

JANUARY 2022

Dear Community Members,

The start of a new year is a great opportunity for all to reflect on the challenges of the past year, make goals for the new year and a plan to attain those goals. As we enter 2022, I hope everyone is pursuing their news year’s resolution by making healthy choices and staying safe as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

COVID-19 Update

The holiday season brought a major spike in cases in our community as we saw the Omicron variant run rapidly throughout the nation. Broward County continues working closely with all our partners including the Hospital districts on providing daily information for the public and the Florida Department of Health in Broward County when it comes to testing and vaccination efforts. Broward County’s latest COVID-19 Hospital Report can be found [Here](#).

Broward County and The Florida Department of Health in Broward County immediately began mobilizing efforts to expand test sites operations to meet the increased demand of residents. Eight new sites opened in January, testing capacity was expanded including hours of operation. Lates testing sites can be found [Here](#).

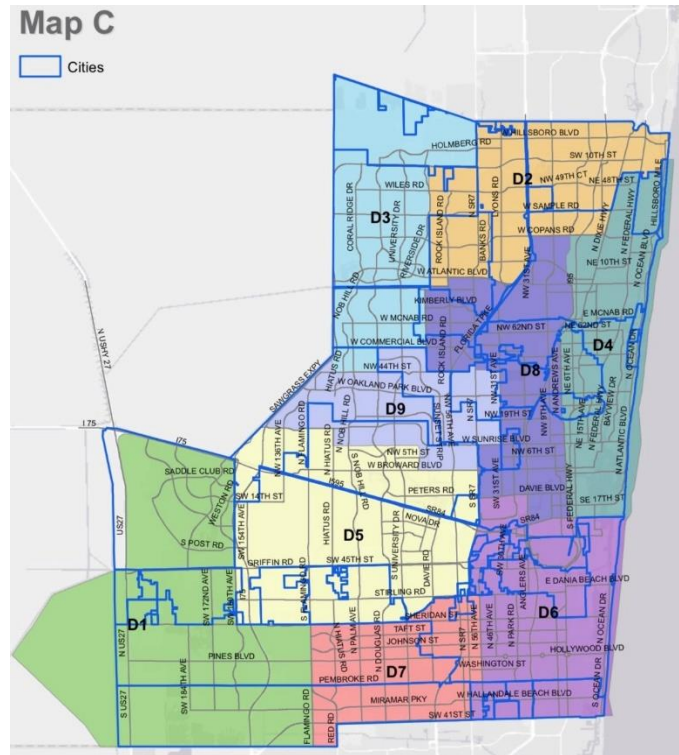
Additionally, in late December the County distributed about 150,000 COVID-19 rapid at-home test kits at several Broward County Libraries. Another 20,000 have been distributed in January at three County Libraries. We continue to request these testing kits from the State as it is a helpful tool for our residents. The distribution of these kits are a major undertaking that requires a tremendous amount of team effort. I want to thank our County Administration, along with municipalities and their respective law enforcement, who all contribute in the effort to have an efficient distribution.



Redistricting

Broward County has officially completed the redistricting process, which is done once every ten years to adjust the County commission map due to the population growth. Broward County's population overall increased 11.2% from 2010 to 2020, with a major increase in the Hispanic or Latino category. Each commission districts total population is approximately 216,000. District 4 now includes all or portions of Fort Lauderdale, Hillsboro Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Lazy Lake, Lighthouse Point, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes and Wilton Manors.

I'm working with our County Administration to alert all residents of District 4 about the changes that have been made. District 4 lost portions of Deerfield Beach. While I'm sad to not be representing the wonderful residents of Deerfield Beach, they know that I'm always available to assist. I'd like to personally welcome the new residents of District 4, which include the residents of Lazy Lake, portions of Wilton Manors and more of the City of Fort Lauderdale. If you are interested in taking a closer look at the changes made to the county commission map, please visit www.Broward.org/redistricting.



Commuter Rail Meetings

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County will be hosting Alternatives Public Workshops (two virtual and one in-person) in late January to encourage as much participation as possible from our community. As you may recall FDOT, and Broward County are performing a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) study which will develop and analyze alternatives for integrating passengers to the freight service railway. You can find registration information and other details about this project at BrowardCommuterRailStudy.com.

Alternatives Public Workshop Virtual
Session #1
January 27, 2022 at 3 p.m.

Alternatives Public Workshop Virtual
Session #2
January 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Alternatives Public Workshop In-Person
Session
January 31, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Opportunities for Small Business Owners

The County Commission recently approved the County's participation and funding for the Southern Opportunity and Resilience (SOAR) Loan Fund. This funding will provide flexible,

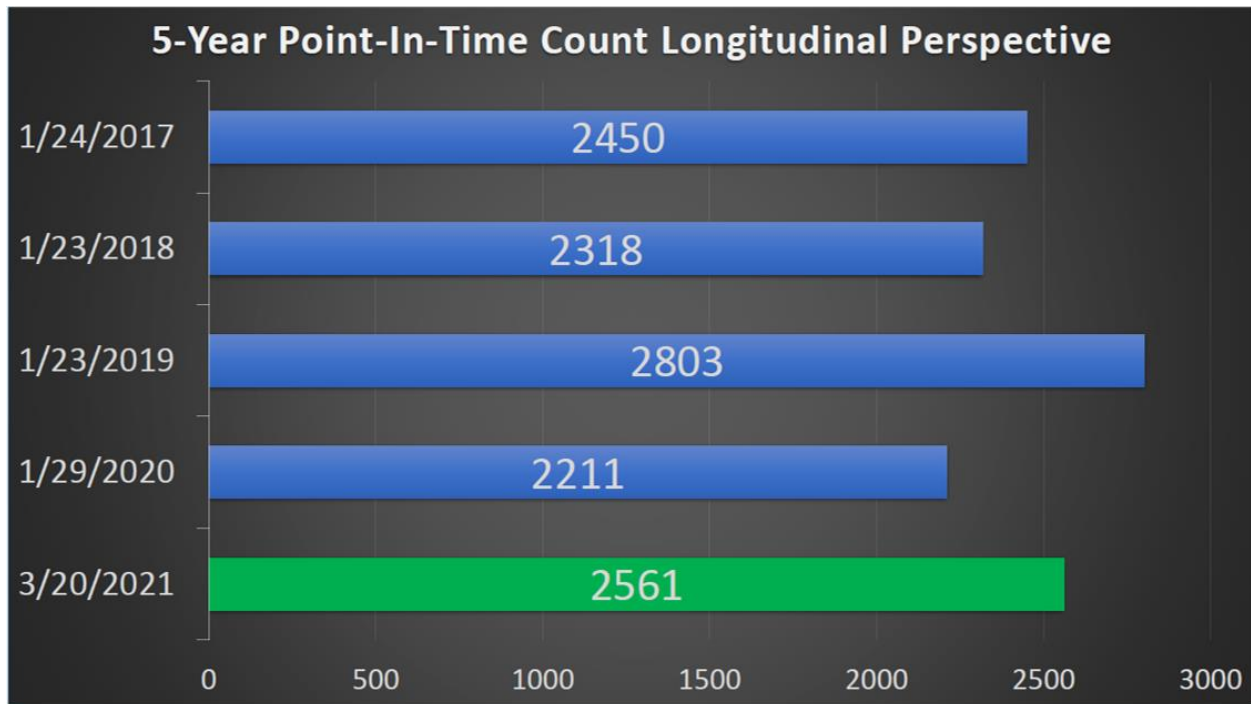
affordable capital up to \$100,000 and free business support services to small businesses and nonprofits in Broward County to help them navigate and rebuild from the COVID-19 economic crisis. The loans are designed to reach the smallest of small businesses and those that have been historically underbanked, including those in rural areas and those owned by women, people of color, and immigrants. For more information on this resource please visit [SOAR](#).

For more information on the many resources from state, federal and local government agencies please visit Broward.org/EconDev.



2022 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

The annual census of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals in Broward County will be taking place January 23-29, 2022. The results of the 2021 Point in Time (PIT) count revealed that there were 2,561 people experiencing homelessness in Broward County on March 20th, 2021. Of this number 1,767 were experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This annual count is important to help planners understand the needs of the homeless community. Additionally, the count is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine federal funding for our homeless services and programs.



Broward County Resources

- COVID-19 Resources: Broward.org/Coronavirus
- Emergency Rental Assistance: Broward.org/RentAssistance
- Broward County Libraries: Broward.org/Library
- Broward County Parks: Broward.org/Parks

- Pet Adoptions: Broward.org/Animal

I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4 and to serve everyone in Broward County as your Vice Mayor. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me ([@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher)) on Twitter and Facebook ([@ViceMayorLamarFisher](https://www.facebook.com/ViceMayorLamarFisher)).

Best regards,



Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County Vice Mayor
Commission District 4