



# City of ALACHUA

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

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At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the application may be sent to the following address: City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Subsection 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you 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. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

(Published: Alachua County Today - November 26, 2015)



# AROUND THE REGION

## BROWARD COUNTY

# South Florida gets a boost in battle against flakka

By Tonya Alanez  
Sun Sentinel (TNS)

FORT LAUDERDALE — South Florida gained an upper hand in the fight against flakka with a combination punch: China's recent ban of the drug dubbed "\$5 insanity" and an unprecedented visit by a delegation of Broward law enforcement officials supporting restrictions of exported chemicals.

The Chinese government, as of Oct. 1, restricted exportation of flakka's key ingredient, alpha-PVP, and 115 other chemical substances used to make synthetic drugs but found to have no known legitimate uses, according to a recent report published by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"By cutting off the supply of alpha-PVP at its origin, we hope to halt its flow into the United States," said DEA

spokeswoman Raynette Savoy Kornickey. "China was a major supplier."

Broward County leads the nation in flakka cases, DEA statistics show.

The volatile street drug, a derivative of bath salts, over the past year has been blamed locally for an array of freakish incidents, as well as a surge in emergency room visits and felony arrests. It also has played a role in more than 40 Broward deaths. Also known by the street name "gravel," its high starts as fleeting euphoria but rapidly devolves into manic paranoia, rage and delirium. Users have dubbed it "powdered psychosis" and a "total mind melt."

Low-level dealers have been able to buy alpha-PVP crystals from Chinese labs in bulk online, repackage it in gram-size packets or capsules and take it to the streets.

"We needed to get the

Chinese on board," said John Loges, the Fort Lauderdale police detective and DEA task force officer who coordinated the trip to China to lobby officials to staunch the flow of chemicals into the United States.

"This delegation to China was unique, as South Florida has been deemed ground zero for the alpha-PVP epidemic," Kornickey said. "No other law enforcement agencies were involved."

Joining Loges on the Nov. 1-8 trip to Beijing were Fort Lauderdale police Sgt. John Jensen, Broward Sheriff's Lt. Ozzy Tianga, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tony Gonzalez, DEA Special Agent Kristine Costa and Mindy Mazzei, a detective for Coral Springs police and a DEA task force officer.

They met with the U.S. Ambassador to China Max S. Baucus, Chinese police, directors and operational heads of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security's narcotics control bureau to discuss "the serious issues that synthetic drugs are having on not just South Florida, but also the United

States," Savoy Kornickey said.

"We were greeted with open arms," Loges said. "They were hugely receptive. I thought it went very good, better than I ever expected."

Numerous emails and telephone messages seeking comment from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C., went unanswered.

Although the alpha-PVP ban was in place by the time the group got to China, the trip "was important moving forward, strategically," Loges said. The 116 chemical compounds banned by China fall into the major categories of bath salts, cannabinoids, and psychedelics.

"If they found no medicinal or industrial uses for these compounds, they were made illegal," Loges said.

Included in the ban was fentanyl. Marketed as synthetic heroin, it has been detected in 52 overdoses cases in Miami-Dade County in the past year, according to a Miami

Herald report.

"In the history of their government they've never done this," Loges said of the ban of so many chemicals. "They don't want to be known as a source country similar to Colombia or anything like that."

If a Chinese lab now ships the banned substance out of the country, it becomes an illicit smuggling operation, he said.

In 2014, crime labs in Broward analyzed 477 cases of confiscated flakka. That's a rate of 27 cases per 100,000 residents, far outpacing all major urban counties. No other county came close, with Chicago's Cook County clocking in next with fewer than half of Broward's cases, according to DEA statistics.

Robert C. Hutchinson, acting special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Miami, did not go on the China trip but his agency has acted as the federal lead in Florida's flakka crisis.

"We appreciate any assistance in reducing the source of supply for these dangerous drugs,"

Hutchinson said. "All of the agencies here seriously appreciate the threat of alpha. It's been pretty amazing what it's done to Broward ... this really is the epicenter, it appears, for flakka now."

"It's a very hopeful sign," said Jim Hall, an epidemiologist at Nova Southeastern University and Broward's flakka expert. "I'm hoping we're going to see a very dramatic reduction in what comes out of China."

Hutchinson and Hall agree the ban won't eradicate flakka from the streets.

It will tamp it down but it also is likely to drive up flakka's prices and propel the creation and production of a similar compound, much like drug experts saw with the club drug known as Molly.

Methylone, a key ingredient in Molly, had flooded the streets of South Florida before China banned it in 2014.

As a result of the ban, methylone dissipated, but ethylone, a slight variant, rapidly replaced it within months, Hall said.

## STATE REDISTRICTING

# Plaintiffs back off changes to Tampa-area districts

By Brandon Larrabee  
The News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — A coalition of voting-rights organizations has withdrawn two state Senate redistricting proposals it had submitted to a Leon County judge, virtually ensuring that at least one district will cross Tampa Bay when the legal fight ends.

The coalition, which includes the League of Women Voters of Florida and Common Cause Florida, announced the move one day before the groups and the Legislature are set to file briefs with Circuit Court Judge George Reynolds objecting to each other's maps. The state Senate has submitted a single map that would cross the bay.

Reynolds is supposed to recommend one of the plans to the Florida Supreme Court as the best way to

follow the anti-gerrymandering "Fair Districts" redistricting standards approved by voters in 2010, after the Legislature agreed in a legal settlement that the current map would be found in violation of those rules.

Supporters of crafting a district that crosses the bay say it is the only way to give African-American voters a chance to elect a candidate of their choice to the seat. Opponents say it is an attempt to pack as many black voters as possible

into the district and make surrounding seats more favorable to Republicans.

In its filing Tuesday, the groups said the district, which would have been entirely within Hillsborough County, was drawn with those criticisms in mind.

"However, although there is a likelihood that the Hillsborough-only district would retain African Americans' ability to elect candidates of choice, Plaintiffs will rely only on their alternative version of District 19 that crosses Tampa Bay ... in order to narrow the issues for trial and ensure that African Americans retain their ability to elect candidates of choice," the filing says. Reynolds is set to hold a hearing Dec. 14-18 to decide which map to send to the Supreme Court.

The maps withdrawn Tuesday included a proposed district that didn't cross Tampa Bay and would have a black voting-age population of slightly less than 29.2 percent. The district that does cross the bay — which appears in the groups' four other maps — has a black voting-age population of just over 33 percent. In the nearly four-year battle over the meaning of the Fair Districts amendments, which include protections for minority districts, the courts have ruled that districts can still elect candidates of choice for blacks or Latinos without those groups making up more than 50 percent of the population, because those groups often make up a majority of one party's primary. But how small a portion of a district's vote can come from a protected racial or language minority still causes fierce debates.


Coincidentally, the coalition's remaining maps could be viewed as more favorable to Democrats. While the withdrawn proposals had 17 Senate districts that would have been carried by both President Barack Obama in 2012 and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Alex Sink in 2010, the remaining four maps each have 18 such seats. All six of the maps recommended to Reynolds by the plaintiffs could give Democrats their best chance in years to recapture a majority in the state Senate. The two groups also filed a correction to one of the other maps that would tweak two Panhandle-area districts, bringing that map's version of North Florida into line with the rest of the plaintiffs' maps.

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