

Judge rejects self-defense claim of gun-waving owner

By Rafael Olmeda
South Florida Sun Sentinel

The owner of a Southwest Ranches wedding venue was not acting in self-defense two years ago when he broke up a reception by pulling out a gun and ordering the guests to leave, a Broward judge has ruled.

The decision by Broward Circuit Judge Andrew Siegel extends the legal fight of Miguel Rodríguez Albisu, 60, who faces nine counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for waving a loaded weapon at the bride, groom and the remaining guests of a March 2023 wedding at Cielo Farms in Southwest Ranches, which sits on the same property as Albisu's home.

Albisu's lawyer, Kenneth Padowitz, who has portrayed the charges as part of a political vendetta by Southwest Ranches officials who want to shut down Cielo Farms, had tried to convince Siegel that Albisu was acting in self-defense. The guests at the wedding had refused to leave and had thrown a chair, leading the venue owner to believe his safety, and his family's, were on the line. The "stand-your-ground" hearing on the case featured an unusual sight: The defense prepared a virtual reality presentation of the confrontation based



Judge Andrew Siegel watches a virtual reality presentation in 2024 at the Broward County Courthouse during a hearing in a stand-your-ground case.
JOE CAVARETTA/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

on testimony and cellphone camera footage. The judge, lawyers and the defendant donned virtual reality goggles to place themselves in Albisu's position.

Prosecutors argued that none of the evidence showed Albisu had reason to fear for his life, and they dismissed any connection

between Albisu's issues with city officials and his decision to pull a gun on wedding guests, and the judge appears to have agreed.

An appeal is likely to delay progress on the assault case, but Padowitz said it was necessary. "My client believes the judge did

not acknowledge, consider or recognize crucial material facts and testimony and misapplied the current state of the law," he said. "We will appeal with the goal of vindicating my client's second amendment right to bear arms and stand his ground in his own home and place of business."

Albisu has filed a federal civil suit against Southwest Ranches officials accusing them of using code enforcement to harass him to shut down the wedding venue at Cielo Farms. He has also filed civil actions against the Broward State Attorney's Office, demanding they turn over any evidence of

communications between the town's lawyers and prosecutors overseeing Albisu's prosecution.

Rafael Olmeda can be reached at rolmeda@sunsentinel.com or 954-356-4457. Follow him on [Threads.net/@rafael.olmeda](https://www.threads.net/@rafael.olmeda).

DeSantis reveals longest Gulf red snapper season

By Bill Kearney
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Florida is ready to allow its longest-ever Gulf red snapper recreational season for 2025. Anglers will be allowed to harvest the gamefish for a total of 126 days total, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said recently.

Gulfred snapper management was previously handled by the federal government, but it shifted management to Gulf states over the years.

"When I became governor, a lot of anglers would tell me the way the federal

government was managing the red snapper was not an accurate representation of what was actually there," DeSantis said. Nine months before DeSantis entered office, in April of 2018, the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration allowed each Gulf state to set the 2018 and 2019 seasons for recreational anglers.

The state has ramped up fishing days since then. 2024 was the longest Florida-run Gulf red snapper season in history, at 103 days.

"That's good for the economy, it's good for recreation, it's good for culture, it's good for all these things," DeSantis said. He announced at a recent news conference in Destin that the 2025 gulf red snapper rec season will be 126 days total.

"That shatters the record," he said.

The season will break into sections:

- Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26,
- Reopens June 1-July 31.
- Reopens Sept. 1-14, then shifts to three-day weekends through the end of the year: Veterans Day,

Thanksgiving weekend (Thursday through Sunday) and Christmas weekend.

The federal government still controls the red snapper season in the Atlantic Ocean, and limits it to two days for the year. DeSantis said he is in discussions with President Trump to allow the state to control those seasonal regulations as well.

Red snapper are highly prized as table fare, and can grow up to 40 inches and 50 pounds. They live offshore at depths from 30 to 620 feet, and can live as long as 50 years.

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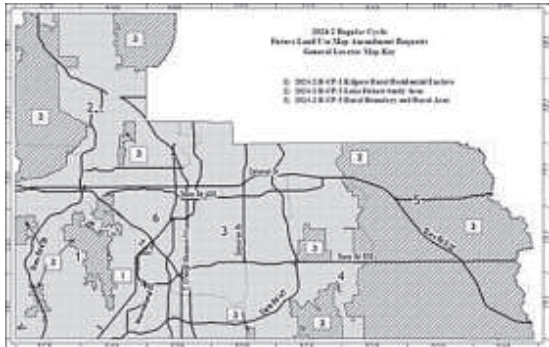


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NOTICE OF CHANGE TO THE ORANGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARINGS

On **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, beginning at 2:00 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the **Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)** shall conduct public hearings in the Orange County Administration Center at 201 S. Rosalind Ave, 1st Floor, in downtown Orlando, FL, regarding the **adoption of the proposed 2024-2 Regular Cycle Staff-Initiated Text and Map Amendments** to the Orange County Comprehensive Plan ("CP"), as it has been amended, as authorized by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, for the following matters:



A. Staff Initiated Comprehensive Plan Text and Map Amendments

1. **2024-2-B-CP-1** – Text and map amendments to the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan, to amend existing policies to create the Kilgore Road Rural Residential Enclave and add Map 25(f), to the Future Land Use Map Series.
2. **2024-2-B-CP-2** –Text and map amendments to the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan, to amend existing policies to reduce the size of the existing Lake Pickett Study Area and to amend Map 22, of the Future Land Use Map Series.
3. **2024-2-B-CP-3** – Text and map amendments to the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan, amending policies to reflect the adoption of Section 506. – Rural Boundary and Rural Area, of the Orange County Charter establishing the Rural Boundary and Rural Area and adopting Map 5b, to the Future Land Use Map Series.

In conjunction with the adoption of the above Comprehensive Plan Amendments, the BCC will consider adoption of the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE ORANGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "2010-2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN," AS AMENDED, BY ADOPTING AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3184(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR (SECOND CYCLE); AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

ABBREVIATIONS INDEX: CP-Comprehensive Plan; FLUM-Future Land Use Map; FLUE-Future Land Use Element; GOPS-Goals, Objectives, and Policies; OBJ-Objective.

Any interested party may appear at any of the public hearings and be heard regarding the consideration of any of the above described Comprehensive Plan Amendments, and submit written comments to the address below prior to the public hearing.

Any of the public hearings may be continued on the date of the public hearing to a future date or dates. Any interested party is hereby advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding these matters will be published.

To obtain more detailed information, or to inspect the proposed amendment package, or any part thereof, any interested party may appear between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, at the Orange County Planning Division, 201 S. Rosalind Ave, 2nd Floor, Orlando, FL, 32801, or telephone during those same hours at (407) 836-5600, or send an email to planning@ocfl.net.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any person with a disability as defined by the ADA needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, then not later than two (2) business days prior to the proceeding, that person should contact the Orange County Communications Division, 3rd Floor, Orange County Administration Center, 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, FL, or telephone that department at (407) 836-6568.

PARA MAS INFORMACION, REFERENTE A ESTAS AUDIENCIAS PUBLICA, FAVOR COMUNICARSE CON LA DIVISION DE PLANIFICACION URBANA AL NUMERO, (407) 836-5600.
POU PLIS ENFOMASYON AN KREYOL, SOUPLE RELE (407) 836-3111.

City of DeBary, Florida; City Council Notice of Public Hearing for Ordinance # 01-2025; Amending the City of DeBary Land Development Code to provide for vehicular stacking regulations and standards

The City of DeBary City Council will hold a public hearing for the first reading of Ordinance # 01-2025. The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025** in the City Council Chambers, 16 Colomba Road, DeBary, Florida. The City Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the public hearing(s) will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the adoption of the amendment.

A copy of Ordinance # 01-2025 is available for review at the City of DeBary, City Hall, 16 Colomba Road, DeBary, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DEBARY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE III OF THE CITY CODE TO ADD SECTION 7.12 TO PROVIDE FOR VEHICULAR STACKING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at these hearings, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose he/she 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 (FS 286.0105). Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least three (3) working days in advance of the meeting date and time at (386) 601-0219.

If you should have any questions regarding the above ad, please contact my office at (386) 601-0201. Thank you.

Steven E. Bapp, AICP
Growth Management Director
City of DeBary

City of DeBary, Florida; City Council Notice of Public Hearing for approval of a minor amendment to the DeBary Town Park Mixed Planned Unit Development (MPUD), Ordinance # 02-2025

The City of DeBary City Council will hold a public hearing for the first reading of Ordinance # 02-2025. The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025** in the City Council Chambers, 16 Colomba Road, DeBary, Florida. The City Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the public hearing(s) will be held shortly after the meeting is called to order. Interested persons may appear at the hearing and be heard regarding the adoption of the amendment.

A copy of Ordinance # 02-2025 is available for review at the City of DeBary, City Hall, 16 Colomba Road, DeBary, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEBARY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SECOND AMENDMENT TO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AS APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 12-2022 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 09-2023 FOR THE DEBARY TOWN PARK TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BEING A MULTI-USE PROJECT ON APPROXIMATELY 32.17+/- ACRES OF LAND LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF U.S. HIGHWAY 17/92 HAVING VOLUSIA COUNTY TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS 90042700FD10, 90042700FD20, 90042700FD30, AND 90042700FD40; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at these hearings, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose he/she 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 (FS 286.0105). Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least three (3) working days in advance of the meeting date and time at (386) 601-0219.

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