

**JULY 2021**

**Dear Community Members,**

We are amid one of the hottest and rainiest summer seasons in South Florida! I hope everyone is enjoying a bit of a summer break, spending time with your family and friends while also staying safe in every way possible. From your personal health to heavy rainstorms and the floods impacting our neighborhoods, please be prepared and stay safe.

**Surfside Tragedy**

On the morning of June 24, 2021, we woke up to the terrible news of the collapse of the Champlain Towers South in the Town of Surfside in our neighboring County. My deepest condolences to the families, friends, and neighbors of all those lives that were lost in this horrific tragedy. I also want to thank all the first responders who have been helping throughout the past several weeks in the recovery efforts. You are our heroes and words cannot express enough the gratitude we have for your courageous effort’s day after day at the Surfside site.



Being your District 4 Commissioner, I represent most of the coastal communities in Broward County, from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale. The day of the tragedy all I could think about are all our amazing condos along the beach and while my heart has been heavy for weeks, I checked in on several condo associations. Many questions are still unanswered, but I want to provide a quick overview of Broward County’s Building Safety Inspection Program.

The 1998 Florida Legislature created a single minimum statewide building code that is enforced by local governments.
Per this state law, each municipality within Broward County is responsible for enforcing the minimum statewide “Florida Building Code” within their municipal limits.
As of March 1, 2002, the Florida Building Code, which is developed and maintained by the Florida Building Commission, supersedes all local building codes.

Local amendments to certain aspects of the Florida Building Code, that only apply in Broward County, are allowed to be adopted by the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA).
BORA is an agency established by the County's Charter and is comprised of 13 members, six of which are appointed by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and seven of which are appointed by the Broward League of Cities.
The Broward County 40-year and older Building Safety Inspection Program (program) was created by BORA through local Florida Building Code Amendments in 2005 and became effective throughout Broward County in January 2006.
Only Miami-Dade and Broward Counties currently have this 40-year recertification program.
The program requires structural and electrical safety inspections for buildings 40 years old or older and every 10 years thereafter.
One- and two-family dwellings, U.S Government, State of Florida buildings, schools under the jurisdiction of the School Board of Broward County, and buildings built on Indian Reservations are exempt from this program. Miami-Dade County exempts other buildings under 2,000 square feet while in Broward County all buildings under 3,500 square feet are excluded.
Every June, BORA sends a list of all affected 40-year recertification properties to each of Broward County's municipalities.
Each municipality within Broward County is responsible for its own list of affected buildings, including notifying the affected properties and administering the 40-year recertification process within their municipal boundaries. Broward County Building Code is responsible for the unincorporated area of Broward County (Broward Municipal Service District).
Please contact your municipal building department if you have any questions regarding the age of your building or the status of the 40-year recertification.
The owner of each affected building or structure is given 90 days (September to November) to submit the 40-year safety inspection forms to the municipal building official.
These 40-year safety inspection forms are completed by an engineer or architect hired by the property owner to perform the 40-year inspection (not the municipal building department, which relies on the expertise of Florida licensed professional engineers to certify the structure).
In the event that repairs are necessary, the owner has 180 days (December to May) from the date of the 40-year inspection report to correct the deficiencies that pose an immediate threat to life safety. Repairs that are incidental and non-life-threatening can be completed at a later date.

Although Broward and Miami-Dade are more proactive, this unfortunate tragedy has everyone re-examining this process. As community leaders, my colleagues, municipalities, and community partners must come together to share ideas and improvements to be made to the process to ensure we keep our residents and visitors safe. If you have questions or any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

### **County Major Projects Update**

In the first half of the year, Broward County made significant advances on several vital projects in our community. These major projects include, the Convention Center Renovation and Headquarter Hotel, and the Joint Government Center Campus. The pandemic had a tremendous effect on our community, but Broward County continued its progress with these major projects. Provided below is a quick update on the progress made this year.

### **Convention Center Renovation and Headquarter Hotel**

The Commission began their journey for this project before I was elected and like my colleagues I know the great importance of the renovation, expansion, and Headquarter Hotel. The project is estimated to have an annual economic impact of \$226 million in room nights, restaurants, and retail attractions.



During the pandemic, the County made a concerted effort to maintain momentum, we kept contractors mobilized with selective activities and continued with the design team by pushing through to 90% of the drawings. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitor’s Bureau (Visit Lauderdale) also continued to actively market the new facilities and staff is working to finalize the hotel management agreement.

In April 2020, vertical work on the first phase of its expansion of the existing Convention Center building began. This work expands the exhibition halls from 200,000 to 350,000 square feet of new exhibit space. This first phase is slated to be completed by October 2021, just in time to host the 2021 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. The demolition of the north end of the Northport Parking Garage also commenced in 2020, making room for the new eastern expansion of the Convention Center, which will hold a new 65,000 square-foot ballroom and more than 50,000 square feet of new meeting space.



In 2021 the County Commission approved \$24.5 million for the hotel foundation work among other vital steps for the hotel, taking us to the point of “no return”. After the last year, our tourism industry really needs this project to bring back major conventions, and subsequently bring the economic impact that our community has been needing for years. Full completion of this project is projected for 2025.

### **Joint Government Center Campus**

As you may have read or heard, Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale are working together to jointly develop a new government center campus in downtown Fort

Lauderdale. The new campus is intended to replace the existing County Governmental Center East and City Hall and to produce a new bus transit terminal for Broward County's Transportation Department, administration offices, and associated multi-story parking garage, in addition to the new joint governmental center.

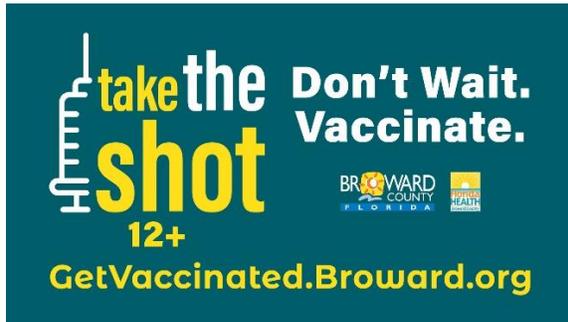
One of the most recent misconceptions that has been portrayed in our community is the specific costs. Staff has provided an updated project cost analysis explaining that the total project cost is \$715 million, with a shared cost of \$625 million between the City (\$269 million) and the County (\$356 million). Other sources will include funds from the Federal Transit Administration and Surtax funding for the Bus Terminal and Broward County Transportation offices.

In June, the County and the City joined together to shortlist the development teams. We concluded that all developer teams qualify to deliver the project, there were no significant red flags that warranted consideration of rejecting any team. We are confident that the teams are composed of high-quality individuals and firms that are renowned in their industries. Our next steps include, finishing and initiating the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and the goal is to have a final selection meeting by March 2022. I am excited to be a part of this much-needed project that will create a more vibrant entrance to our downtown area as well as create major efficiencies for both governmental entities.



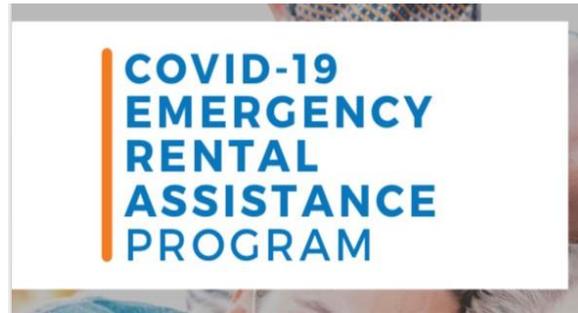
## Broward County Resources

### Vaccine Information



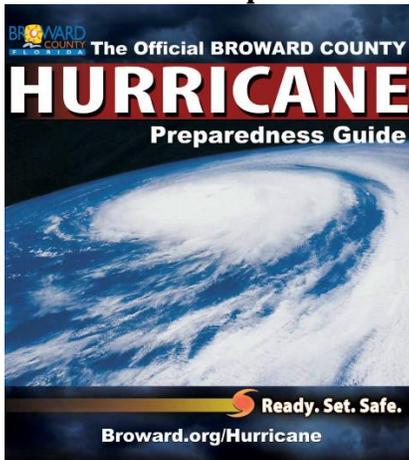
[GetVaccinated.Broward.org](https://www.broward.org/GetVaccinated)

### Rental Assistance



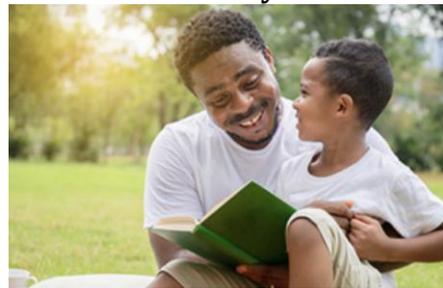
[Broward.org/RentAssistance](https://www.broward.org/RentAssistance)

### Hurricanes Preparedness



[Broward.org/Hurricane](https://www.broward.org/Hurricane)

### Broward County Libraries



### Summer at Your Library

Spend the summer winning prizes for reading, learning and trying new things. Read and learn with us this summer!

[Broward.org/Library](https://www.broward.org/Library)

### Office of Economic and Small Business Development



[Broward.org/EconDev](https://www.broward.org/EconDev)

### Parks and Recreation Month



[Broward.org/Parks](https://www.broward.org/Parks)

## Out in the Community

I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org.

Also, follow me (@LamarPFisher) on Twitter and Facebook (@CommissionerLamarFisher).

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher  
County Commissioner  
District 4



(1) Touring the Alan B. Levan- NSU Broward Center of Innovation, (2) Ft Lauderdale Aquatic Complex 27-Meter Dive Tower Dedication, (3) Celebrating Mae's 100th Birthday, (4) Lauderdale-By-The-Sea 4th of July Parade



(5) Lauderdale Transit Center Grand Opening, (6) Pompano Beach Residential Advisory Board, (7) Delta Sky Club Opening Preview, (8) Celebrity Cruises Sail-Away Celebration-Cruising is Back!