

# LOCAL

## Delray whistleblower settles lawsuit

### Win is second for wastewater inspector

**Jasmine Fernández**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

DELRAY BEACH – About two years into her job as a wastewater inspector, Christine Ferrigan said she had realized just how contaminated the water was in Delray Beach.

After being repeatedly ignored by her supervisors, she went to the state, she said. Then, in January 2022, her position was abruptly eliminated.

This month, the city reached a settlement to pay \$818,500 to resolve Ferrigan's whistleblower lawsuit in which she claimed to have been fired for her reports. The city commission approved

the settlement at a recent meeting.

Shockingly, it was the second time in less than 10 years that Ferrigan has picked up a sizable settlement from a city after alleging she was fired for bringing water treatment problems to the state's attention when her managers were unresponsive. In 2014, Ferrigan received \$322,500 in a settlement against the neighboring city of Boca Raton after a similar whistleblower lawsuit stemming from reported drinking-water

safety violations.

"People shouldn't be silenced not to speak because they fear for their job or retaliation," Ferrigan said. "There should be a process in place that allows them to speak and somebody objectively looking into the issues and determining, before it ever gets this far."

Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore, named in the suit, did not

See **WHISTLEBLOWER**, Page 2B



The home at 2499 E. Maya Palm Drive in Boca Raton is on the market for sale for \$52 million. The sprawling property is owned by the family of Constant Contact founder Randy Parker. The Jills Zeder Group is marketing the mid-'90s mansion as a teardown. PROVIDED BY JILLS ZEDER GROUP

## \$52M Boca Raton home marketed as a teardown

### Curved mansion sits on Intracoastal corner lot

**Kimberly Miller** Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

A unique Boca Raton waterfront estate owned by the family of Constant Contact founder Randy Parker went up for sale for the first time in a quarter century this month for \$52 million, which would nearly double the rec-

ord sale price for a residential property in the city.

But the curved, opera house-style mansion designed by a celebrated architect and with manicured tropical landscaping planted by a professional horticulturist is being advertised as a teardown.

Realtors at The Jills Zeder Group see the corner wraparound lot as an opportunity for someone to raze the home at 2499 E. Maya Palm Drive and build their own Intracoastal Waterway wonderland in the prestigious Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club.

At \$52 million, it's the most expensive single-family home listing in Boca Raton.

See **TEARDOWN**, Page 2B

## A peek at the future: DeSantis prison threat fits into Disney's kingdom



**Frank Cerabino**  
Columnist  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

News item: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, in his continuing efforts to make Disney pay for not endorsing his LGBTQ-biased legislation, threatened to build a state prison next to the theme park last week.

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Fast-forward 10 years ... Fireworks filled the night skies in Central Florida as Walt Disney World celebrated another anniversary of its wildly popular new theme park, Detention Kingdom.

Hailed as an unorthodox breakthrough in corrections philosophy, Detention Kingdom has showcased how recidivism rates among felons can be reduced dramatically with a new approach to confinement.

### Being sentenced to a Disney theme park is too much 'fun'

"Sure, everybody knows that it's fun to visit a Disney park for a day or two," said one prison expert, "but what Disney has shown is that if you lock a person up at a Disney park and give that person a real Disney experience there, day after day for years, they will do anything to get out and never commit a crime again."

Billed as "The Happiest Prison on

Earth," Detention Kingdom eliminated the common penal practice of warehousing inmates for endless days of boredom in their cells. Instead, inmates (referred to as "con members") spend their days in the brightly painted, well-manicured prison grounds, where they mill about in the blazing sun, standing in long lines to go on a variety of short rides, or to step inside for fleeting moments in mercifully air-conditioned

See **CERABINO**, Page 3B



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