Dear Residents,

It is an honor and privilege to be your voice and to represent you, the citizens of our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale. As your County Commissioner, I look forward to continuing to improve our resident's quality of life by focusing on several key issues in our community. Here are some recent headlines from around the County.

## **Broward County's Traffic Engineering Division**



As a new County Commissioner, I'm having the great pleasure of learning the ins and outs of County Government. One of the exciting parts of my new role is getting a behind the scenes look at the amazing work that is being done by the 6,000+ county employees in different departments and divisions through out the organization.

Most recently I had the opportunity to tour Broward County's Traffic Engineering Division Management Center and Operations Building. I was amazed to learn about the County's role in signal coordination on such a large and robust traffic

system. The system includes over 1,400 signalized intersections, over 28,000 signal heads, over 1,200 school zone flasher locations and 100,000's of signs and pavement markings. Traffic control devices on County and City roadways are maintained 24/7. State roadways signalization is also

controlled by the County unless roadway construction projects are underway, which then reverts the signalization to State officials during the construction period and back to the County once construction is complete. The value in operating all the signals is that we have one unified and cohesive signal system across the entire County.

Most impressive is that approximately 90% of trouble calls are responded to in less than 1 hour by County's dedicated and talented personnel. We often talk about the equipment and technology but forget about the people that operate and maintain the system. Broward County has the most dedicated and talented field personnel you can find. They work hard every day, in traffic – in the heat and humidity and that shows with the superb response times!



Pictured (left to right): Traffic Signals Supervisor Chris Brandes, Commissioner Fisher, Traffic Operations Superintendent Alex Vickers

## Text to 911

On Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Broward County officially launched the new Text-to-911 emergency service. Text-to-911 allows you to send text messages to local 911 dispatch centers during an emergency, when calling is NOT an option. Text-to-911 is another tool for people to get help in a lifethreatening emergency. It is not a substitute for calling 911 and is designed to help the hearing and speech impaired who may not be able to communicate by calling 911, or anyone who fears they'll put themselves in danger by speaking out loud. Below are several important factors to know before using the new text to 911 service.

- Call if you can, text only if you can't
- Know your exact location
- Cell phone providers only offer text messaging as a "best efforts service;" delivery of text messages are not guaranteed, can be delayed by your carrier and may not be received in a timely manner.
- DO NOT send photos, videos or emoji's
- Keep text messages plain and easy to understand no slang or abbreviations
- Texts to 911 have a 160-character limit for a single text.
- The Text-to-911 system currently processes texts in English; language translation is currently not available
- You must have text messaging included on your wireless phone plan
- If texting to 911 is not available in your area, your phone carrier will send you a message requesting that you make a voice call to 911
- Text-to-911 is not a social media app. It is to be used for EMERGENCIES only.
- Misuse of 911 can result in criminal charges, fines and jail time

## **Broward County Solar Co-op**

Broward County has formed a solar co-op which saves residents money and makes going solar much easier with the help of nonprofit, Solar United Neighbors. Solar United Neighbors expands resident's access to solar by educating them about the benefits of distributed solar energy, helping them organize group solar installations, and strengthening Florida solar policies and its community of solar supporters. Broward County supports the Solar Co-op as one of its strategies for reaching its goal of sourcing 20% of its energy from renewables and reducing emissions to mitigate climate change impacts. Residents can visit one of the informational session being held around the County for more information, please visit <a href="http://www.broward.org/Climate/Pages/GoSolar.aspx">http://www.broward.org/Climate/Pages/GoSolar.aspx</a> for a list of these informational sessions and other resources.

## **FLL Update**

Broward County's Fort Lauderdale Airport (FLL) has recently launched a Ride Safe Campaign to remind travelers to make smart decisions and not risky ones when considering the options for ground transportation at FLL. Unauthorized transportation providers are being put on notice to cease or desist from soliciting passengers on the curb, which is an illegal activity at the airport. In addition to posting Ride Safe messaging in baggage claim areas and on flight information display system screens in the terminals, we're also promoting the campaign via social media and conducting undercover stings to identify offenders.

For your safety and the security of your personal belongings, remember to always visit the Ground

at designated curbside stands to find a legitimate provider.

For more FLL News please visit <a href="http://www.broward.org/airport">http://www.broward.org/airport</a>. Once again, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your County Commissioner. Please sign up at <u>Broward.org/Commission/District4</u> to receive email updates from

our office. You can also follow me on <u>Twitter</u> and like my <u>Facebook</u> page. If there is anything that

Transportation desk in baggage claim at each terminal or speak with uniformed airport personnel

we can do to assist you with your vision for a better Broward, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 954-357-7004 or by email at <u>LFisher@broward.org</u>.

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher County Commissioner

District 4