



JOSE A. IGLESIAS jglesias@elnuevoherald.com

A great blue heron perches atop a cypress tree in the Everglades. Friends of the Everglades says one bill 'is a gift to the development industry, at the expense of Florida's environment and everyday people.'

FROM PAGE 1A  
**BILLS**

ning councils, local governments, elected state lawmakers and nonprofit organizations such as 1000 Friends of Florida, the Sierra Club, Tampa Bay Waterkeeper and others.

These are the bills to watch.

**SAFE WATERWAYS ACT**

Is the water you're swimming in safe? Are there health risks at the beach? Are pollutants such as chemicals and fecal bacteria swirling around?

The answers to these questions are hard to find.

The Safe Waterways Act aims to inform the public, through digital messaging and on a central website, of the risks.

This is the third time in as many years lawmakers have tried to pass the Safe Waterways Act, and this year's bipartisan version has a key detail: The bill puts responsibility for bacteria testing at beaches solely under the responsibility of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection instead of Florida's health department.

"The public has a right to know whether the

beaches and waters they're swimming in are infested with fecal bacteria," said one of the bill sponsors, Sen. Lori Ber- man, D-Boca Raton.

**LEGAL FEES FOR FAILED PERMIT CHALLENGES**

Several environment watchdogs said they are closely monitoring a measure that would force people who sue the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or water-management districts to foot up to \$50,000 in legal bills if they lose.

The measure takes cues from a law that was passed last year and allowed lawsuit winners to collect attorney fees in challenges to local governments' comprehensive-plan amendments. Opponents warned it would have a chilling effect on citizen challenges to developments and called the law "the worst environmental bill passed by the Florida Legislature during the 2023 session."

The latest proposal's critics, including the nonprofit Friends of the Everglades, said the bill "is a gift to the development industry, at the expense of Florida's environment and everyday people."

One of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Toby Overdorf,

R-Stuart, defended the bill, saying it's another tool to clean up a court system bogged down by "potentially frivolous lawsuits."

**A BALLOONING PROBLEM**

You've probably seen people releasing balloons on the beach to celebrate a birthday or remember a loved one.

Though this might be a fun or symbolic way to mark a special event, balloons can wreak havoc on the environment. Sea turtles can mistake plastic balloons for jellyfish, and balloons can take decades to biodegrade.

A bill introduced this session would prohibit the intentional release of balloons and re-classify released balloons as litter.

**FERTILIZER BANS UNDER THREAT**

While no legislation has been filed, local governments and environmental-advocacy groups fear the state could use this session to extend a pause on a tool used in an effort to improve water quality: seasonal fertilizer bans.

Late into last year's session, lawmakers tucked a measure into the budget to give the University of Florida \$250,000 to study the effectiveness of local fertilizer bans. The

proposal prevented any cities or counties from adopting a new fertilizer ban until July 1 of this year.

The halt on fertilizer bans and the accompanying study were suggestions from the TruGreen lawn-care company. Late last month, the results from that report became public: University researchers argued there's not enough evidence that banning fertilizer stops pollution. It was a controversial claim that was countered by a scientist whose own research was cited in the report.


Still, lawmakers could potentially use the study's findings as a reason to further halt fertilizer bans.

**WETLANDS A FOCUS AFTER U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING**

A pair of bills would preempt local governments' "dredge and fill activities" to state environmental regulators.

Environmental groups fear the bill creates an "insurmountable financial hurdle" for local governments when wetland protections are stronger than the state's baseline requirements.

The bill comes on the heels of a July 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision that changed the definition of a protected



**CITY OF DORAL**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024** the City of Doral will hold a **Public Hearing** at 6:00 p.m. The Meeting will take place at the **City of Doral Government Center Council Chambers**, located at **8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, Florida 33166**.

The following Ordinance(s) will be considered for **FINAL ADOPTION** on **SECOND READING**:

**Ordinance #2024-01**  
**"Year-Round Landscape Irrigation"**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE III "WATER", OF CHAPTER 47, "UTILITIES" OF THE CITY OF DORAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR PERMANENT YEAR-ROUND LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS; ADOPTING CONFORMING RESTRICTIONS CONSISTENT WITH FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PROVISIONS AND SECTION 32-8.2 OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COMPLIANCE; REPEALING SECTION 71-13 "LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS" OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**Ordinance #2024-02**  
**"Retail Sale of Dogs and Cats"**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 3 "ANIMALS" OF THE CITY OF DORAL CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE ARTICLE IV, "REQUIREMENTS FOR SALES OF DOGS AND CATS," TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE BREEDING AND SALE OF DOGS AND CATS AND LICENSING OF KENNELS, BREEDERS, PET DEALERS, PET CARE CENTERS AND HOBBY BREEDERS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**Ordinance #2024-03**  
**"Amending Legal Advertising"**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 1-2 "DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION"; SECTION 2-71 "NOTICE OF MEETINGS"; SECTION 2-353 "PROCEDURES"; SECTION 11-53 "NOTICES"; AND SECTION 38-63 "NOTIFICATION FOR STREET NAMES" OF THE CITY OF DORAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR A DEFINITION OF PUBLICATION AND TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**Ordinance #2024-04**  
**"Amending Legal Advertising Land Development Code"**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 52-5 "DEFINITIONS"; SECTIONS 53-184 "APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS"; SECTION 53-211 "NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING"; SECTION 53-562 "PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATIONS"; SECTION 68-850 "DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS"; SECTION 77-103 "NECESSARY INFORMATION"; SECTION 83-20 "ENCROACHMENT ON OR IN STREETS" OF THE CITY OF DORAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO PROVIDE FOR A DEFINITION OF PUBLICATION AND TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**Ordinance #2024-05**  
**"Ethics and Code of Conduct"**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VII "CODE OF ETHICS" OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY OF DORAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO RENAME AND RENUMBER DIVISIONS TO CREATE A DIVISION 1 SPECIFIC TO STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, AND A DIVISION 2, SPECIFIC TO CODE OF ETHICS, THEREBY DELINEATING THE CONDUCT BEING REGULATED, AND PROVIDING THAT THE MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS HAS ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTION SOLELY OVER DIVISION 2 (THE CODE OF ETHICS); RENUMBERING THE SECTION PERTAINING TO SECURITY SCREENINGS FOR VISITING CITY HALL, AND CREATING A DIVISION 3 FOR SAID PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, that person 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 includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, Florida; telephone number (305) 593-6730, no later than three (3) business days prior to such proceedings.

**Connie Diaz, MMC**  
City Clerk, City of Doral



**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Housing Authority of the City of Miami Beach (HACMB) is placing for public view and comment its Annual Plan and Capital Fund Program for Fiscal Year 2024. The plans will be placed for public view and comment starting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, through Tuesday, March 5, 2024, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the HACMB Executive Office, located at 200 Alton Road, First Floor, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139 and an electronic version is available online at [www.hacmb.org](http://www.hacmb.org). All comments must be submitted in writing and received no later than Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the following address:

HACMB Executive Office  
Ref: Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2024  
Ref: Capital Fund Program for Fiscal Year 2024  
200 Alton Road  
Miami Beach, FL 33139

There will be a Public Hearing at the HACMB for the purpose of allowing the public an opportunity to comment on the Annual Plan and Capital Fund Program for Fiscal Year 2024. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Rebecca Towers North Multi-Purpose Room, 200 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139. All interested persons are welcomed to attend and will be heard.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the Housing Authority of the City of Miami Beach at (305) 532-6401 one week in advance if special accommodations are required.



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