

Don't Be a Chad.

Be a Chaz.

To the Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager Rodney Brimlow — a word about what's happening, and what comes next.

By Chaz Stevens · Deerfield Beach Resident · Founder, REVOLT Training

I've been on the beat since the early 00's. Entering my third decade of the Gadfly Veto.

Some of you remember the Gonot–Capellini era.

Nearly twenty years ago, I watched Chris Tauber dismantle Steve Gonot piece by piece. Methodical. Fact-driven. Necessary. Al Capellini largely escaped that same scrutiny — and that didn't sit well with me.

So, I did what I always do when the system blinks: I leaned in.

In the end, both Gonot and Capellini went to jail.

And both, deservedly so.

That history isn't nostalgia. It's a warning — about what happens when nobody's paying attention, and what happens when somebody finally is.

ON RODNEY BRIMLOW

Which is why I want to be direct about Rodney Brimlow.

An A+ evaluation from Burgess Hanson isn't handed out like Halloween candy. In municipal government circles, that's a serious professional signal. Brimlow came in with a reputation and, from what I can see, he's earning it.

"What's happening to him right now isn't accountability. It's a shakedown."

Dan Herz has decided on another narrative. One presumably that involves a substantial amount of mushrooms. Facts be damned, they're just inconvenient noise to work around. Post after post, aLL CaPS, outrage on demand — it's a performance, performative, and ready-made fodder for an audience all too quick to eat it up ... because nobody's offering them anything different.

When's the last time the Sun-Sentinel checked in? Who'd cover Terry Scott's Mango shenanigans? Hello CHDO! Does the Westside Businessmen have a website?

That changes now.

ON BULLIES

I've learned something simple about bullies. You don't negotiate with them. You don't wait them out.

Mike Tyson said everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.

Dan's had the Deerfield internet largely to himself. No real pushback. No competing record. Just his version of events, repeated loud enough and often enough that it starts to feel like truth.

It isn't.

Take the CRA deputy pay story. Dan ran the numbers, screamed HYPOCRISY in all caps, and neglected to mention that BSO sets the rate — not the city, not Brimlow. You pay what the Sheriff's Office charges, or you go without coverage. The \$45 rate was stale, the market moved, Brimlow funded the adjustment, the CRA Board reviewed it publicly on October 8, 2024.

End of scandal.

Except Dan also argues Deerfield could never attract deputies on its own if it left BSO. Can't compete. Too small. Too weak.

"So which is it, Dan? The city can't compete — or the city is corrupt for competing? You don't get both."

ON ANONYMITY

I want to say something about the anonymous chorus backing Dan's play.

Accounts with no names. First-responder handles deeply invested in Deerfield Beach politics despite not living here. Outrage merchants demanding transparency while hiding behind avatars.

Pussies.

No other word for it.

Own your words or keep them to yourself.

Don't be a Chad — whether that's Broncato or some keyboard warrior who won't sign his name to his own opinions.

Be a Chaz.

WHAT COMES NEXT

In the coming days I'm launching a new media stream. Call it Deerfield Actual.

The mission is simple: records, sourcing, documentation, and the context that outrage threads deliberately leave out. Behind-the-scenes reporting. First-person sourcing. The stuff that doesn't fit the narrative because it complicates it.

Expect humor, the sharpest of elbows, an overuse of f-bombs, and cutting-edge commentary that nails down the truth.

Sunlight works best when it comes from more than one direction. Or, like Mom preached, love goes where it's sent, even if it's up a cow's ass.

To the Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager Brimlow: this isn't about protecting anyone. It's about standards. Legitimate criticism deserves scrutiny. Manufactured outrage deserves exposure.

The facts will carry the day.

They always have.

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