



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013



WE BUILD COMMUNITY

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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE





# "Top 10 Best Downtowns in 2014"

- Livability.com



## About Our City

Incorporated on March 27, 1911, the City of Fort Lauderdale is framed on the east coast of Florida by seven miles of golden sand beaches and bordered on the west by the Everglades. Between the two, the Intracoastal Waterway and the New River, a canal system reminiscent of Venice winds through the interior.

Fort Lauderdale is a full-service city that provides police protection, fire-rescue services, parks and recreation programs, delivers potable drinking water to a service area both within and outside the City limits along with wastewater collection and treatment, sanitation services, development regulation, parking, and street maintenance. The City is known for its beaches and waterways including Fort Lauderdale beach, the New River, the Middle River, and numerous canals. The City also operates a sports complex, a general aviation airport, a downtown heliport, an aquatic complex and an auditorium.

## About the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

This report of the City of Fort Lauderdale is published in order to increase public awareness and provide a simplified overview of the City's financial position.

The information in this report is drawn from the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2013. The CAFR outlines the City's financial position and operating activities for the year in detail and conforms to the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). For more information about the CAFR please visit [http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/documents/financial\\_rpts.htm](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/documents/financial_rpts.htm), or email the City's Chief Financial Officer, Linda Logan-Short, at [LLogan-Short@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:LLogan-Short@fortlauderdale.gov).



Left to right: Roberts, Trantalis, Seiler, DuBose and Rogers

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

(as of April 1, 2014)

**John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor**

**Romney Rogers, Vice Mayor, District IV**

**Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner, District I**

**Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner, District II**

**Bobby B. DuBose, Commissioner, District III**

The City of Fort Lauderdale has been operating under a Commission-Manager form of government since 1925. Under this form of government the Mayor, elected at large, and four Commissioners, elected by geographic single-member districts, determine the policies that guide the operation of the City. The City Commission hires a City Manager who implements Commission's policies and administers the daily functions of the City.

Dear Neighbors:

The Mayor and City Commission are pleased to present to you the City of Fort Lauderdale's first Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the 2013 Fiscal Year.



This report is intended to present a condensed overview of the City's financial position, financial practices and details outlining how City revenues were generated and spent. Financial information in this report is derived from the independently audited financial statements that are a part of the City's 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

A special thank you goes out to the dedicated community builders in the City's Finance Department whose hard work and diligence made this possible. Their work is recognized nationally as they have achieved the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the past 36 years.

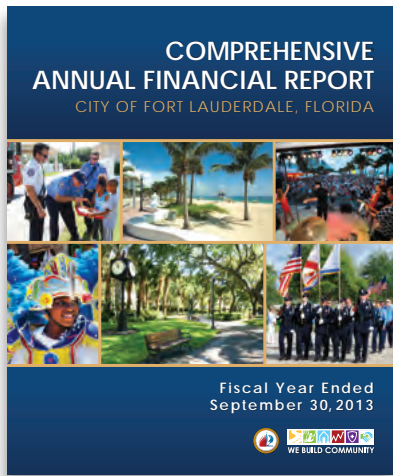
As you review this Popular Annual Financial Report, please feel free to share any questions, concerns or recommendations you may have with us. We also look forward to hearing your suggestions and comments on how we can build a better community. Please join the online discussion at [www.webuildcommunityftl.com](http://www.webuildcommunityftl.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee R. Feldman". The signature is stylized and written over a light blue background.

**Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM**  
City Manager





This section provides a broad overview of the City as a whole. The statement of net position illustrates the total assets and liabilities for the City with the difference being net position. The Statement of Net Position reflects a healthy financial condition as of September 30, 2013.

To view the City's full Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) please visit:

[www.fortlauderdale.gov/documents/financial\\_rpts.htm](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/documents/financial_rpts.htm),

## Condensed Statement of Net Position (in thousands)

The City's total assets exceeded its liabilities at September 30, 2013 by \$1.045 billion (net position).

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets	\$ 857,673	\$ 558,642	\$ 595,140	\$ 573,106	\$ 513,965
Capital and Other Assets	1,168,946	1,196,124	1,186,779	1,160,180	1,127,075
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,026,619</b>	<b>1,754,766</b>	<b>1,781,919</b>	<b>1,733,286</b>	<b>1,641,040</b>
Current Liabilities	101,451	117,046	52,005	51,903	60,197
Long-term Liabilities	879,849	593,678	673,209	646,654	572,613
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>981,300</b>	<b>710,724</b>	<b>725,214</b>	<b>698,557</b>	<b>632,810</b>
<b>Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 1,045,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,044,042</b>	<b>\$ 1,056,705</b>	<b>\$ 1,034,729</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,230</b>

## Condensed Statement of Activities (in thousands)

The City's revenues outweigh its expenses by \$1.28 million in fiscal year 2013.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Revenues	\$ 495,404	\$ 465,075	\$ 460,863	\$ 462,296	\$ 461,832
Expenses	494,127	477,738	438,887	435,797	424,633
Changes in Net Position	1,277	-12,663	21,976	26,499	37,199
Net Position - Beginning	1,044,042	1,056,705	1,034,729	1,008,230	971,031
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<b>\$1,045,319</b>	<b>\$1,044,042</b>	<b>\$1,056,705</b>	<b>\$1,034,729</b>	<b>\$1,008,230</b>

## General Fund Revenues (in thousands)

General Fund is the City's primary operating fund. Revenues for fiscal year 2013 totaled \$265.9 million, a \$14.1 million increase from fiscal year 2012. Property taxes levied for operations increased by \$2.8 million.

	2013	2012
Taxes	\$152,217,623	\$149,378,577
Licenses and Permits	3,188,765	3,029,521
Intergovernmental Revenues	18,223,392	17,033,379
Charges for Services	20,410,205	20,138,971
Fines and Forfeitures	3,795,605	2,785,551
Assessments and Other Fees	20,604,881	20,307,764
Interfund Service Charges	40,416,731	32,595,984
Miscellaneous	7,001,021	6,479,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,858,223</b>	<b>\$251,749,284</b>

## General Fund Expenditures (in thousands)

Total General Fund expenditures decreased \$14.7 million in 2013 from \$260.3 million to \$245.6 million. This decrease is mainly attributed to a reduction in pension related costs due to the issuance of the Special Obligation Bonds (Pension Funding Project), Series 2012.

	2013	PER CAPITA* 2013
General Government	\$49,007,286	\$288
Public Safety	154,682,434	910
Physical Environment	5,951,801	35
Transportation	4,046,102	24
Economic Environment	1,199,931	7
Culture/Recreation	29,410,963	173
Interest and Fiscal Charges	351,167	2
Capital Outlay	920,807	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$245,570,491</b>	<b>\$1,444</b>

\*Expenditures per capita represents aggregate expenditures divided by 2013 population. Please see page 12 for population statistics.

**General Fund expenditures are classified by the type of service provided.**

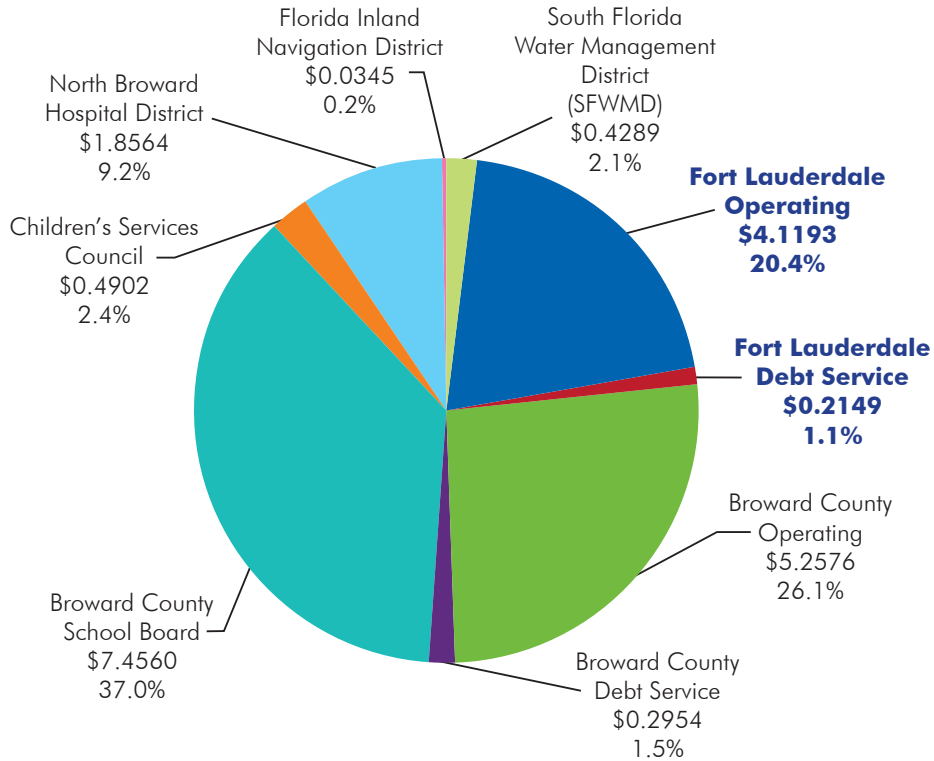
**Below is a summary of the types reported above:**

- **General Government** expenditures are services provided by the government for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole.
- **Public Safety** expenditures are related to services for the security of persons and property, mainly from the Police and Fire Departments.
- **Physical Environment** is the cost of services provided for the primary purpose of achieving a satisfactory living environment by controlling and utilizing elements of the environment, mainly provided by Public Works Department.
- **Economic Environment** is the cost of providing services which develop and improve the economic condition of the community and our neighbors.
- **Transportation** includes the cost of services for the safe and adequate flow of vehicles, travelers, and pedestrians, mainly provided by Transportation and Mobility.
- **Culture/Recreation** is the cost of providing and maintaining cultural and recreational facilities and activities for the benefit of neighbors and visitors, mainly provided by Parks and Recreation.
- **Interest and Fiscal Charges** expenditures are related to the interest payments and other charges on loans.
- **Capital Outlay** expenditures are for the acquisition of fixed assets.



## Where Do Property Taxes Go?

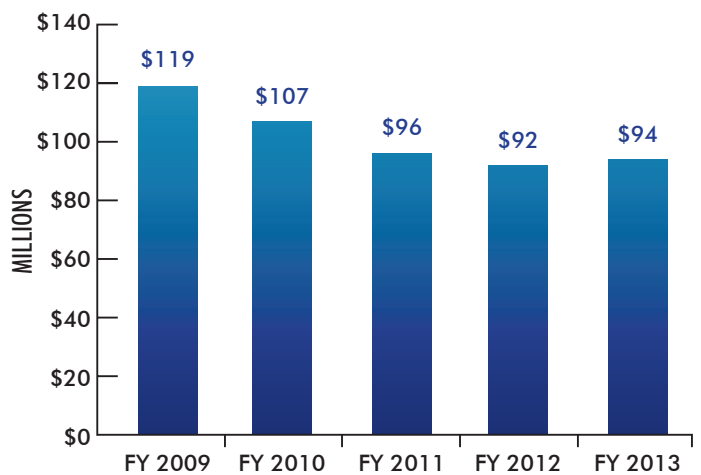
For fiscal year 2013, the average City of Fort Lauderdale homeowner paid \$20.15 per \$1,000 of assessed taxable value. The City of Fort Lauderdale's operating millage and debt service only represented 21.5% of the total millage levied on property tax bills. Other agencies, such as Broward County and the Broward County School Board collected approximately 64.6%, the North Broward Hospital District collected 9.2% while the South Florida Management District, the Florida Inland Navigation District and Children's Services Council collected 4.7%.



## Property Taxes

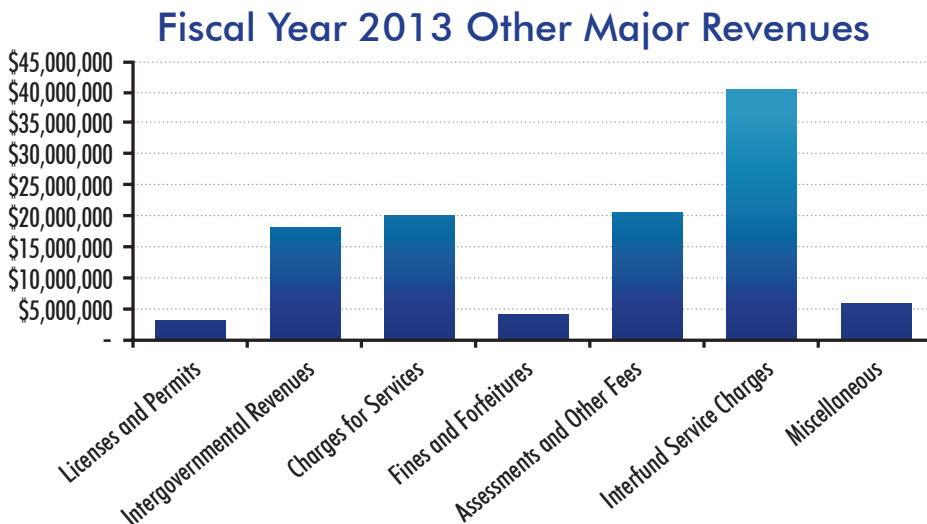
For the last few years, property tax revenue has steadily declined due to eroding real estate markets, which resulted in lower property values. In fiscal year 2013, the City experienced a 1.5% increase in property tax revenue due to an increase in the taxable values. Despite the financial impact of several years of significant revenue reductions, unfunded mandates and decreases in other revenue sources, the City has preserved service levels for its neighbors and proudly maintained its low 4.1193 operating millage rate.

Five-Year Property Tax Revenue



## Other Major Revenues

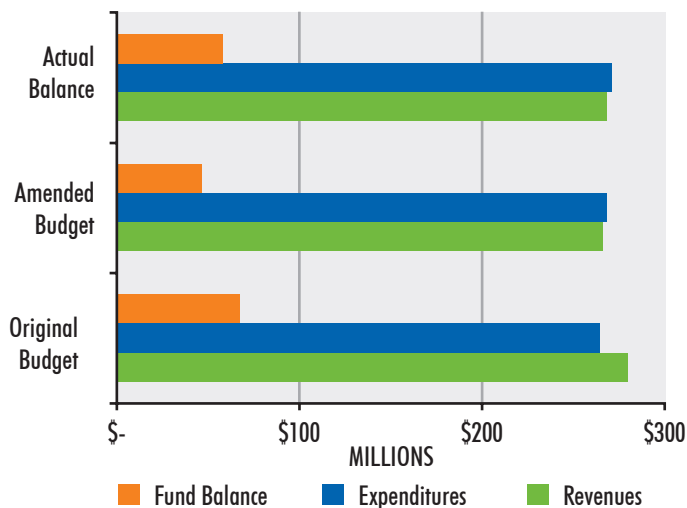
Other major revenue sources included Licenses and Permits, Intergovernmental Revenues, Charges for Services, Fines and Forfeitures, Assessments and Other Fees, Interfund Service Charges and Miscellaneous revenues.



## FY 2013 General Fund Budgetary Comparison

Actual General Fund revenues were \$1.7 million higher than the FY 2013 final amended budget of \$264.1 million. Total actual expenditures of \$246.4 million were \$2.5 million higher than the final amended budget of \$243.9.

The City Commission recently adopted a revised policy to maintain the unrestricted fund balance (which are funds available for any purpose) for the General Fund at a level equivalent to two (2) months of operating expenditures and required transfers or 16.6%. During FY 2013 the General Fund unrestricted balance increased from \$32.1 million to \$45.1 million. This amount exceeds the minimum unrestricted requirement at 17.1% of the final General Fund budget for operations.



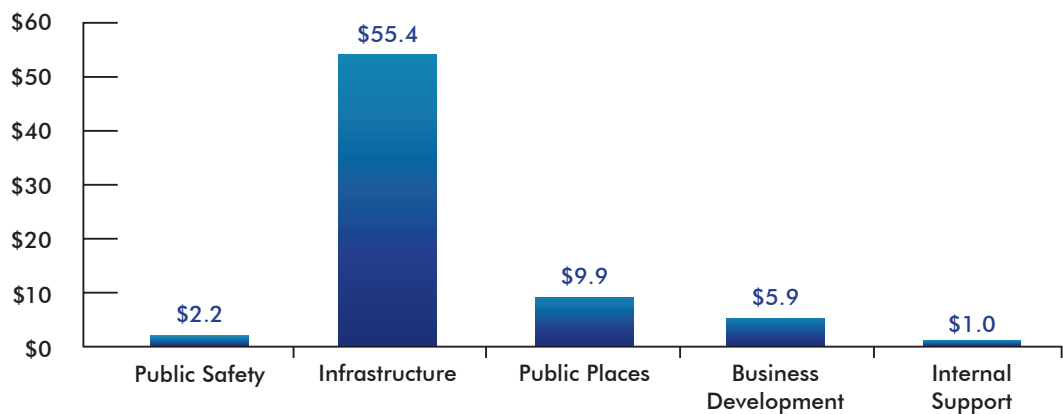


## Investing in our Community

Infrastructure, transportation, parks, and buildings are the literal foundation of a community. The Community Investment Plan (CIP) has a unique and important responsibility to delineate what the community needs to build now and what it will need to build in years to come. This must be done in a strategic, careful, and impactful way to maximize economic development and improve quality of life in line with the approved City Commission’s vision and policy. This CIP incorporates the concept of “sustainable infrastructure” which involves connecting a commitment to sound asset management with an approach that prioritizes community needs within the context of a sustainable future.

The projects in the CIP provide the basic necessities, such as the municipal water works, as well as amenities which make Fort Lauderdale a desirable community in which to live, work and play. Ensuring conformity with the City’s Strategic Plan and coordination of capital improvements with the development of the operating budget to maintain a low tax levy are key objectives to the process. Community improvement projects adopted in the FY 2013 budget were in support of Cylinders of Excellence and are critical to making Fort Lauderdale a great place to live, work and play. The total FY 2013 Community Investment Plan budget was adopted at \$74.4 million.

Community Investment by Cylinder



## Major Initiatives of FY 2014

The FY 2014 total adopted budget city-wide is \$549,896,806 which does not include balances, reserves, and transfers. This is approximately \$37 million less than the FY 2013 Amended Budget of \$586,851,870. The FY 2014 Adopted Budget is a strategic budget that aligns financial and employee resources with the City of Fort Lauderdale's 2035 Vision - "Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale," "Press Play Fort Lauderdale" – the City's five-year strategic plan, the City Commission Annual Action Plan, and our neighbor's priorities. It provides for investments in public safety, mobility, infrastructure, high performance management, quality development, and also recognizes that partnerships are important to excellent service delivery.

Commission Annual Action Plan for FY 2014 includes a Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, Downtown Walkability Plan, Economic Development Strategic Plan, Beach Renourishment, and the Wave Streetcar.

The Community Investment Plan continues to be a top priority. Here are some of the highlights of the adopted Community Investment Plan for FY 2014.

- \$6,004,500 for improvements to the Executive Airport supported by funding from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Airport Fund
- \$5,288,711 for Central Regional Plant repair and rehabilitation projects
- \$4,035,251 to fund a variety of projects within the Beach Community Redevelopment Area
- \$3,455,000 to fund projects in the Northwest-Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area
- \$1,200,000 in additional funding for street resurfacing
- \$1,300,000 for stormwater drainage improvement and drainage evaluation
- \$780,000 for sidewalk and paver replacements
- \$500,000 to fund priority downtown walkability projects
- \$433,600 in neighborhood and business improvements projects
- \$424,100 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to pave roads in South Middle River
- \$100,000 for Seven Isles seawall improvements

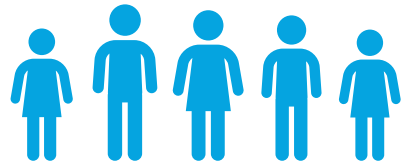
## Structural Innovation Vision 2035

The City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to implementing a strategic management system that focuses on community priorities and results. *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale* is a long-term community vision for the City, developed through an inclusive outreach effort. The vision was unanimously accepted by the City Commission on April 16, 2013. Press Play Fort Lauderdale, a five-year strategic plan, was developed as a staff road map and contains 42% of the community vision ideas. The City conducted a statistically valid Neighbor Survey in 2013, and will continue to do so annually to inform service delivery and the prioritization of funding. Our City Commission further prioritizes an annual work plan based on all of these priorities. The City holds monthly meetings to review progress with grants, capital projects, priority strategic initiatives, and performance measures. This commitment to vision, strategy, and action focuses our resources and ensures progress.

### 2013 Neighbor Survey: Priority Results

- 64% observed increased flooding. Stormwater was the number one Community Investment Plan capital project type that the City should focus on.
- 49% satisfaction with overall maintenance of streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure
- 30% satisfaction with the overall flow of traffic
- 24% of neighbors feel safe biking. More walkable and bikeable streets ranked number two as the Community Investment Plan capital project type.

Statistics by the Numbers



**POPULATION**  
**170,065**



**560,155**  
911 & NON EMERGENCY  
CALLS RECEIVED



**10**  
FIRE STATIONS



**425**  
MILES OF  
SIDEWALK



**5**  
MILES OF  
PUBLIC BEACHES



**876**  
ACRES OF  
PUBLIC PARKS



**13**  
MUNICIPAL  
POOLS



**AWARDS**

The City continued to be recognized for its outstanding reporting efforts. We again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our 2012 CAFR, and the Distinguished Budget Award for our 2013 budget from the Government Finance Officers Association. We also received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute, Inc.



## FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

Vice Mayor Romney Rogers, District IV

Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, District I

Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis, District II

Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose, District III

Lee R. Feldman, City Manager



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