




TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

Office of the Town Manager

To: Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &
Town Council Members

From: Alexander Diaz, 
Town Manager

Date: September 5, 2023

Subject: **FY 22/23-Significant Accomplishments and Performance Review**

The coming 2023-2024 Fiscal Year will usher in a new era for the Town of Golden Beach, Golden Beach 2.0. The Town has for years been the premier community to live and raise a family in, in the South Florida area, but with the commencement of the Town's Civic Center Complex Masterplan, it has been catapulted to a new level of excellence. And as the look of the community is drastically changing, so is the way we navigate through the day-to-day Administrations of the Town.

Golden Beach 2.0 – what does this mean? 2.0 means that we increase safety measures and response times, to continue to provide the highest level of service and protection to our residents of the Town. 2.0 means that we have re-aligned our method of governing the Town to achieve better outcomes and foster stronger relationships. 2.0 means that we will keep the highest standards of accountability in place, reduce waste and increasing efficiency. 2.0 means that we will provide faster and more direct services to expedite processes and get you taken care of as quickly as possible. 2.0 means that we are FOCUSED ON YOU!

This is why our organizational structure is changing this Fiscal Year, to streamline processes and eliminate overlap of services and functions. As we come into this new year, we will have four (4) main Departments, with various divisions under reporting to one main Executive Team Member. As we move forward and look towards the future, these structural re-alignments will help organize the various aspects of city government that the Town provides. Golden Beach 2.0 is setting the framework to lead the Town into the future keeping in line with our ongoing vision of being a community that provides more customer-centric services, with more beautiful and vibrant open spaces.

Before we can focus on these many exciting things to come, we first must take a few minutes to evaluate the many accomplishments we have delivered on.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 we laid the foundation for what the future of Golden Beach would look like – a future of investments. Investments by the community, as more and more people now call Golden Beach home; investments in infrastructure, with projects ranging from the construction of the highly anticipated Civic Center Complex and Reimagined Tweddle Park; investments in technology, with the purchase of software suites to improve the transparency, availability and efficiency of information online; investments in the growth and financial stability of the individuals who work day in and day out to secure our Town is at the forefront of luxury living in South Florida; and most importantly investments in YOU – the resident.

This year, the Town's assessed values grew to a very healthy \$1.656 billion; the Town broke ground on the highly anticipated Re-imagined Tweddle Park project; began the design phase of the new, state of the art wellness center, and opened the doors to the long awaited Civic Center Complex.

As we moved forward, FY 2022/2023 provided the foundation and framework for the Town to continue to grow and meet the demands of tomorrow. Here is more of what FY 2022/2023 looked like:

- ✓ This past election season, the Town re-elected Mayor Singer in an unopposed election race. Councilman Einstein was also re-elected to the Council and Councilman Bernstein was re-elected as well and designated Vice Mayor in a wonderful election and campaign against Mrs. Terri Sonn who led a strong campaign. The results of the election were approved via Resolution 2860.23.
- ✓ Shortly after the conclusion of the election, the Town celebrated by hosting the Swearing-In Ceremony for the re-elected officials, Mayor Singer, Vice Mayor Bernstein, Councilmember Einstein. And although there were minor hic-ups the event brought together community leaders from 5 surrounding municipalities.
- ✓ The Town Council approved a proposal from Hotwire Communications for the Town-Wide Security System as part of the CCTV takeover system. The proposal includes cameras on Ocean Blvd., Golden Beach Dr., all of the Town's parkways, and the Intercoastal. As a part of this proposal, the Hotwire contract for CCTV which added an additional 84 locations on top of the 77 locations we currently have for CCTV with an additional 208 lenses with smart analytics that cover every inch of our community. This system will provide the eyes that we need in Town. To monitor this new system in the coming year we will be adding more personnel to the guardhouse.
- ✓ During the past year the Town Council and Town Manager discussed the foundation for the Re-Imagined Tweddle Park and Wellness Center projects

and a straw vote was taken on the aspects of Site Planning, Recreational Facility Selections, Amenities being offered, and what is being included as a part of these projects. Along with these discussions, and after 5 different proposed site plans, the Council approved the final site plan for the Re-Imagined Tweddle Park and Wellness Center. In these discussions with the Council as well as residents of our community, the Re-Imagined Tweddle Park will include 2 pickle ball courts, 2 full size hard surface tennis courts, a green artificial turf tennis court, a junior basketball court, a dog parks and a new “wow” tot lot. One of the tennis courts will be dual-striped in order to be multi-purpose for those individuals who are wanting to play pickle ball.

- ✓ The Administration was able to come to an agreement with Axxis about what to include in the park including amenities and the overall look and feel with the help of the participation and feedback from our residents.
- ✓ The Town approved an agreement for Professional Services with Martin Architectural Group for the redesign of Tweddle Park and the Wellness Center. Martin Architectural came in with a very competitive number, and that their services would help us create the new Civic Center Complex with the same voice and a cohesive language.
- ✓ As per Resolution 2849.22, the Town approved a Civil Engineering Agreement with Keith & Associates, Inc. for the Re-Imagined Tweddle Park and Wellness Center.
- ✓ The Town Council approved a change order with the design-build agreement with Gerrits Construction, Inc. as part of the Recreational Facilities as a part of the Civic Center Project.
- ✓ The Town Council approved a Contract with Oliva Paving & Associates for Roadway Improvements to South Island Drive.
- ✓ After issuing a Request For Proposals (RFP) with the requirements for furniture selection, a bid was submitted by Compass Office Solutions that would provide all furniture and lighting for the new Civic Center that was approved by the Town Council.
- ✓ The Town has approved purchasing new Audiovisual equipment for the new Town Civic Center from AVI-SPL, Inc. This purchase includes all audiovisual software, hardware, installation and maintenance services. This purchase did not go out to bid since it is going out under contract with a locked in rate for equipment.
- ✓ The Town has increased police staffing to combat the recent car thefts. There are also new procedures in place to manage with late night visitors

entering through The Strand to protect our residents from potential incidents.

- ✓ The retrofit for the Tweddle Park pump station was approved in agreement with Professional Services provided by Craig A. Smith & Associates. In anticipation of the major overhaul that Pump Station Number 1 will undergo in the coming fiscal year.
- ✓ The Town has implemented a task force to combat the continuing auto theft crimes and provide a higher level of security for the community. The Town's law enforcement has increased presence aside from the e-blasts and flyers by adding additional staff to patrol units and created an official auto-theft task force in a two-city task force as part of an initiative with the City of Sunny Isles.
- ✓ The Town Manager and Mayor have been in conversation with the State Attorney in regards to auto thefts and juveniles. Along with the conversation, the Town has been exploring filing civil suit against the families of the youth committing the crime to hold the individuals accountable for their actions and accountable for the loss of the revenue the Town has experienced.
- ✓ New members were added to the Public Safety Committee, Beach and Recreation Committee, Building Regulatory Advisory Board, and the Pension Board.
- ✓ The Town approved for the purchase of three (3) portable pumps in order to alleviate flooding in Town in those areas that a permanent pump cannot be installed.
- ✓ The Town had discussions with the City of Sunny Isles Beach concerning adding a traffic light at Terracina Avenue and Ocean Boulevard. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was contacting and petitioned to conduct a traffic study to see the effectiveness of adding a light at that location that would be synchronized with all of the other lights in that area. FDOT agreed to conduct the traffic study and the results of that study are still pending.
- ✓ The Town approved an Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County for the enforcement of Civil Penalties for Code violations referred to in Resolution 2871.23.
- ✓ The Town added Law Enforcement Appreciation Day as a paid holiday which was added as an amendment to the Town's Employee Manual.
- ✓ The Town approved of the purchase of IT Equipment for the New Civic Center which would supply each employee with a laptop that would serve as

their main workstation so as to not rely on a desktop as we enter this new-age of technology as we move into a cloud-based server. At each of these workstations, they will have 2 screens, a keyboard, mouse, and a docking station with specific location for the laptop. Along with the purchase of the equipment, the Town also approved the purchase of the licensing software needed for office functions such as Adobe and Microsoft Office.

- ✓ Florida Power and Light (FP&L) proposed to the town to relocate the transformer at the Civic Center Complex that was approved.
- ✓ The Town received recognition as an alternate finalist for All-American City Award.
- ✓ Additional landscaping was added in the beach for the enjoyment of all residents and their guests.
- ✓ Added curbing along all of the planters at the beach pavilion to prevent mulch and landscape debris from littering the walkways and negatively impacting the Town's drainage systems.
- ✓ The Town, under the direction of Councilwoman Lusskin, introduced the innovative Watchfire event in observance of Memorial Day.
- ✓ On all of the Town's street ends we now have aluminum fencing which replaced the chain-link fencing that was there before providing more secure entry points at all of our street ends that meet Ocean Boulevard.
- ✓ The Town received a grant for the purchase of three portable pumps, one of which will be dedicated to South Island, which will be retro-fitted into a semi-permanent solution to alleviate the ongoing flooding issues in this area of Town.
- ✓ This year the Town dealt with the impact of the unfortunate shooting of one of our officers, Sergeant Joseph Bautista. Sgt. Bautista, while in pursuit of criminals, was shot at and hit in his right arm. He was fortunate that it was not a life-threatening injury, but it was a severe injury that caused both him and his family a considerable amount of pain and heartache. His road to recovery has been a long one, and he still has a long road ahead before he can return to his patrol duties, but we are happy to report that he is back at work, in a light-duty capacity.
- ✓ The Town's police department held a state-of-art simulation training in Town Hall. All of the officers were able to hone their skills and practice for different types of emergency scenarios.

- ✓ The Town's police department purchased and deployed new 9 MM firearms for the police staff.
- ✓ Town's police department purchase new sight finders for the staff's firearms. This initiative will be deployed once all staff has received the proper training.

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, because we are FOCUSED ON YOU!

We will continue to make good on your investment by providing the high quality of service you have come to expect, while maintaining the highest level of efficiency and professionalism. Following our current path, and continuing to invest in our community, infrastructure and people, we cement Golden Beach's standing as 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 sixteen 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 of. 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.