Continued from Page 1A

Congress from Miami urged the White House to prevent these immigrants from being deported.

"These individuals are fleeing brutal regimes and lifethreatening conditions," said U.S. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, the daughter of Cuban immigrants. "That is why I strongly urge the administration to use its executive authority and grant Deferred Enforcement Departure to prevent them from being sent back to violence and repres-

The Trump Administration has argued that anyone in the U.S. without legal status has broken the law and can be deported. "If you are in this country illegally, you are a criminal," Madison Sheahan, deputy director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said at an April news conference in Miramar. "We have zero tolerance for criminal aliens in this country."

The ruling is the latest in a series of emergency appeals to the Supreme Court by the Trump Administration to strip protections from immigrants living in the U.S. On May 19, the high court allowed the Department of Homeland Security to revoke Temporary Protected Status to 350,000 Venezuelans, with 250,000 more set to lose their status by September.

Together humanitarian parole and TPS have protected over 1.5 million people that sought refuge legally in the U.S. The rulings allow the Trump Administration to deport them back to countries in the midst of humanitarian crises while lower courts consider lawsuits nonprofits have filed to block those moves.

The May 30 ruling, which came in an emergency order, will allow Trump to keep his promise to end the humanitarian parole program. Removing legal status for the 530,000 people it covers is part of his plan to conduct the largest mass deportation operations the U.S. has seen.

The emergency court's ruling marks the first time the U.S. will revoke humanitarian protections from a such a large group, said Jack Scarola, a West Palm Beach attor-

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem signed an order in March terminating the program, saying it was against the national interest and had allowed people to come to the U.S. who would have not otherwise been allowed to enter the country. Noem also called for their expedited removal.

Two nonprofits, the Justice Action Center and Human Rights First, sued to block the order from taking effect.

On April 14, U.S. District Court Indira Talwani issued an order that kept parole protections in place for the 530,000 people after she found Noem lacked the authority to terminate their legal status and did not present evidence to back up her claims.

An appeals courts sided with the judge in May, but the Trump Administration appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, stating the lower court had blocked the executive branch from carrying out its immigration policies.

Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson and Sonia Sotomayor dissented from the ruling, saying the court had not considered "the devastating consequences of allowing the government to precipitously upend the lives and livelihoods of nearly half a million noncitizens while their legal claims

The ruling does not provide a timeline of when the Latin American nationals would lose their work permits and legal status, but the Trump Administration is expected to act promptly.

Both programs, humanitarian parole and TPS, allow for individuals from countries in turmoil to live and work temporarily in the U.S., but they work in different ways. Neither offers a pathway to permanent residency or U.S. citizenship, but they prevent people from being deported to their native countries.

Humanitarian parole is a federal program that is granted on a case-by-case basis for people dealing a family emergency, a medical needs or persecution in their home



"If you are in this country illegally, you are a criminal," Madison Sheahan, deputy ICE director, says at a May 1 news conference in Miramar to discuss arrests in Operation Tidal Wave. About 400 of the 1,100 people taken into custody did not have prior arrests. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

country. People need a personal sponsor living in the U.S. who can financially support them to be granted humanitarian parole.

Cubans received humanitarian parole in the 1960, as have people from other nations since then. President Joe Biden's administration announced the programs for Venezuelans in 2022 and for Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans in 2023.

The Supreme Court's May 30 ruling affects about 211,000 Haitians, 117,330 Venezuelans, 110,300 Cubans, and 93,100 Nicaraguans that were granted humanitarian parole protections under the Biden-era program.

Scarola said the ruling had turned the lives of half a million people upside down.

"These are people who were forced to flee their home countries because of specific findings that their lives were endangered," he said. "And now we've chosen to pull the rug out from under them."

"This is not only disrupting the lives of those who have had their parole status revoked. It disrupts the lives of their family members. It disrupts the lives of their employers."

Temporary Protected Status is a humanitarian designation given to people from specific countries that are suffering from armed conflict, a natural disaster or other "extraordinary and temporary" conditions that make returning home unsafe.

In order to obtain TPS, immigrants must pass a full background check and they may not have any previous felony convictions or two or more misdemeanors.

Both programs allow them to get a driver's license and receive a Social Security number, a requirement to work legally in the U.S. and file taxes. Neither program gives them access to any federal public benefits, including So-

The termination of humanitarian parole sent employers across Florida and the country scrambling to learn whether they can continue to hire their workers covered by the program.

Many workers are in limbo. They don't know when their work permits expire, how they will pay their bills and if they could be detained and turned over to ICE during their daily routines. Parole and TPS holders filled in jobs gaps in South Florida after the COVID-19 pandemic in many service oriented-industries working as nurses, teachers, food servers and manual laborers.

"This ruling isn't just a blow onto the rights and safety of these legal immigrants. It's also a direct attack on Florida's economy," said Cherfilus-McCormick, the first Haitian-American from Florida in Congress. The ruling, she said will "devastate" families and "disrupt essential services."

National labor unions from the automotive, manufacturing and airport service contracting industries warned in a brief to the Supreme Court that the unprecedented disruption of parole and TPS status likely would wreak havoc on the U.S. workforce.

Attorneys for the AFL-CIO and the Service-Employees



More than 75 people protested mass deportations and harsh treatment of immigrants on April 18 along Military Trail in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

MAYA WASHBURN/PALM BEACH POST

International Union said revoking humanitarian parole would force employers to lose skilled workers and exacerbate labor shortages. They added the government didn't allow adequate time for employers to prepare for such a policy change and that it would disrupt "communities across the country in one fell swoop."

"This would be by far the largest single-day revocation of work authorization in our Nation's history — one that DHS initiated with effectively no notice to employers or the U.S. workers who would be impacted by the disruptive effect" of the order, according to the brief the unions filed to the Supreme Court.

The Florida Immigrant Coalition also took issue with sending people back to homelands beset by violence, poverty and political turmoil. Those problems are what led the Biden Administration to expand the humanitarian parole program to include them.

Forcing people to return to places like long-troubled Haiti "is not just morally indefensible, it is a humanitarian catastrophe," it said in a prepared statement.

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** City Council for the City of Ocala, Florida, to Consider a Petition to Amend the Boundaries of Ridge at Heath Brook Community Development District

DATE: LOCATION:

July 1, 2025 4:00 p.m. Ocala City Hall, Council Chambers 110 SE Watula Avenue, Second Floor Ocala, Florida 34471

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, a public hearing will be held before the City Council for the City of Ocala, Florida, to consider an ordinance to adopt an amendment to Ordinance Nos. 2021-58 and 2023-35 and amend the boundaries of the Ridge at Heath Brook Community Development District ("District"). The District is comprised of approximately 75 796

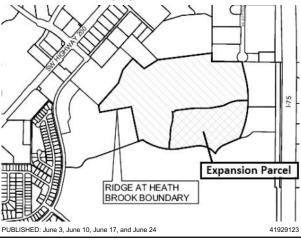
more or less, and generally located southeast of SW Highway 200 and west of I-75, as further identified in the map depicted in this notice. The District has petitioned to amend the boundary of the District by expanding the existing boundary to include an additional 29.142 acres, more or less, of land currently contiguous to the District boundary, for a total of approximately 104.938 acres, as authorized by Chapter 190, Florida

The information presented at this hearing will be used to afford the District, landowners, any affected units of local government, and the general public, a fair and adequate opportunity to appear and present oral and written comments regarding the boundary amendment of the District If adopted, the ordinance will amend the boundaries of the District and designate the land to be serviced by the District.

Copies of the petition and the proposed ordinance are open to public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 110 SE Watula Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471, during regular business hours. For more information, call

All interested persons and affected units of general-purpose local government shall be given an opportunity to appear at the hearing and present oral or written comments on the petition. Any person or affected unit of general-purpose local government, who wishes to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing will need a record of the proceedings. For that purpose, the person or unit of general-purpose local government may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made that includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Prior to 48 hours before the hearing, please contact the City Clerk's Office, 110 SE Watula Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471 or at (352) 629-2489.



## **Sentence**

Continued from Page 1A

Hunt summarized Dawson's charges to the court. The prosecutor said law enforcement officials were able to link Dawson to stealing a vehicle from a convenience store parking lot. Inside the vehicle was a firearm and iPhone.

In June 2023, sheriff's officials said, shots were fired in the 4400 block of Northwest 22nd Avenue. Arriving at the location, deputies were told the victim, 18-year-old Tylique Le'John Christie, had been shot. Transported to a local hospital, Christie died the next day, authorities said.

During their investigation, sheriff's detectives were told the victim went to the area to sell marijuana. Dawson went to the vehicle, took the marijuana and ran.

Tirado, who also was at the location, is accused of shooting Christie. Other individuals who were there reportedly fired shots at the vehicle, officials said. Detectives have not yet identified those other alleged shooters.

Authorities said Christie was taken to a hospital by occupants who were in the vehicle and not injured.

Tirado and Dawson were made known to detectives through information from the public and forensic evidence, officials said.

A grand jury indicted Dawson and Tirado in 2023.

## Competent to stand trial & a big decision

Asked if he had anything to say before sentencing, Dawson told the judge no. The young man has more than 600 days of credit for time already served while at the county jail.

Shortly after 11 a.m. on May 29, a handcuffed Dawson, wearing a jail red-and-white uniform, sat at the defense table listening to a doctor testifying via Zoom. The issue: whether Dawson was capable of understanding what was happening to him. It was the first of two separate hearings.

At the end of the witness testimony, the hearing concluded. Resuming at 4 p.m., another doctor gave testimony via Zoom arguing whether Dawson was competent to proceed to trial.

When the doctor was finished, the judge ruled that Dawson was competent to stand trial and the trial should continue the week of June 9.

Then, by 5 p.m., Dawson and his lawyer had consulted with Dawson's family on whether he would accept the deal or go to trial. Once his client's intention was known, Lashley let the prosecutors and the judge know Dawson was ready to move forward with the deal.

Contact Austin L. Miller at austin.miller@starbanner.com

