

Broward Commissioner Lamar Fisher December 2018 Update

Dear Residents,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your District 4 Commissioner. It is an honor and privilege to have been elected 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 resident's quality of life by focusing on several key issues in our community. I will focus on improving our environment, alleviating traffic congestion and transportation issues, the affordable housing crises in Broward County and finding sound solutions for homelessness. As a fourth-generation resident of Broward County, I have a deep connection with our community and I'm dedicated to serve the residents of District 4 and help you make a better Broward!

Our Environment

As your District 4 County Commissioner, I represent nearly 3 quarters of Broward County's 24 miles of sandy beaches. Our beaches are a valuable resource and wonderful tourist's attraction providing for our local economy. I will advocate for the protection of our beaches while also focus on finding sensible solutions for the impacts of climate change and sea level rise in our region.

I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with the counties and cities in the region in the preparation for the effects of climate change. Making sure we focus on sea level rise, flooding issues and any economic and social disruptions these changes might bring to our community.

Transportation Surtax

On November 6, 2018 Broward County voters approved a 30-year 1% local option sales tax which will fund countywide transportation system improvements. These improvements will create connectivity, relieve traffic congestions, improve transit services, and expand the availability of multimodal transportation. The plan provides for 476 road, traffic, signal, bridge, technology and safety improvements, more than 700 city-requested transportation improvements, full funding for existing Community Shuttles and Paratransit, and a more reliable, responsive/accessible local transit system. Most importantly, this collaborative plan prioritizes connectivity and congestion relief by creating a dedicated transportation-specific funding, with an independent Oversight Committee.

I look forward to working with the County Commission, the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization and each of the 8 municipalities in District 4 to target our biggest traffic problems and improve our transportation system.

Affordable Housing

Broward County is amid an affordable housing crisis. There is a current demand for over 100,000 affordable units according to a study by Florida International University with over 65,000 units for Low Income Families. According to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, Broward County is the most cost burdened metro area in the nation. Currently, standard housing costs plus transportation costs is 45% of a household income in the nation, unfortunately, Broward County has the highest housing plus transportation costs in the nation at over 70% of a household income!

These statistics are astronomical, and we must find a way to provide affordable housing options for our residents. I will work on finding further solutions for this crisis and continue to support County strategies that provide residents options for affordable housing.

Homelessness

Our community is also facing the challenges of addressing homelessness. It is time we provide all the assistance necessary for individuals experiencing homelessness, which may include providing permanent housing opportunities and the right level of service to ensure the individual can maintain stability and prosper. Recently, a public-private sector partner collaborative with representatives from more than 40 agencies and organizations was established in May 2018 to formulate a thorough, thoughtful and detailed plan of action to end homelessness, beginning with local encampments. While this plan focuses on one area of our community, I'm looking forward to being able to provide solutions for all 8 cities in District 4.

[The Resident's Guide to Government](#) provides a convenient resource to help people stay connected to their local government. It includes contact information for County officials and Federal, State and local agencies. Visitors can subscribe to E-news and social media sites. Please sign up at www.Broward.org/District4 to receive email updates from our office. 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.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your County Commissioner.

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher
County Commissioner
District 4