

THE FIRM

Big Firm Leaders, GCs Speak Out Against Voting Obstacles



DAVID HANDSCHUH

Brad Karp, chairman of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, is asking leaders of the Am Law 100 to sign a statement denouncing voter disenfranchisement.

by Brenda Sapino Jeffreys

Leaders of 62 Am Law 100 firms and 19 general counsel have signed on to a statement that “denounces all efforts” to restrict U. S. citizens’ constitutional right to vote.

After calling on lawyers to “take a stand” against state laws that make it more difficult for people to vote, Brad Karp, chair of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and chair of the Legal Action Center, asked leaders of the Am Law 100 to sign a statement denouncing voter disenfranchisement. Lucy Fato, general counsel of AIG, secured support from current or former general counsel at 18 other companies.

This is the statement:

“Equal access to voting is a fundamental right in the United States. Making voting easier, not harder, for all eligible voters should be the goal of every elected official. Election laws that impose unnecessary obstacles and barriers on the right to vote and that disenfranchise underrepresented groups represent a significant step backwards for all Americans. Now, more than ever, courageous leadership is required from our elected officials. We, the undersigned law firm managing partners and corporate general counsel, denounce all efforts to restrict the constitutional right of every eligible American to vote and to participate in our democracy.”

The statement comes in the wake of a new election law that was recently signed in Georgia, which voter rights activists say will make voting more difficult in that state. Legislatures in many other states are considering similar “voting integrity” measures that would make voting more difficult.

The lawyers are not alone in speaking out. Major League Baseball moved its All-Star game from Georgia in response

to the new election law and a number of corporations in Georgia, Texas and elsewhere have criticized the efforts to make it harder for people to vote.

In response to questions about his effort to organize Big Law against voter suppression measures, Karp wrote in an email that it is “crucially important” for the private bar to send a powerful message to government leaders that it is “unacceptable to make voting harder, not easier, for all eligible voters, and to emphatically denounce efforts to impose unnecessary obstacles and barriers on the right to vote that disenfranchise underrepresented groups.”

Organizing the bar is just the first step, he added.

“As we did in connection with challenging our nation’s gun violence epidemic and the Trump Administration’s barbaric family separation immigration policies, we are forming a coalition of leading law firms and public interest organizations to challenge state voter suppression legislation and to support national legislation to protect voting rights and increase voter participation,” he wrote.

Fato said she got involved in the effort because voting is a fundamental right, and it’s important for lawyers to speak up.

“It is simply the right thing to do. I don’t view it as a political issue. I view it as an American issue,” she said.

Fato said Peter Zaffino, AIG president and CEO, already issued a statement opposing efforts to disenfranchise voters, and participated in an online meeting Saturday of corporate leaders to discuss ways to oppose voter suppression measures.

Brenda Sapino Jeffreys covers the business of law in Texas. Contact her at bjeffreys@alm.com. On Twitter: @BrendaSJeffreys.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY MEETING** on **April 28, 2021 beginning at 10:00 AM.**

General Public Comments: members of the public that wish to provide comments in writing may do so by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofdoral.com. Comments must be submitted with your name and full address by **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm.** The comments will be circulated to the elected officials and administration, as well as remain as a part of the record for the meeting.

Public Hearing Comments (Pre-Registration): interested parties that wish to speak on the Public Hearing item(s) **ONLY**, must register by **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm** via this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7708570881810105869>

The meeting will be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City of Doral’s website (<https://www.cityofdoral.com/government/city-clerk/council-meetings>) as well as Channel 77 and Facebook Live.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 21-

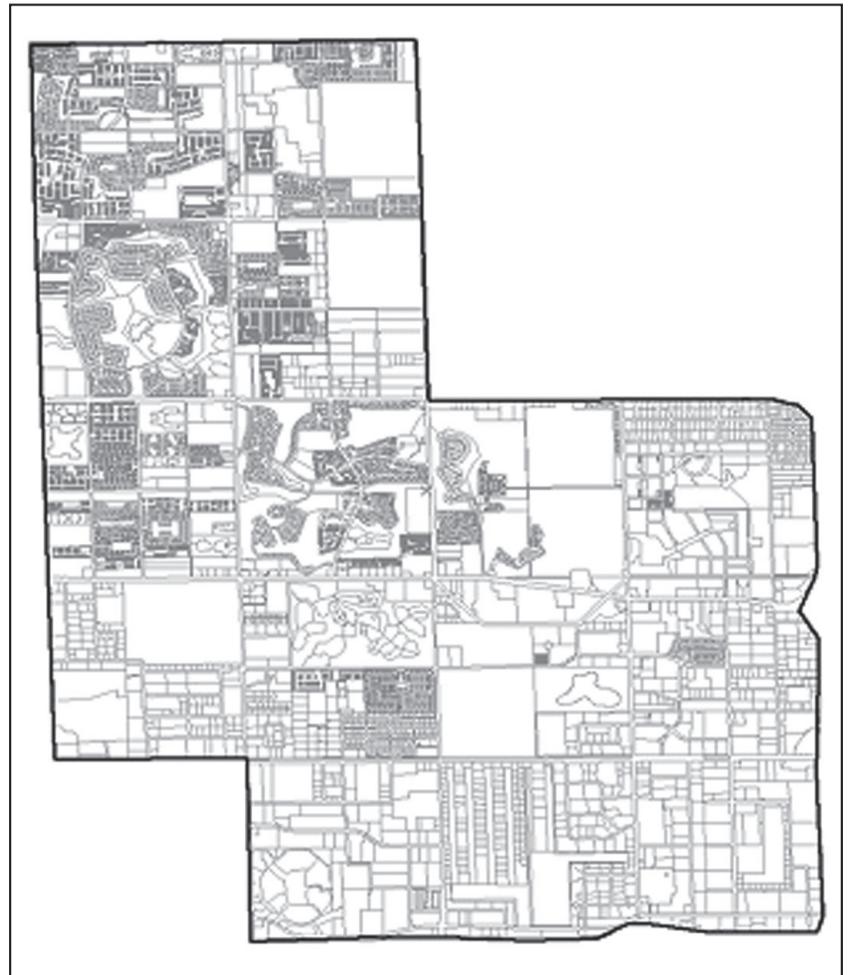
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL / DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF DORAL LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 71, “LANDSCAPING AND BUFFERS,” ARTICLE II, “MINIMUM STANDARDS,” DIVISION 7, “ARTIFICIAL TURF,” MODIFYING EXISTING REGULATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL TURF; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 21-04-DOR-05

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City of Doral Staff is requesting Mayor and City Council approval of a text amendment to the City of Doral Land Development Code, Chapter 71, Article II, Division 7, “Artificial Turf,” to modify existing regulations of artificial turf.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes if a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they 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 record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who is disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

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