



September 2024

Dear Community Members,

On September 5th, I presented the proclamation for Hunger Action Month and wore orange to raise awareness of food insecurities in our community. I'm thankful to everyone in our community for their support to this vital cause.



Subsequently, we reflected on the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 by remembering all those affected by the tragic incident that is forever embedded in our lives. Later in the month, we join our Hispanic friends to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. Check out [Broward County Library Events](#) for more information on local events in your area. As we enter the fall season in South Florida, I'm hopeful we can experience some relief from the summer heat to enjoy the many outdoor activities our community has to offer.

New River Bridge Designs

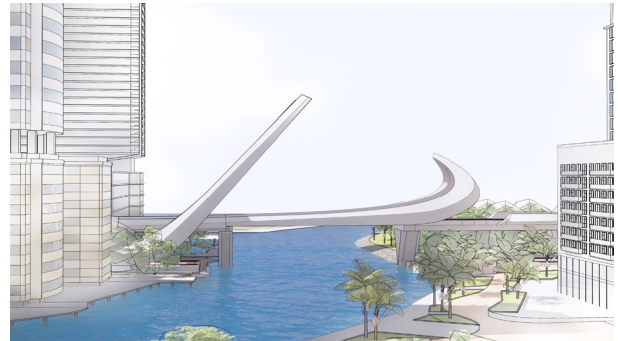
Broward County recently released the conceptual designs for iconic bridges in downtown Fort Lauderdale as we continue to have discussions of the best alternative for the Broward Commuter Rail crossing over the New River. The conceptual designs propose replacing the existing low-level steel structure with modern rail crossings that will serve both passenger (Brightline) and freight trains, as well as the addition of a 40' bridge to accommodate the Broward Commuter Rail.





The proposed conceptual designs for the two bridges are envisioned as iconic landmarks, likely to draw national and international attention. A total cost estimate developed for one of the new bridge conceptual designs is between \$470-\$495 million. This is similar to cost estimates made for previous bridge concepts developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (\$243-

\$474 million) but far below a majority of cost estimates for a tunnel which have been in excess of \$1 billion. While we continue to have discussions for the best alternative in our community, I assure you that a choice will be made, one which is visually pleasing as well as cost effective for the residents of Broward County.



Panthers Agreement Extension



The Broward County Commission recently voted to amend the terms and extend the Operating Agreement for the County-owned Amerant Bank Arena with the Florida Panthers for an additional five years. This will carry the agreement through the remaining four-year contract plus the additional five years, for a total of nine years, through 2033. Through this new nine-year agreement, the Panthers would gain exclusive rights over the next four years to propose and submit a development plan for the Broward County property surrounding Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise for the County's approval. Broward County will have the sole option to retain the Panthers at the Arena for two additional five-year terms for a total of 19 years through 2043.

Under the terms of the new agreement, the Florida Panthers will continue to serve as the operator of the Arena for which the County would pay \$25 million annually for capital expenditures, repairs, operations, and maintenance of the facility. This amount would be funded through the tourism development tax, paid mostly by visitors to Broward County. The Panthers will pay an upfront amount of \$51.5 million to Broward County to be used to pay off the remaining debt on the facility and they have agreed to continue to donate at least \$1 million annually to various community efforts across Broward County and South Florida.



We are incredibly proud of the success the Panthers have brought to our community, most recently by winning the Stanley Cup earlier this year which has put Broward County on the map for hockey fans. It has been estimated the Arena attracts about 30 million visitors annually and the Panthers have generated a \$125+ million impact on the local economy over the last two playoffs. We look forward to our continued partnership and we're rooting for our Florida Panthers this upcoming season!

Broward County & Film Industry

Broward County's Film Lauderdale continues to make headway in the film industry by landing massive deals that showcase our incredibly beautiful County. Earlier this year you may have experienced traffic delays along our A1A in Fort Lauderdale, which brought us a fantastic action scene for 'Bad Boys: Ride or Die', which solidifies the high impact production, the Greater Fort Lauderdale area is attracting.



Broward's Film Lauderdale continues to provide incentives, logistical assistance, and referral resources, and is the one-stop production shop for all things in the film industry in the County. For more information, please visit FilmLauderdale.org.

REMINDERS/EVENTS:



Just a few days left! Visit Lauderdale's Dine Out
Lauderdale Restaurant Months runs through September 30. Participating restaurants offer three course dining options from price fixe menus. For more information, or to see a list of participating restaurants, please visit VisitLauderdale.com/DineOut.



King Tides are expected the following dates this fall, September 16 – 23, October 14 – 22, October 30 – November 4, November 12 – 19 and December 12 – 16. Broward County encourages all to monitor weather conditions. Stay alert. Drive carefully. Do not drive through standing water; turn around and find an alternative route.



National Voter Registration Day was September 17, 2024, a day to remind voters to check their voter registration status. Now is the time to visit BrowardVotes.gov to check your voter status. The last day to register for the upcoming election is October 7, 2024, in the state of Florida.



The 9th Annual **Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE)** will be held on October 23 and 24, 2024 at the Broward County Convention Center. This is a great opportunity to engage in dialogues relating to international trade with delegations from around the world. For more information, please visit, [FITCE 2024](https://FITCE2024.com).

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

Best regards,

Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County Commissioner
District 4

Additional Resources:

- Libraries: Broward.org/Library
- Parks: Broward.org/Parks
- Business Assistance: Broward.org/EconDev
- Broward's Official Hurricane Site: Broward.org/Hurricane
- Mosquito Control Services: Broward.org/Mosquito
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: Broward.org/Airport
- Port Everglades: PortEverglades.net