



Miami Herald

Epstein paid Palm Beach deputy to get special treatment in jail, ex-aide alleges

BY JULIE K. BROWN
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Sarah Kellen, a longtime personal assistant to sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, has disclosed for the first time that Epstein's preferential treatment at the Palm Beach County jail may have been the result of him paying off Palm Beach sheriff's deputies.

Kellen, during her interview with the House Oversight Committee last month, was questioned about perks that Epstein received while he was incarcerated at the Palm Beach County Stockade, a facility where Epstein was jailed from 2008 to 2009. She said she visited Epstein several times at the jail, and one time, when she was home, he was able to use Skype from a jail computer to contact her.



Jeffrey Epstein

He used that computer to get her to undress for him on camera while he was in the jail, Kellen testified.

She was then asked by Florida Congressman Max Frost, a Democrat who represents the Orlando area, whether she knew of any other "ways" that Epstein was able to receive special treatment in the jail.

"I know that he arranged to have cash and, like, Disneyland tickets, taken to one of the officers in the jail and I'm not sure what he received with that," Kellen replied, according to a transcript of her testimony. She identified that Palm

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Jeffrey Epstein's former assistant Sarah Kellen arrives to testify in a closed-door interview with the House Oversight Committee on Capitol Hill on May 21.



Related Urban Development Group

Gallery at SoMi Parc is the second phase of a master-planned community replacing a county-owned public housing site in South Miami.

Affordable housing replacing public housing as developers address Miami shortage

BY CATHERINE ODOM
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Miami-Dade has a shortage of affordable housing — and the land to build it on.

Bounded by Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Everglades to the west, the county doesn't have much space for the estimated 90,000 new units needed to address the shortage.

But to deal with the squeeze, some developers are turning to sites where affordable housing already exists. They're replacing aging county-owned public housing with new, denser affordable and workforce housing developments.

These redevelopment ef-

orts reflect a broader national shift from traditional government-run public housing to affordable and workforce housing built through public-private partnerships, said

Alberto Milo, Jr., president of Related Urban Development Group. Related Urban is the workforce and affordable housing arm of the real estate development

firm Related Group and is a leading developer of affordable housing in Miami-Dade.

Related Urban has built new affordable housing on numerous county-owned

public housing sites and is planning to break ground on two new redevelopments this month. The firm is also behind the ongoing redevelopment of Liberty Square, one of Miami's oldest and largest public housing sites.

This model of redevelopment is not new, but it's gaining momentum, said Nathan Kogon, director of Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development. The county has been working with private developers to build new units on public housing sites for about a decade. So far, public housing redevelopment has created about 3,000 new units in Miami-Dade, and the county

SEE HOUSING, 2A



Miami Herald file

The exterior of Edens at Liberty Square, a phase of the ongoing redevelopment of the Liberty Square public housing complex.

SEE FUEL YARD, 8A

How long can someone be in immigration detention? Miami federal judge asked to weigh in on Haiti case

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES
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The question of how long is too long to keep someone in immigration detention is at the center of the Trump administration's effort to remove a prominent Haitian businessman from the United States.



Dimitri Vorbe

authorities, entered the U.S. with a valid U.S. visa in Jan-

uary 2020. But he was arrested in Miami five years later, on Sept. 23, 2025, and has remained in detention ever since — though no immigration judge has ordered his removal from the United States.

Vorbe, 52, has been detained for nine months inside the Krome North Detention Center because U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared

that he has acted against the foreign policy interests of the United States by allegedly consorting with Haitian gangs — a position the Trump administration says is not reviewable by the federal courts.

Last week, Vorbe's lawyers, who have denied the allegations against him, appeared in Miami federal court seeking either his immediate release or

a bond hearing, arguing that his prolonged detention warrants judicial review.

But that review, they argued, should take place in federal court rather than before an immigration judge. The Trump administration's aggressive agenda targeting illegal immigration, coupled with the unusual nature of the proceedings against Vorbe, have made it difficult for him to receive a fair hearing, attorney Mark Prada told U.S. District Judge Darrin P. Gayles on Tuesday.

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