

Broward Commissioner Lamar Fisher's March 2020 Newsletter



MARCH 2020

Dear Residents,

It is an honor and privilege to serve each and everyone of you. It is times like what we have been experiencing lately with the COVID-19 we learn what a wonderful community we have in Broward County. Everyone's health and safety has been of the utmost importance to me and all of us that serve Broward County. Here are some recent headlines from around the County.

Coronavirus

In the wake of the Coronavirus spread in our community, Broward County declared a Local State of Emergency on March 11, 2020 and activated our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These measures allow the County to initiate emergency response activities that help support our partners, particularly the Florida Department of Health and Port Everglades. The County



continues to work with local, state and federal agencies as we monitor the spread and we also continue to follow the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. The Florida Department of Health works closely with the CDC and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date CDC guidance is rapidly and correctly distributed to local partners.

Below are several key phone numbers and links that can assist you, if you with questions:

- State of Florida: [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov)
 - 24/7 Coronavirus Hotline: 866-779-6121 or COVID-19@flhealth.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.CDC.gov
 - 800-232-4636
- Florida Department of Health Broward County: www.Broward.floridahealth.gov
 - 954-412-7300

- Broward County Coronavirus Information & Updates: www.Broward.org/Coronavirus
- Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport: www.Broward.org/airport
- Port Everglades: www.Porteverglades.net/cruising

Please rest assured that Broward County is prepared and has authorized the County Administrator to take any appropriate and necessary action to protect the health and safety of our residents and visitors. This is especially important given the uncertainty regarding the potential spread and impact the Coronavirus may have on our community.

Port Designation

Recently, Broward County's Port Everglades received incredible news which is helping move forward the major deepening and widening project that is desperately needed at the Port in order to bring in bigger ships. The Port was one of only two seaports nationwide to receive a construction "New Start" designation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The New Start Designation will fund \$29.1 million to build a new facility for the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Station further east. The new building will allow the Intracoastal Waterway to be widened by 250 feet to allow for better clearance for large cargo ships, which currently have restricted access. The Coast Guard station reconfiguration is estimated to be completed by November 2023 at a total cost of approximately \$39 million, with the balance paid through Port revenue and state grant funds.



Check out www.Porteverglades.net for all your Port related news.

Closest Unit Response

This month, Broward County rolled out phase one of Closest Unit Response in several cities. Sunrise and Lauderdale were launched on March 2nd, followed by North Lauderdale, Oakland Park and Tamarac on March 16th and Fort Lauderdale on March 30th, 2020. After years of planning and coordination with municipalities and law enforcement and more than \$93 million capital expenditures on the purchase and installation of new equipment and many hours of training, the Closest Unit Response will help in saving lives.



The systems new capability can now use GPS to locate and automatically dispatch the closest equipped, capable and available Fire Rescue within two minutes of a life-threatening emergency no matter the jurisdiction. Closest Unit Response is being launched in four phases and by the end of 2021, all municipalities that participate in the County's Regional 911 System will be utilizing it.

Census 2020

The 2020 Census is here! Starting March 12th every household will start receiving a postcard in the mail with information on how to complete the Census. It is vital that everyone in our County gets counted this year as this data can have major effects on our community. The data collected is for statistical use only and it determines your representation in Congress. Additionally, the Census count will determine the amount of federal and state dollars that go towards local human service programs that help families and individuals in need, including seniors, non-citizens and young people.

It is important to know children, babies, the elderly and even if you are not a US citizen you must be counted. You can respond online, by phone or by mail and all these options are safe and confidential. For more information please visit www.Broward.org/Census2020.



Broward Parks Needs Your Input

The Broward County Parks and Recreation Division is embarking on creating and implementing its first system-wide Master Plan! Staff would like to hear about your vision and priorities pertaining to parks and recreation. Please go to www.betterparksbetterbroward.org for more information and be sure to leave your input in the comments section. Your input will help create a blueprint to plan the future growth and maintenance of our Broward County parks.



Once again, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your County Commissioner. Please sign up at Broward.org/Commission/District4 to receive email updates from our office. You can also follow me on [Twitter](#) and like my [Facebook](#) page to stay up to date on what is happening around our community.

If there is anything that 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 LFisher@broward.org.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Fisher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lamar P. Fisher
County Commissioner
District 4