

LOCAL

+ BUSINESS

Boca parks to be clean, green

City bans balloons, confetti, foam containers to cut environmental pollution

Victoria Villanueva-Marquez

Palm Beach Post

USA TODAY NETWORK

BOCA RATON – A deflated balloon and a mess of confetti, the remnants of a private celebration at the park, will soon be tough to spot on an afternoon stroll through Boca Raton.

Starting Jan. 1, Boca Raton will prohibit balloons, confetti and plastic-foam containers at parks and other city properties. The city will follow the lead of 25 other municipalities in Florida, such as Boynton Beach, that have passed similar bans meant to reduce environmental pollution.

Boca Raton Councilwoman Monica

Mayotte, who proposed the ban, noted that the state prevents local governments from regulating plastic bags and several other single-use plastics. She argued that the ban was "the only option" that allowed the coastal city to protect the environment from plastic waste.

The city law, which can result in fines

of \$25 and up, will target some of the largest creators of plastic waste in the city. Food vendors will be barred from using plastic-foam cups, plates and other containers.

"It is not my intent to penalize the family that goes to a restaurant and picks up food to go and takes it to our park to eat a picnic lunch," Mayotte said at a meeting last week. "They have no

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TUBE SURFING



Peter Barra of the Gypsy Life Surf Shop tugs on a giant blue tarp to catch the wind so Nick Read can barrel surf through the tube it creates during an event Saturday in the West Palm Beach Warehouse District. The community was invited to tube surf the weekend away and enjoy live music and activities for Father's Day. DAMON HIGGINS/PALM BEACH POST

Delray PAC's finance report raises more questions than answers

Mike Diamond Special to Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

DELRAY BEACH – Progress for Delray Beach, the dark-money political action committee (PAC) that was heavily involved in the March 9 mayoral election, has finally submitted a campaign finance report. The report, however, raises more questions than it answers.

The PAC mailed thousands of flyers critical of Mayor Shelly Petrolia in the weeks leading up to the election in an unsuccessful effort to defeat her. The problem is that its finance reports indicate it had no money in its bank account during January and February when it mailed the flyers. And they had to be designed well before they were mailed. Petrolia claims some of the attack flyers were misleading and others untrue.

One of the mailers that the PAC sent to voters superimposed Petrolia wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat standing beside former President Trump. While she attended a White House function along with other county officials, she said she never stood next to him as seen in the flyer. And she told The Post she has never worn a "Make America Great Again" hat.

"It was completely doctored," according to Petrolia. Delray Beach is a heavily Democratic town. Painting Petrolia as a

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State's new antifa-aimed public protest law seems to apply to Trump supporter



Frank Cerabino
Columnist
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USA TODAY NETWORK

Oops, this isn't working to plan. Remember the rush by Florida lawmakers to craft an "anti-rioting" bill designed to enhance penalties against mostly nonviolent protests stemming from Black Lives Matter demonstrations?

It was all about stopping the looting by antifa, a nonexistent organization,

and protecting our Southern heritage – aka the Confederate monuments that venerated our slave-owning secessionist past.

This legislation was the first order of business, House Bill No. 1, and was promoted with great fanfare by Gov. Ron DeSantis and a phalanx of Florida lawmakers at a signing ceremony in April.

Standing next to DeSantis, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd took the extraordinary step telling potential new residents of Florida that supporting this bill was the way

to keep the violent and disorderly protests that were happening in other states out of Florida.

"Welcome to Florida, but don't register to vote and vote the stupid way they do up North, or you'll get what they got," Judd said.

OK, so this was about "voting the right way," too?

That explains the photos of Black looters that Judd held up at the signing event. We can't let the Black people get out of control here in Florida, I guess was the not-so-subliminal message.

Brief historical note: As long as we're

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A Progress for Delray Beach PAC flyer shows Mayor Shelly Petrolia wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat. She says the flyer was doctored to make her appear to be a Trump supporter. She says has never worn a MAGA hat. The flyer was one of several that a dark-money PAC in St. Petersburg mailed to local residents at a time when it had no money in its bank account. PROVIDED

PBC elections office to host open house on voting process

Hannah Morse Palm Beach Post

USA TODAY NETWORK

Have a burning question about the election process or just want to learn the nitty-gritty details of how a ballot is counted?

The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office is hosting an open house at its Riviera Beach warehouse from 10 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. today.

While three 45-minute guided tours with Elections Supervisor Wendy Sartory Link have reached their limits and have waiting lists, attendees can instead learn at their own pace how elections work at nine election learning sta-

tions and ask staff questions along the way.

Registration is required to attend the open house. Visit eventbrite.com and search "The Elections Experience Tour." Be sure to select the "Open House and Self-Guided Tour" event, as slots for this type of tour remain available.

The warehouse, formally known as the Supervisor of Elections Voting Equipment Service Center, is where most of the action happens during election season.

There, election workers process seemingly endless boxes of ballots, which are fed through high-speed tabu-



Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Wendy Sartory Link, right, speaks to members of the media at the Supervisor of Elections Voting Equipment Service Center in Riviera Beach on Nov. 3, 2020.

MEGHAN McCARTHY / PALM BEACH POST

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