




TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

Office of the Town Manager

To: Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &
Town Council Members

From: Alexander Diaz, 
Town Manager

Date: September 2, 2021

Subject: **FY 20/21-Significant Accomplishments and Performance Review**

As we look back at the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, the Town faced a number of obstacles and challenges in the rebuilding of our community following the COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic did a number of things – halted the world economy, tested our resolve, brought us all together, while keeping us apart, and changed the way the world conducts business. As we dive into uncharted territory of remote meetings and digital archives, 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. This year has tested our resolve and our strength as a community. We look forward to what lies ahead with optimism and hope for a better tomorrow. We continue to realize our mission of becoming a community that provides more customer-centric services with more beautiful and vibrant open spaces, at the epicenter of South Florida’s high society. By staying focused on our mission, vision and strategic priorities, the Town has achieved a great deal.

In attaining these achievements, the Town has had to be **Forward Thinking** in the way business is conducted and be **Future Focused** to meet the demands of the labor market. And as the Administration has taken a concerted effort to invest in the infrastructure of the Town, so too now the Administration is making a concerted effort to invest in the workforce that has aided in making the Town-wide improvements a reality.

Once again, the Town’s assessed values grew this year to a very healthy \$1,194 billion. And even with the unexpected obstacles of social distancing and added safety protocols, the Administration was able to overcome the challenges and get the job done.

As we moved forward focused on the future, FY 2020/2021 provided the foundation and framework for the Town to continue to grow and meet the demands of tomorrow.

Demands such as becoming the first municipal community in the nation to offer managed in-home WiFi with dedicated fiber to each home, and breaking ground on the highly anticipated Civic Center Complex Masterplan. Here is more of what FY 2020/2021 looked like:

- ✓ During the past year the Town Manager, spend 6 hours each evening attending the Miami-Dade School of Justice Police Academy. The training and experience gained is invaluable to the Town. As a Certified Law Enforcement Officer, the Manager will now apply the knowledge gained to strengthen our security efforts and developing our Police Staff.
- ✓ Awarded a contract to Hotwire Communications, Inc. to provide bulk internet managed in-home WiFi with dedicated fiber to each home in Town. This is a momentous accomplishment, making the Town the first municipal community in the nation to offer this service. In addition, Hotwire Communications will also be offering cable services to residents, for an additional fee for those residents who wish to receive those services from Hotwire.
- ✓ Held a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Civic Center on October 20, 2020. The COVID-19 safe ceremony was well attended and met with praise from the community. The event was made into a video and posted onto the Town's website.
- ✓ After breaking ground, the Administration began the initial construction phase of the Civic Center Complex Masterplan. Due to issues with supply, demand and escalating labor costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic this fiscal year, Gerrits Construction, Inc. requested the addition of \$1.4-million to the original contract to the Town. After a considerable amount of negotiations and meetings, the Administration was able to decrease these costs to \$400-thousand. Ultimately, the Town had to amend its design-build agreement with Gerrits Construction, Inc. However, the Administration was able to secure the required additional funding without posing any assessments or millage increases to residents.
- ✓ As of July 2021, the Town has officially begun construction efforts on the new Civic Center Complex at an expeditious rate, with the goal of completion sometime in late-2022 to early-2023.
- ✓ The Town successfully entered into an agreement with the Florida Department of Health to provided vaccinations to our staff and residents as part of a closed POD site. We hosted a COVID-19 vaccination day that resulted in over 150 vaccinations.
- ✓ Executed an agreement for the funds that President Biden and the Democratically controlled congress approved for the Town this past year. The Town has been slated receive a Recovery Funds allocation for Recipient under this Agreement of **\$467,297.00 this is \$117,297 more than what are requested and anticipated.**

- ✓ Creation of the Golden Beach Resilience Team, comprised of the Town's engineers and in-house CIP and Building & Zoning staff. The Resilience Team has been tasked with research and identification of the proper methodology to prepare the Town for Sea Level Rise and tidal flooding in the coming years. The team held its first meeting June 22, 2021.
- ✓ The Town negotiated with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) for the Town's Forcemain Replacement on Golden Beach Drive. Not only is WASD covering the costs of the forcemain replacement, they are also installing brand new asphalt, pavers and geo-grid on Golden Beach Drive from Navona Avenue to Terracina Drive – a savings to the Town of an estimated \$1.2-million.
- ✓ The Police Department held its first ever, Marine Saturation Detail. The Golden Beach Marine Patrol joined forces with several area marine patrol units, including officers from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee to enforce proper protocols in manatee safe zones and perform routine safety inspections of boating vessels.
- ✓ Conducted a needs assessment for proximity readers and additional cameras on both the Intracoastal and the Ocean to provide more reliable alert system and CCTV on the exterior of the Town's perimeter.
- ✓ 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 issued an RFP for Disaster Recovery Services and awarded the contract to Custom Tree Inc.
- ✓ Construction commenced on the Center Island Pump Station Project, and is well underway for completion in late-2021.
- ✓ Installation commenced on two new bus shelters on A1A with enhanced landscaping and security features. Completion date anticipated for late-2021.
- ✓ The repairs to the outfall valve on South Parkway were completed.
- ✓ Research and development began for the highly anticipated privacy wall along Massini Avenue.
- ✓ Mayor Singer, Vice Mayor Lusskin and Councilmember Mendal were re-elected to office unopposed.

- ✓ The Resident Services Department organized a blood drive event at the Beach Pavilion. 11 donors donated enough blood to help up to 33 patients.
- ✓ The Resident Services Department organized a new “Arts in the Park” initiative, hosting internationally acclaimed artist Jillian Mayer for an 8-week exhibit of her “Slumpies” statues throughout Town.
- ✓ The Council Chambers were outfitted to meet with proper CDC safety guidelines for in-person meetings that resumed in June 2021.
- ✓ The Human Resources Department researched several payroll offerings to upgrade the Town’s payroll system beginning in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- ✓ The Human Resources Department implemented a digital copy of the Town’s new hire packet and updated all of the Town employee’s emergency contacted
- ✓ The Town assisted with hosting a charity concert with proceeds providing assistance to the families of the victims of the Surfside Champlain Towers Condo Collapse.
- ✓ The Town Administration and Police Staff provided much-needed assistance to the Town of Surfside in part of it’s response to the Champlain Tower’s Condo Collapse. We value being able to provide resources and assistance to other municipalities in our South Florida community.
- ✓ The Town hosted a COVID safe Swearing-In Ceremony at the beach pavilion for Mayor Singer, Vice Mayor Lusskin and Councilmember Mendal.
- ✓ The Town Clerk’s Department began a town-wide archival records scanning project in an effort to have digital copies of all Town archives ready prior to the completion of the New Civic Center Complex.
- ✓ The Town Clerk’s Department made a number of revisions and updates to the Town’s website including updating the Town Manger’s page, Town Clerk’s page, creating a Video Archives section and coordinating with the web designer to make additional section changes as needed.
- ✓ 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 Town continued weekly beach sampling to test the Town’s waters for bacteria.
- ✓ The Human Resources Department completed its annual comprehensive insurance review, obtaining renewal figures from three different firms to compare the

Town's current insurance offerings with other available offerings to make sure that the Town is offering the most responsive and affordable insurance offerings to eligible employees.

- ✓ 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 twelfth year in a row.
- ✓ The Resident Services Department created alternative social programming including ZOOM-based art classes and cooking events, as well as socially-distance outdoor events, such as the Tennis clinics.
- ✓ 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 work, live, and raise a family.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished this past year and over the past fourteen years. During this time, our organization has transformed into one where accountability, professionalism and innovation remain an integral part of how we function collectively. This is made possible by the continued guidance and support from the Town Council.

Through our collective efforts, we have made significant strides in building an organization that we can all be proud. We continue to strive for excellence in how we serve the community, and the value we offer all of our stakeholders. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Town Manager. I look forward to continuing to lead our organization and working with all of you and our Town team on our priorities and goals this upcoming year and beyond.

I will be speaking with each of you one-on-one about what we have collectively achieved this past year and how together, we can continue working together In Building our Town of Excellence!

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.