

# GALT MILE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GMCA

JANUARY 2017



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COVER PHOTO BY: Marsha Stamatakis, Stamas Photography



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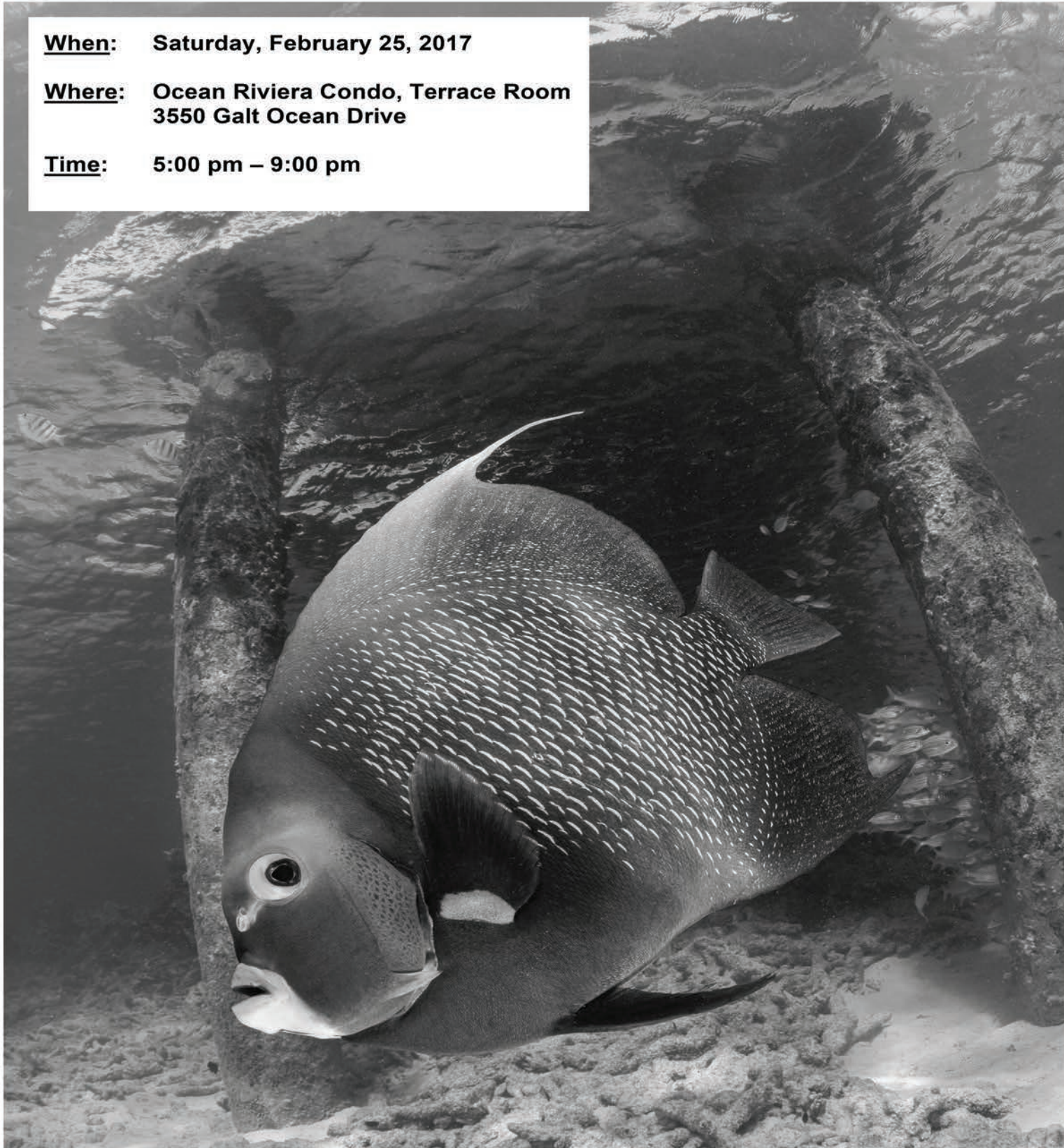


*You are Invited!*  
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**When:** Saturday, February 25, 2017

**Where:** Ocean Riviera Condo, Terrace Room  
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**Time:** 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm



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# FLORIDA FRAUD & GALT SENIOR SCAM ALERT

By Eric Berkowitz

The holiday season is traditionally a time marked by inclusion, family, serene coexistence, charity – and a palpable uptick in fraud. The high profile personal data hacks of 70 million Target customers in 2013 and the fiasco at Sony in 2014 both took place during the holiday season, and it's no coincidence that December was named National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month. Although Holiday Season scams are a worldwide phenomenon, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) statistics confirm that the slime balls who drive this niche industry auger a preference for Floridians. More specifically, "marks" that visit or reside in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area.

The FTC recently created a data book that serves as a repository for consumer complaints received by the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network, state and federal law enforcement agencies, national and state consumer protection agencies and consumer watchdog organizations (NGOs). The Consumer Sentinel Network data book includes national statistics, a state-by-state listing of top complaint categories and a listing of states and metropolitan areas that generated the most complaints per capita.

The top ten complaint categories are: Debt Collection (29%), Identity Theft (16%), Imposter Scams (11%), Telephone and Mobile Services (9%), Prizes, Sweepstakes and Lotteries (5%), Banks and Lenders (4%), Shop-At-Home and Catalog Sales (3%), Auto-Related Complaints (3%), Television and Electronic Media (2%), Credit Bureaus, Information Furnishers and Report Users (1%). Complaint details, which include the specific losses sustained in each of the 3,038,379 complaints submitted in 2015, are only available to law enforcement. Of the \$billions lost by victims, the most popular payment vehicles in 2015 were wire transfers (61%) and credit cards (14%). Victims were primarily sourced by telephone (75%), email (8%), scam websites (6%) or snail mail (4%).

In 2016, Data Breach Stats compiled annually by the Identity Theft Resource Center lists the thousands of corporations, small businesses, banks, Government agencies and medical institutions from which hackers plundered 35,233,317 confidential records rife with financial, health care, insurance and other personal data dur-

ing the course of 980 separate breaches. This burgeoning multi-\$billion industry has given rise to a clandestine war between geeks attacking or defending corporate and government databases, where the spoils are bartered using anonymous TOR Browsers to crawl through unsavory marketplaces in the bowels of the Dark Web.

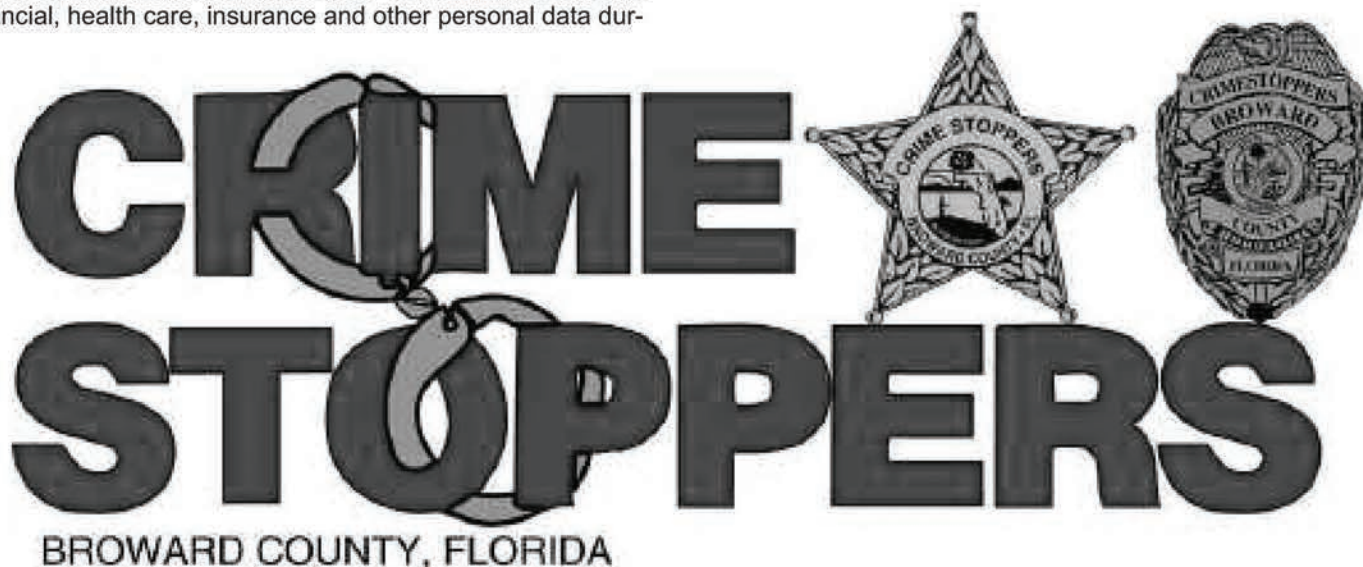
## Fort Lauderdale: Fraud Central

Unfortunately, by clocking 1,510.2 fraud cases for every 100,000 residents, the Sunshine State ranks Number 1 in the United States for fraud complaints - and 3rd in the nation for identity theft cases (217 for every 100,000 Floridians). The FTC data book affirms that 50% of the Florida fraud cases resulting from stolen personal data were sourced from a breach of Government Documents (tax records, benefit statements, etc.). In another 18% of the Florida cases, pilfered data was used to commit Credit Card fraud (i.e. bank records, etc.). Also popular with Florida identity thieves is telephone or utilities fraud (8%), bank fraud (8%), loan fraud (3%), and employment-related fraud (2%).

Whether a native Floridian or having moved here to cap pursuit of a lifelong dream, Galt Mile residents live at ground zero of fraud central. The FTC data book ranks the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area 3rd in the nation for identity theft, with 300.7 complaints for every 100,000 residents.

The mastermind behind the infamous Target hack is Andrew Hodi-revski, a then 17 year old Russian kid from Odessa. While fraud media coverage will typically focus on youthful hackers who break into \$billion secure networks with a laptop and a Frappuccino – possibly for the same reason the New York Sun followed the exploits of William Henry McCarty (AKA William Bonney or Billy the Kid) in the 1880s – Florida crooks predominantly juggle low-tech tactics that exploit the vulnerabilities of target populations. New scams that surge through neighborhoods are usually variations of an earlier version, and are often transitory by necessity. Once the local target population gets wind of a scam, the crooks move to a more fertile hunting ground.

Continued on page 5





### FLPD and the Galt Mile Advisory Board

FLPD Officers Tom Gestal and George Brandner serve as law enforcement liaisons to the Galt Mile Community Association. Each month, they provide the neighborhood Advisory Board with a snapshot of local crime trends and recommendations for protecting Galt Mile residents against new threats. At the December 15 Advisory Board meeting, FLPD's Tom Gestal warned about a Credit and Debit Card scam that was fleecing Fort Lauderdale seniors. From Gestal's description, the thefts were meticulously planned, and the players seemed more like trained thespians than some itinerant collection of bangers.

Speaking to the unusually ardent preparation that preceded each incident, Gestal explained, "The crooks would research their intended victims by dumpster diving or breaking into locked mailboxes." By collecting credit card and bank statements, bills and invoices, the crooks killed two birds with one stone. In addition to learning about the sufficiency and location of assets, it also provided the basis for a script they would later enact to win the victim's trust. After examining the information, the crooks would customize each scam to the mark's personal banking activities.

### The One-Act Senior Scam

Posing as a bank investigator for cardmember services, a crook would call to warn victims that their debit cards may have been compromised. Reading from the pilfered bank statements, the caller would confirm the account data and accurately review recent charges, "which enhanced their credibility with the nervous victim," said Gestal. Using a businesslike tone with a sense of urgency, they would inform the victim that their card account must be quickly frozen to prevent unauthorized use, and their debit card replaced. Of course, they would need the PIN number to close the compromised account.

Apologizing for the inconvenience caused by "the breach", the scammer told victims that a bank representative was being dispatched to his or her home to switch out the old card for a new one with a clean security chip. While distracted on the phone, a well-dressed second player soon arrived at the victim's home and requested the supposedly adulterated card - along with any credit cards issued by the bank, promising to shortly return with replacement cards.

Explaining that the scammers have been using several variations of this basic script, Gestal moved to a second scenario in which the scammer informed the victim that police had arrested a man in West Palm Beach for making unauthorized charges to the victim's account. After describing how the perpetrator was being processed at the police station, the bogus investigator explained that the PIN number was required "to reverse the charges". While still on the phone, the second player arrived at the house wearing either a business suit or a hospital uniform. Having been told that the debit card must be destroyed and replaced, each victim gratefully turned over his or her cards, and futilely waited for scammer number 2 to return. Gestal commented that each of the victims admitted to believing the scammers were bank employees, and didn't become suspicious until they realized that their visitor was not going to return, usually several hours after surrendering their bank cards.

In both cases, the crook who first made contact kept the victims on the phone before, during and after the second scammer's visit, offering continuous assurances that their funds were safe, and later, that the second bogus bank employee would soon return with replacement cards. By tying up the phone and engaging the victim

throughout the entire charade, the crooks precluded victims from calling the bank - or the police - at least before the scammers could hit the ATM or begin racking up fraudulent purchases.

### Scammers Roll across Broward

The second scenario described by Gestal actually took place in April, when two women used the same script to swindle as much as \$20,000 apiece from seniors in a Sunrise community. Identifying herself as an employee of either Chase or Bank of America, a female scammer who called 30 different elderly residents in Sunrise Lakes (off Pine Island Road) baited the hook by asking if they had authorized a man to use their debit cards for purchases in Boynton Beach. After enumerating the dates and locations of recent purchases listed on pilfered bank statements, she elicited PIN numbers to supposedly clear their accounts of charges made by the non-existent Boynton Beach straw man. Admonishing that the compromised cards must be destroyed and replaced immediately, she informed each victim "I'm sending a lady to pick up the card." While still on the phone, a second female crook arrived at the victims' homes and collected their bank cards while promising to return with a card protected by a security chip. After each sting, the scammers pulled cash from ATMs before embarking on shopping sprees at Rooms To Go, Target, Walmart and other local stores.

In another twist on the scammers' script, a Davie man was informed that the police had detained a man for making unauthorized purchases with his debit card, but the "suspect" had claimed that he was the cardholder's son. Since he had no son, the "mark" thanked the phony fraud investigator for her part in quashing the theft. When he subsequently reported the crime, the victim told police that when a polished professional man in a business suit came to his house to replace the card, he remembered thinking, "This bank is really going out of their way to help me." The bank replaced \$5000 later siphoned from his account.

While investigating a series of subsequent ATM withdrawals and retail purchases made with the scammed cards (including a big-screen television), detectives from the Economic Crimes Unit in the Broward Sheriff's Office retrieved a security camera video of two women consummating a transaction at a Walmart on May 22, one of them seemingly adorned in medical scrubs. Broward police said the perpetrators were working with associates, and moving through neighborhoods in Broward County.

On August 10, 2016, police arrested 35-year-old Irene Eljeanetta Garrett of Pompano Beach. Linked to 5 of the Sunrise rip-offs that netted more than \$10,000, Broward Police said she belonged to a "ring of fraudsters." When word of the scam spread through Sunrise, the crooks shifted their one-act play from Sunrise to target seniors in Tamarac and Lauderdale Lakes. After picking her up, when police showed Garrett pictures of her and accomplices taken by surveillance cameras at ATMs, a Walmart and a Winn-Dixie, Garrett admitted to participating in the scam, and confirmed the involvement of others. Those with information were advised to call Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS, where they could anonymously disclose promising leads, and possibly be eligible for a \$3,000 reward.

According to media reports, when later interviewed by the police, several victims paid a back-handed compliment to the swindlers for their acting ability. Agreeing that the crooks were "extremely well-rehearsed and convincing," Gestal said that most of the victims told police that they believed the alert to be authentic primarily due to the scammers' familiarity with their banking transactions. Gestal surmised "Without the bank statements taken from mailboxes or extracted from the victim's garbage, it probably wouldn't have worked."

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# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Chip LaMarca's DECEMBER 2016 Newsletter

By Eric Berkowitz

In his December 2016 constituent update, District 4 Broward Commissioner Chip LaMarca highlights some of Port Everglades 2016 benchmarks, topped by Congressional approval of a funding venue for the Port's Master Plan improvements. By paving the way to deepen the port's channel and expand its turning notch, the new Federal law will enable the port to share in a post-Panamax economic jackpot. LaMarca also applauds Broward County for out-pacing most of the State's other metro areas for job growth, noting that District 4 is the statewide leader for creating jobs in the fields of trade, transportation, and utilities. LaMarca closes his message by enumerating the health benefits of bike sharing - a sort of testament to Broward B-Cycle on its fifth Birthday, when it became the fiscal ward of health insurance carrier AvMed.

Port Everglades: A Twenty-Year Marathon While LaMarca describes how the new federal law will benefit Port Everglades, it culminates a two-decade marathon effort to cement the port's future as a regional economic powerhouse. In 1997, Port Everglades officials began pleading with the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to approve funding for 3 Master Plan projects. The enhancements would enable the port to accommodate the anticipated explosion of Post-Panamax vessels from Asia and the Pacific via the newly expanded Panama Canal. Since faster and cheaper shipping of goods between the East Coast and Asia would allow American farmers and manufacturers to better compete with South American and European counterparts, the resulting economic cascade would guarantee Post-Panamax adapted Gulf and East Coast seaports revenue windfalls and thousands of new jobs.

Since Post-Panamax ships are 25% longer, 50% wider and have a deeper draft than the largest vessels navigating the Panama Canal prior to its expansion (a configuration called "Panamax"), Port Everglades' channel would have to be deepened from 42 feet to 50 feet, and the 900-foot Southport Turning Notch would have to be lengthened to 2,400 feet while its perimeter is reconfigured to berth and service five additional monster vessels. The third project, construction of an on-site Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) to enable the seamless transfer of international cargo containers between ship and rail, was completed on July 16, 2014 - funded by a public-private partnership forged by the port and the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC). By significantly expediting the delivery of goods to market, the ICTF has equipped the port with an unmatched competitive edge.

When the Panama Canal Authority estimated that five or six operational ports on the U.S. East Coast could handle the resulting tornado of cheaper goods, it triggered a frenzy of construction planning by East Coast seaports competing for a piece of the Post-Panamax Golden Goose. However, without approval by the Army Corps of Engineers, planned improvements would remain frozen on drawing boards, and Port Everglades would be out of the running.

On June 28, 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers finally released its Draft Environmental Impact plan for "Navigational Improvements to the Port Ever-

glades Harbor," a regulatory roadmap for implementing the Master Plan improvements. A year later, in August 2014, the Corps of Engineers announced that it would recommend dredging the channel.

After 18 years of gridlock, Congress finally passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 14), providing the Corps with long-awaited funding protocols. In mid-February, 2015, LaMarca joined Congresswoman Lois Frankel at a meeting in Washington D.C. with staff from the South Florida Congressional Delegation, State, County and City elected officials and Broward business leaders, to prepare for a make-or-break hearing by the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board.

The panel assesses whether locally approved projects provide national economic and environmental benefits - an eligibility prerequisite for Federal cost-sharing. On February 27, 2015, the Civil Works Review Board unanimously approved the final environmental and economic feasibility studies for dredging the Port Everglades channel to 48 feet (50 feet with allowable overdepth) and expanding the Southport turning notch.

On June 26, 2015, Lt. General Thomas P. Bostick of the Army Corps of Engineers signed the Chief of Engineers Report for the Port Everglades improvements, certifying the project as environmentally sound and economically beneficial to the United States. The Chief's Report was required to include the project in the 2016 federal legislation authorizing water and navigation-related projects (WRDA 16).

Since the Chief's Report serves as a recommendation for Congressional approval, it also benchmarks a transitional segue from the pre-construction, engineering and design (PED) phase to the authorization phase. The anticipated \$374 million funding feedbag would be comprised of \$190 million in federal dredging money and \$183.1 million in Port revenues, supplemented by State contributions. NO TAX DOLLARS are in the mix!!! Modifications to the draft mitigation plan and contract procurement were expected to take approximately 2 years, followed by five years of construction beginning in 2017.

After hammering out a 2016 version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 16) in September, Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act on December 10, 2016. Signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 16, 2016, the Act provides for the needs of America's harbors, locks, dams, flood protection, and other water resources infrastructure critical to the Nation's economic growth, health, and competitive muscle.

While the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 16) is incorporated into Title I of the WIIN Act, Title II includes improvements to drinking water infrastructure around the country and addresses control of coal combustion residuals, Title III improves water storage and delivery to drought-stricken communities, addresses federal dam maintenance backlogs, and approves water settlement agreements that benefit taxpayers and several Native American jurisdictions.

To keep pace with increasingly massive post-Panamax vessels, WRDA 2016 no longer treats deeper harbors as a local option, but as a key competitive priority for sea-





# Chip LaMarca's

## DECEMBER 2016 Newsletter

and over \$27 billion in trade operations in 2014. The expansion and deepening project will ensure the capability of the port to accommodate larger cruise ships and the new Panamax ships. This project will create thousands of construction and permanent jobs; and support the local South Florida economy. The passage of this bill will then move our project from the Authorization Phase into the critical next phase, Appropriations. This great accomplishment was only made possible because of the great collaboration and advocacy of many South Florida leaders.

In other Port related news, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently gave the Port Everglades Wetland Enhancement Project a "Notification of Trending Towards Success." This green initiative is addressing a berthing capacity shortfall by developing new wetlands that support wildlife and ecological quality in the center of an urban, industrial seaport. The Port successfully cultivated 16.5 acres of nursery-grown mangrove and native plants on property that was originally dry land intended for other uses. This notification is a key component to the Port's berth expansion effort because it releases 8.7 acres of an existing mangrove conservation easement adjacent to docks. The acres that have been released will be expanded to make way for up to five new cargo ship berths. The project also recently won IHS Maritime and Trade magazine's Dredging and Port Construction Innovation Award in the "Working/Engineering/Building with Nature Award" category.

Additionally, Port Everglades has exceeded one-million TEU's (20-foot equivalent units, the industry's standard container measurement), for the third consecutive year. A total of almost 1.04 million TEUs have been reported this year. Furthermore, bulk and break bulk cargo increased 13 percent from 1.56 million tons in FY2015 to 1.76 million tons in FY2016. Petroleum volumes also increased by 3.6 percent from more than 116.8 million barrels in FY2015 to 121.1 million barrels in FY2016.

More information about Broward County's Port Everglades is available at [porteverglades.net](http://porteverglades.net).

Continued on page 8

Dear Broward County Residents,

I am honored to serve as your county commissioner, representing our coastal communities from Deerfield Beach to Fort Lauderdale and all of the amazing communities in between. Here are some recent highlights from around Broward County.

### Port Everglades Update

We are now one step closer to the official authorization of the Port Everglades Widening and Deepening project. The Senate passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation "WIIN" (previously the Water Resource Development Act of 2016 "WRDA 16") this month by a vote of 78-21. The same bill was previously passed by the House of Representatives 360-61.

The WIIN Bill authorizes critical investments in water infrastructure projects, specifically it authorizes the Deepening and Widening at Broward County's Port Everglades.

Broward County's Port Everglades is the third busiest Port in the country, setting a record for cruise ship passengers in a single day with 54,700 passengers, 3.77 million passengers in 2015





ports, and updates the cost-sharing formula for harbor deepening projects. Going forward, the federal government will be responsible for 75 percent of the dredging costs for projects that excavate the harbor up to the 50-foot depth required for post-Panamax ships, instead of the prior 45-foot threshold sufficient for smaller Panamax vessels. More importantly, the Act loosens the Congressional death grip on waterways funding.

**WRDA 2016 authorizes nearly \$16 billion in federal appropriations for USACE-approved activities. Specifically, the law authorizes 30 USACE "Chief Reports" submitted to Congress since the enactment of the WRDA 2014 bill. Having chipped in its Chiefs Report in June of 2015, Port Everglades is one of eight new navigation projects recommended for funding. And it only took 20 years.**

**Broward B-Cycle: Rescued & Rebranded**  
Using State funds meted out by Broward County, B-cycle opened its Broward bike-sharing operation on December 14, 2011. Five years later, after fleshing out 27 bike docking stations with roughly 275 basketed bicycles, the bike-sharing enterprise faced an increasingly empty cookie jar. On its fifth birthday, LaMarca joined City Commissioner Romney Rogers and Broward Mayor Barbara Sharief in Esplanade Park on December 15th to celebrate Broward B-Cycle's new partnership with AvMed, a \$789 million not-for-profit health insurer based in Miami.

Overnight, the blue and white Broward B-Cycles were replaced with bikes cloaked in AvMed's sunshine yellow corporate colors. Broward B-Cycle logos imprinted on each bike were overwritten with the operation's new name - AvMed Rides. The website was also rebranded as "AvMed Rides". In fact, the only discernable remnant of Broward B-Cycle is a small graphic adjacent to the new logo that states "powered by Broward B-Cycle".

Despite the new trappings, daily operations are still run by Broward B-Cycle. During the event, B-cycle manager Jeff Torkelson described a planned expansion, citing his intention to add more stations in heavily populated East Broward before migrating west. While the bikes may have evolved into rolling billboards - at least the popular program will survive with AvMed's backing, and according to Torkelson, grow into "the first county-wide system in the nation."

While locking up some new advertising, AvMed anticipates that its investment will also yield the kind of dividend that inspired health insurers to jump on the Healthways Silver Sneakers bandwagon. Actively promoting a healthy lifestyle saves carriers a bundle on hospitalizations and doctor visits. AvMed announced that it will incorporate Broward B-Cycle into its "WELLfluence Program", which incentivizes clients to participate in wellness venues supervised by health care professionals and closely monitored by parent company SantaFe Healthcare, Inc. AvMed's bean counters won't measure the success of this collaborative rescue by totaling rides or receipts, but with an insurance algorithm applied to future claims.

## Broward County's Job Growth

Broward County is becoming a leader in the state for job creation. The Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield metro area had the highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in trade, transportation, and utilities with an addition of 6,700 jobs and financial activities with 3,600 jobs in October 2016. The annual job growth rates for financial activities increased by 6.3 percent; manufacturing increased by 5 percent; leisure and hospitality increased by 4.4 percent; education and health services increased by 3.9 percent; and trade, transportation, and utilities increased by 3.7 percent.

In Broward County, year over year we see job growth and sustained improvement in the local economy. The continuation of assisting companies create, expand and retain high-wage jobs in high value targeted industries also helps to develop more vibrant communities and improves the quality of life for our area's citizens.

## Broward B-Cycle Bike Sharing Program

With South Florida's beautiful Fall/Winter weather it is the perfect time to take advantage of Broward B-Cycle Bike Sharing Program. It's a fun, affordable and convenient way to get around town. It's also the latest way to reduce traffic congestion, pollution and carbon emissions. There are 27 public bike stations throughout Broward County, mainly in Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Dania, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and Pompano Beach.

On its fifth year running, there are currently nearly 1,300 annual members enrolled using this active transportation system. Since the program launched on December 14th, 2011, more than 128,000 riders from the Southeast Florida region, cities across the U.S. and other countries have taken; 182,435 bike rides, 651,630 miles have been ridden on Broward B-cycles, 32,098 gallons of gas saved, and 631,865 lbs. of carbon emissions reduced. For more information please visit Broward B-Cycle.

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](http://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 [clamarca@broward.org](mailto:clamarca@broward.org).

As always, it is my honor to serve you.

Best regards,

*Chip*



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# SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE...SOME T



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

**15** Sunshine Music Festival  
Mizner Park Amphitheatre  
11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 1-800-745-3000

Las Olas Sunday Market  
333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**22** Bacon Bash 2017  
Esplanade Park  
1 to 5 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 Ext 205

Las Olas Sunday Market  
333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**29** CanadaFest  
Hollywood Beach Broadwalk  
Info.: 954-924-9705

Las Olas Sunday Market  
333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**5** Sunday Jazz Brunch  
Riverwalk, Downtown FL  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-396-3622

Las Olas Sunday Market  
333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**12** Gala in the Gardens  
Flamingo Gardens  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

Las Olas Sunday Market  
333 East Las Olas Blvd. & SE 4th Ave.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-426-8436

**16** Palm Beach Winter Expo  
Embassy Suites, Boca  
5 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-838-9644

Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5033

Broward College Speakers Series  
Ana Navarro  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
7:30 to 10 p.m.  
Info.: www.broward.edu

**30**

Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts: Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Beach Community Center, 6 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5033

**13**

**17** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting  
City Hall  
Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.

**24** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

**31** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Kaye Bender Rembaum  
"Ask the Attorneys" Seminar  
ArtServe  
6:45 to 8:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-776-1999 Ext 242

**7** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting  
City Hall  
Regular Agenda: 6 p.m.

**14** BINGO  
Galt Towers Social Room  
(4250 Galt Ocean Drive)  
7:30 p.m.  
Info.: Cyndi Songer: 954-563-7268

**18** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

**25** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

**1** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

**8** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

Neighbor Support Night 2017  
City Hall, 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-5289

**15** BINGO  
Regency South Party Room  
7 p.m.  
Info.: Bob Pearlman: 954-547-4063

Winter Business Expo 2017  
Broward Convention Center  
4 to 8 p.m.  
Info.: 954-838-9644

JAN/FEB

JANUARY 17: Senior & Health Expo, Edwin F Deicke Auditorium, Plantation, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Info.: 954-549-3568  
JANUARY 21: Coral Ridge Towers South Annual White Elephant Sale, Coral Ridge Towers South (Community Room at rear lobby), 3333 NE 34th St., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
JANUARY 21: Citywide Yard Sales, Jaco Pastorius Park (Oakland Park) 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Info.: 954-630-4495  
JANUARY 21: 7th Annual JA World Uncorked!, JA World Huizenga Center-Broward College (Coconut Creek), 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., Info.: 954-979-7120  
JANUARY 21-22: Downtown Delray Beach Festival of the Arts, Atlantic Ave. (Delray), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 561-746-6615  
JANUARY 21-22: 27th Annual Nautical Flea Market 2017, Community Park (820 NE 18th Ave., Pompano), Info.: 954-946-6419  
JANUARY 28-29: 23rd Annual South Florida Folk Festival, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Info.: browardfolkclub@gmail.com  
JANUARY 28-29: 8th Annual Boca Raton Fine Art Show, Downtown Boca Raton (72 N. Federal Hwy.), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 248-684-2613  
FEBRUARY 4-5: 43rd Annual South Florida Depression Glass Show, Emma Lou Olsen Civic Center (1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano), Info.: 305-884-0335  
FEBRUARY 4-5: 31st Annual Outdoor Juried Art Festival, Boca Raton Museum of Art in Mizner Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Info.: 561-392-2500  
FEBRUARY 7-12: Swatch Beach Volleyball Major Series, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Info.: 954-900-6700  
FEBRUARY 12: 9th Annual Jazz Picnic in the Park (Performer: Nightlife), Ilene Lieberman Botanical Gardens (Lauderhill), 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Info.: 954-730-3000



# THINGS DO! CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON

THU

FRI

SAT

## LOTS HAPPENING IN TOWN!

FEBRUARY 18-20

**25th Annual Florida Renaissance Festival**  
Quiet Waters Park  
10 a.m. to Sundown  
Info.: 954-776-1642

FEBRUARY 18-20

**ArtiGras**  
Abacoa Town Center, Jupiter  
Info.: 561-746-7111

FEBRUARY 19

**12th Annual Fort Lauderdale A1A Marathon**  
401 SW 2nd St. at NW 5th Ave., Fort Lauderdale  
Registration: 6 a.m., Race Start: 7:30 a.m.  
Info.: 561-241-3801

FEBRUARY 22-26

**16th Annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival**  
South Beach, Miami Beach  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Info.: 877-762-3933

FEBRUARY 24

**Blossom Festival James Pirtle Memorial Golf Classic**  
Davie Golf and Country Club, 1 p.m.  
Info.: 954-797-1163

FEBRUARY 25-26

**14th Annual Polynesian Cultural Festival**  
Jaco Pastorius Park, Oakland Park  
Noon to 7 p.m.  
Info.: 954-630-4507

FEBRUARY 25-26

**Street Painting Festival**  
Downtown Lake Worth, 10 a.m.  
Info.: <http://www.streetpaintingfestivalinc.org>

FEBRUARY 26

**40th anniversary Pride Fort Lauderdale - On the Beach**  
Fort Lauderdale Beach Park  
9 a.m. to Midnight  
Info.: 754-222-2234

FOR A COMPLETE  
LISTING OF EVENTS,  
GO TO THE  
CALENDAR AT  
**WWW.GALTMILE.COM**

**19** Outdoor Farmer's Market  
Broward Health Imperial Point  
(6333 N Federal Hwy)  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**20**

2017 International Orchid Show  
(Through 1/22)  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Info.: 954-764-1239

**21** Household Hazardous Waste  
& Electronics Drop-Off Event  
Mill Pond Park  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-8000

Flamingo Fest  
(Through 1/22)  
Flamingo Gardens  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Info.: 954-473-2955

**26** Underground Lauderdale  
Fashion Weekend  
(Through 1/29)  
W Hotel  
Info.: 917-692-1622

**27**

Beach Bonfire  
Lake Worth Beach  
6 to 9 p.m.  
Info.: lakeworth.org

**28**

KID Hero 5K  
Vista View Park, Davie  
Reg.: 7 a.m.; Start: 8 a.m.  
Info.: 786-510-3774

Fast Trac Intentional Entrepreneur Workshop  
Broward County Main Library  
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.  
Info.: 954-357-8075

Palm Beach Home & Remodel Show  
(Through 1/29)  
Palm Beach City Convention Center  
Info.: 954-946-6164

Riverwalk Chili Cook Off  
Esplanade Park  
Noon to 4 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 Ext. 205

**2**

Groundhog Day

**3**

West Palm Beach Antiques Festival  
(Through 2/5)  
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB  
Info.: 941-697-7475

**4**

Household Hazardous Waste  
& Electronics Drop-Off Event  
Coral Springs Public Works Westside  
Maintenance Complex  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Info.: 954-828-8000

Find Your Fitness on Riverwalk  
Esplanade Park  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Info.: 954-468-1541 Ext. 205

**9**

Miami Beach Jewelry & Antiques Show  
(Through 2/5)  
Deauville Beach Resort, Miami  
Info.: 561-822-5440

**10**

Delray Beach Garlic Fest  
(Through 2/12)  
John Prince Park, Lake Worth  
Info.: 561-274-4663

**11**

Dolphin's Cancer Challenge  
Esplanade Park to Hard Rock Stadium  
9:30 a.m.  
Info.: 305-943-6315

Florida ASDA Winter Postage Stamp Show  
(Through 2/12)  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Info.: 800-369-8207 Ext. 4

25th Annual Florida Renaissance Festival  
(Through 2/13)  
Quiet Waters Park  
10 a.m. to Sundown  
Info.: 954-776-1642

**16**

Palm Beach Fine Crafts Show 2017  
(Through 2/19)  
Palm Beach County Convention Center  
Info.: 561-822-5440

**17**

WPB Spring Home Show  
(Through 2/19)  
South Florida Fairgrounds, WPB  
Info.: 561-692-4928

**18**

Sailfish Smack Down  
(Through 2/19)  
S side of Pompano Pier & 16th St  
Pompano  
Info.: joe@extremekayakfishing.com

Publix Health & Fitness Expo  
(Through 2/18)  
Broward County Convention Center  
Info.: 561-241-3801

Fort Lauderdale A1A 5K  
Huizenga Plaza, 7:30 to Noon  
Info.: 561-241-3801

**First Saturday of Every Month:** Beach Cleanup, Commercial Blvd. & the Beach LBTS (Meet at Pavilion), 9 to 9:30 a.m., Info.: 954-776-1000

**First Saturday of Every Month:** North Beach Art Walk, 3280 NE 32nd St, 7 to 11 p.m., Info.: 954-537-3370

**Second Saturday of Every Month:** Beach Sweep, Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, 1100 Seabreeze Blvd., 7 to 11 a.m., Info.: 954-593-8501

**Mondays:** Food Trucks at ArtsPark, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Youngs Circle in Hollywood

**Thursdays:** BHIP Farmer's Market, Broward Health Imperial Point Medical Arts Pavilion (633 N Federal Hwy.), 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Sundays:** Tour-the River Ghost Tour, Stranahan House & Water Taxi, 7:30 p.m., Tix.: 954-524-4736

**Saturdays:** Saturday Night Under the South Florida Stars, Fox Astronomical Observatory at Markham Park, Sunset to Midnight, Info.: 954-384-0442

**Daily:** Yoga on the Beach, Ocean Manor Resort (4040 Galt Ocean Dr.), 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting), Mats supplied, \$10 donation, Open to the Public, Info.: 754-701-0197 or 516-840-1455



# EDITOR'S COMMENTARY:

## Bruce Roberts JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 Newsletter

*In his January / February 2017 message to constituents, District 1 City Commissioner Bruce Roberts announces the long awaited implementation of an FLPD body worn cameras pilot program, updates A1A roadway improvements bordering the Galt Mile neighborhood, describes a new online app useful for locating permit data, briefly bios Rick Maglione, appointed interim Chief of Police when Frank Adderley relocated to the Broward Sheriff's Office, applauds the "Cops 4 Kids" program for providing schoolchildren with mentoring and positive role models, reviews the final stage of the Segment II Broward Beach Renourishment, reports the launching of Hello Sunny TV, which streams live coverage of events, on demand content and real-time local beachcams to laptops, tablets and smartphones. Roberts closes by noting improved graduation rates for traditional high schools in the Broward County Public School System.*

Watch the Birdie

*Following a year-long effort to develop program policies, the City of Fort Lauderdale is finally prepared to launch a pilot program to equip police officers with body worn cameras. While body cameras provide a variety of critical law enforcement benefits, such as obtaining evidence for criminal prosecutions, protecting participants from false allegations of misconduct, strengthening police accountability by documenting interactions with the public, and increasing Departmental transparency by allowing the public to see video evidence of police activities and encounters, last January the City Commission postponed its implementation pending the development of guidelines to protect participants, the public and the Police Department.*

*A body worn camera (BWC) is always recording, but until the officer turns it on, the recording is regularly overwritten. As such, along with whatever is preserved after the system is turned on, events recorded prior to a specific incident are also available. How much of that prior video is also preserved will depend on the Department's policy, and could range from one minute to one hour - or more.*

*Although similar programs were already underway in more than 60 police departments nationwide, including the Broward Sheriff's Office and Hallandale Beach Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler expressed concern about how the courts would react to the inadvertent recording of bystanders not involved in an incident, such as emergency room patients whose privacy rights are shielded by statute. Commission concerns about judicial blowback weren't without merit. Florida jurisdictions invested \$millions in red light camera systems that were later scaled back or trashed when courts reversed the enabling ordinances.*

*Commissioners also expressed concern about the cost of storing the tapes, and managing an ever-growing evidentiary database. For instance, when lawyers, victims, suspects, the media, or members of the public file a public records request for a video, to avoid neck-deep immersion in liability damage claims, the Department must first perform a legal analysis and redact any material subject to public records exemptions.*

*Given the potential personal liability for participating officers, Police union president Jack Lokeinsky*

*asserted that the union's collective bargaining agreement should be adapted to protect his members from lawsuits alleging a violation of privacy rights. A former Fort Lauderdale Police Chief, Commissioner Bruce Roberts also suggested that the issue be vetted by the Citizens Police Review Board.*

*City Attorney Cynthia Everett told the Commission "I don't believe there's any legal impediment to implementing this program, if that's what you want to do. We're going to have policies and procedures and training." Roberts requested that Everett submit her opinion in writing. Commissioner Dean Trantalis said that the City should move ahead with a test program. The meeting concluded with Mayor Jack Seiler charging staff with identifying obstacles to the pilot program and customizing policy guidelines.*

Feldman Goes to Work

*In response, City Manager Lee Feldman initially solicited input from Law Enforcement agencies and private consultants with recognized experience in developing BWC best practices. Specifically, Feldman reached out to the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), Bobcat Training and Consulting, Inc. and several U.S. cities that conducted independent studies. With support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS Office), PERF extensively researched the use of body-worn cameras by Law Enforcement, having reviewed more than 20 BWC policies submitted by police agencies while interviewing more than 40 police executives with relevant expertise.*

*Drawing on this research, PERF published a study that discusses the perceived benefits of body-worn cameras and details the considerations that must be addressed. Entitled "Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned", the guidance it provides to law enforcement agencies on is complemented by a comprehensive set of policy recommendations. While the guidelines must be conformed to available resources and statutory requirements, the PERF primer additionally admonishes that jurisdictions adapt the guidelines to input from frontline officers, legal advisors and the community. City staff compiled the PERF data into a draft policy. Since Bobcat Training and Consulting, Inc. had recently completed an in-depth investigation into FLPD's operational protocols, Feldman also tapped the "Community Policing" consultant for policy guidance.*

*Next, Feldman solicited feedback about the draft policy from the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations, the Broward County Urban League, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Broward Dream Defenders and the City's Citizens Police Review Board.*

Lawmakers Mandate BWC Program Policies

*When State lawmakers fail to address new public safety venues, the courts often fill the legislative gap. Inconsistent rulings can handcuff law enforcement agencies and endanger the public. While Feldman was researching a BWC policy, Florida lawmakers finally addressed this vacuum in state law.*



Inspired in part by the controversial Palm Beach Gardens shooting death of Corey Jones, Broward Statehouse Representative Shevrin Jones (D – West Park) filed House Bill 93. Signed into law on March 24, 2016, the legislation requires jurisdictions to formulate policies prior to using body cameras, including rules for storing audiovisual data that comply with Florida public records laws. Since the new law mirrors PERF policy recommendations, as Florida cities and counties increasingly add body cameras to their law enforcement arsenals, they will have to follow in Feldman's footsteps.

On September 9, 2016, the City invited vendors "to provide reliable Wearable Body Cameras (Cameras), a Digital Evidence Management System (System), and the accessories and ancillary components to provide a turn-key solution to capture video from an officer's perspective." By the November 4, 2016 deadline, the City had received nine (9) responses from vendors, each accompanied by a \$30,000 Bid Bond.

In preparation for the December 6, 2016, Commission Meeting, Feldman added copies of the PERF-based draft policy – and the local feedback – to the Back-

ground Information packets distributed to Commissioners. In short, Feldman delivered the policy guidelines requested eleven months earlier. As affirmed in a U.S. Justice Department survey, the new policy provisions would allow FLPD to realize reductions in the use of force and the number of citizen's complaints – without stumbling into judicial quicksand.

The Pilot Program's burden on taxpayers is cushioned by a grant from the Federal Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program, which distributed \$5,411,056 to 18 jurisdictions last year. The \$600,000 awarded to Fort Lauderdale was the largest single distribution in 2016.

#### The Last Mile

With the Commission on board and procurement underway, the remaining project preparations are within spitting distance of completion - and largely downhill. Once staff evaluates the vendor proposals, and the Commission approves the bid-winner, Feldman will launch a pilot program that should enhance FLPD accountability and transparency, a prerequisite for healing old wounds, and rebuilding scarred community relationships. Peruse Commissioner Bruce Roberts' January / February 2017 Newsletter in its entirety elsewhere in this edition – [editor]\*•

***"A body worn camera (BWC) is always recording, but until the officer turns it on, the recording is regularly overwritten."***



## SMILE INTO THE NEW YEAR!

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# COMMISSIONER BRUCE ROBERTS

## JAN/FEB 2017 Newsletter



**FDOT PROJECT:** The SR A1A project is progressing on schedule. Below are updates regarding the work that has been done recently or is scheduled over the next few months:

- Ongoing/Upcoming Activities: Currently working on Phase IV drainage improvement on the east side of the road; roadway reconstruction; concrete curb and driveway construction
- Overall Time Update: The project is expected to be completed in summer 2017. The contractor is scheduled to be working 10 hours/4 days per week.

**NEW BUILDING PERMIT TRACKER GIS APPLICATION:** The ITS Department just released the new Building Permit Tracker GIS web map application. This tool will be useful in providing easy access by either a desktop or mobile device, to valuable building permit based information such as types of permits, statuses, application dates and much more. Community Builders as well as our neighbors will be able to access permits by searching addresses, permit numbers, parcel IDs, neighborhoods or commission districts to not only view them, but also print maps, measure distances and create spreadsheet reports. It can be accessed through the following web link:

[HTTP://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/BuildingPermitTracker/](http://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/BuildingPermitTracker/)

It's a New Year! 2017 is here and I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year. Our District continues to grow with new neighbors, projects and enhancements. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with and serve you, as we find solutions that will allow the City to remain one of the most beautiful and best cities in which to live, work, play and raise a family. Be safe and let us all welcome 2017 with high spirits, a vision for the future and a pride in our home - Fort Lauderdale!

### **POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS PILOT PROGRAM:**

The Body Worn Camera Pilot program working draft policy was presented to the City Commission on December 6, 2016. The Commission provided feedback to continue with outreach efforts but to also move forward with current policy recognizing changes will be made at a later date. The deadline for police body worn camera vendor proposals has passed and the City has received nine responses. The proposals will be distributed for committee review after firms are shortlisted – which will take place within the next 30 days. Recently, the City received a \$600,000 Department of Justice Grant to assist with the implementation of this program.

**INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE:** In December, Police Chief Frank Adderley resigned to join the Broward Sheriff's Office as a Colonel in charge of community affairs. Chief Adderley has been with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department for 36 years, and felt it was time to move on to a new adventure. We wish him well. At this time, Assistant Chief Rick Maglione will be the interim Chief until the City Manager decides who should permanently fill the position. Rick has served the City of Fort Lauderdale with distinction for 24 years. Since joining the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in 1992, Rick has served in numerous capacities during his rise through the ranks. As an Officer, he served in the Patrol Division and the Special Problems Units of the Police Operations Bureau. Rick's career includes working as a Detective in the Street Narcotics Unit of the Special Investigations Division, working as a Sergeant in both the Patrol Division and the Office of Internal Affairs, and supervising the Alarm Unit and Background Investigations Unit of the Administrative Support Division. As a Captain, Rick served in both the Operations Bureau and the Office of Internal Affairs. In 2011, Rick was appointed Executive Officer to the Chief of Police. He was promoted to the rank of Major in 2014 and to Assistant Chief in 2015. Rick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Troy University and is a graduate of the 244th Session of the FBI National Academy. City Manager Feldman does not know if he will promote from within or conduct a national search. I will keep you informed.

**COPS 4 KIDS PROGRAM FEATURED ON CHANNEL 7:** Our Police Department's "Cops 4 Kids" program was recently featured on WSVN Channel 7 News! Officers James McDowell and Lauarenia Fahie are two of the many program participants. The officers regularly visit our local elementary schools to help our students succeed in the classroom while also fostering positive relationships and building trust and respect between law enforcement and our youth. By sharing their knowledge and experiences with the youngsters, the officers help instill valuable life lessons, promote positive values, and impart important leadership and character development skills. Through the Cops 4 Kids program, children are interacting more often with police officers, seeing them in a positive light, and discovering all of the ways they can work together to build a strong community. Congratulations to our Police Department and keep up the great work!

**PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES ON BEACH RENOURISHMENT:** In case you have been wondering why there is heavy equipment on the beach around Sunrise Boulevard, the trucks are there to complete Phase II of the Beach Renourishment project. Now that turtle season is over, contractors are able to resume adding sand to our coastline. They have been adding about 180 truckloads of sand, or approximately 4,000 tons to the beach each day between Terramar Street and NE 16th Street in an effort to reconstruct areas of the eroded beach and increase storm protection for our community. Work is expected to be completed by January/February 2017.



## Opening the Act in Fort Lauderdale

Since the thefts in Sunrise, Tamarac and Lauderdale Lakes, the scammers have cut a swath across Broward and Palm Beach Counties, bilking seniors in Davie, Pembroke Pines, Coconut Creek, Deerfield Beach, Delray Beach and Boca Raton. Following Garrett's arrest, Detectives working scores of open cases learned that this mobile cadre of bunco artists is headed by a female suspect who directs the stings. Despite losing a player, this traveling band of thieves is currently plying their trade in Fort Lauderdale. Gestal was particularly disturbed by how the crooks targeted seniors before engineering invitations into the victims' homes, remarking "They could have lost a lot more than their money."

Observing how the crooks abandoned each neighborhood shortly after local residents were made aware of the threat, Gestal asked for help with disseminating information about the scam before the crooks make their next round of calls, and suggested that the Advisory Board pass on some relevant insights. Cutting to the chase, Gestal said "Bank representatives will never ask for a PIN number or send an employee to a customer's home to replace a bank card, banks mail out replacement cards. If you receive a call or an email from a bank claiming that your account has been breached, and requesting your personal information, it's a scam," adding "If anyone is concerned upon receiving such a call, hang up and call the telephone number on the back of your card to determine the state of your account – and then call the police." Congratulations, you've been inoculated. In the spirit of the season, perhaps you can do the same for your neighbors.

Turnabout is fair play. If you do receive a call from the scammers, keep in mind that the Broward Crime Stoppers are still offering \$3000 for help with bagging these creeps. As recommended by Gestal and BSO, hang up and either dial 911 or call Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS. Be safe and Happy Hunting. •

## INJURED?

- AUTO ACCIDENTS
- WRONGFUL DEATH
- SLIP & FALL
- WORKERS COMP.
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- NURSING HOME NEGLECT



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**HELLO SUNNY TV NETWORK (Let's you watch Live coverage of Ft. Lauderdale events, on-demand programming and more):** Hello Sunny TV is a new online travel channel dedicated to all that Fort Lauderdale has to offer. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau launched the new 24/7 digital TV network in December to coincide with the inaugural Riptide Music Festival on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Hello Sunny provided behind-the-scenes coverage of the alternative music fest featuring artist and audience interviews and more. The digital network is available at [Sunny.org/TV](http://Sunny.org/TV) on desktop and mobile devices, Smart TVs, and streaming players like Apple TV and, soon, Roku. Viewers can expect livestreams of Greater Fort Lauderdale's beaches, and live coverage of upcoming events such as Art Fort Lauderdale and Underground Lauderdale Fashion Week. Any livestreamed events will simultaneously stream on Facebook Live as well. Launching in 2017, Hello Sunny TV will also air a live weekly show previewing the week's events, arts and culture opportunities, conventions and more. The network also features continuous on-demand content, with episodes on topics like dining, fashion, fitness, and festivals. Select programming is even available in Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.

**BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS EARN HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE SINCE 2010/2011:** BCPS traditional high schools achieved a graduation rate of 92.2 percent in the 2015/16 school year. This is an increase of 2.6 percent from the 2014/15 school year, according to data released this month by the Florida Department of Education. Among the 33 traditional high schools, the data reflects:

- Overall, the 2015/16 BCPS federal graduation rate is 78.7 percent, which is an increase of 2.1 percentage points from 2014-15.

- This is the highest graduation rate for BCPS since Florida adopted the Federal Uniform Graduation Rate method in 2010/11.
- 23 traditional high schools had a graduation rate of 90 percent or higher.
- 23 of the 33 traditional high schools improved or maintained their graduation rate.
- Black (70.6 percent), Hispanic (81.3 percent) and White (86.1 percent) students improved their graduation rates. Black students showed a greater improvement in graduation rate, closing the gap with White students by 2.4 percentage points.
- McFatter Technical High School, College Academy @ BC and Pompano Beach High School achieved graduation rates of 100 percent.
- South Broward High School increased its graduation rate by more than five percentage points compared to the 2014/15 school year.

Broward County Public Schools is the sixth largest school district in the nation and the second largest in the state of Florida; is Florida's first fully accredited school system since 1962; has over 271,000 students and approximately 175,000 adult students in 236 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 101 charter schools; and serves a diverse student population, with students representing 208 different countries and 181 different languages.

**OFFICE CONTACT: Robbi Uptegrove – 954-828-5033; email: [ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:ruptegrove@fortlauderdale.gov)**

In addition to hosting two pre-agenda meetings twice a month, I am also available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City as well as answer any questions/concerns you may have. Please contact Robbi to schedule. •

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# Monthly Social Events for Active Seniors

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## Free Classes

### TUESDAYS

#### Caregiver Support Group

January 3rd, 2:30pm  
Private Dining Room - 1st Floor

#### Imperial Lifestyle Changes Class

January 10th, 11:30am  
Private Dining Room - 1st Floor

#### Senior Supper Club

Receive 20% discount on food and beverage with valid ID.  
Daily, Monday - Friday Cafeteria - 1st Floor

#### High Tea & Trivia

Physician Lecture Series  
January 17th, 3pm  
Cafeteria - 1st Floor

#### Alzheimer's Support Group

January 24th, 2:30pm  
Medical Library - 1st Floor

### THURSDAYS

#### Bereavement Support Group

January 12th, 2:30pm  
Medical Library- 1st Floor

#### Better Breathers Support Group

January 26th, 2:30pm  
Medical Library- 1st Floor

To register please call **954.759.7400**  
or visit [BrowardHealth.org/events](https://www.BrowardHealth.org/events)

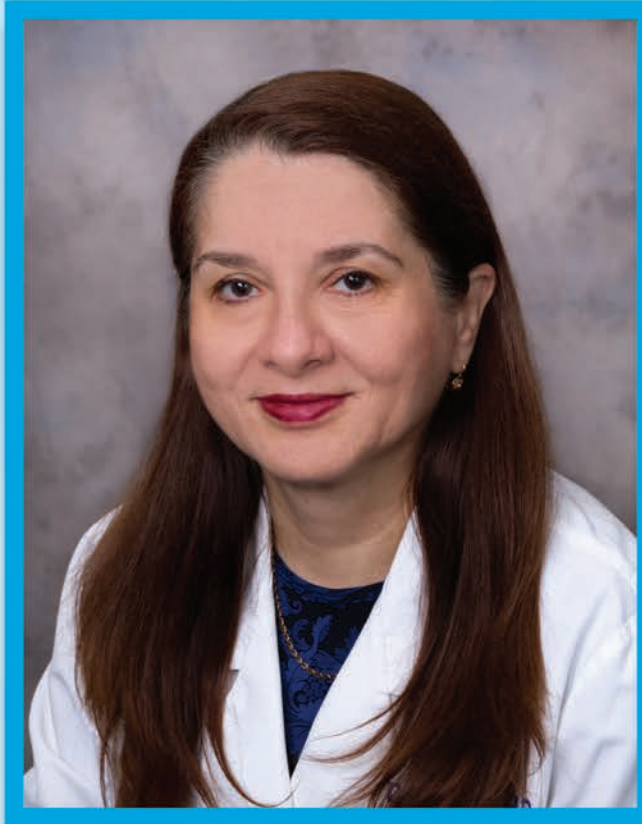


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