



A RECAP OF CUTLER BAY'S HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS + A LOOK AHEAD

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and happenings
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Town Council will work to make Cutler Bay an excellent place to live, work and play. Cutler Bay's government will be creative, responsive and respectful in providing innovative and cost effective services to the community.

#### **CORE VALUES**

The Town of Cutler Bay is a customer focused government. Cutler Bay's Customers are our residents of all ages, tax payers, and everyone who does business, or visits our Town.

- We measure our success based on customer satisfaction.
- We value and seek customer feedback at every opportunity.
- We empower our employees to achieve customer satisfaction.
- We value, recognize and reward friendly, courteous customer service.
- · We believe in leading by example.
- We strive to establish and maintain an inspiring vision.
- · We focus on guidelines rather than rules.
- We believe in and value continuous improvement.
- We encourage our customers to define quality service.
- We believe that our plan for quality is a never ending effort.
- · We focus on process improvement.
- We let customer feedback define quality improvements.
- We have no substitute for honesty and ethical conduct.

## TOWN OF CUTLER BAY

10720 Caribbean Boulevard, Suite 105 Cutler Bay, FL 33189 (305) 234-4262

www.cutlerbay-fl.gov

## Follow us @townofcutlerbay









## HONORABLE MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL



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VICE MAYOR
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COUNCIL MEMBER
ROBERT "BJ" DUNCAN
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COUNCIL MEMBER SUZY LORD slord@cutlerbay-fl.gov



COUNCIL MEMBER
ROGER CORIAT
rcoriat@cutlerbay-fl.gov

# LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to the wonderful Town of Cutler Bay!

Our Town serves as a gateway to the tranquility of the rural character of South Miami-Dade and the leisure lifestyle of the Florida Keys. We're close enough to all the action Miami-Dade County has to offer, yet separate enough for a peaceful quality of life with a hometown feel. Cutler Bay holds the best of both worlds!

Incorporated in 2005, Cutler Bay is the youngest municipality in Miami-Dade County. Our Town operates under a lean government with only 32 employees servicing over 45,000 residents.

Some of our Town's highlights include: access to Biscayne National Park, nine Town parks, Southland Mall, and one of the most prominent cultural institutions of the region which offers year-round events and performances—the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

We host some of the biggest events in the area that draw thousands of attendees, such as our Halloween Spooktacular & Golf Cart Parade, our Chili Day Cook-Off and our 4th of July Celebration & Golf Cart Parade.

Cutler Bay is well connected to transit by way of the South Dade Transitway Corridor and we are serviced by two Florida Turnpike exits.

Our Town provides a full range of municipal services including police, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, building, code enforcement and public works. We're also served by eight local public schools.

The heart of Cutler Bay, however, is our residents. In the fast-paced and ever changing world we live in, our residents have somehow preserved the familial, small-town feel we all know and love that has come to be known as the character of Cutler Bay.

Whether you are a resident, business, neighbor or just checking out the area, you are welcome to enjoy all that our beautiful community has to offer!

Sincerely,

Mayor Tim Meerbott

- MW

# **CUTLER BAY: HOW WE GOT HERE**

The Cutler Bay community has a long history that precedes it. Here's the short version of important periods, events, and people that helped shape this community into what it is today.

## Circa 8000 B.C.

First Miamians roamed what is now the south Miami-Dade area, an ideal environment for human habitation given its close proximity to the waters of Biscayne Bay, which was filled with marine life, and a thick hammock and inland piney woods filled with game



## 1821

believe that you have a very

Florida was transferred from Spain to the United States as part of the Adams-Onís Treaty, which also settled several boundary disputes between the countries. The U.S. formally took possession of Florida on July 17, 1821



Dr. William Cutler, a wealthy physician famous for his work with a smallpox vaccine, for reasons of personal health, acquires 600 acres of land abutting the Perrine Land Grant. William Fuzzard, a friend and mentee of Dr. Cutler, received a patent for a United States Post Office on land acquired by Dr. Cutler and names it after him. Cutler was located just north of today's Cutler Bay, near what is now the Charles Deering Estate. Since there were no roads at the time and mail arrived by boat, Mr. Fuzzard began clearing a path from Cutler to Cocoanut Grove (its original spelling), which marked the beginning of what is now Old Cutler Road

# Tom Peters and his family

With a prod from the Flagler orga-

nization, the United States Senate

Committee for Public Lands approved

the Perrine Grant and a patent for the

land was issued to the Perrine family.

For its efforts, Flagler's FEC Railway

gained one-quarter of the Perrine Grant, which it marketed through a

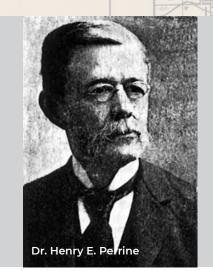
subsidiary, the Perrine Land Grant

Sect. Sect

Company

## **End of 1890s**

Tom Peters purchased 1,250 acres of marl glade land in the northwestern portion of today's Cutler Bay from Flagler's Model Land Company and established a highly successful tomato farm, becoming south Dade's first million-dollar business. Peters' techniques were so successful that the U.S. Department of Agriculture sent representatives to his farm to examine his methods



# 1838

The U.S. Government awards Dr. Henry E. Perrine a township of 36 sq. mi. of land in south Dade County—the County was only 2 years old then with the hopes to establish a subtropical plant nursery. Portions of what is now Cutler Bay were a part of the township. Perrine has been credited with introducing many tropical plants into cultivation in the U.S. Perrine, who was living on Indian Key with his family while working on the Perrine Land Grant, was killed in an attack by Indians of the area two years later and the land grant remained dormant for several decades, despite attempts from his son, Henry Jr., to revive it



## 1885-1912

The Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway, a project funded by Oil Magnate Henry Flagler, is constructed to provide railway transportation from Jacksonville to Key West, largely aiding the development of the east coast of Florida. Flagler—a key strategist who worked closely with John D. Rockefeller building the Standard Oil Trustenvisioned the east coast of Florida as America's riviera and developed industries, resorts, and communities along Florida's coast. The railroad brought a multitude of permanent settlers to south Dade and all of Florida throughout the 1900s

# **Early 1900s**

The community of Cutler was nearing its end, with its demise directly attributed to the positioning of Flagler's railroad. Some observers believe that Flagler, who planned to move his railroad through Cutler, was dissuaded by the high monetary demands placed by Cutler residents upon the rail land for land required for the railroads right-of-way and other facilities. Instead, the railroad was built several miles west of Cutler and took the community out of the mainstream development

F.S. MORSE



## 1900s to 1940s

Throughout this period, the south Dade area saw the steady increase of farm production



## 1942

The Homestead Army Air Field (now the Homestead Air Force Base) was established by the Army Air Corps as a maintenance stopover point for aircraft being ferried to the Caribbean and North Africa during World War II. Although the site would close in 1945 due to substantial damage sustained from a hurricane that same year, it would later reopen and play an important role in the development of what is now Cutler Bay



## 1955

The ruins of the Homestead Army Air Field were cleaned up and the site was reactivated as the Homestead Air Force Base (HAFB). By the end of the decade, the HAFB housed more than 6,000 permanently assigned members, twice the size of its busiest WWII days

# Early 1950s

David Blumberg and Joe Segal purchased 1,400 acres of undeveloped land located by, what is today, the intersection of Cutler Ridge Drive and Coral Sea Road. The development was named Cutler Ridge, after Cutler and also for the limestone ridge upon which it sat. Their first homes sold slowly, but after the Homestead Air Force Base reopened, people flocked to the area



Perrine Khoury Baseball League marching through Perrine Shopping Center for opening day ceremony in 1962

## 1960s

The 1960s saw the expansion and flourishing of the Cutler Ridge Community. In 1960, David Blumberg and Joe Segal, developed the Cutler Ridge Shopping Center (where Southland Mall is today), as an open-air strip plaza of over thirty stores and services

## 1992

Progressive development on Cutler Ridge and other areas of South Dade was derailed on August 24, 1992, when Hurricane Andrew, a powerful, category-five storm, directly hit the area and battered the region. The storm devastated the Cutler Ridge Mall, the Homestead Air Force Base, and thousands of homes and businesses. The cleanup and rebuild from damage sustained by Hurricane Andrew took several years

## 2002

A recently organized Steering Committee in the Cutler Ridge area met to discuss the formation of a Municipal Advisory Committee to consider the incorporation of the area known as Cutler Ridge. Boundaries corresponding to those of today's Town of Cutler Bay were proposed

## 2005

After several delays, the residents within the Cutler Ridge area proposed for incorporation voted to incorporate in January 2005. Residents also voted on the name of the municipality as "Cutler Bay" and officials adopted the Town Charter, which became effective on November 9, 2005



# 1970s and 1980s

As Cutler Ridge and other parts of South Dade quickly grew, the County built important public facilities to accommodate the growing needs which included the South Dade Regional Government Center, the South Dade Regional Library and, after lengthy County efforts, Black Point Marina



# 2006

The Town's Inaugural Council Meeting took place on February 2, 2006. The meeting took place at Cutler Ridge Middle School (now Cutler Bay Middle School). The first Town Council were: Mayor John Cosgrove, Vice Mayor Paul Vrooman, then Council Member Tim Meerbott. Council Member Ernie Sochin and Council Member Peggy Bell

# 2021 DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- Hosted and successfully documented a total of 37 employee trainings for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21
- Facilitated the 6th and 7th Annual iPrep Executive Internship Program for a total of seven Juniors from Cutler Bay Senior High School during the 2019-20 and from Miami South Ridge Senior High School in the 2020-21 school years
- Executive interns completed over 100 combined community service hours in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21
- Hired a Community
   Development Director, a
   Planning Administrator, a parttime Accounting Clerk, a parttime Grants Coordinator, a parttime Administrative Assistant
   (Community Development
   Department), an Assistant to
   Town Clerk, an IT Administrative
   Assistant, a Code Compliance
   Officer (Nights & Weekends), six
   part-time Youth Program Aides,
   eight part-time Lifeguards and
   two part-time Park Service
   Aides
- Promoted Deputy Town Clerk to Town Clerk and Assistant to Town Clerk to Deputy Town Clerk following the resignation of former Town Clerk Debra E. Eastman
- Promoted a part-time Youth Program Aide to full-time Events & Programs Specialist
- Promoted the Public Information Officer to Communications Manager
- Completed Phase I of the Town Hall Council Chambers Audio/ Visual Upgrades Project
- Decommissioned and donated surplus IT equipment

- (including computers, cell phones, monitors, keyboards, and mice) to state and local agencies benefiting youth and veteran affairs
- Continued to work closely with the Town Manager to improve the overall structure and efficiencies of all Town Departments and staff needs

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## **Building Division**

- Processed and issued over 3,000 permits (1,807 residential building permits, 122 commercial building permits, 1,079 trade permits)
- Completed 1,502 permit searches
- Implemented new pre- and post-construction survey and topographic survey requirements for all project types
- Continued offering electronic document recording services on Notices of Commencement to customers applying for building permits in the Town
- Continued process of scanning finalized permits and plans

## **Code Compliance Division**

- Processed 907 Code Compliance cases and matters
- Conducted 5 Property Abatements
- Held 9 Special Magistrate Hearings
- Presented 107 cases in front of the Special Magistrate

## **Planning and Zoning Division**

 Reviewed approximately 770 building permits for Zoning compliance

## CHARTER OFFICIALS

The Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney are appointed by and report to the Town Council.



RAFAEL G. CASALS Town Manager rcasals@cutlerbay-fl.gov



MAURICIO MELINU Town Clerk mmelinu@cutlerbay-fl.gov



MITCHELL A. BIERMAN
Town Attorney
Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Cole
& Bierman P.L.
mbierman@wsh-law.com

## **DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS**



**JAZMIN GONZALEZ** Administrative Services Director jgonzalez@cutlerbay-fl.gov



**SANTIAGO GONZALEZ Building & Code** Compliance Manager sgonzalez@cutlerbay-fl.gov



**JARED MUNSTER** Community Development Director imunster@cutlerbay-fl.gov



**ROBERT DADDARIO** Finance Director rdaddario@cutlerbay-fl.gov



**ETIENNE BEJARANO** Parks & Recreation Director ebejarano@cutlerbay-fl.gov



**ALFREDO OUINTERO** Public Works Director aquintero@cutlerbay-fl.gov



LEONARD A. RICELLI Police Department Major laricelli@mdpd.com

- · Reviewed 33 Special Event Permit applications
- · Reviewed site plans for 26 new single-family dwellings
- · Reviewed the site plan application for a new multifamily building on SW 211 Street
- · Processed 109 Certificate of Use applications
- · Processed one variance application
- · Issued 149 Garage Sale **Permits**
- · Approved the building permit for the construction of the new Publix development on Old Cutler Rd
- · Began licensing vacation rentals in accordance with the Land Development Regulations; 2 vacation rentals were issued licenses
- · Amended the Town's Land **Development Regulations** to allow administrative designation of green projects in the Town Center District and created new parking bonuses for green and transitoriented development
- · Changed the Future Land Use Map designation and Zoning Designation of the Town's 8.45 acre parcel at Old Cutler Rd and SW 184th St from residential to conservation
- · Continued the implementation of the Town's Growth Management Plan and Land Development Regulations
- · Continued to provide information and assist the public through the development process to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents and neighborhoods

## **FINANCE**

· Received Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Presentation

- Award for the seventh consecutive year
- · Maintained one of the lowest millage rates in the County at 2.8332
- Worked with Town Financial Advisor, Estrada Hinojosa to develop a Fund replenishment plan to Restructure Outstanding Debt; Issue debt to fund \$15 M capital projects; Adopt Recovery Millage Rate; and Rebuild Fund Reserves and balance operating budget
- · Maintained a high level of fund balance reserve of \$14,995,500 after Fund Replenishment Plan

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

## **Events and Programs**

- · Provided over 20 programs and activities for the Active Adults aged 55+ throughout the year, including Health presentations and recreational classes like Self-Defense Class and Salsa Dance Class
- Successfully hosted the 7th Annual Cutler Bay Senior Games. The Cutler Bay Senior Games is the only sanctioned Senior Games in the Miami-Dade County. Over 100 participants competed in various categories
- · Successfully hosted the Annual Health and Resource Fair in conjunction with our Senior Games Awards Luncheon
- · Partnered with Florida Technical College to provide free health screenings by their nursing students for five assisted living facilities in Cutler Bay
- · Continued partnership with the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center to offer free performances for Active Adults aged 55+ and discounted tickets for Cutler Bay residents

- Generated \$9,395 for the Cutler Bay Community Fund through the 13th Annual Cutler Bay Open Charity Golf Cart Tournament
- Successfully hosted the following nine special events at various parks in the Town: Easter Extravaganza, 4th of July Parade, Back to School Splash and Robotics Exhibition, Franjo Park Re-opening, 13th Annual Cutler Bay Open Charity Golf Tournament, Halloween Spooktacular, Rock the Bay: Cutler Bay's 16th Birthday Bash, Veteran's Day Breakfast and Holiday Golf Cart Parade & Winter Celebration
- Awarded grant from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs for Rock the Bay Event

# After School & Summer Camp Programs

- Had a successful summer camp program for 40 students per session, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19
- Provided enriching, creative activities like painting and nutrition virtually and in-person at the After School and Summer Camp Programs
- Successful virtual Spring
  Break Program with Nature
  Postings, despite the challenges
  presented by COVID-19
- Ongoing training for staff to include:
  - Department of Children and Families: 40 hours certification
  - Department of Juvenile Justice: Mandatory Trainings
  - The Children's Trust required trainings
  - Elizabeth Deveaux received Level 1 Trauma Endorsed certification from Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Awarded \$185,636 grant from The Children's Trust for the After-School Program

 Awarded \$61,000 grant from Department of Juvenile Justice for the After-School Program

#### **Maintenance Division**

- Installed/Upgraded to new LED Lights at Saga Bay Tennis courts
- Grand Re-opening of Franjo Park on July 17, 2021
- Brand new doors, ceiling and lighting installed at Bel Aire Park
- Installed infographic signage at Lincoln City Park
- Upgraded Lakes by the Bay Park monument sign
- Assisted with the successful completion of many Town events, recreational league competitions, and reservations

#### **Aquatics Division**

- Provided aquatic facilities to five Miami-Dade County Public Schools as well as the Miami-Dade Police and Fire Department for training
- Upgraded amenities: ADA pool lift and main drain grates
- Built and operated the annual haunted house where approximately 1,100 people visited
- Recertified lifeguarding certifications for all staff and Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certifications for 5 staff

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Awards**

- Received industry award from the South Florida American Public Works Association (APWA) for Professional Manager of the Year Award in Landscaping (VisualScape, Juan Carlos Vila)
- Received 2020 Tree City USA Award and Tree City USA Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation

## **Projects Completed**

- Completed the Town of Cutler Bay Bike/Pedestrian Facilities Improvement Project. The project consisted of upgrading pedestrian facilities, removing obstacles in the Right-of-Way, ensuring ADA compliance, filling in sidewalk sections that were incomplete and installation of high visibility crosswalks
- Completed the Neat Streets
   Miami Tree Matching Grant
   Program and planting 62 new
   trees around the Town

#### **Educational Events**

Presented EnviroScape
 Stormwater Management
 Model during 2021 Town of
 Cutler Bay Stem Camp which
 allowed students to interact
 and experience firsthand how
 pollutants such as oil, erosion,
 litter, and other contaminants
 are carried by stormwater runoff
 and can pollute waterways

#### **Procured Invitation to Bid**

 ITB 21-01 Saga Bay 1.7 Sub-Basin Water Quality Improvement Project

#### **Projects Request for Proposal**

- RFP 20-01 Street Sweeper Services
- RFP 20-04 Tree Planting Program
- RFP 20-05 Tree Trimming Maintenance Service

#### Other

- Negotiated with Miami Dade County to mill and resurface SW 184th Street. A total of 2 miles of the Town's roadways were milled and repayed
- Reported 86 down signs to the Miami Dade County for repair and/or replacement
- Reported over 520 bulky trash piles to Miami Dade County for removal
- Reviewed 170 Public Works Permits

- Performed 86 Public Works Inspections
- Replaced damaged and potential trip hazard sidewalk flags: 4,765 Linear Feet (L.F.), which amounted to 953 Sidewalk Flags
- Town's contractor VisualScape removed over 462 cubic yards of debris
- Town's contractor SFM swept over 1,052 miles which removed approximately 14 tons of debris from roadways
- Hosted four quarterly Floodplain Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee meetings
- Through collaboration with Town consultants, Wood Group, the Town completed a Community Rating System (CRS) Site Cycle Visit
- Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (N.E.A.T.) removed over 12 tons of debris from Town swales and roadways
- Continued Town-wide storm drain cleaning, including Benson Manor, Bel Aire Sec 5, Cutler Ridge Section 5, Pine Tree Manor Sec 1-2, Pelican Bay at Old Cutler Lakes, Lakes by the Bay Sec 10 & 11, Saga Bay 1.1 -1.8 and Cutler Ridge Section 3 & 6, Saga View residential neighborhoods. Total cleaned; 1,267 drainage structures, 77,169 LF of stormwater drainage pipe
- Completed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit
- Completed the 2020 Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Report
- Completed 2021 Update to Town Transportation Master Plan

## **TOWN CLERK**

 Fully transitioned to new online Agenda Management Software (eScribe) with an eye toward ADA compliance in January 2021, providing the Town residents access to online electronic

- agendas, links to time-stamped meeting videos, and approved Town Council Meeting Minutes
- Facilitated and broadcasted Town Council Meetings and Workshops via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform and the Town's Facebook Social Media page
- Prepared and distributed virtual scripts for use by participants for each virtual meeting (29), prepared, advertised, and posted instructions, distributed virtual email public comments and voicemail public comments to members of staff and Town Council
- Provided agenda documents, legal postings, attended meetings, time stamped audio, uploaded audio and provided minutes for 29 total meetings of the Town Council
- Facilitated, scheduled, rescheduled, provided legal postings, informational postings, provided reminders to committee members, copies of records, signage and signin sheets for 52 committee meetings for six committees including the newly established Environmental Task Force
- Facilitated and managed 16 appointments to committees
- Processed and published 16 legal ads
- Executed and managed the adoption of 118 Resolutions and Ordinances
- Received, researched and responded to 191 public records requests
- Procurement accomplished -RFP, RFQ, ITB (bids placed on file, advertised, facilitated prebid meetings, provided Cone of Silence, performed bid openings and acted as point of contact) for 3 bids
- Researched and performed
   1,629 lien search requests and

- responses with a projected revenue in excess of \$180,000
- Performed as Supervisor of Elections for the Town of Cutler Bay, coordinated election functions with Miami-Dade Elections Department, and published advertisements for both the Town's 2020 General Election and Run-off Election
- Provided services and information to assist 2020 candidates with electronic campaign treasurer's finance reporting for all 2020 General Election
- Facilitated the reporting of Form 1 Financial Reports for Council, staff, and committee members
- Registered 33 Lobbyists providing revenue of over \$13,200
- Coordinated and provided information to Town Council regarding gift disclosure, required ethics training
- Reported on opportunities and available links to training, in addition to providing over 100 event flyers and calendar invitations
- Attended trainings, Town Clerk related meetings and Clerk Association events in person and virtually
- Transitioned to a newly appointed Town Clerk after the retirement of long time Town Clerk Debra E. Eastman, MMC, promoted from within a Deputy Town Clerk, and hired an Assistant to Town Clerk

## **TOWN MANAGER**

- Created content, managed and increased the followers for the Town's Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor, Twitter, and YouTube pages
- Coordinated the publication of monthly center page stories published in the Community Newspapers

- Published press releases and distributed to local media outlets (Miami Herald, Community Newspapers and the Florida Villager
- Increased newsletter subscribers and created two new e-news segments designed for Active Adults and Cutler Ridge Pool goers
- Awarded \$12,475 in grant awards to five local non-profit organizations through the Cutler Bay Community Fund
- Facilitated and coordinated Town Manager reports for the Town Council Meetings
- Facilitated and coordinated elected official reports for the Town Council meetings
- Coordinated with Town Clerk and Town Attorneys to develop agendas for 22 Town Council meetings and workshops
- Represented the Town at Miami-Dade County Commissioner Hearings, Town Hall meetings for neighboring municipalities, and Legislative Session meetings with the Town Council
- Coordinated two resident Open Mic Nights
- Raised \$3,401.85 to support the Surfside Hardship Fund managed by The Miami Foundation
- Designed, launched and administered the Cutler Bay Cash Program to provide financial relief for residents while supporting Cutler Bay small businesses with Federal CARES ACT funding
- Organized the Cutler Bay Wetlands Restoration Day to
- Served on Florida International University's Master of Public Administration Advisory Board
- Launched the FIU MPA
   Leadership Internship Program
   accredited by the International
   City/County Managers
   Association

## **POLICE**

The Town contracts with Miami-Dade County for Police Services. Charged with the primary responsibility to protect, the Unit is fully committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the Cutler Bay community, emphasizing community-oriented policing and traffic safety. Over the last year, Police have been present at all major Town events, Council Meetings and Workshops, and community gatherings.

## **Emergency Calls\* Average Response Times**

(Goal Response Time of Eight Minutes or Less)

Year to Date (Jan. 1- Oct 31)	Emergency/Priority Response Times (Minutes/Seconds)	Total Calls for Services (Emergency/Priority)	
2021	6:51	1,264	
2020	6:47	1,310	

<sup>\*</sup>Definition of an Emergency Call: A call that is considered life threatening, requiring an emergency response with lights and siren.

## **Non-Emergency Calls\* Average Response Times**

(Goal Response Time of 30 Minutes or Less)

Year to Date (Jan. 1- Oct 31)	Routine Response Times (Minutes/Seconds)	Total Calls for Services (Routine)	
2021	12:28	9,121	
2020	12:45	8,999	

<sup>\*</sup>Definition of a Non-Emergency Call: A call that is not life threatening, or the report of a crime where a subject is no longer on scene.

## **Neighborhood Resource Unit**

The Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU) utilizes a Community Oriented Policing approach to service the Cutler Bay community. The community has become familiar with NRU officers who attended over 80 community gatherings, such as Home Owners Association and Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings, Business Watch groups, Church Organization and other community assemblies. For information about the NRU and their services, please contact Sergeant Chris Reed at cmreed@ mdpd.com or call (305) 234-4237.

## **General Investigation Unit**

- An overall clearance rate of 16.26% for all Major Crimes reported from January 1

   October 31
- A reduction in Robberies by -20.83%, when compared to 2020
- A reduction in Aggravated Assaults by -6.15%, when compared to 2020
- A reduction of Burglaries by -29.27%, when compared to 2020



# GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS (2020-21)

Grants Consultant: LaKeesha Morris-Moreau | Bell Tower Consulting | info@belltowergroup.org

FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT Status	PURPOSE
Department of Juvenile Justice	Out-of-School Program	\$61,500	Ongoing	Funding is used to support the Afterschool and Summer Program at Cutler Ridge Park for 65 youth ages 6-11. \$61,500/year
Florida DEP Land and Water Grant	Lakes By the Bay Canoe Launch	\$200,000	Completed	Funding to install a canoe/kayak launch, floating dock, pavilion and parking at the passive parcel in Lakes by the Bay Park
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Cutler Ridge Sec 3 Drainage	\$200,000	In Progress	Funding to improve drainage in Cutler Ridge Sec 3 Sub Basin
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Legislative Appropriation	\$250,000	In Progress	Drainage Project Saga Bay 1.5
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Section 319 Grant Program	\$600,000	In Progress	Saga Bay 1.7 Sub-Basin Water Quality Improvement Project
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$200,000	Completed	Franjo Park Restoration and Improvements Project
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding	\$146,891	Completed	Funding to respond to COVID-19
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Coronavirus Emergency Residual Funding	\$50,000	Completed	Funding to respond to COVID-19
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (County)	\$5,246	Completed	CPR/First Aid Training for Policing Unit
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (County)	\$5,036	In Progress	Cutler Bay RadKIDS safety education program
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Direct)	\$10,000	In Progress	Equipment purchase for Policing Unit
Florida Department of Transportation	Public Transportation Grant	\$192,500	Ongoing	Funding to implement Cutler Bay Business Express Service. Renews annually for three years
Florida Department of Transportation	Cutler Bay Bike/Ped Facilities Improvements	\$360,640	In Progress	Funding to improve sidewalk connectivity and bike facilities throughout the town
Florida Department of Transportation	Public Transit Project	\$195,000	Pending execution	Town of Cutler Bay Transit Expansion Project
Florida Department of Transportation	Transportation Alternatives Grant	\$800,000	Pending execution	SW 82 Avenue Improvements
Florida Department of Transportation	Florida Resilient Coastlines Program	\$125,000	Pending execution	Cutler Bay Vulnerability Assessment
Miami-Dade County	Neat Streets Tree Matching Grant	\$20,475	Completed	Install Florida-Friendly trees along the Town's public corridors and gateways.
Miami-Dade County	Smart Moves TPO	\$100,000	Completed	Update the Cutler Bay Transportation Master Plan
Miami-Dade County	CARES Act Funding Passthrough	\$654,454	Completed	Reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses
Miami-Dade County	CARES Act Funding - Childcare Program	\$12,605	Completed	New program to support residents affected by COVID with their Childcare needs
Miami-Dade County	CARES Act Funding - Gift Card Program	\$161,365	Completed	New Program to support residents and small businesses impacted by COVID
National Fish and Wildlife	Land Conservation	\$20,000	In Progress	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetland Restoration
The Children's Trust	After School Program	\$185,636	Ongoing	Support the Parks and Recreation After School Program at Cutler Ridge Park
The Children's Trust	Careers in STEM Camp	\$135,700	Ongoing	Support the Summer STEM Camp at Town Hall Building
	TOTAL AWARDED	\$4,692	2,048	



MAY '21: National Day of Prayer











# **FINANCE**



The Town reviewed its financial condition and in 2020 developed a multi-year financial and debt profile strategy to improve efficiencies and strengthen the Town's credit rating. Although the strategy included some difficult decisions, the Town followed through and is now in a strong financial position to entertain financing additional capital projects.

## Lourdes Abadin

Town's Financial Advisor & Senior Managing Director of Estrada Hinojosa

# **FINANCE SNAPSHOT**

**FUND BALANCE RESERVES** 

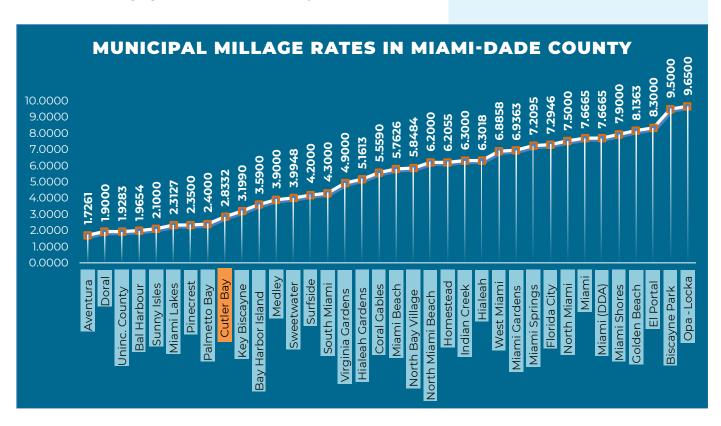
\$14.9 MILLION

MILLAGE RATE

2.8332

2021 ADOPTED GENERAL **FUND BUDGET** 

\$36.4 **MILLION** 





# 16 ACRES LEGACY PARK AND MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

n January 2020, the Town of Cutler Bay finalized the "land swap" deal, exchanging the Town Hall building and adjacent property (on 10720 Caribbean Boulevard) for 16 acres of vacant land located east of Old Cutler Road and north of SW 212 Street—commonly referred to as the "Potato Field."

The property is zoned for mixed use, which allows up to 480 units to be developed on it. Through this land swap, the Town removed that development possibility forever and created an opportunity to transform it into something great for the community—a legacy project for many generations to enjoy.

For years, residents have dreamed of a central gathering place like this one. The vision for this property, located in the geographical heart of the Town, is not only to transform it into a park and municipal complex, but for it to become the emotional heart of the community.

While the Town was ready to begin the visioning process for this project last year, when the pandemic hit, it was put on hold to focus on the community's health and wellbeing. Nearly two years later, the Town is ready to pick this project back up, listen to the thoughts, suggestions and

concerns of the residents to make sure this legacy project is one that all residents will be proud of, that truly represents the community.

The visioning process has begun and will provide a series of community involvement meetings and workshops to hear what residents wish to see on the 16 acres (see back of booklet for upcoming meetings).

To help conceptualize the vision for this property and help visualize residents' ideas, the Town has partnered with the University of Miami's School of Architecture and Valle Valle & Associates.

## **Important Project Dates:**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 7 PM Public Involvement Meeting at Franjo Park

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 | 10 AM Public Involvement Meeting at Cutler Ridge Park

MARCH 22, 2022

Election for General Obligation Bond

Get involved and learn more at:

WWW.CUTLERBAY-FL.GOV/16ACRES

# NOTABLE TOWN TOPICS OF 2021

**GO CONNECT** GO Connect is an on-demand public transit service that provides residents and visitors with rides to and from the South Dade Transitway and anywhere within Cutler Bay Town boundaries—all easily booked through a mobile app (available in English and Spanish) for FREE! It's available Monday to Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

> This service is made possible through a partnership with Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and Via, the leader in TransitTech solutions, and is being funded through a \$577,500 Florida Department of Transportation and Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization grant designated by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT), be matched by the Town. Learn more at www. cutlerbay-fl.gov/goconnect.

## **BUS RAPID TRANSIT GROUNDBREAKING**

On June 4, Miami-Dade County broke ground on the South Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. This project will take place along the 20 mile transitway parallel to US-1 between Dadeland South Metrorail Station and Florida City and will greatly improve the speed, efficiency and comfort of public transportation.

The project will include 14 newly constructed iconic rapid transit stations, improvements to the two end-of-line terminals at Dadeland South and SW 344 Street, and the rehabilitation of the 16 existing stations along the corridor. It will provide signal preemption for transit, offering an easy 60-minute ride from Homestead to Downtown Miami Additionally, the 14 BRT stations will be equipped with rail-like amenities that will include: Level boarding; Off-board fare collection; Real-time messaging for bus arrivals; Closed circuit TV; Free Wi-Fi; Air-conditioned vestibules; Emergency call boxes; Bike racks; Benches; Device charging stations and more. The project is estimated to be completed in two years.

## AUTOMATIC **EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

Sudden cardiac arrest is a devastating and often unpredictable complication that is a leading cause of death for young athletes. In October 2020, the Town Council adopted an ordinance to help save lives by requiring any commercial gym, fitness center, or recreational facility greater than 1,500 square feet to have an automated electronic defibrillator (AED) device installed and available for use. This device can be used by any person with minimum training and delivers an electric shock to the individual, if required, that could potentially save their life.

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY PORTAL

As one of the many objectives we continuously strive for is to be a transparent government, in December 2021 we relaunched our Financial Transparency Portal. This site provides a comprehensive look at the types of revenue collected and how those funds are invested to provide our residents with the very best in public service. The information on the portal is highly interactive allowing the user to choose between chart, graph and table views to search the Town's governmental funds and more, Vist the website at: https://cutlerbay-fl.finance.socrata.com/#!/dashboard

FRANJO PARK On July 17, we held the Grand Reopening Ceremony for Franjo Park. Originally opened in the late 1960s, Franjo Park has been an anchor in our community. After decades in operation, the Park had to suddenly close in September of 2017, due to substantial damage sustained from Hurricane Irma. While the road to restore and improve the park had lots of hurdles, the Mayor and Council were delighted to welcome back residents and visitors to enjoy all it has to offer.

> Some of the project highlights include: LED sports lighting system; golf cart parking area; electrical vehicle parking area; shade structure canopies; dugouts, backstops, & foul ball fencing; drainage system between fields; perimeter fencing; bermuda sod in athletic field; sidewalks around concession area & common areas; upgraded community room & offices; upgraded restroom facilities; upgraded concession stand facilities; laser grading clay infields; ADA facilities; new community room; high efficiency/ low flow fixtures and appliances; additional parking area; and larger and safer spectator areas. The total project cost came in at \$3,428,540, with nearly \$600,000 of that sum covered by grants, insurance and FEMA reimbursements our Town staff worked diligently to obtain.

## CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH

In January, we completed the Canoe/Kayak Launch at Lakes by the Bay Park. The launch is located on the passive parcel of the park, southeast of the SW 212 Street and SW 85 Avenue Intersection and may also be accessed by walking through the trail located on the north east corner of Lakes by the Bay Park. The project features a floating canoe/kayak launch that leads to a 23-acre lake, three pavilions and picnic areas, walking paths and parking. The project was made possible through a \$200,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, matched by the Town.

# TASK FORCE

**ENVIRONMENTAL** In March 2021, the Town's Environmental Task Force was created to advise the Council on sustainability and resiliency policies and programs, and develop a plan that identifies projects that will make Cutler Bay more resilient and sustainable. The Task Force, comprised of 5 Cutler Bay residents with a background in environmental science, will prepare a report to present to the Council with their recommendations.

## CUTLER BAY CASH

Made possible through funding from the Federal CARES Act of 2020 and allocated to the Town by Miami-Dade County, the Cutler Bay Cash program provided financial relief to Cutler Bay residents by issuing \$500 electronic gift cards to the first 300 qualifying Cutler Bay residents who apply on a first come, first served basis (limited to one per household). The eGift Cards are redeemable only at participating small businesses within the Town limits of Cutler Bay, who also had to apply to the program as vendors. Through this program \$150,000 were distributed to Cutler Bay residents, who then reinvested those funds into our Cutler Bay small businesses. The program was designed this way to double the financial impacts, share the benefits with a greater amount of people in our community, and keep local dollars local.

# 2021 AWARDS/EMPLOYEE CREDENTIALS & DEVELOPMENT

## ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION'S TREE CITY USA AWARD

For the twelfth consecutive year, the Town has been designated as a Tree City USA. Tree City USA is a national recognition program that began in 1976 which provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

## ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION'S GROWTH AWARD

For the seventh consecutive year, the Town has been awarded Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award, which recognizes higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry.

# AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION'S FLORIDA CHAPTER AWARD FOR LANDSCAPING

The Town of Cutler Bay's contractor, Juan Carlos Vila of VisualScape, was has received the Professional Manager of the Year award for Landscaping from the American Public Works Association's (APWA) Florida Chapter Awards Program. VisualScape has provided Cutler Bay's landscape maintenance services for many of our right-of-way medians, swales and culde-sacs over the past 9 years.

## FRANJO PARK SELECTED FOR FRPA FACILITY SHOWCASE

Every year, the Florida Recreation and Park Association publishes a journal that features newly designed or renovated park or recreation facility spaces that serve the community. The newly restored and improved Franjo Park was selected and will be featured in the publication that will be available in early 2022.

## **GFOA DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD**

For the seventh consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has presented the Town of Cutler Bay with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget. This achievement reflects the Town's ongoing commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

## **EMPLOYEE CREDENTIALS AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Deputy Town Clerk Promoted to Town Clerk
- Assistant to Town Clerk promoted to Deputy Town Clerk
- Youth Program Aide promoted to Events & Programs Specialist
- Events & Programs Coordinator promoted to IT Administrative Assistant
- Public Works Administrative Assistant promoted to Events & Programs Coordinator
- Public Information Officer promoted to Communications Manager
- Floodplain Management Plan Review and Challenges Imposed by Current Legislative Changes Training (2 staff members)
- Recreation Coordinator earned Master's Degree
- Youth Program Aide earned Bachelor of Science
- Youth Program Teacher and Youth Program Coordinator received Florida Educator's Certification
- Public Works Director earned International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist Certification
- Public Works Director nominated for "Complete Streets Champion" Award in Miami-Dade County
- Planning Administrator, Stormwater Manager, Public Works Director and Maintenance Mechanic became a Certified Floodplain Manager
- Events & Programs Coordinator earned Parks & Recreation Professional Certification

# **UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS**

## FRANJO PARK ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



Construction on the Franjo Roadway Improvement Project is anticipated to begin in 2022.

This project will transform Franjo Road (between Old Cutler Road to SW 184 Street) from two to three lanes that will include a center turn lane, curb and gutters, shared use path, storm drainage system, pavement markings and signage, signalization, and roadway lighting—much like the Caribbean Boulevard and Old Cutler Road improvements.

\$8,946,758 in funding for this project was approved by the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization Governing Board in 2019. This project was identified through the feedback received at various public involvement meetings held when the Town developed the Complete Streets Master Plan (funded by a TPO Grant).

## **SW 82<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE PROJECT**



The design phase for the SW 82nd Avenue Project will soon begin. The proposed project will be between SW 184 Street to Old Cutler Road and will include drainage improvements, new sidewalks, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, bicycle lanes, landscaping and a circle.

A date for when this project will begin has not been established.

# WHISPERING PINES PARK PERVIOUS TURF BLOCK & STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS



The Whispering Pines Park Pervious Turf Black and Storm Drain Improvements is currently being planned. The project will formalize parking for the park through turf block parallel parking spaces along Whispering Pines Elementary and Whispering Pines Park, will include milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway, as well as new drainage to appropriately handle the limited stormwater run-off.

This project was identified in the Town's Comprehensive Parks Master Plan, which serves as a guide in directing the future development of the Town's park system. The Project limits include Ridgeland Drive from SW 89 Road to SW 87 Avenue, and SW 188 Street from Ridgeland Drive to SW 87 Avenue. The project is estimated to commence in late 2022/early 2023.

## SAGA BAY DRAINAGE & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS



The Saga Bay Drainage Sub-Basin Section 1.7 Water Quality Improvement Project is a Capital Improvement Project to improve the stormwater management system and treat runoff pollutants within the Sub-Basin as well as roadway resurfacing. It was identified in the Town's Stormwater Master Plan, which was adopted in 2008 to identify opportunities to protect surface water quality and reduce flooding within Town.

The project will include: adding supplementary catch basins; replacing some existing catch basins; installing new pipe; and installing new French Drain. Existing catch basins will be modified to provide sediment traps and pollution retardant baffles to protect the French Drains, and milling and resurfacing as per plans and specifications. The project limits will be North of SW 207 St., South of SW 203 St., East of SW 83 Ave., and West of SW 80 Ct., and is estimated to commence in the spring/summer of 2022.

# 2022 EVENTS

































# **GUIDED KAYAK TOURS**



In January 2021 we kicked off our monthly guided kayak tours that take place at the new canoe/kayak launch at Lakes by the Bay Park.

The tours explore the 23-acre lake next to the park and are guided by Cutler Bay business, Nature Postings.

Tours are \$10 per person, include all gear, and are open to ages 5 years and older.
Registration is required.

Register online at: cutlerbay-fl.gov/kayaktours

#### **UPCOMING TOUR DATES**

- · December 11, 2021
- · January 15, 2022
- · February 19, 2022
- · March 5, 2022
- · April 2, 2022
- · May 21, 2022
- · June 18, 2022
- · July 16, 2022
- · August 20, 2022
- · September 17, 2022

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



#### MUNICODE

The Town utilizes Municode to promote transparency and efficiency. Municode offers online legislative search tools for residents and Town

staff to stay informed on Town Ordinances. To search the Town of Cutler Bay Codes Library, please visit <a href="www.municode.com">www.municode.com</a> and visit the Library page, search by state then municipality (Cutler Bay).



#### **CUTLER BAY MOBILE APP**

The Town is proud to offer the Cutler Bay FL Mobile App. This user friendly mobile app gives residents access to the latest news and events happening in the Town.

Residents can also use the app to report any issues or concern via their phone. Residents can download the app for free in the <u>iTunes Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u> by searching "<u>Cutler Bay FL</u>."



#### COMMUNITY ON PATROL (COP) APP

The Town and Miami-Dade Police Department offer the Community on Patrol (COP) App to allow the residents of Miami-Dade to be on patrol in their neighborhoods and report any suspicious activity to

the Town's Policing Unit. The COP App can be downloaded for free in the iTunes Store or Google Play by searching "Community on Patrol"



## MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT TRACKER

Miami-Dade County Transit, which operates the Town's Circulator Bus Service, encourages you to utilize the Miami-Dade Transit Tracker App to help track your

ride and plan your trip. The program allows riders to attain real-time tracking of the Town's Municipal Circulator, Metrobus and Metrorail. The App also provides fare information, Miami-Dade Transit contacts, bus schedules, and connecting buses. For more information, please visit the Miami-Dade County Transit website at <a href="https://www.miamidade.gov/transit">www.miamidade.gov/transit</a>.

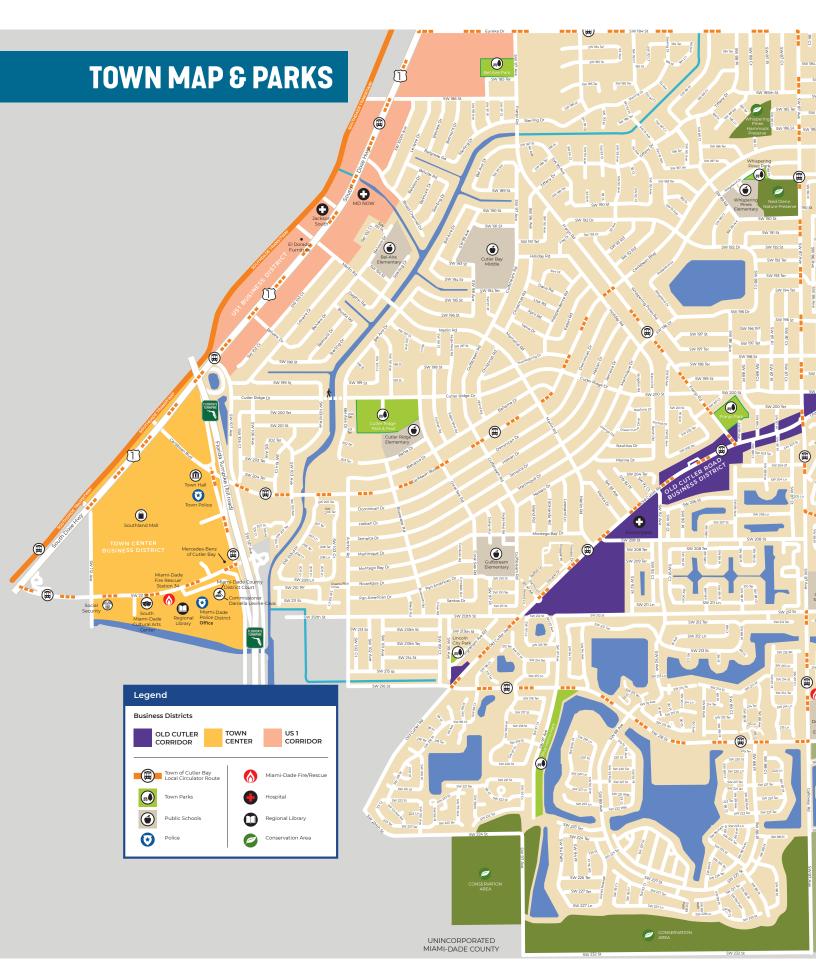


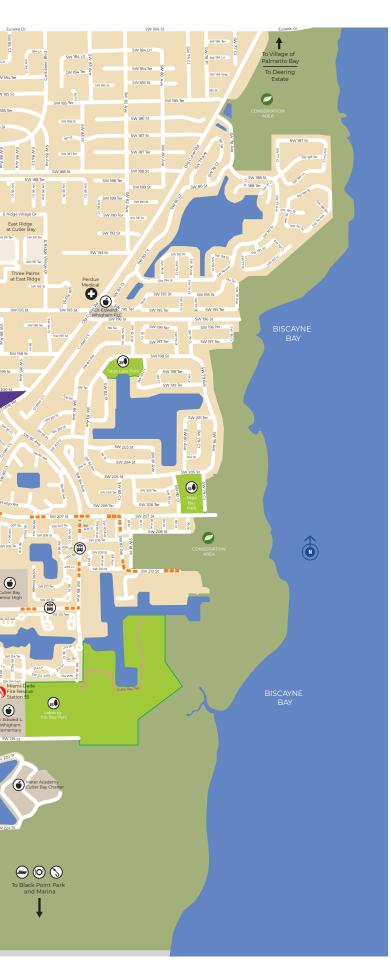
Department utilize CrimeMapping to help law enforcement provide the public with valuable information about recent crime activity in their neighborhoods. Crime data is uploaded on a daily basis so that the information being viewed by residents is only a few days old. To view crime trends in your neighborhood, please visit www.crimemapping.com.



## **CUTLER BAY CITY GUIDE**

Currently available at the Front Desk in Suite 105 in our Town Hall, the Map include informations about our Town Center, schools and special events.







## BEL AIRE PARK | 18500 SW 97 AVE.

5 acre park with lighted athletic field, restrooms, covered playground area and parking lot. Home to Palmetto Raiders Youth Development Club tackle football and cheerleading program.



## BLUE HERON PARK | 21900 SW 97 AVE.

5 acre park with a shaded 1/2 mile paved multi-use path for walkers, joggers and cyclists; outdoor fitness equipment with benches and a pavilion.



## CUTLER RIDGE PARK | 10100 SW 200 ST.

10 acre park with a 25 meter swimming pool, lighted and unlighted athletic fields, a multi-purpose recreation building, a picnic pavilion, covered playground and paved parking lot.



#### FRANJO PARK | 20175 FRANJO RD.

5-acre newly renovated lighted baseball park with restrooms, paved parking, golf car parking, electric vehicle charging stations, concessions, community room and more.



## LAKES BY THE BAY PARK | 8551 SW 216 ST.

45 acre park with 3 lighted baseball/ softball fields, 4 batting cages, 2 lighted soccer/football/lacrosse fields, a .6 mile exercise path with fitness stations, covered playground, restrooms and concession building.



## LINCOLN CITY PARK | 212 ST & SW 99 AVE.

At just over 1/2 acre, this is the Town's smallest park. Recently designated as a natural preserve Lincoln City Park has an abundance of native species including live oak and slash pines.



## SAGA BAY PARK | 8000 SW 205 ST.

5 acre park with 4 lighted tennis courts, outdoor fitness equipment, a covered playground, a paved walking path, restrooms and paved parking lot.



## SAGA LAKE PARK | SW 198 ST. & SW 83 AVE.

5 acre Park with a picnic pavilion, a paved fitness path and a practice baseball/softball field.



# WHISPERING PINES PARK | 8800 RIDGELAND DR.

1.3 acre park with a covered playground and picnic pavilion.



# Thank You

# TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS





























## TOWN OF CUTLER BAY

10720 Caribbean Boulevard, Suite 105 | Cutler Bay, FL 33189 (305) 234-4262 | www.cutlerbay-fl.gov

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