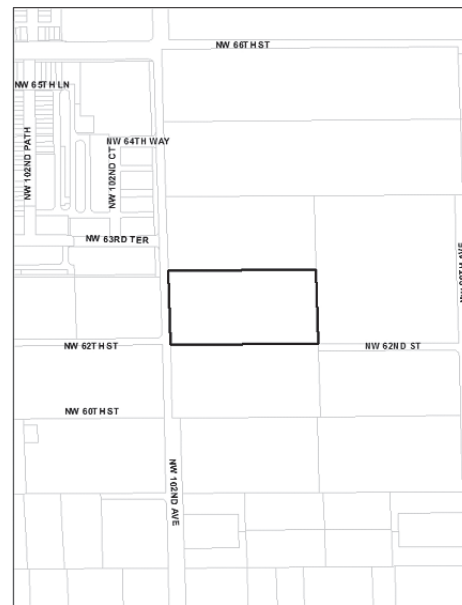
PRESENT LAND USE: Industrial

PRESENT ZONING: General Use

REQUEST: An amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the City of Doral Comprehensive Plan from Industrial (I) to Public Parks and Recreation (PPR) consistent with the procedures in Section 163.3187 Florida Statutes for a +/-5-acre parcel located at 6255 NW 102ND Avenue. This location will serve as the future site for a passive park.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 17 53 40 5 AC, FLA FRUIT LANDS CO SUB NO 1, PB 2-17, TR 61 LESS E1/2, F/A/U 30-3017-001-0360.

Location Map



Information relating the subject application 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**. All persons are invited to appear at this meeting or be represented by an agent, or to express their views in writing addressed to the City Clerk, **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 interpretation 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 durante el proceso de solicitudes de zonificación.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral

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