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BCC

May 29, 2024

ROGER D. EATON, CHARLOTTE COUNTY CLERK OF  
CIRCUIT COURT  
# PAGE: 2  
INSTR #: 3411714 Doc Type: GOV  
Recorded: 05/30/2024 at 04:11 PM  
Rec. Fee: RECORDING \$18.50

ORDINANCE  
NUMBER  
2024-016

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 4-6-163 OF THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF THE ROTONDA LAKES STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT TO INCLUDE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 125.01, Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida, has the authority to establish, merge, amend, or abolish municipal service benefit units; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously created the municipal service benefit unit known as the Rotonda Lakes Street and Drainage Unit in Ordinance Number 97-014; and

WHEREAS, the Rotonda Lakes Street and Drainage Unit advisory board has requested funds derived from within the unit to be used for beautification projects, in addition to the existing purposes; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure of funds for the requested additional purposes is a valid public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida:

Section 1. Section 4-6-163, Purpose, of Article IX, Chapter 4-6 of the code of laws and ordinances of Charlotte County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4-6-163. Purpose.

MIN

33 The purpose of the unit is to provide for the construction, reconstruction, repair,  
34 paving, repaving, hard-surfacing, re-hard surfacing, widening, guttering, and draining,  
35 of streets, bridges and related drainage facilities in the unit, and of necessary  
36 appurtenances and accessory structures thereto located within or without the unit, and  
37 beautification projects including landscaping, lighting, and community signs, from funds  
38 derived from special assessments within the unit.

39 Section. 2 Severability. In the event any portion of the foregoing conflicts with any  
40 other Charlotte County Code or other applicable law, the more restrictive shall apply. If  
41 any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of these sections is for any reason  
42 held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall  
43 be deemed a separate, district, and independent provision and such holding shall not  
44 affect the validity of the remainder of the chapter.

45 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its filing with the  
46 Department of State.

47 PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED THIS 28th day of May, 2024.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: William G. Truex  
William G. Truex, Chairman

ATTEST:  
Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit  
Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the  
Board of County Commissioners

By: Kimberly Walden  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL  
SUFFICIENCY:

By: Janette S. Knowlton  
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney  
LR24-0229 PSP (PSP)



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE**

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**CORD BYRD**  
Secretary of State

May 30, 2024

Roger D. Eaton  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
County Comptroller  
Charlotte County  
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 416  
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948

Dear Roger Eaton,

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Charlotte County Ordinance No. 2024-016, which was filed in this office on May 29, 2024.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hargreaves  
Administrative Code and Register Director

MJH/wlh



Ticket# 3927375-1  
Ref 052824-C Rotonda Lakes  
4 x 12  
Submitted by: Ceres Austria  
AD ID# 3927377  
Publish: 04/29/24  
163352 3927377

**PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT OF  
PUBLICATION STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY  
OF CHARLOTTE:**

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Amber Douglas, who on oath says that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of The Daily Sun, a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor in Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Notice that was published in said newspaper in the Issue(s)

04/29/24

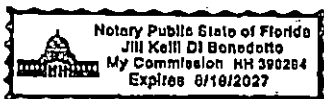
as well as being posted online at [www.yoursun.com](http://www.yoursun.com) and [www.floridapublicnotices.com](http://www.floridapublicnotices.com).

Affiant further says that the said newspaper is a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor, in said Charlotte County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Charlotte County, Florida, Sarasota County, Florida and DeSoto County, Florida, each day and has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Punta Gorda, in said Charlotte County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of April, 2024

(Signature of Notary Public)



Personally known  OR  Produced Identification

# Police officer hiring in US increases in 2023 after years of decline, survey shows

CLAUDIA LAUER  
Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA** — Police departments across the United States are reporting an increase in their ranks for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 killing of George Floyd, which led to a historic exodus of officers, a survey shows.

More sworn officers were hired in 2023 than in any one of the previous four years, and fewer officers overall resigned or retired, according to the 214 law enforcement agencies that responded to a survey by the Police Executive Research Forum, or PERF. Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officers spurred nationwide protests against police brutality and heightened scrutiny of law enforcement.

As more and more officers left, many of the departments had to redeplored stretched resources by shifting officers away from investigative work or quality-of-life issues such as abandoned vehicles or noise violations to handle increases in crime and, in some cases, the shortages meant slower response times or limiting responses to emergencies only, police officials say.

"I just think that the past four years have been particularly challenging for American policing," said Chuck Wexler, executive director of PERF, a non-profit policing think tank based in Washington, D.C. "And our survey shows we're finally starting to turn a corner."

Individual departments are turning that corner at different rates, however, according to Wexler, who noted many are still struggling to attract and keep officers.

As a whole, the profession "isn't out of the woods yet," he said.

The Associated Press left phone and email messages with several unions and police departments to ask about increased hiring.

The survey shows that while small and medium departments had more sworn officers than they did in January 2020, large departments are still more than 5% below their staffing levels from that time, even with a year-over-year increase from 2022 to 2023. The survey also showed smaller departments with fewer than 50 officers are still struggling with a higher rate of resignations and retirements.

The survey asked only for numbers, Wexler said, so it's hard to say whether those officers are leaving for larger departments or leaving the profession altogether. He also said smaller departments, which account for 80% of agencies

nationwide, were underrepresented in the responses PERF received.

Many larger departments have increased officer pay or started offering incentives such as signing bonuses for experienced officers who are willing to transfer, something smaller departments can't really compete with. At least a dozen smaller departments have disbanded, leaving the municipalities they once served to rely on state or county help for policing.

But even some of the highest-paying large departments are still struggling to get new hires in the door.

"I don't think it's all about money. I think it's about the way people perceive their job and feel they are going to be supported," Wexler said. "You have West Coast departments that are paying six figures, but still seeing major challenges in hiring."

In addition to pay and bonuses, many agencies are reexamining their application requirements and hiring processes.

Wexler believes some of those changes make sense, including allowing visible tattoos, reweighing the importance of past financial issues and processing applicants' background checks faster. But he cautioned that PERF does not support lowering standards for training or for applicants.

Maria "Maki" Haberfeld, chair of the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, says departments have been too focused on officer numbers. She worries some are lowering education requirements and other standards to bolster numbers instead of trying to find the best people to police their communities.

"Policing is a real profession that requires more skills and more education than people can understand," she said. "It's not about tattoos or running a mile in 15 minutes. It's really more about emotional intelligence, maturity and making those split-second decisions that don't use deadly force."

Haberfeld also cautioned that any staffing gains made through incentives could easily be erased, especially as officers, including some in front gear, have been seen breaking up protests against the Israel-Hamas war at universities across the country. "In policing, it takes decades to move forward and a split second for the public attitude to deteriorate," she said.

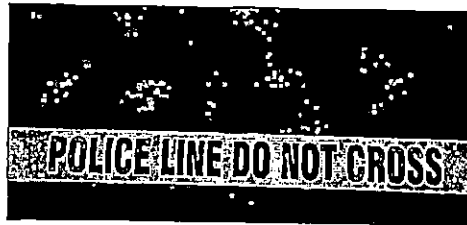
PERF's survey showed a more than a 20% drop in resignations overall, from a high of almost 6,500 in 2022 to fewer than 5,100 in 2023. They are still up

over early pandemic levels in 2020, however, when a few more than 4,000 officers resigned across all responding departments.

As with the hiring increases, the rate of decrease in retirements tended to depend on the size of the departments. There were fewer retirements in 2023 than in 2019 at large departments, slightly more retirements at medium departments and elevated retirements at small departments. The survey found a steep drop in resignations at large agencies with 250 or more officers and medium-size agencies with between 50 and 249 officers.

In addition to pay and benefit increases, the improved retention can be partly attributed to a shift in how some public officials view their public safety departments, Wexler says.

"We went from having public discourse about disbanding the police just a few years ago to public officials waking up to the fact their workforce is leaving," he said. "I don't think there's any question that there has been a sea change among political leaders."



Police tape cordons off the scene of a crime in Levittown, Pa., March 16. Police departments reported a year-over-year increase in sworn officers in 2023 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began and since the 2020 police killing of George Floyd spurred nationwide protests and increased scrutiny of police, according to a survey released by the Police Executive Research Forum.

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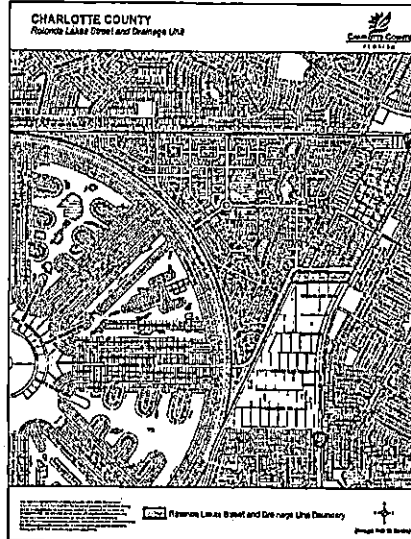
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## NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT HEARING

On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida, (the "Board") will hold a public hearing at 10:00 A.M. or soon thereafter as may be heard, in Room #119, Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida. At that time, the Board will consider an ordinance to amend the purpose of the Rotonda Lakes Street and Orange Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) to include beautification and landscape projects. The geographic boundaries of the Unit are depicted below:



The MSBU Advisory Board has requested that the Board of County Commissioners expand the purpose of the MSBU to add additional projects so the Board of County Commissioners will consider adding beautification projects to the purpose including landscaping, lighting and community signs. The current rate of \$10 per Equivalent Residential Unit will not change for FY2024/2025. The assessment will fund ongoing street and drainage maintenance and beautification projects within the unit.

The assessment will be collected by the Tax Collector and will be reflected on your combined notice for ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments.

All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and the right to file written objections with the Board of County Commissioners, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida 33948-1094, within 20 days of the publication of this notice.

The Assessment Roll is available for inspection at the Municipal Service Benefit Unit Section, Room 229, Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida. For questions about the work program(s) or related assessments, please call (941) 575-1513.

Should any agency or person decide to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he 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.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the County's functions, including access to and participation in meetings, programs and activities. Full Sound Enhancement Units for the Hearing Impaired are available at the Front Security Desk, Building A of the Murdock Administration Complex. Anyone needing other reasonable accommodation or auxiliary aids and services please contact our office at 941-743-1381, TDD/TTY 941-743-1234, or by email to [David.Lyesc@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:David.Lyesc@charlottecountyfl.gov)

Reference: 052824-C

Published: April 29, 2024

**WESTCHESTER GOLD & DIAMONDS**  
 "LET US ROCK YOUR WORLD"

We buy and sell diamonds, gold, silver, coins, Rolex and vintage jewelry  
 IN BUSINESS OVER 41 YEARS  
 Port Charlotte • 941-625-0666



**PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE:**

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Amber Douglas, who on oath says that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of The Daily Sun, a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor in Charlotte County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a Legal Notice that was published in said newspaper in the issue(s)

04/26/24

as well as being posted online at [www.yoursun.com](http://www.yoursun.com) and [www.floridapublicnotices.com](http://www.floridapublicnotices.com).

Affiant further says that the said newspaper is a newspaper published at Charlotte Harbor, in said Charlotte County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Charlotte County, Florida, Sarasota County, Florida and DeSoto County, Florida, each day and has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Punta Gorda, in said Charlotte County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of April, 2024

(Signature of Notary Public)



Personally known  OR  Produced Identification

The Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County proposes to adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 4-6-163 OF THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF THE ROTONDA LAKES STREET AND DRAINAGE UNIT TO INCLUDE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing on this ordinance will be held at 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, on the 28th day of May, 2024, in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Copies of the proposed ordinance and the economic impact estimate, if applicable, are available for inspection by the general public in the Charlotte County Attorney's Office, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

Should any agency or person decide to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, he will need a record of the proceeding, and for such purpose, he 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.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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and services please contact our office at 941.743.1381, TDD/TTY 941.743.1234, or by email to [David.Lyles@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:David.Lyles@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

Reference No: 052824-A  
Publish: 04/26/24  
163352 3926982

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## Legal Notices

04/26/2024

### CONVICTION TO BID

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF BID SPECIFICATIONS

REQUEST FOR BIDS  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTIFICATION OF FEDERAL PARTICIPATION: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State of Florida hereby makes its federal funds available to any contractor who is a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.101, 121.102, 121.103, 121.104, 121.105, 121.106, 121.107, 121.108, 121.109, 121.110, 121.111, 121.112, 121.113, 121.114, 121.115, 121.116, 121.117, 121.118, 121.119, 121.120, 121.121, 121.122, 121.123, 121.124, or by email to [David.Lyles@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:David.Lyles@charlottecountyfl.gov).

The County of Charlotte will be receiving sealed bids at the Purchasing Division, Suite 344, Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 39948-1094, for:

BID NO. 202400278  
OYSTER CREEK AND STARBUCKS CREEK TURBINE DEBRIS REMOVAL

It is the intent of Charlotte County to award the service of a Contractor to furnish all materials, labor, equipment and all other appliances required for the clearing of approximately 3.75 acres of creek including cleaning, removing, and disposal of all storm-related debris from the creek flow area.

No local license required to perform these services.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: 12:30 p.m. (EST) May 13, 2024  
PURCHASING DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM

BID OPENING: 2:00 p.m. (EST) May 13, 2024  
PURCHASING DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM

Bid documents may be obtained by accessing the Charlotte County Purchasing Division website at [www.purchasing.charlottecountyfl.gov](http://www.purchasing.charlottecountyfl.gov) or by contacting the Purchasing Division at (941) 206-1025. Bidder's name, document number 24585. Any questions can be answered by contacting Steve Thompson, Contract Specialist at (941) 206-1025 or email: [steve.thompson@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:steve.thompson@charlottecountyfl.gov).

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC BID SUBMISSIONS: If your firm would like to submit your bid electronically, please visit [www.charlottecountyfl.gov/bids](http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/bids) and follow given instructions. Publish: 04/26/24 163352 3926979

The Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 4-6-138 OF THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF THE ROTONDA LAKES STREET AND ORLANDO UNIT TO INCLUDE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A public hearing on this ordinance will be held at 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as it may be held, on the 28th day of May, 2024, in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Copies of the proposed ordinance and the economic impact estimate, if applicable, are available for inspection by the general public in the Charlotte County Attorney's Office, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Interested parties may appear at the hearing and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the County's functions, including access to and participation in meetings, programs and activities. All Sound Enhancement Units for the hearing impaired are available at the Front Security Desk, Building A of the Murdock Administration Center, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 39948.

Reference No: 052824-3  
Publish: 04/26/24 163352 3926979

### CONVICTION TO BID

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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BID NO. 202400278  
OYSTER CREEK AND STARBUCKS CREEK TURBINE DEBRIS REMOVAL

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No local license required to perform these services.

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PURCHASING DIVISION CONFERENCE ROOM

BID OPENING: 2:00 p.m. (EST) May 13, 2024  
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OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC BID SUBMISSIONS: If your firm would like to submit your bid electronically, please visit [www.charlottecountyfl.gov/bids](http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/bids) and follow given instructions. Publish: 04/26/24 163352 3926979

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Reference No: 052824-3  
Publish: 04/26/24 163352 3926979

### NOTICE OF AUCION

advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 150177 3925469

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 2080 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 39948  
Publish: 04/26/24 11:30AM

Christopher Price  
Household Goods

Andrian Yeager  
Furniture, boxes, pictures, etc.

The Home Service God  
Work Tools

Extra Space  
Furniture and personal belongings

William Legend  
Name brand tools  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 327465 3925663

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliate, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 4535 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 39980  
Publish: 04/26/24 12:30 PM

James Winston - Household Items  
Victoria Freeman - Appliances and furniture

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 425491 3925157

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliate, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 1100 Pk. Pavilion, North Port, FL 34283  
Publish: 04/26/24 12:00 PM

Justin Lemar - Household Goods/Furniture  
Great Kline - Household Goods/Furniture  
Cody Reynolds - Household Goods/Furniture

The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 435012 3925271

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliate, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below at the location indicated: 33224, May 8, 2024, at 10 AM.

Janette Barrott - Household Items  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 393535 3925211

NOTICE AT-BID STORAGE SALE  
Please take notice Hide-Away Storage - Icecube located at 833 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte FL 39926 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the facility by the below Occupants whom are in default at an online auction via [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com) on 5/2/2024 at 10:00AM. The above listed individuals whose names are listed below are the description of the contents including household goods, furnishings and other items. All proceeds will be used to pay the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.  
Publish: 04/26/24 04/26/24 436318 3925424

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliate, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 12560 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 34287  
Publish: 04/26/24 12:30 PM

Jeff Schulte - Household Goods  
Thomas Gagnon - Household Goods/Furniture  
Sue Reynolds - Household Goods/Furniture/TV/Stereo equipment

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## Dozens arrested as anti-war protests grow

The University of Southern California has canceled its main graduation ceremony

STEVE LEDRAN AND NICK PERRY  
Associated Press

The University of Southern California canceled its main graduation ceremony and dozens more college students were arrested at other campuses nationwide Thursday as protests against the Israel-Hamas war continued to spread.

College officials across the U.S. are worried the ongoing protests could disrupt plans for commencement ceremonies next month. Some universities have called in police to break up the demonstrations, resulting in ugly scuffles and hundreds of arrests, while others appeared content to wait out student protests as the final days of the semester ticked down.

Schools such as Columbia University in New York continued to negotiate with protesters who first set up an encampment last week. At California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, faculty members met with students who have barricaded themselves inside a campus building since Monday, trying to negotiate a solution. The campus was shut down earlier this week with classes moved online.

Other universities are rewriting their rules to ban encampments and moving final exams to new locations. But encampments and protests continued to spring up Thursday. At Indiana University Bloomington, a tent encampment popped up before police with shields and batons shoved into a line of protesters, arresting 33 people.

At the City College of New York, hundreds of students who were gathered on the lawn beneath the Harlem campus famed pink building erupted in cheers after a small contingent of police officers retreated from the scene. In one corner of the quad, a "security training" was held among students.

Police arrested one protester and row down tents at the University of Connecticut Thursday, while demonstrators at Stanford University rallied on a day when newly admitted students visited the campus.

Students protesting the war are demanding schools cut financial ties to Israel and divest from companies linked to the conflict. Some Jewish students say the protests have veered into antisemitism and made them afraid to set foot on campus.

USC announced the cancellation of the May 10 graduation ceremony a day after more than 90 protesters were arrested on campus. The university said it will host dozens of commencement events, including all the traditional individual school commencement ceremonies.

Tensions were already high after USC canceled a planned commencement speech by Israeli pro-Palestinian activist, citing safety concerns.

