

**JULY 2022**

**Dear Community Members,**

I hope everyone is enjoying the great South Florida summer especially by taking advantage of our beautiful beaches and water parks while also making sure to stay safe in this summer heat! While the Board of County Commissioners do not meet until mid-August, County staff continues to move forward on many initiatives. Additionally, my office is always open, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or my staff if you have any questions, concerns or just to say hello.

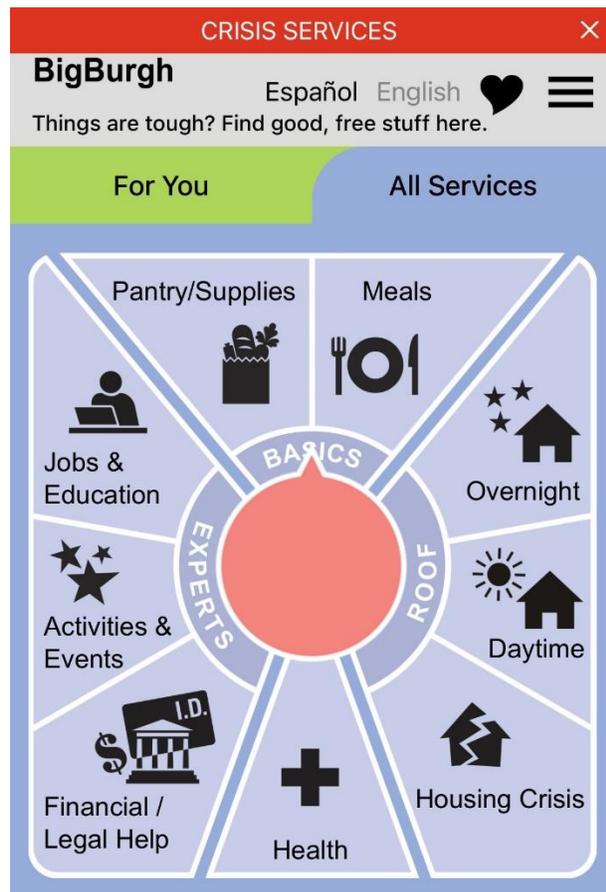
**Homelessness**

A topic that is near and dear to my heart is making sure we are doing everything we can to assist the homelessness crisis in our community. It breaks my heart to see many struggling individuals on our streets. I know many residents have contacted me expressing their concerns and it is one of the top issues that is discussed when I attend community meetings.

**Current Services:** Broward County’s Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) manages \$31 million County, State and Federal funding that is provided to 21 CoC partners that deliver 64 programs with services to approximately 9,178 people experiencing homelessness annually. This includes permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, emergency shelters (includes the three major centers North, Central and South), coordinated assessment, transitional housing and supportive services (case management).

In collaboration with municipalities, Broward County also assists in the street outreach effort, connecting individuals with a shelter or a service that may assist in that very moment of contact. The difficult part is aiding those that are chronically homeless and often the services being provided. Of those that do accept the services, Broward County is proud to say that 95% of individuals remain permanently housed and do not return to homelessness.

**New Initiatives:** As the old saying goes, ‘it takes a village’, I truly believe that to help those experiencing homelessness it takes the help of all in our community. In addition to the services already provided, the County is working on several initiatives. These include, working towards providing individuals with SafeLink phones with access to the BigBurgh App (currently applied in the City of Pittsburgh) that provides real time services available with GIS overlay on how to access services. The outreach team does a fantastic job approaching individuals that are homeless to show them the services that are available, unfortunately the information comes in a pamphlet, many times it will end up in the garbage or on the street. The BigBurgh App provides people with direct access to the next shower option location, and information on how to get there. Other initiatives include, engaging every school in Broward County in the Homeless Management Information System, having a dedicated street outreach and medical/clinical team at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International airport, and increasing the dedicated direct service team within the Homeless Initiative Partnership to address critical situations on major corridors and expedite housing placement.



**How you can help:** Residents and visitors can also help; we encourage all to assist by providing these individuals the accurate information instead of a couple dollars or even food. Directing individuals experiencing homeless to the services already provided by our many partners can be a monumental step in aiding someone off the street. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness in Broward County, contact the Homeless Helpline to initiate assessment for homeless services by calling 954-563-4357.

## Tenant Bill of Rights

The housing crisis in Broward County continues. The County Commission took steps to assist renters to understand their rights. The new ordinance requires landlords to provide renters with the new Tenant Bill of Rights. Additionally, landlords are required to give a 60-day notice when there is a rent increase over 5%. Broward County launched a new website that provides everyone with access to the new tenant bill of rights and resources that address concerns between tenants and landlords, termination notices, lease renewals and evictions. I am pleased that staff worked with both the renter's community as well as realtors' associations to provide this much needed resource. For more information, visit [Broward.org/planning/rent](http://Broward.org/planning/rent).



## TENANTS AND LANDLORDS



### COMMISSIONERS TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT RENTERS

As rents continue to increase in South Florida, Broward County Commissioners have taken steps to put protections in place for renters. The Board has approved a law that requires landlords to give not less than 60 days' notice prior to termination of leases for tenants facing rent increases of more than 5%. It applies to all renters whether they have month to month or annual lease agreements. The South Florida region saw the highest rent increases in the country in the past year.

## Update on Emergency Rental Assistance Program

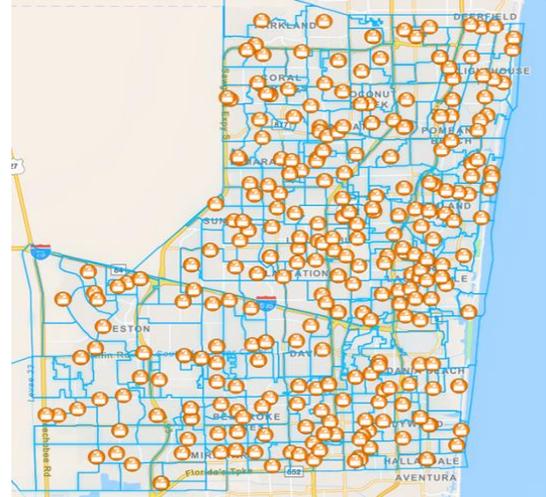


Broward County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program application portal will temporarily close on Sunday, July 17, 2022, and reopen Thursday, August 18, 2022, to

provide time for review and process of previously submitted applications. Completed applications submitted by July 17th will be accepted. Residents will have additional opportunities to submit applications when the portal reopens. For more information, visit [Broward.org/RentalAssistance](http://Broward.org/RentalAssistance).

### Voting Precinct Check

Florida's Primary Election is August 23<sup>rd</sup> and the deadline for voters to register is July 25<sup>th</sup>. I encourage residents to check their voting status by visiting [BrowardVotes.gov](http://BrowardVotes.gov). Additionally, it is recommended to checkout Broward County's Supervisor of Election [New Polling Place Finder](#). The new site helps voters find their election day polling place by entering their own address. You can also visit the Florida Department of State, [Florida Division of Elections website](#) that provides further information for voter deadlines and more.



### Recent County Commission Actions

- **Commuter Rail Update-** The Broward County Commission reached a consensus on Broward Commuter Rail. The proposed project will be built in phases starting from Aventura to south of the New River, eventually moving north to Deerfield and into Palm Beach County. The Board also came to a consensus that an agreement for the full project, from the south county line to the north must be in place.
- **Joint Government Center Campus Update-** The City of Fort Lauderdale decided not to move forward with this project therefore at the June 14<sup>th</sup> commission meeting the Board directed the County Administrator to investigate and evaluate options for the development of a new Broward County Government Center and to present those options to the Board at the first County commission meeting in August 2022.



To read, watch or join in our County Commission Meetings please visit [broward.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=15](http://broward.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=15)

## Resources/Reminders

- Business Resources: [Broward.org/EconDev](http://Broward.org/EconDev)
- Broward County Libraries: [Broward.org/Library](http://Broward.org/Library)
- Broward County Parks: [Broward.org/Parks](http://Broward.org/Parks)
- Hurricane Resources: [Broward.org/Hurricane](http://Broward.org/Hurricane)
- Mosquito Control Services: [Broward.org/Mosquito](http://Broward.org/Mosquito)

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

Best regards,



Lamar P. Fisher  
Broward County Vice Mayor  
Commission District 4