



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

Office of the Town Manager

To: Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &
Town Council Members

From: Alexander Diaz, 
Town Manager

Date: September 26, 2017

Subject: **2017-Significant Accomplishments and Performance Review**

As we close out this fiscal year, we have witnessed some unexpected challenges and some rather big accomplishments as a community. This year, we surpassed the Billion Dollar Mark in assessed values for a Town with only 390 buildable lots. We encountered the Town's first major weather event in over decade, and we saw the expansion of the Town's CIP projects with the beginning phases of a Town-wide street lighting improvements project, renovation of our beach facilities, police gatehouse and the canal maintenance project finally having some traction.

We remain focused on our mission, vision and strategic priorities though, as we push forward. During the last year we have worked towards enhancing and enriching the lives of our Residents, and in the proposed budget we take our efforts to another level. We have created the Department of Resident Services; it combines portions of our Recreation and Special Events budgets. Residents will experience new standards of communication, community engagement and the increased level of services and resources we offer.

While every aspect of the Town's Services is important, this coming year we will focus on three core areas: Open Spaces/Landscaping, Public Safety/Security and Capital Projects.

- We will focus on initiatives that continue the Town's objective to provide high standards of parks and infrastructure including: increased operating hours at the Beach Pavilion, painting and maintaining all curbs, sidewalks and gutters throughout the Town, landscape improvements at all nine (9) parks and open spaces, beautification projects along the Strand and Ocean Boulevard, and re-sealing select sections of the streets throughout the Town.
- Initiative to grow upon the progress we have made at the Town's Beach Pavilion will continue (i.e. additional recreational programming, possibility of

adding artificial turf and additional lounge areas). We expect to remodel the men's and women's restrooms at the Pavilion and add additional paved area for lounges and storage.

- Initiative that improves the amount and variety of arts and culture in the Town to provide opportunities for community interaction and enrichment.

Our Capital Projects goals are never quite finished, and this is why we will continue to look for the necessary resources to meet future projects. Left on our list (in no particular order):

- Maintenance of our Canals and Waterways
- Replacement of Towns Street Lights
- Civic Center Master Plan (New Town Hall; Expansion of Tweddle Park)

Although these projects are lofty, if there is one thing that we have learned in the last few years, it is that we will work to identify funds for these projects without raising taxes, looking for grants, and minimizing costs

Over the past ten years, the Town of Golden Beach as an entity has been working towards one goal – change. Looking back at FY 2016/2017, it was a year full of milestones and accomplishments for the Town. Here is what it looked like:

- ✓ The Town will see an Operating Savings of approximate \$350,000.00 (were it not for IRAMA it would have been in the \$700,000.00 range) final saving will be known once our audit is completed.
- ✓ The Town held an Election bringing a new member to the Town Council.
- ✓ The Town celebrated the 10 year tenure of the Town Manager.
- ✓ The Town went through a Bond Rating Re-Issuance through Moody Investor Service and the Town's rating was upgraded from an Aa3 to Aa2.
- ✓ The Town Re-financed the 2007 General Obligation Bonds – Resulting in a savings in excess of \$790,000 over the next three fiscal years.
- ✓ This year the Town undertook the first ever Beach Study- determining historical elevations and width of our oceanfront.
- ✓ The Town applied for and received permits to establish the base mean high water line and installed markers on the beach front; a first for any Municipality in the State.
- ✓ The Town completed a Preliminary Canal Dredge Design after 4 years of studies.

- ✓ The Town received \$100,000 through a Legislative earmark for the Town's Street Lighting Project.
- ✓ The Town is in final negotiations with Florida Power and Light for a comprehensive expansion and modernization of our street lighting system.
- ✓ The Town completed a Study to alleviate flooding at Center Island.
- ✓ The Town was aggressive in enforcing the Town's Code(s) through compliance and focused on properties that have been neglected through the years. We have collected over \$160,000 in violations from properties that were deemed blighted.
- ✓ Approved the redesigning and rebuilding of the police gatehouse – scheduled for completion in mid-2018.
- ✓ Approved the redesign of the bathroom and common area of the Beach Pavilion – scheduled for completion in mid-2018.
- ✓ Implemented a new gate arm and exit only use of the South Gate.
- ✓ The Town maintained its Tree City USA designation in recognition of its lush landscaping and ample open spaces
- ✓ The Golden Beach Police held a boating safety class for residents for the fourth year in a row.
- ✓ The Town took delivery of the new Police Mobile Command Vehicle.
- ✓ The Town's Police Department successfully completed an extensive and thorough reaccreditation process.
- ✓ The budget as a business plan, outlining goals and measures that govern Town affairs, has attained the esteemed "Distinguished Budget Award" for the eighth year in a row.
- ✓ The Town saw added residential growth in F/Y 2016-2017 issuing 6 Residential Certificates of Occupancy ("COs") , 3 Temporary Certificates of Occupancy ("TCOs") and 3 (CC's) Certificate of Completions (Additions and Remodels).
- ✓ The Town currently has 32 Active Projects, 21 of which are New Homes and 11 are Additions/Remodels. In addition to those 32 projects, there are 4 new homes undergoing review and approval, and 3 more homes that have already been approved and are awaiting permitting submittal.
- ✓ The Town continued to provide residents with a number of free-of-charge services, such as food and sodas on the beach during a number of holidays,

Valentine's Day "candy-grams" delivered right to residents' doorsteps, and fully catered get-to-know your neighbor events.

- ✓ The Town's Public Works department has also taken on an active role in supplying extra assistance to residents (i.e. spraying the Town for mosquitoes, adding chlorine tablets to all standing water, pumping pooling water out of residences, etc.)
- ✓ As an "end of summer/back to school" program, food and drinks were offered at the Beach Pavilion, every other weekend during the months of August and September.
- ✓ The Police Department once again held its back to school campaign seeing students off on the morning of the first day of school with lunch boxes filled with nutritious treats and other goodies.

The Town has been able to accomplish a number of goals both personal and Town-wide, with very limited and at times very little resources. We will continue to provide the high quality of service that the residents have come to expect while maintaining the highest level of efficiency and professionalism. Following our current path, we are well on our way to becoming the premier residential community in which to visit, live, and raise a family.

To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Town Council, thank you for your policy guidance in support of the Administration's planning, proposals and creative projects. My tenure as your Town Manager for the last ten years has been as transformative and enlightening for me as it has been for the community, and I will forever be a better public servant because of the knowledge I have attained during this time.

To our Staff, I am grateful to serve alongside a dynamic group of individuals who are truly passionate about the services we provide and I am humbled by your support. My success has only been possible through your dedication and devotion.

It is important to give a special thank you to Lissette Perez, our Town Clerk, and Maria D. Camacho, our Finance Director, for their assistance in developing our Budget.

To our Residents, thank you! Thank you for trusting me to serve as your Town Manager and allowing me to share with you the plethora of achievements we have experienced during these last ten years. Thank you for your continued support! Know that Golden Beach has always been, and continues to be my priority!