



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

Office of the Town Manager

To: Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &
Town Council Members

From: Alexander Diaz, 
Town Manager

Date: September 18, 2020

Subject: **FY-2020-Significant Accomplishments and Performance Review**

When I reflect on my almost 14 years as your manager, and I look back at how much this community has grown, I find it amazing all that we have been able to accomplish together.

This year has tested our resolve and our strength as a community, and mine as your Town Manager. We faced a situation, the likes of which have not been felt throughout the world for over 100 years. The COVID-19 Pandemic tested the very foundation by which we run our day-to-day operations, how we provide services to you, the residents, and how we maintain the safety and well-being of all individuals that come to the Town of Golden Beach.

My commitment as your Town Manager has never been more evident than during the height of the pandemic. During our government shutdown, there was NOT one day that I was not working around the clock (from town when most of my counterparts were doing so remotely). There was a period when for 42-days straight I did not take a single day off. I had to quickly adapt to the immediate needs of the Town, in these new trying times. I VERY OFTEN placed my own personal safety and health on the line. I personally administered over 125 Covid-19 tests; I had a lawsuit filed against me (in both my personal and professional capacity) for enforcing the Mayor's Executive Orders, and even came to work the day after the passing of an immediate family member. And while several of my colleagues may have been working remotely, I was (and have always been) in the front lines personally making sure that the Town and its residents feel safe and protected. Although it was not expected of me, I did so because I value Golden Beach, and year after year I put this Town above all else!

Through adversity and the challenges of the unknown, we continue to make strides to overcome the uncertainty of what lies ahead to maintain Golden Beach's standing as a premier residential community in which to visit, live, and raise a family. And to

strengthen our relationship with the employees, and our commitment to them as we adapt to the changes that lie ahead.

During the last decade, the Town has experienced a re-birth as the Administration has made its top priority to invest in the infrastructure of the Town. In doing so, the Town's assessed values have grown from \$500-million 10 years ago to \$1.179 billion today. Though we had to re-shift our focus this year – to concentrate more heavily on safety and protection, we were still able to hit milestones and accomplish a number of projects.

Here is what FY 2019/2020, looked like:

- ✓ Awarded the Civic Center Master Plan to Gerrits Construction, Inc. A selection committee, comprised of residents took the seven proposals the Town received through the RFP process and narrowed them down to the top three. The Mayor and Council later workshopped the top three respondents, ranking them from one to three, with Gerrits Construction, Inc. ranking in at #1. The Town secured financing for the Civic Center Complex Masterplan from City National Bank at a competitive rate. The Town also retained the professional services of Estrada, Hinojosa & Company, Inc. to serve as the Town's financial advisor for this project, and authorized the issuance of Capital Improvement Revenue Note Series 2019.
- ✓ The Town is also endeavoring to rebuild and restructure the Public Works/Police Annex Facility to become the Town's new Auxiliary Services Facility, housing the Town's Emergency Operations Center. As part of the project, the Town submitted a grant application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program (still awaiting to hear if the Town will be awarded any grant dollars).
- ✓ The Town worked aggressively with our state leaders and the House Senate and was able to receive a \$500,000 allocation from the State. Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Governor vetoed the allocation.
- ✓ The Town Manager was nominated and won the Florida League of Cities Excellence in Management Award, for excellence in city management. This is a very prestigious award. Only one City/Town Manager a year receives this accolade.
- ✓ The Town issued an RFP for the Center Island Pump Station and finalized a loan agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for a State Revolving Loan Agreement for the project.

- ✓ Installed Automatic Transfer Switches to the Town's generators to alleviate with flooding issues during high water events in Town.
- ✓ The Police Department applied for a \$25,000 grant through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for COVID-19 related expenses (should know if the Town receives those funds sometime in early F/Y 2020-2021).
- ✓ The Town entered into a contract with Southeastern Engineering Contractors, Inc. to raise all the water meter boxes to alleviate stagnant and standing water at various locations throughout Town where water meters are depressed.
- ✓ The Town Council approved, via Resolution, entering into a contract with Southeastern Engineering Contractors, Inc. for high tide infiltration improvements throughout Town.
- ✓ The Town continued work on the Canal Dredging Project after 4 years of studies. After having to redesign our scope twice, and pulling all of the necessary permits, Olin Hydrographic Solutions, Inc. began dredging in August 2019. The canal maintenance dredging project was completed this fiscal year.
- ✓ Opened up the New Pickleball Court, that was received with very positive feedback from residents.
- ✓ The Town Council approved, via Resolution, the purchase of in-vehicle printers for a ticket and report writing system for the Town's police personnel.
- ✓ The Public Works Department installed sanitizer stations throughout Town for the safety of all residents and guests.
- ✓ The Public Works Department erected signs throughout Town, concerning the Town's facemask outdoors policy, in order to keep our residents informed and safe.
- ✓ The Town narrated, directed and produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Town's many safety and security measures in response. The PSA was produced to reassure our residents of the Administration's commitment to their safety and well-being.
- ✓ The Building Department wrote and implemented the COVID-19 construction site plan as we move forward with our new normal of construction work in Town.

- ✓ The Police Department implemented numerous traffic and high visibility initiatives to keep residents safe during and after the COVID-19 Safer-at-Homes Initiative.
- ✓ As part of its COVID-19 safety measures, the Town made available Personal Protective Equipment (such as gloves and masks) to all residents.
- ✓ Hand sanitizers were delivered to all of the homes, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ✓ The Town held four on-site complimentary COVID-19 testings to residents and employees.
- ✓ In an effort to better communicate and fully engage our residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic the Resident Services and Town Clerk's Department's issued: 5 Executive Orders; sent 49 E-Blasts, Website/New Channel Updates and Physical Flyers; issued 15 Code Red Messages, delivered 3 Town Magazines discussing COVID-19, and sent out 23 marquee updates.
- ✓ The Town held a series of meetings with the Executive Board of Golden Gate Estates and participated in the redevelopment of the Terracina Entrance Beautification Project.
- ✓ The Resident Services Department implemented a mail delivery service for residents, to alleviate the delays caused by Federal Changes to US Postal mail service nationwide. Residents were able to leave the mail that needed to be picked up at Town Hall, so long as it was properly packaged with postage included, to ensure that their items were properly picked up and delivered by US Postal Service personnel.
- ✓ The Town applied for the All-America City Award for our comprehensive initiative to promote healthy residents and healthy employees.
- ✓ Submitting funding request for the State for an Emergency Operations Center/Bunker.
- ✓ The Town began its A1A Landscaping Beautification Initiative. To date we have invested +/- \$47,000.00.
- ✓ The Town cancelled its current recycling contract, with the Town's recycling services provider, bringing cash savings to the Town and

promoting greater participation amongst our residents and a more environmentally friendly way of disposing of recyclables in the community.

- ✓ Negotiated a 2-year extension to the Town's current contract with the Police personnel, through the Fraternal Order of Police.
- ✓ Fully developed the Town's DROP program, which is ready to be used by our staff.
- ✓ The website began the process of becoming ADA compliance. Full compliance is anticipated by early 2021.
- ✓ The Resident Services Department received over 15 resident water bill issues and case managed the matters along with the City of North Miami Beach Water Department.
- ✓ The Town continued weekly beach sampling to test the Town's waters for bacteria.
- ✓ The Human Resources Department completed a comprehensive insurance review and obtained bids from five different firms to establish an agent of record to manage all aspects of the Town's insurance offerings. The agent of record is responsible for shopping the market to present the Town with the most responsive and affordable insurance offerings for eligible employees.
- ✓ The Building Department issued agreed orders for the collection of code violations, for the successful collection of fees due in the amount of \$110,000.
- ✓ The Town has continued enforcing the Town's Code(s) through compliance and focused on properties that have been neglected though the years. We have collected over \$22,000 in violations from properties that were deemed blighted.
- ✓ The Town maintained its Tree City USA designation in recognition of its lush landscaping and ample open spaces
- ✓ The budget as a business plan, outlining goals and measures that govern Town affairs, has attained the esteemed "Distinguished Budget Award" for the eleventh year in a row.
- ✓ Five new homes were added to the property tax roll for tax year 2019.

- ✓ The closures due to COVID-19 threw a wrench on a number of the Town's recreational offerings – but that didn't stop the Administration from coming up with innovative ways to show the resident's appreciation and make them feel like celebrations were still taking place – such as delivering patriotic macaroons for 4th of July to each home, delivering bagels to each home for Memorial Day, and bringing an ice cream truck to Town to offer a sweet dessert to all.
- ✓ 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.)
- ✓ 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.

This year will test our (my) ability to manage an array of Capital Projects as we break ground on: our New Town Hall/Civic Center Complex; Veterans Memorial; Bus Shelters; Center Island Pump Station; exploring the new wall at Massini Avenue; and Negotiating with Miami-Dade County for the replacement of the Sewer Force Main from North Park to Terracina Avenue to Ocean Boulevard. All of these projects are being offered to our Residents without asking for a rate increase to our millage or an assessment. We continue to deliver millions in investments while HOLDING our millage rate.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as your Town Manager and allowing me to be a part of your family. And like many families, we may not always agree on things, but the one thing we all share is our love for the Town of Golden Beach.