



GATORMUN XXIII

The Naples Situation, 2028: Crisis Ad Hoc Background Guide

Josh Albanos

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The Naples Situation, 2028

Letter from the Director:

Dear Delegates

It's my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the GatorMUN XXIII Crisis Ad-Hoc, "The Naples Situation, 2028." We'll get into what that topic means in a moment, but first, a bit about myself. My name is Josh Albanos, and I'm a sophomore studying Construction Management here at the University of Florida. I've been involved in Model UN since my freshman year of high school and now serve as UF MUN's Secretary. I directed my first crisis committee during my senior year of high school and worked as a crisis coordinator for GatorMUN XXII and SUNMUN III last year. I'm extremely excited to direct my first Ad-Hoc and can't wait to see what you all bring to committee!

This committee actually started as a total joke among my friends last winter: an idea to create a committee entirely about us, packed with our most ridiculous inside jokes and years of shared shenanigans. Over the next few months, the idea evolved into something real. What started as a joke turned into a genuine love letter to my friends and the city we grew up in: Naples. While this committee is largely fictional, much of it pulls from real people, places, and local history, just reworked for a fun and chaotic crisis setting. Some plot points even reflect real issues facing South Florida, though they'll be presented in unconventional and occasionally absurd ways, which will require equally unconventional solutions.

The committee is set in the winter of 2028 to age up myself and my friends, making the dossiers more interesting. While it's a future setting, you can assume that current events and global conditions remain mostly the same unless otherwise specified. We'll be focusing solely on issues relevant to this committee, avoiding any arcs tied to broader global politics or events outside the committee's scope. Per the background guide, expect a mix of sci-fi and light fantasy elements, still grounded in logic but giving you room to get creative with your arcs and directives. Also, for the purposes of this committee, "Naples" refers not only to the City of Naples but the Greater Naples Area, stretching from Keewaydin Island in the south to North Naples, and inland as far as Golden Gate. This is the region most people think of when they hear "Naples".

As delegates, you are the driving force of this committee. Lead debate, bring fresh ideas, and craft original, creative solutions to the problems Naples and this friend group are facing. This committee expects delegates who are experienced with standard crisis procedure and ready to push the envelope. Most importantly, have fun. I encourage you to incorporate the goofiest jokes into your backroom arcs (no excessive brain-rot please). The inside jokes behind this committee are the kind that are so stupid and absurd that they loop back around to being funny, so lean into that energy. Of course, your arcs, speeches, and directives should still have serious logic and structure behind them, no matter how absurd the surface may be.

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I'm genuinely looking forward to whatever chaos and creativity you bring to committee. I hope you all have as much fun participating as I did creating this. Good luck to you all!

Please Note:

This committee is intended to be for advanced delegates only, and will contain elements in its story and direction which are purposely not immediately answerable. It is up to delegates to solve any mysteries or oddities through backroom arcs and committee progression either by working independently or together with other delegates to fill gaps. Please consider that not everything may be what it seems at face value...



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Rules of Procedure

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as "Present" or "Present and Voting."

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications

- Length of the Caucus
- Speaking Time
- Reason for the Caucus

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus in a Crisis committee should not exceed fifteen minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed. (ie. Lunch!) This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse to entertain this motion at their discretion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year's conference.

Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure
- To question relevance of debate to the current Topic
- To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

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Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time.

Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Rights of Reply

At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

Directives

Directives act as a replacement for Draft Resolutions when in Crisis committees, and are the actions that the body decides to take as a whole. Directives are not required to contain operative or preambulatory clauses. A directive should contain:

- The name(s) of the author(s)
- A title
- A number of signatories/sponsors signatures' necessary to
- introduce, determined by the Director

A simple majority vote is required to introduce a directive, and multiple directives may be introduced at once. Press releases produced on behalf of the body must also be voted on as Directives.

Friendly Amendments

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that all Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

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Unfriendly Amendments

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must be the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and non-substantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

Plagiarism

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

Crisis Notes

A crisis note is an action taken by an individual in a Crisis committee. Crisis notes do not need to be introduced or voted on, and should be given to the Crisis Staff by sending the notes to a designated pickup point in each room. A crisis note should both be addressed to crisis and have the delegate's position on both the inside and outside of the note.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure

Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

- No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.
- Each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Directive as a whole is put to a vote.
- Delegates who requested to be noted as "Present and Voting" are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.
- The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background-guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures.

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Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: "For," "Against," "Abstain," or "Pass." During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, "Pass," reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to "Passing" Delegates, they must vote: "For" or "Against."

Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

Tech Policy

Technology will not be allowed throughout the course of the committee. Delegates are prohibited from using their technology inside the committee room. However, they are encouraged to do research before and during assigned breaks.

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Exhibit A:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE FILE: NAPLES SITUATION

DATE: 1/23/2029

LOCATION: NAPLES, FLORIDA

STATUS: ONGOING INVESTIGATION

CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET

The information contained within this document provides background for the situation that occurred in Naples, Florida in late 2028. The events in question center around a group of individuals who grew up together in the area and later found themselves drawn back under unusual and increasingly connected circumstances.

The main group consists of Josh Alvaro, Zack Delorenzo, Jove Mogworth, Colin Twiggs, Ben Marques, Nathan Carrick, Luc Barone, Luca Maddison, Carson Lassell, Thomas Bunter, and Ethan Figuero. Most first met during middle school and remained loosely connected through high school, early adulthood, and beyond. Like many raised in Naples, several viewed the city as temporary and expressed a shared desire to leave, seeing it as a place defined by routine, seasonality, and limited opportunity.

Despite those intentions, each ultimately returned. The reasons vary and are not always clear. Some reentered local life through work or family obligations, while others appeared to drift back without a single identifiable cause. What is known is that their simultaneous presence in Naples coincided with a series of developments that extended well beyond this group alone.

Although the individuals named above form the initial point of focus, they are not the only relevant actors. Other figures referenced throughout this document were not part of the original group but remain closely tied to the same environment, institutions, and circumstances. Their actions, relationships, and positions intersect with the situation in ways that are no less significant.

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This document assembles contextual information, historical background, and observed patterns relevant to understanding how these events unfolded. It is not intended to assign conclusions, but to establish the framework within which the situation in Naples must be examined



Exhibit B: Background Information

The History of Naples Florida

Pre-Colonization

Long before the first European boots tread upon the sands of Florida, the land belonged to the Calusa, a fierce and resourceful people who ruled the coastal waters with wisdom passed down through millennia. Known as the “Shell Indians,” their ingenuity was etched into the land—vast shell mounds rose like monuments to their mastery of the sea, and intricate canal systems wove through the mangroves like veins of a living creature. Their lives were shaped by the rhythm of the tides, drawing sustenance and spiritual meaning from the bountiful estuaries that surrounded them.

For centuries, the Calusa thrived, but their fate turned when Spanish sails appeared on the horizon in 1513. Juan Ponce de León, lured by the promise of a mythical Fountain of Youth, arrived to stake his claim. What he found was resistance. The Calusa, wielding weapons of carved bone and sharpened shells, fought ferociously to protect their homeland. For nearly two centuries, they repelled wave after wave of Spanish incursions, but disease, conflict, and displacement took their toll. By the late 1700s, the Calusa were no more, their legacy swallowed by the tides.

Still, the land remembered. Hurricanes and tempests swept through the region with relentless fury, as if those spirits who were unrightfully killed there roamed exacting their revenge. Settlers whispered that the storms weren’t mere acts of nature but the restless anger of a sacred land defiled.

The Birth of Naples

Centuries passed, and the land changed hands. In 1819, the Adams-Onís Treaty ceded Florida to the United States, a young nation hungry for expansion. Statehood followed in 1845, but the untamed swamps and mangroves of southwest Florida remained largely uncharted, a wilderness teeming with mystery and danger.

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By the late 19th century, the tides of history carried two unlikely figures to these shores: former Confederate General John Stuart Williams and Walter N. Haldeman, a Kentucky newspaperman with a penchant for grand ambitions. Together, they envisioned a seaside retreat that would rival the grandeur of the Italian coast. They called it Naples, a name meant to evoke the romance of the Mediterranean. Through glowing articles and tales spun by Haldeman's Louisville Courier-Journal, they painted a picture of a tropical Eden where fortunes could be made and dreams realized.

The Birth of Naples

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Growth came slowly at first, hindered by the region's isolation. But with the arrival of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and the construction of the Tamiami Trail in the 1920s, Naples began to flourish. In 1949, Naples officially became a city. By the mid-20th century, it was a burgeoning coastal paradise, drawing sun-seekers and fortune-hunters alike. Yet, beneath the surface, a darker tale lingered—one that few dared to speak aloud.



Palm Cottage - The oldest house in Naples, once the home of Walter N. Haldeman

The End of Haldeman and Williams

Local legend claims that Haldeman and Williams had a secret agenda when they first arrived in Naples. Publicly, they spoke of commerce and coastal beauty, but privately, they were obsessed with the same elusive dream that had lured de León centuries earlier: the Fountain of Youth. The two men scoured the dense mangroves and shimmering inlets, but the mythical waters remained hidden. Frustrated yet undeterred, they turned their ambitions to the material, hoping to build an empire that would grant them a different kind of immortality.

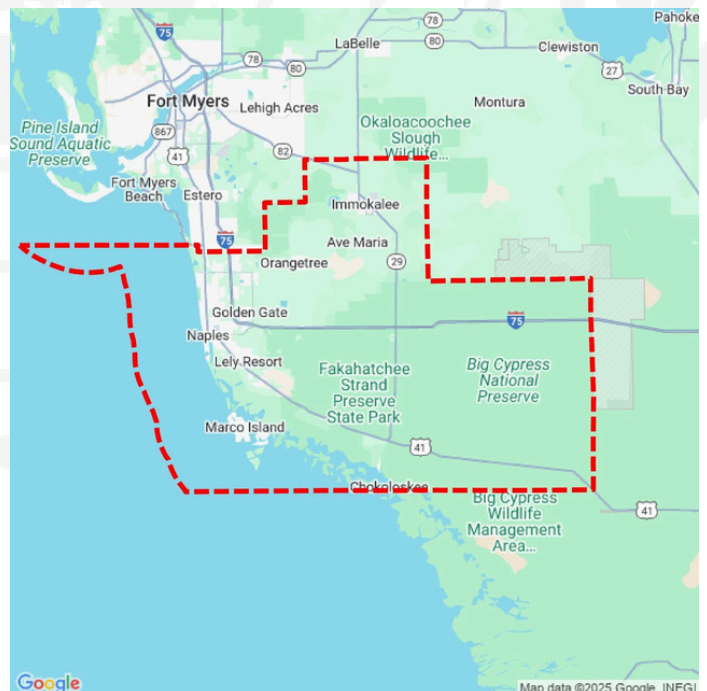
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By the 1890s, success seemed inevitable. Yet it was later that decade when things began to turn towards uncertainty.

According to a log entry from Williams himself, he and Haldeman set out into the Gulf of Mexico on New Year's Eve of 1897. The air was thick with fog, the kind that seemed to hold its breath. Twenty-seven miles offshore, they dropped anchor and cast their lines. Hours passed as the sun dimmed behind gathering storm clouds. Suddenly, Haldeman's line went taut, and the two found themselves locked in battle with something colossal beneath the waves. For hours, man and beast struggled. The rain lashed, the wind howled, and the sea churned as if alive. When they finally hauled his catch aboard, they were met with a sight that defied belief: a marlin, 13 feet long and weighing over 1,300 pounds. Its scales shimmered like liquid silver, and its eyes glinted with an unnerving intelligence. As the creature lay thrashing on the deck, Williams watched as the expression on his friend's face suddenly changed. Exhausted and drenched, Haldeman stared deeply into the unnerving eye of the beast, his own widened with fear. He slowly bent down and placed two hands upon it, and suddenly, according to Williams, Haldeman vanished from the deck. Soon after, Williams returned to his hometown of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, in 1898, where he died suddenly under circumstances as murky as the waters he'd once sought to tame... The future of Naples was out of the control of its founders.

Modern Day Naples

Today, the actual City of Naples acts as the figurative center of Collier County. This area, often referred to as the Naples-Marco Island Metropolitan Statistical Area, includes Marco Island, Everglades City, Naples itself, and a number of census-designated places and unincorporated communities. In everyday use, many of these places are simply grouped together under the name "Naples," creating a shared regional identity that shapes how the area is viewed, governed, and experienced.



Map of Collier County

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Economy and Demography

Naples is largely known for its multitude of beaches, resorts, and golf courses which all act as major attractions for 3 primary groups: tourists, snowbirds and other retirees – the latter 2 being the largest group. For those unaware, “Snowbirds” are retired seasonal residents from northern states that temporarily live in Florida during winter months. From roughly September to April, or what many locals refer to as “season”, thousands of old people from up North begin to flood Collier County with their wrinkled skin and bad spray tans. Traffic greatly worsens, the amount of car accidents increases, and most notably Costco becomes “a zoo” (as my Mother puts it). This annual migration shapes much of the local economy. Restaurants, shops, and hotels depend on their business, and tailor their business hours to them, resulting in many restaurants not being open past 9:30. Similarly, the surge in traffic and demand for services strains the city’s infrastructure. Hence, there have been a recent boom in automotive infrastructure projects such as widening sections of I-75 and new interchanges at I-75’s exits onto Immokalee Road and Pine Ridge Road.



Nowhere is the impact of this seasonal population clearer than in real estate. Naples has some of the highest average home prices in the country, with the median sale price in 2025 sitting around \$825,000, up nearly 6% from the year before. Along the coast, gated communities and condo towers stretch from Port Royal up through

North Naples, each more expensive than the last. Empty lots are rare, and when they do appear developers move quickly to build something new. This has pushed prices upward not just on the beach but also inland, with modest homes in Golden Gate now selling for what luxury properties went for a generation ago.

For many residents, this boom has made Naples less a hometown and more a playground for out-of-state buyers. A large share of properties sit vacant during the summer, waiting for their owners to return in season. Meanwhile, the people who staff the restaurants, clean the condos, and build the new developments often cannot afford to live anywhere close to where they work. Many commute daily from farther east or even from Immokalee, underscoring the divide between the Naples seen in glossy brochures and the Naples lived in year-round.

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Healthcare is another pillar of the local economy, shaped directly by the city's older population. With a median age pushing 70, Naples depends on a wide network of hospitals, clinics, and specialists. NCH Healthcare System alone employs thousands across two main campuses, and private practices fill nearly every strip plaza along US-41. The demand for medical services never slows, keeping healthcare one of the few industries in Naples that operates year-round rather than on a seasonal cycle. On the industrial side, Arthrex, the medical device company headquartered in North Naples, stands out as the area's largest private employer and it seems that everyone is related to, or at least knows somebody who works there. Known globally for its orthopedic products, Arthrex has expanded its headquarters in recent years and anchors a growing medical technology sector in the region. Together, the hospitals and Arthrex make healthcare both the most visible and most profitable industry in Greater Naples.



Pictured Above: Arthrex headquarters in North Naples

Tourism, real estate, healthcare, and construction form the four pillars of Collier County economy. Each feeds into the other: tourists and seasonal residents drive demand, retirees sustain the medical sector, and developers and builders race to keep pace with both. Together, they create a city that is wealthy, growing, and deeply dependent on the habits of those who come and go with the season.

Government

The government in the region is fragmented with authority divided between the City of Naples and Collier County. While the city serves as the symbolic center of the region, it governs only a small portion of what most people refer to as "Naples." Large inland neighborhoods and unincorporated communities fall under county jurisdiction, leaving governance spread across multiple institutions rather than concentrated in a single body.

The City of Naples operates under a council-manager system. An elected mayor and city council pass ordinances, approve budgets, and set policy, while a professional city manager oversees daily operations and city departments.

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This structure emphasizes procedure and consensus, and even time-sensitive decisions often move slowly through public meetings, advisory boards, and administrative review. Outside the city limits, The Board of County Commissioners governs unincorporated areas and controls major land-use decisions, infrastructure projects, and countywide services. Because much of the region's growth and development occurs outside the city proper, county government often plays a larger role than its visibility suggests, especially in shaping the long-term direction of the area.

Further complicating matters, several powerful offices operate independently of both city and county leadership. The sheriff, school board, and other elected constitutional officers answer directly to voters rather than local legislators. Over time, this has produced a system where responsibility is diffuse, coordination is informal, and influence often flows through established relationships that rarely appear in official records.

Notable Figures

In addition to its institutions and systems of government, Naples is also home to a number of individuals who are widely recognized within the region. Some are connected to local business, education, or public life, while others are better known as cultural figures or long-time residents. Together, they provide additional context for understanding the people and personalities commonly associated with modern-day Naples.

Aubrey J. Ferrao:

As founder of the Gulf Bay Group, Ferrao has spent decades remaking the Naples coastline in glass and stucco. His master-planned communities and high-rise towers have brought in billions, but at the cost of mangroves, estuaries, and any sense of restraint. Projects of impossible scale always seem to move forward with little resistance, as though the obstacles had been cleared long before the public ever heard of them. To many, Ferrao embodies the way real estate has made Naples richer, emptier, and less its own.

Timberly Lotterman:

Once a middling school principal, now Collier County Superintendent, Timberly Lotterman has managed to make education in Naples even worse.

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She left behind a trail of bad policies and frustrated staff at every school she passed through. Now she oversees the whole system, ensuring that students grow up disillusioned and desperate to leave. Some whisper that this is no accident—that Naples' youth are meant to hate their home, leaving only the spoiled and the idle behind.

David Hoffmann:

A billionaire investor with holdings across Southwest Florida, Hoffmann's crown jewel is the Old Collier Golf Club. Exclusive, invitation-only, and carefully managed, it has become the model for the seasonal lifestyle Naples sells to outsiders. Snowbirds flock to his courses and country clubs, living by routines of tee times and happy hours that never change. Behind closed doors, many wonder whether Hoffmann is simply giving retirees what they want or molding them into what he needs them to be.

Alfie Oakes:

Founder of Oakes Farms and owner of the Seed to Table grocery store, Oakes has built his fortune on produce and his reputation on controversy. Seed to Table is more than just a supermarket as it doubles as a restaurant, bar, and political stage, hosting everything from concerts to campaign rallies under its roof. It is also one of the only businesses in Naples that stays open late, making Oakes a gatekeeper of the city's after-hours life. His outsize personality and constant presence in local politics ensure that his influence stretches far beyond agriculture, into the culture and identity of Naples itself.

Reinhold Schmieding:

Founder of Arthrex, Schmieding turned a small orthopedic tool shop into one of the largest medical device companies in the world. From its North Naples headquarters, Arthrex dominates the local economy and employs thousands. Yet the company's closed-off culture and appetite for expansion set it apart from Naples' old guard. Unlike other power brokers, Schmieding owes little to tradition or politics—only to his company's relentless pursuit of the next breakthrough.

Judith Sheindlin ("Judge Judy"):

After retiring from television, Judy Sheindlin settled in Naples and, by 2028, turned her sharp tongue into a political career.

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As a Collier County Commissioner, she speaks of law, order, and civility with the same authority that once ruled her courtroom. Strangely, her influence reaches far beyond her office, politicians defer to her, rivals fall silent, and policies pass with little debate. To many, it feels as though she commands not just respect, but fear.

Dominic Fike:

Naples' most famous cultural export, Fike rose from small local shows to international fame. Yet his career tells a quiet truth about the city: that culture here rarely thrives, and often has to leave to grow. For many young people in Naples, he is proof that success is possible, but not here. In the background of Naples' politics and power struggles, Fike stands as one of the few symbols of originality the city has ever produced, a reminder of what could exist if Naples ever chose to foster more than wealth.

"The King of Naples":

The King is a well-known but enigmatic local figure occasionally seen walking through North Naples and Golden Gate. Regardless of the heat, he appears dressed in red or purple robes, always wearing an ornate crown. Little is known about who he is or where he came from, and no one seems certain what, if anything, he claims to rule. Over time, his presence has become a familiar curiosity, one more face that locals recognize but never quite understand.

Local Lore and Legends

Beneath its carefully maintained image, Naples has accumulated a quiet body of local lore. Some of these stories are rooted in documented events, while others stem from rumor or long standing superstition, but all persist through word of mouth rather than official record. Passed between longtime residents, fishermen, and those who claim to know more than they should, these legends form a parallel history of the region that exists alongside the polished version of Naples presented to the outside world.

The Cape Romano Dome Houses

Off the southern coast near Marco Island sit the remains of the Cape Romano Dome Houses.

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Built in the early 1980s as a self-sustaining vacation home, the six concrete domes were designed to withstand hurricanes and rising tides. For a time, they stood as a symbol of futuristic coastal living. Over the decades, however, storms and erosion took their toll. One by one, the domes collapsed and slowly sank into the Gulf, until only fragments remained above the waterline. What was once dry land is now open sea.

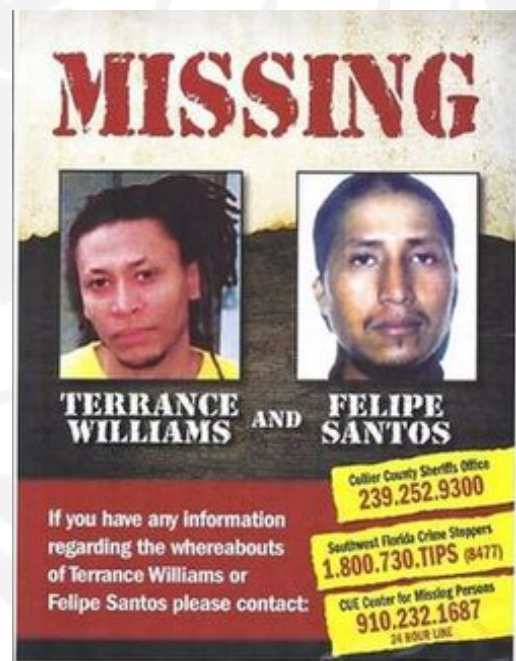


While erosion explains their physical decay, local stories offer less practical explanations. Boaters have reported strange lights reflecting off the remaining structures at night, and fishermen claim the water around the domes feels unusually calm or unusually hostile depending on the day. Some insist electronic equipment malfunctions nearby, while others describe an overwhelming sense of unease when approaching too closely.

The Disappearances of Terrance Williams and Felipe Santos

The disappearances of Terrance Williams and Felipe Santos remain among the most disturbing unresolved cases in Collier County history. In separate incidents in the early 2000s, both men vanished after encounters with the same Collier County deputy. Despite searches and investigations, neither Williams nor Santos was ever found, and no charges were filed. Over time, the cases faded from headlines, but they never fully left the public consciousness.

The similarities between the cases, combined with the lack of answers, have fueled speculation that something was deliberately concealed. Some believe the men were victims of corruption or negligence, while others suggest forces beyond official explanation.



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Cult Rumors

Approximately thirty years ago, a small group of individuals affiliated with the Catholic movement Regnum Christi were reportedly operating out of Royal Palm Academy, a private school in Naples. At the time, Regnum Christi was active in Catholic institutions across the United States and was known for its strict internal hierarchy and emphasis on discipline and loyalty. The group associated with the school was not publicly advertised and functioned within existing religious and educational structures rather than as a separate organization.

The activity came to the attention of local law enforcement after concerns were raised regarding the nature of the group's meetings and the degree of influence exerted over its members. An investigation into the cult did not result in arrests or formal charges, and no public report was released. Shortly thereafter, the group supposedly ceased operating in connection with the school, and those involved disengaged or relocated.

Because no official findings were published, the incident remains largely undocumented. What is known is limited to secondhand accounts and the fact that the organization's presence ended quietly and without explanation.

The Ghost of Palm Cottage

Palm Cottage is the oldest surviving home in Naples and now operates as a museum, preserved to reflect the city's earliest years. Built in the mid 1890s, the house was commissioned by Walter Haldeman, the newspaperman credited with helping establish Naples as a settlement. Though modest in size, the cottage occupies a prominent place in the city's historical narrative, often presented as a symbol of its origins and early ambition.

Over the years, reports of unexplained activity at Palm Cottage have persisted. Museum staff and visitors have described footsteps when the house is empty, doors found open after being locked, and a recurring sense of movement on the upper floor. These accounts have never been formally investigated and are generally dismissed as quirks of an old structure.



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What makes the stories endure is their consistency and their focus. The presence, when described, is often associated with the upstairs bedroom and the staircase, areas closely tied to the home's original owner. Some accounts suggest the figure is not hostile, but observant, as if watching rather than haunting. Given Haldeman's role in the city's founding and his abrupt disappearance, the possibility that his connection to Palm Cottage did not end with his ownership remains an open question.

Skunk Ape

Reports of a large, unidentified primate known as the Skunk Ape have circulated in South Florida for decades, primarily in and around the Everglades. Sightings describe a tall, broad figure moving through swampy terrain, often accompanied by a strong, foul odor. In Collier County, alleged encounters have been reported along remote stretches of roadway and in undeveloped areas east of Naples. Despite occasional photographs and eyewitness accounts, no physical evidence has ever been verified, and the phenomenon remains officially unrecognized.



Squallies

Another lesser-known legend tied to Collier County in particular is that of the so-called Squallies, sometimes referred to as pig people. The term historically appears in early twentieth-century accounts describing reclusive individuals said to live deep within the swamps, avoiding contact with nearby settlements. These stories often portrayed Squallies as malformed or animal-like, though historians generally regard them as exaggerations rooted in fear of isolation and the unknown. While no credible evidence supports the claims, references to Squallies persist in regional storytelling as a reflection of how unfamiliar populations and remote landscapes were once understood.

The Fountain of Youth

Southwest Florida has long been associated with the legend of the Fountain of Youth, a story most often traced back to early Spanish exploration and the voyage of Juan Ponce de León.

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While the legend is commonly treated as myth, variations of the story appear throughout the state's history, often tied to hidden springs, offshore waters, or locations deliberately left vague. Southwest Florida has its own version, one that places the source somewhere beyond the coastline rather than on land.

Historical references and later accounts describe fishermen and sailors who claimed to encounter something unusual in the Gulf, returning changed in ways that could not be easily explained. These stories were never consistent enough to verify, nor specific enough to investigate, and over time they were dismissed as exaggeration or coincidence. No physical site has ever been identified, and no official record supports the existence of anything resembling a fountain.

Despite this, the legend persists in fragments, appearing in journals, secondhand accounts, and local histories that suggest the search for prolonged life was not merely symbolic. Whether the story reflects misunderstanding, deliberate concealment, or something else entirely remains unclear, but the idea that the Gulf holds more than it reveals prevails

Exhibit C: FILE NAME: CORESPONDANCE FROM REINHOLD SCHMIEDING:

Date: 11/25/2028

To: Josh Alvaro, Zack Delorenzo, Jove Mogworth, Colin Twiggs, Ben Marques, Nathan Carrick, Luc Barone, Luca Maddison, Carson Lassel, Thomas Bunter, Ethan Figuero, Ged Saint-Denis, David Odie, Stan Korokin, Aarnav Patel, Johnny Pope, Andrew Hartmann, Jordan Feldman, Jesse Chao, Lucas Albrecht, Noelle Moray, Surya Modia, Kyle Wong, Gabriella Burnett, Nick Claudio, Ethan Sandleron, Valentina Tebow, Clara Grecian, Catalina Marquez-Wittinger, Gonzi Valenzuela, Douglas Summer

Subject: Current Situation

To those receiving this letter,

Naples has always been a city that presents itself as orderly. Its institutions function. Its economy grows. Its public image remains intact. From the outside, there is little reason to believe anything here warrants concern beyond the usual disputes that accompany growth and development.

Privately, that assessment is incomplete.

Over the past year, I have become aware of a pattern of irregularities across the Greater Naples area that cannot be explained by coincidence alone. Individually, these incidents appear minor. Taken together, they suggest a convergence of people, locations, and historical factors that merit closer examination. These include unexplained activity tied to offshore sites, inconsistencies in archival records, renewed attention to properties long thought irrelevant, and the quiet reappearance of individuals whose paths should not logically have crossed again.

Many of you were not selected because of a single qualification, but because of where your experiences overlap.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Some of you grew up here. Others arrived later. Some are tied to business, education, medicine, or public life. A few are simply positioned close enough to events that your perspective matters. But most importantly, you're all friends. What you all share is proximity to Naples at a moment when the city appears stable, yet increasingly strained beneath the surface.

I am assembling a private task force to examine these developments discreetly. The purpose is not to assign blame or draw conclusions prematurely, but to gather information, compare observations, and determine whether intervention is necessary before circumstances escalate beyond local control. This effort will operate independently of formal government channels unless and until escalation becomes unavoidable.

Your participation is voluntary, but your presence has been noted for a reason. Naples is small. Its networks are tight. When something begins to move here, it rarely does so loudly at first. By the time it becomes public, it is often already too late to contain.

At present, there is no confirmed threat. There is only alignment. That alignment is recent, accelerating, and unlikely to reverse on its own.

Further details will be provided in person.

— Reinhold Schmieding

Exhibit D: DOSSIER

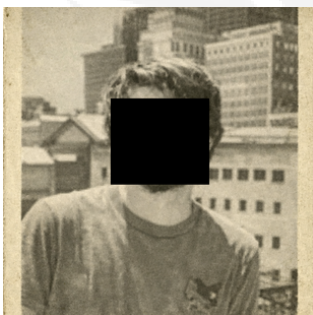
Position 1: Josh Alvaro



Josh graduated from the University of Florida's Rinker School of Construction and has been embedded in Naples' building scene longer than most people realize. He began interning with BUILD LLC, a contractor specializing in high-end construction and renovations, during his junior year of high school. While others were still figuring out career paths, Josh was already learning job sites, schedules, and the realities of construction from the ground up.

After college, Josh returned home to work full time for BUILD LLC as a Project Manager, overseeing complex residential and commercial projects throughout Naples. His role places him in direct contact with developers, inspectors, subcontractors, and city officials, giving him a working knowledge of how the city is physically shaped and reshaped. Outside of work, Josh maintains strong social ties, enjoys music, and approaches construction the same way he approaches everything else. Rhythm, timing, and knowing when to step in or stay back. In a city constantly under construction, Josh understands where everything is being built, and more importantly, why.

Position 2: Zack Delorenzo

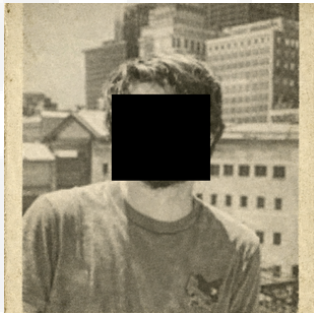


The Naples Situation, 2028

Zack graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Film and Media Studies, where he developed a love for cinema that balances perfectly between the obscure and the iconic. He has a keen appreciation for any form of art which has been deeply and purposely constructed. He'll always direct interest towards projects like those by his favorite director David Lynch over any commercial slop. If Zack dislikes something as much as he does Fallout 4, he'll never be afraid to tell you exactly why. Earlier in 2028, he won Best Short Feature at the Florida Film Festival, a project as bizarre and brilliant as the guy behind it.

He and Jove founded the group's Letterboxd account StayWithJove, which now serves as a loose archive of chaotic one-line film reviews ranging from the insightful to the downright stupid. Despite the nature of those reviews, his thoughts on the deeper stuff are much more pointed. He sees patterns. And in Naples, that might be exactly what they need.

Position 3: Jove Mogworth



Jove didn't really "go" to college in the traditional sense—he sort of waved at it from a distance while doing something cooler. After a "long and arduous job search" (his words, not mine), Jove is now a full-time professional Fortnite player and streamer. And not just any streamer... he won FNCS last year with Mr.Savage and has the online fanbase to prove it. You probably follow him without realizing it.

Despite living in Fort Myers, he remains the gravitational center of the friend group. If Jove isn't there, people notice. They whine. They ask questions. Things feel... off. It's just the Jove effect. Charismatic, funny, and oddly wise in a way that feels somewhere between a sleep-deprived poet and a guy who just won a Duos match on three hours of sleep, he operates on his own schedule, occasionally disappearing to "handle things" in Arkansas—a state whose connection to him remains vague, confusing, and potentially classified.

He likes to say he's "mysterious," but really, he's just Jove. And that's always enough.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Position 4: Colin Twiggs



Colin is living the kind of life that makes his LinkedIn page look like a venture capitalist's fever dream. After graduating from UCF with a degree in Data Science and Mathematics, he co-founded Pivot, a wildly successful logistics startup that helps delivery drivers juggle multiple gig apps at once. The company took off faster than anyone expected, and now Colin is comfortably rich, splitting his time between Naples and whichever city has the best networking event or nightlife that week.

He's still constantly brainstorming "the next big thing," usually while pounding a post-gym McDonald's cookie (or ten). Losing, however, is not an option for Colin. Whether it was Minecraft Bridge Duels in his "Cyclone" era (where he briefly achieved niche micro internet celebrity status) or Risk Online, he has a habit: if he loses once, he'll grind until he's the best. These days, that obsession is mostly funneled into Fortnite duos with Jove, but everyone in the group knows better than to beat him at something and gloat about it.

Position 5: Ben Marques



Ben graduated from UCF with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and immediately did what most people would consider unwise: he turned his childhood obsessions into his adult hobbies and, somehow, a job. Since college he's continued freelance work restoring and modifying old animatronics—like the kind you'd find in a run-down Chuck E. Cheese off I-75.

The Naples Situation, 2028

The friend group likes to say walking into his house is like Five Nights at Freddy's, but with more loose wires and fewer rules about fire safety.

When he's not debugging a haunted-looking animatronic, Ben's usually knee-deep in some aquarium setup or building custom tank rigs for rare species. His knowledge of marine life borders on encyclopedic, and he speaks about cephalopods the way some people talk about soulmates. He's equal parts tinkerer and biologist, with just enough chaos to keep you wondering if what he's building in the garage should be cleared by some regulatory agency.

Position 6: Nathan Carrick



Nate graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Fine Arts and a studio full of paintings that range from peaceful coastal landscapes to bizarre dreamlike visions that no one can quite explain. Nate's the kind of person who can disappear from a group chat for days and reemerge with a painting that leaves everyone speechless. He now works freelance out of Naples, splitting his time between private commissions, gallery submissions, and the occasional surreal meme painting that ends up framed in someone's living room.

He doesn't talk much about what he's working on—or where he's been—but his art speaks volumes. His work blends landscape, abstract, and dreamlike symbolism in ways that make people pause. Some say he paints from visions of the future, others say he just sees things differently. Either way, when something strange happens, Nate's often the one who's already captured it on canvas, long before the rest of the group even figures out what's going on.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Position 7: Luc Barone



Luc graduated from Duke with a degree in Economics and now works an entry-level role at a Wall Street firm, where he spends his days quietly grinding through spreadsheets and his nights questioning why anyone ever dreams of finance. Despite the corporate setting, he's managed to keep his edge. Luc is as competitive as they come, a trait that's obvious to anyone who's ever been unlucky enough to face him in a game. Whether it's Fortnite zone wars with the rest of the group, or some random PC title he's mastered overnight, Luc doesn't just want to win—he needs to.

Outside the office, he's got a few other talents up his sleeve. He's a skilled saxophone player, a decent PC builder, and occasionally, a "legendary" street rapper. There's still debate about that last one, but he does have at least one iconic bar to his name: "I gotta testify, pull up in the spot lookin'—ow I'm died," delivered completely off the dome. Luc also has a way of ragebaiting people with one perfectly-timed comment, sending group calls into chaos while he pretends to be completely innocent.

Luc's confidence and competitiveness make him hard to ignore. Whether he's talking trash, dropping bars, or climbing the corporate ladder, he's always front and center—and usually winning.

Position 8: Luca Maddison



The Naples Situation, 2028

Luca arrived at the University of Central Florida intending to pursue a career in Cellular and Molecular Biology, drawn to systems built on logic, precision, and repeatability. While completing his degree, he became increasingly immersed in the Florida alt-rock and metal scene, picking up bass and gravitating toward heavier, atmospheric music influenced by bands like Deftones and Metallica. By graduation, Luca had grown disillusioned with academic paths and predictable outcomes, choosing instead to pursue something rawer and less controlled.

Now based in Naples, Luca is the bassist for Müll, a German-language alt-metal band that feels fundamentally misaligned with the city it exists in. Naples offers little in the way of authentic subculture, favoring polished surfaces, curated experiences, and entertainment designed not to offend or linger. Müll pushes directly against that environment, performing in underground venues and late-night spaces that exist on the margins of the city's identity. Through the band, Luca operates in pockets of resistance where noise replaces decorum and culture is built rather than marketed.

Position 9: Carson Lassel

In his youth, Carson once argued with the main group that he could beat a polar bear bare fisted. There is a zero percent chance this could have happened. Eventually, he backtracked to say he could beat a sickly, dying polar bear with a sword. What started as an ill-advised debate somehow became the foundation of his entire worldview. Preparation, context, and tools matter more than raw odds.

That logic stuck. Today Carson now works as a wildlife capture and relocation specialist, handling situations most people only encounter through warning alerts and police scanners. Escaped exotics, invasive species, injured predators, and animals that absolutely should not be near suburban developments are all part of the job. He knows how to assess risk quickly and stays calm when things become unpredictable.

Deep down, Carson still believes that with the right circumstances, the right preparation, and enough adrenaline, he might one day be able to accomplish his original dream. It remains extremely unlikely.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Position 10: Thomas Bunter

Thomas is originally from Pittsburgh, a city the group never lets him forget is grey, smoggy, and objectively an L. They met him online years ago, long before he ever set foot in Naples, and for a while he was mostly just a voice in a headset and a username on a screen. Not much was known about him then, and honestly, not much has changed since.

What started as a job delivering pizzas quietly escalated into something much larger. Thomas now works long-haul routes transporting Domino's restaurant supplies across the country, moving ingredients, equipment, and sealed pallets between regional hubs and franchise locations. His job is simple. He gets a manifest, drives the route, and drops the load. If something ends up where it should not be, that is above his pay grade.

Thomas happens to be passing through on a route through Naples and staying longer than expected, which somehow feels fitting. Rumors still follow him, including a long-running story about his dog that may or may not have been sold years ago for \$10 to purchase a game.

Position 11: Ethan Figuero

Ethan is that "Florida Man" you've likely seen in the news. The difference is that his stories tend to start sounding fake right around the point where you realize he might actually be telling the truth. Now working as a park ranger at Everglades National Park, Ethan spends his days patrolling swamps, backcountry trails, and waterways most people only ever see from a boardwalk or helicopter. If it's wet, remote, and full of things that can bite you, he's probably been there.

Ethan always has a story. Whether it's a late-night encounter with something that definitely wasn't a gator, rumors of Squallies moving through the mangroves, or a sighting that sounds suspiciously like the Skunk Ape, he tells it with complete confidence and just enough detail to make people uncomfortable. The group questions the validity of these stories constantly. Ethan never backs down. In his line of work, strange things happen, and not everything ends up in an incident report.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Outside the park, Ethan is deeply rooted in Naples. His parents own Fernandez the Bull, a local Cuban restaurant chain, which means he knows the city through back doors, kitchens, and conversations that never make it outside. Between his ranger authority, deep knowledge of the Everglades, and firsthand experience with Florida's weirder side, Ethan is the person you want when the mystery leaves the city and heads straight into the swamp.

Position 12: Ged Saint-Denis

Ged started out behind the counter at a McDonald's in Naples that most of the group somehow kept ending up at, no matter the hour or the reason. Over time, he didn't leave that world. He mastered it. Ged is now the general manager of the busiest McDonald's in Naples, overseeing one of the most consistently trafficked locations in the city.

That position gives him access to far more than burgers and broken ice cream machines. Ged manages staff schedules, security footage, late-night incidents, delivery logistics, and a revolving door of customers that includes construction crews, night-shift workers, tourists, cops, truck drivers, and people who very clearly do not want to be recognized anywhere nicer. If something unusual happens in Naples after midnight, there's a decent chance it passed through his parking lot first.

Position 13: David Odie



David's always been a creative wildcard, the kind of guy who'll disappear for a week and come back claiming he's had some life-altering revelation. As I like to put it: "He just be doin' stuff." One week it's falling in love on the Chicago subway, the next it's adopting a pet turtle. With a degree in Visual Communications from Loyola University Chicago, he's turned his knack for design and sound into a small business building and selling custom synthesizers online. It's a hyper-specific market, but David has a way of making it work.

The Naples Situation, 2028

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When he's not soldering boards or tweaking sounds, he's usually wrapped up in music, or whatever new hobby has taken over his life that month. He's always thinking bigger, and lately that's meant dreaming of opening a music studio in Naples, where the music scene is practically nonexistent. City codes don't even allow street performances, and it wouldn't be surprising if he struggled to get the permits to open a studio at all. Still, if anyone could pull it off, it's David.

David might not follow the most traditional path, but he's one of a kind. And if you think you've got him figured out, just wait—he'll surprise you.

Position 14: Stan Korokin



Stan Korokin studied finance at the University of Central Florida, developing a practical understanding of money, leverage, and how to keep fragile systems standing. Rather than entering a traditional corporate role, he co-founded G.U.S. with his twin brother, Vlad, launching a Naples-based satirical news network that quickly gained attention for its absurd headlines and unsettling humor. Most people simply refer to it as "The GUS," rarely questioning what the name actually stands for.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Before G.U.S., the twins developed a reputation for always gaslighting people in high school. Over time, that tendency evolved into something more refined and less personal. Behind the scenes, G.U.S. stands for Generally Unreliable Source, a detail known only to a small inner circle. Stan manages the finances and long-term direction of the platform, deciding what gets funded, amplified, or quietly removed. Satire provides cover, but the instinct remains the same. If enough people believe something long enough, it starts to feel real.

Position 15: Aarnav Patel



Aarnav studied Public and International Affairs at Princeton, where he developed a sharp understanding of policy, power, and how influence is built long before elections are won. After graduating, he returned to Naples with little interest in waiting his turn. Rather than running for office immediately, Aarnav positioned himself closer to the machinery that actually moves local politics, taking on a role as a political strategist and government relations coordinator working with campaigns, donors, and civic organizations throughout Collier County.

Charismatic and visibly ambitious, Aarnav thrives in rooms where decisions are shaped quietly. He helps candidates refine messaging, advises donors on where influence is best spent, and maintains close relationships with city staff, attorneys, and developers who operate just outside public view. While he holds no elected title, his proximity to power gives him insight into how deals are made and which alliances matter. Everyone knows he plans to run for office one day, and he makes no effort to hide it. For now, Aarnav is focused on building leverage, learning weaknesses, and making sure that when he finally steps into the spotlight, he does so with the system already bending in his favor.

Position 16: Johnny Pope

The Naples Situation, 2028



For years, Johnny was called “The Pope” as a joke. Then, in a move that surprised absolutely everyone and somehow made perfect sense, he committed to it. Now known professionally as Pastor Johnny Pope, he serves as a local pastor in Naples, leading a small but deeply loyal congregation that’s grown steadily under his care. What started as a nickname turned into a vocation, and Johnny wears it with a sincerity that makes people stop laughing and start listening.

Johnny’s approach to faith is grounded and personal. He’s not fire-and-brimstone, and he’s not chasing spectacle. He’s the kind of pastor who remembers names, listens more than he speaks, and shows up when people need him to. That trust gives him access to parts of the community most people never see. Confessions, quiet fears, moral crises, and secrets people don’t tell their closest friends all tend to find their way into his office.

Position 17: Andrew Hartmann



Andrew’s always been the ambitious type. Back in high school, he was basically everywhere—top of his class, holding multiple club board positions, and running the MUN team as president—all before graduating as his class’s salutatorian. That drive carried him to Dartmouth, where he somehow balanced chemistry labs with environmental fieldwork and walked out with degrees in both Chemistry and Environmental Science.

The Naples Situation, 2028

These days he's back in Naples, working as an environmental consultant and quickly becoming the go-to guy for anything involving permits, compliance, or nuclear-level disaster prevention. With all the new construction in Collier County, Andrew's role gives him more influence than most people his age, and he's not afraid to use it when the situation calls for it.

Outside of work, Andrew is a mix of sharp expertise and casual chaos. One minute he's breaking down nuclear energy to anyone who will listen, the next he's arguing about LeBron stats like it's a Supreme Court case. He's also fiercely competitive in pickup basketball and *Brawl Stars*, somehow turning even the most casual games into high-stakes showdowns.

Position 18: Jordan Feldman



Jordan graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Psychology and returned to Naples with a clear plan. She now runs a private therapy practice in downtown Naples, working as a licensed mental health professional providing individual counseling and long-term treatment. Her office attracts a very specific clientele. Wealthy residents, business owners, developers, and influential locals who value discretion as much as results. In a city built on appearances, Jordan's practice has become one of the few places where people speak honestly.

That honesty comes with weight. Jordan is trusted with confessions, fears, moral failures, and secrets that never make it into public records. While bound by HIPAA and professional ethics, the knowledge itself still exists, sitting quietly behind her calm demeanor. Whether she always chooses to act on it, suppress it, or reinterpret it is never entirely clear. Jordan listens more than she speaks, and in Naples, that alone gives her a kind of power most people never realize until it is too late.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Position 19: Jesse Chao



Jesse had started college at USF, pursuing a degree in Biology, but after a few semesters he realized medical school wasn't the dream—what he really wanted was to cook. Now, he's the chef-owner of CHAO, an Asian-inspired fine dining spot just off 5th Avenue in Naples, known as much for its incredible food as for the hardcore dubstep that rattles the kitchen walls during dinner prep.

Cooking has always been Jesse's love language. Back in the day, he was constantly inviting friends over and experimenting with recipes, feeding anyone willing to try his latest creation. Those late-night kitchen experiments have since become a menu Naples' elite can't get enough of. He thrives in the chaos of his own kitchen, moving with the precision of someone who could probably dice vegetables blindfolded if the bass drop hits just right.

Jesse lives for that mix of intensity and creativity, whether it's plating the perfect dish or syncing the rhythm of his knives to a song. He's proof that chasing what you love can actually work—and if you leave his restaurant hungry, that's your problem.

Position 20: Lucas Albrecht



The Naples Situation, 2028

Lucas graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and returned to Southwest Florida instead of chasing a distant aerospace career. He now works in engineering and operations at the Naples Municipal Airport, where his responsibilities center on aircraft systems, mechanical oversight, and infrastructure support for private and charter aviation. The role places him in constant contact with pilots, maintenance crews, private aviation firms, and the kind of transient traffic that passes through Naples quietly and without much documentation.

Outside of work, Lucas remains a mix of precision and introspection. He enjoys reading, sketching out designs, and spending time with music and percussion, habits that reflect the same balance of structure and creativity he brings to engineering. Known for dry humor, obscure trivia, and a tendency to casually mention that he is six feet tall as if it were a credential, Lucas often flies under the radar socially. Professionally, however, his position gives him insight into who comes and goes through Naples, how aircraft are serviced, and which movements attract attention or deliberately avoid it. In a city where private aviation plays an outsized role, Lucas has a clear view of the skies most people never look up to question.

Position 21: Noelle Moray



Noelle grew up in Naples surrounded by the kind of quiet coastal beauty that makes you fall in love with the outdoors, alongside her longtime friend Surya. While their paths eventually diverged, that shared upbringing left Noelle with a deep understanding of the city and the people who shape it. Today, she works as an environmental and land-use attorney, spending her weeks in zoning meetings and behind city hall doors, making sure Collier County's last mangroves do not get bulldozed into another golf course.

The Naples Situation, 2028

She is meticulous, patient, and always knows exactly where to look for the one clause or code that can stop a bad deal in its tracks.

Outside of work, Noelle runs FigmentFanatics, her Disney-focused social media brand that began as a side hobby and has since grown into a significant online presence. Between early morning park trips, carefully planned photoshoots, and the occasional viral rant about EPCOT food booths, she has become a recognizable figure in Disney fan circles. Somehow, she balances the pastel-colored MagicBand aesthetic with a sharp legal mind that makes Naples developers uneasy. She might show up to a meeting looking harmless, but if someone is trying to get away with something in Naples, Noelle will spot it first and she will not let it slide.

Position 22: Surya Modia



Surya serves as Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Naples, a role that places her close to power without ever fully granting it. With a background in political science and international studies, she handles policy analysis, strategic planning, and crisis advisement, often identifying problems long before they surface publicly. Unfortunately, the mayor is stubborn, dismissive, and far more interested in preserving his own instincts than listening to hers. As a result, Surya finds herself offering sharp, well-reasoned advice that is frequently ignored, sidelined, or acknowledged only after it is too late.

Privately, Surya is deeply ambitious. She dreams of becoming President of the United States one day, but in the near term, she wants the mayor's seat for herself. Not out of admiration, but out of frustration. Having grown up in Naples, she understands the city's political stagnation, its optics-driven leadership, and its resistance to change. She maintains close ties with her childhood best friend Noelle, one of the few people who has known her long before politics entered the picture.

The Naples Situation, 2028

While Surya plays the patient advisor in public, she is quietly learning every flaw in the system, every weakness in leadership, and every reason why she believes she could do the job better when the opportunity finally presents itself.

Position 23: Kyle Wong

Kyle Wong developed a strong commitment to Christianity during high school and chose to pursue missionary work soon after. His work took him throughout Europe, where he spent extended time embedded in churches and outreach programs across multiple countries. Rather than passing through as a visitor, Kyle became a familiar presence in the communities he worked with, forming genuine friendships with local clergy, volunteers, and families. These relationships were built slowly through shared routine, faith, and trust, giving him access to perspectives rarely visible to outsiders.

Despite the seriousness of his work, Kyle remains lighthearted, talkative, and deeply personable. People tend to open up to him easily, often sharing fears, rumors, and personal struggles they would never voice publicly. Now back in Naples, Kyle carries a network of European connections grounded in loyalty rather than formal authority. In a city increasingly shaped by uncertainty and quiet belief, his international friendships give him insight into movements, ideas, and rumors circulating far beyond Florida, making him an understated but far-reaching presence when events begin to feel unexplainable.

Position 24: Gabriella Burnett



Gabriella graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Finance, originally intending to pursue law school with aspirations of attending Boston University. Somewhere along the way, that path stopped feeling right.

The Naples Situation, 2028

What never faded, however, was her instinctive sense of humor and her ability to read a room faster than anyone else. Instead of continuing toward law, Gabriella pivoted entirely, committing herself to comedy full time.

She now performs stand-up across Southwest Florida while maintaining a growing online presence through comedy videos and skits. Gabriella's content thrives on observation, exaggeration, and saying the thing most people are thinking but will not admit out loud. Her platform gives her access to audiences that cut across age, class, and political lines, allowing her to influence public sentiment without ever claiming authority. In Naples, laughter often travels farther than truth, and Gabriella knows how to aim it.

Position 25: Nick Claudio



Nick grew up in Naples surrounded by drums, percussion rigs, and the structured chaos of school band rooms. Throughout high school, music was his anchor, and he spent years playing percussion in ensembles that demanded discipline as much as creativity. When he left for the University of Florida, he entered as a computer science major, gradually setting music aside in favor of something more practical, even as the absence began to feel heavier than expected.

During his junior year, Nick joined the university jazz band and found himself pulled back into the world he thought he had outgrown. Shortly after, he switched majors to Music Education, committing fully to a path he had tried to leave behind. Now back in Naples, Nick works as a band director at a local high school, guiding students through rehearsals, performances, and the unglamorous work of learning how to listen to one another. His role places him at the center of school communities, parent networks, and youth spaces that often reflect broader shifts in the city before anyone else notices. Through music, Nick shapes discipline, routine, and collective rhythm in a city that rarely stops to listen.

The Naples Situation, 2028

Position 26: Ethan Sandlerson



Ethan grew up in Naples and graduated from Florida State University with a Master's degree in Cyber Security, a field built around trust, access, and knowing exactly where systems fail. Long before that, he worked at a local Walmart during high school, a job that ended abruptly after what was officially labeled a "complicated situation." The details were never fully clarified, but Ethan maintains that he was fired for all the wrong reasons. Whatever actually happened, the experience left a lasting impression.

Today, Ethan works as the Regional Cyber Security Director for Target, overseeing digital security, loss prevention systems, and internal threat mitigation across multiple locations. The irony is not lost on him. Walmart remains Target's primary competitor, and Ethan now occupies a position that gives him intimate knowledge of how retail systems protect themselves or collapse under pressure. Whether his employer is aware of his history or not, Ethan carries a quiet grudge and a long memory. He understands how corporate networks intersect with physical spaces, how vulnerabilities propagate, and how small digital actions can have very real consequences. In a city built on appearances and consumer trust, Ethan knows exactly where both begin to break

Position 27: Valentina Tebow



The Naples Situation, 2028

Valentina graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Marketing and quickly found herself working in one of Naples' most polarizing institutions. She now serves as Marketing Director for Alfie Oakes' Seed to Table, overseeing branding, messaging, promotions, and public-facing campaigns for the store. The role gives her creative freedom, visibility, and financial stability, even if she remains deeply conflicted about the politics and reputation attached to the business.

Despite her reservations, Valentina is very good at what she does. She understands how to shape narratives, build loyalty, and turn controversy into engagement. Her work places her at the intersection of commerce, ideology, and public opinion, where branding decisions can quietly influence how people interpret events far beyond the grocery aisles. Valentina may not love the environment she operates in, but she knows exactly how to control how it looks from the outside.

Position 28: Clara Grecian



Clara studied Biology at the University of Florida, where she developed a focused interest in entomology and ecological systems. While others gravitated toward larger, more visible wildlife, Clara became fascinated by insects and the quiet complexity of the roles they play. She now works in Naples as a field researcher specializing in insect populations in and around the Everglades, spending long days cataloging species, tracking migration patterns, and studying behaviors most people overlook entirely.

Clara's work keeps her close to environments that feel dense, hidden, and alive in ways that are difficult to articulate.

The Naples Situation, 2028

She is methodical, patient, and unusually comfortable operating on a small scale, where subtle changes can signal something much larger. Outside of work, she obsesses with Studio Ghibli films, drawn to their attention to nature and quiet detail. As a close friend and college roommate of Catalina, Clara maintains a grounded social life, but her professional focus often places her on the edge of discoveries that few others would notice until it is too late.

Position 29: Catalina Marquez-Wittinger



Catalina studied Public Relations at the University of Florida, but her real skill has always been visual. What began as part-time photography during college gradually evolved into something more technical and precise. Now working in Naples as a crime scene photographer, Cat documents scenes with a level of clarity and detachment that makes others uncomfortable, capturing details most people instinctively avoid looking at.

Her work places her at the intersection of image and evidence, where truth is frozen in a single frame and context is everything. Catalina is deeply immersed in fashion, media, and pop culture, which gives her an instinctive understanding of presentation and perception. She is close friends and was college roommates with Clara, and the contrast between their work creates an odd balance between art and analysis. Where Clara studies living systems, Catalina records what remains after something has gone wrong, building a quiet archive of moments the city would rather forget.

Position 30: Gonzi Valenzuela



The Naples Situation, 2028

Gonzalo graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Electrical Science. While his academic focus leaned mechanical, he developed a strong practical interest in electronics, signal flow, and system integration. Rather than entering a traditional engineering firm after graduation, Gonzi joined his father's company, Soundpipe, bringing his technical background directly into a family-run operation with growing regional reach.

At Soundpipe, Gonzi works as a project manager overseeing the design and development of high-performance speakers for cars and boats. His role places him at the intersection of engineering, manufacturing, and quality control, contributing hands-on to improving sound output, durability, and system efficiency. Through the company, Gonzi has access to manufacturing pipelines, supply chains, and installation networks that stretch across Southwest Florida. He understands how hardware moves from concept to production and into vehicles and vessels, making him quietly influential in environments where sound, communication, and embedded systems matter more than most people realize.

Position 31: Douglas Summer



Doug graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Electrical Engineering and quickly settled into a life defined by responsibility, stability, and long-term thinking. He now works in power systems engineering, focusing on electrical infrastructure reliability, grid optimization, and failure prevention. His role places him at the intersection of technical precision and public necessity, where small errors can have cascading consequences.

Married with one child, Doug is deeply grounded in family life, and that perspective shapes how he approaches both work and decision-making. He values preparation, redundancy, and foresight, not out of ambition, but out of obligation.

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His background in engineering, combined with a strong sense of duty, makes him someone who plans for worst-case scenarios long before they become visible. In moments of instability, Doug tends to be thinking not about what can be done, but about what cannot afford to go wrong.

