

FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS

PART II

1. Residents wish to be educated on the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Home Watch program.

(Response submitted by BSO):

The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Home (Neighborhood) Watch is simply a program of neighbors watching out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations or any other absence. The purpose of the Home Watch program is to create an alert neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods. The program works through the mutual aid of neighbors watching the property of other neighbors. This has several advantages, including the fact that your neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive, and who belongs, as a rule, at your residence. A deputy sheriff driving by your home might not recognize someone as a stranger in your yard. However, an alert neighbor would recognize the person. Home Watch does not promote vigilantism. Members of Home Watch groups are never asked to put themselves in harm's way to prevent crime. They should only observe and report suspicious activities to the Sheriff's Office. This leaves the responsibility for confronting and apprehending criminals where it belongs—with your West Park Deputy Sheriffs.

Residents wanting more information on the Home Watch Program or desirous of starting a Watch can speak with any deputy about the program or go to www.sheriff.org . Go to the search section and type in Home Watch. Click on the first link, and then download the Home Watch form. Fill out the form and bring it to the BSO District office located at 3201 West Hallandale Beach Blvd.

Another program offered to West Park residents is our Citizens on Patrol (COP). The primary mission of the BSO-West Park District COP program is to reduce crime, improve the quality of life through the development of community awareness, and to form a partnership between the community and the Sheriff's Office. We want to encourage all West Park residents to join our C.O.P. program and help law enforcement fight the war on crime. We would like to encourage more residents to attend Neighborhood Homeowner Association meetings. At this venue residents meeting monthly with BSO-West Park District Command Staff to discuss strategies to combat crime, or learn safety tips to avoid becoming victims of crime.

2. *Motorbikes riding through neighborhoods are a nuisance and safety risk to children.*

(Response submitted by BSO):

Deputies assigned to the West Park District are often tasked with traffic enforcement during their normal course of duty. However, any law enforcement officer will attest that traffic enforcement of motor bikes or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) is most challenging. BSO policies and procedures prohibit the pursuing of such vehicles for traffic infractions. Therefore, deputies must find innovative ways to identify violators in order to write citations. Due to budgetary constraints the City of West Park discontinued its Motorcycle Unit. To assist with traffic related complaints the District will continue to marshal in additional ancillary resources (including motor units and the Highway Traffic Unit,) to assist with traffic complaints when available.

In 2013, Chief Brooks and BSO grant personnel identified and were awarded FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) grants to combat speeding, aggressive drivers and motorbike violators. The District will be applying for the same grant assistance for 2014, seeking \$50,000.00 to purchase two undercover motorcycles specifically for motor bike traffic enforcement within the City of West Park.

In an effort to further enhance our traffic enforcement capabilities, the District has acquired a copy of the City of Pompano Beach Ordinance which prohibits motorbikes and ATVs within the city limits. This ordinance has with stood court examination and will become another useful tool in our efforts to combat nuisance traffic related issues if approved and enacted by the West Park Commission.

3. *Concerns about BSO calls for service at Willie's and Sweeney's bars*

(Response submitted by BSO):

Our records indicate that between January 1, 2013 through present, Sweeney's Bar had 66 calls for service. Only two of those calls were narcotics related. During the same time period, Willie's had 46 calls for service, of which none were narcotics related. Some of the calls listed were for disturbances or noise complaints. Another high portion of the calls were self-initiated bar checks of both establishments by District deputies. As complaints are received and intelligence is gathered concerning narcotics activity at this location, we will share the information with our CST and SID Divisions for appropriate follow up. In keeping with our commitment to keep West Parks residents and visitors safe, we will seek out other innovative strategies (covert/overt investigations and operations, nuisance

abatement, etc.), to reduce violence and calls for services at both locations. In the meantime, deputies will continue to provide proactive patrols on both businesses and take a zero-tolerance approach to crime.

4. *Concerns by businesses about cumbersome building permit process.*

The Building Department is tasked with the responsibility of regulating construction and development to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and guests of the City. The department staff works diligently to uphold that responsibility with respect and courtesy to our customers. We understand that the permitting process can be challenging and requires communication with our customers. We also understand the financial and time constraints that our customers face and we work diligently to assist each customer with their project. The building permit process continues to become more involved as we continue to see new regulations develop in the State of Florida. A building permit for a commercial property in the City of West Park may require a review from several different agencies including the Fire Department, Broward County Planning and Environmental Regulation, Planning and Zoning, Engineering, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Structural, Accessibility and more. Each of the departments has different responsibilities under the laws and regulations of the City, the State of Florida and the United States.

The first step to a successful experience obtaining a building permit is to hire a professional to perform the work such as a licensed contractor, a registered architect and/or registered engineer. Take the time to find the right professional in the beginning to help navigate the many regulations that must be addressed. The contractor should then apply to the City for a building permit. The contractor must register with the City when they apply by providing a copy of their state or local license, proof of worker's compensation insurance, proof of general liability insurance and a business tax receipt. The contractor should then submit a permit application accompanied by two sets of submittals which may include plans, surveys, product approvals, equipment specification, shop drawings and any other document that will show compliance to the many regulations. This will start the permit review process. Each department or discipline must now review the submittals and applications. This process will typically take about two weeks for everyone to complete the review.

When the reviews are completed the permit will be issued if each department or discipline has approved the documents. Otherwise, the contractor will be notified of any deficiencies in writing. The contractor should then pick up the submittal, have it corrected then resubmit to the

Building Department. The reviews will be completed and a permit will be issued. This process is not difficult but it requires the knowledge and experience of a professional. If the contractor fails to submit all required documents or submits incorrect documents then a resubmittal is required and the time line is extended. The Building Department will continue to work to refine the permitting process and assist each of our customers in obtaining a building permit.

5. *Stray dogs: Is there a countywide leash law?*

The City's Code, Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-44 through 6-55 provides policies for animal care; manner of keeping; and minimum standards for the housing and care of animals in a pet shop or commercial kennel, etc. These policies can be accessed from the City's website under "About Us" (top navigation bar); then click "Code of Ordinances" or click http://www.cityofwestpark.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=21. Broward County's Code, Chapter 4, Section 4-3 (Dogs at large prohibited) also provides policy against stray dogs. We encourage residents to call the City's Code Enforcement Department at **954-964-0284** or **727-755-3426** to report any violation of these policies.

6. *The animal control process is too bureaucratic and ineffective.*

The City's Code, Chapter 6, Articles I-III provides policies for animal control. Similarly, Broward County Code, Chapter 4, provides policies for Animals. These policies have been successfully used to protect animals and provide animal control throughout the City. However, we encourage resident to recommend new ideas/policies for the Commission's consideration.

7. *Homes on septic tanks next to homes on city sewer – all should be converted to city sewer.*

According to the County's Code, Article II, Section 34-35(b): "*All premises used or intended for human habitation or occupancy, including, but not limited to, establishments to be used for household, domestic, food processing, food handling, restaurant, dairy or bottling processors, public buildings and places of assembly or other establishments within an area served by a public or private sanitary sewage treatment and disposal utility system, or where such system is available, and which abuts a sanitary sewer main owned by such system and is within the service area of that system, shall be connected to the said sanitary sewer main within one hundred eighty (180) days of the availability of said sewer main for use.*"

Section 34-35(d) also provides for service charges to cover operation maintenance and debt service commencing no later than ninety (90) days after the sewer service is available, regardless of whether the property abutting the sewer main is connected into the system at the time. In addition, Section 34-39 of Article II of the County Code provides for penalties and Remedies: *“Any property owner or owners willfully refusing to make a connection ordered by the director pursuant to section 34-36 of this article shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished as provided by law. Each day such failure to connect continues shall constitute a separate offense. The violation of any of the provisions of this article may also be enforced by injunction, including a mandatory injunction and such suit or action may be instituted and maintained in the name of Broward County or the municipality, as the case may be.”* As a result, according to County staff, all properties abutting sewer main, but not connected to the sewer system are charged a monthly sewer charge of \$17.44.

8. Residents would like BSO personnel to interact with the community more.

(Response submitted by BSO):

One of the key components of the BSO’s organizational philosophy is to commit to being a full service community oriented policing agency. A big component of the COP philosophy is partnerships and interactions with the community we serve. To that end, the BSO-West Park District will continue to attend all civic and HOA meetings, as well as participate in all community events to foster a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

In 2013, BSO-West Park District personnel participated in every city-sponsored event. This was a difficult task particularly with some of the larger city sponsored events and the limited resources of the District. For the past two (2) months our Alpha shift supervisors have been conducting Roll Calls in both City parks for more visibility and community interaction between officers and citizens of West Park.

In June the BSO-West Park District will initiate a new program to interact with the community called the "**Curbside or Community Chat.**" The curbside chats will offer residents an opportunity to step out of their homes and gather at curbsides, cul-de-sacs, or neighborhood parks to meet with District Command Staff, crime prevention specialists, and volunteers in an

informal and collaborative setting. These brief meetings will serve as an opportunity to share crime trends, offer solutions, and jointly plan strategies to improve the quality of life in the city. The mindset is, if the community will not come to us, we will go to them.

9. *Need to revive BSO Drug Task Force and Gang Task Force*

(Response submitted by BSO):

The BSO has a proactive, responsive, and all-encompassing Countywide Drug Division dedicated to providing the highest quality of local drug enforcement to improve the quality of life and affording a safe and secure environment within the framework of the community. We assertively enforce the state drug laws, and with federal partners enforce federal drug laws, while protecting the rights of all and applying the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and accountability. The division is multi-jurisdictional and investigates drug dealers from street corners all the way up to the organized criminal enterprises operating in Broward County.

The Broward County Gang task force is also active and has been used at special events held within the city. It is referred to as *MAG TAF (Multi-Agency Gang Taskforce)*. It is comprised of personnel from various agencies throughout Broward County which include deputies from West Park.

10. *Need a drug store near neighborhoods*

All commercial zoning districts permit a drug store, which includes B-1, B-2, B-3, C-1 and Transit Oriented Corridor (TOC) districts. If a business owner wishes to locate one in any of these zoning districts, City staff will review the site to confirm there is adequate parking and that it meets Florida Building Code requirements.

11. *Need more parks so youth can stop playing in or near the streets.*

The City is aware of the need for additional park / recreational spaces and we have been very aggressive in seeking properties to acquire for parks, recreation and open space. To that end, the City recently submitted a Letter of Interest to Broward County for the purchase of land located west of 3920 NW 38th Avenue (Folio Number: 5142-30-07-1052). For details about the property and the Letter of Interest submitted to the County, please visit the City's website at www.cityofwestpark.org and click "Parks and Recreation: Under the "Departments" top tab. At the Parks and Recreation home page.

12. Unlicensed and un-vaccinated dogs and cats.

In accordance with Broward County's Code, Chapter 4, Section 4-10 (rabies vaccination required for dogs, cats, and ferrets) regulates animal vaccination as follows:

(a)

Any person who owns a dog, cat, or ferret in Broward County shall have such animal vaccinated against rabies by four (4) months of age with a twelve (12) month vaccine approved by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Compendium of Rabies Control developed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, or approved by another organization as authorized pursuant to Florida Statutes.

(b)

The owner of every dog, cat, or ferret shall revaccinate said animal within twelve (12) months after the initial vaccination. Thereafter, revaccination shall occur every twelve (12) months or every three (3) years based on the type of vaccine previously administered. Veterinarians shall recognize vaccinations for their duration of immunity as indicated by the manufacturer's guidelines.

(c)

Evidence of a rabies vaccination shall consist of a fully completed rabies vaccination certificate in conformance with Florida Statutes signed by the veterinarian administering the vaccine. One (1) copy of the certificate shall be retained by the veterinarian for at least one (1) year after the vaccination expires, and the other copies shall be distributed to the owner and to the Division.

(d)

Vaccination is excused where a licensed veterinarian certifies in writing that a vaccination would be injurious to the animal's health. However, such animal shall be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its health permits, and said dog, cat, or ferret shall wear a registration tag as required by Section 4-11.

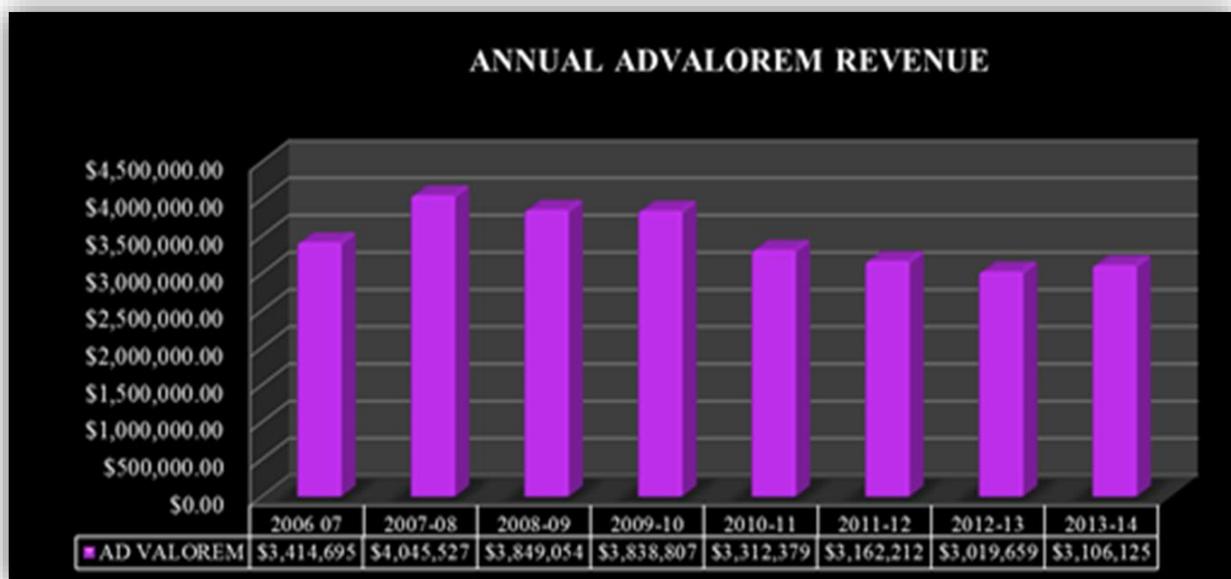
(e)

The cost of a rabies vaccination required by this section shall be the responsibility of the person owning the dog, cat, or ferret."

For more information on animal vaccination please visit the County's website at: <http://www.broward.org/Animal/Resources/Pages/AnimalLaws.aspx> or call the County at 954-359-1313.

13. Taxes (Millage). The City increased the millage as property values declined; this past year property values increased and the millage did not go down.

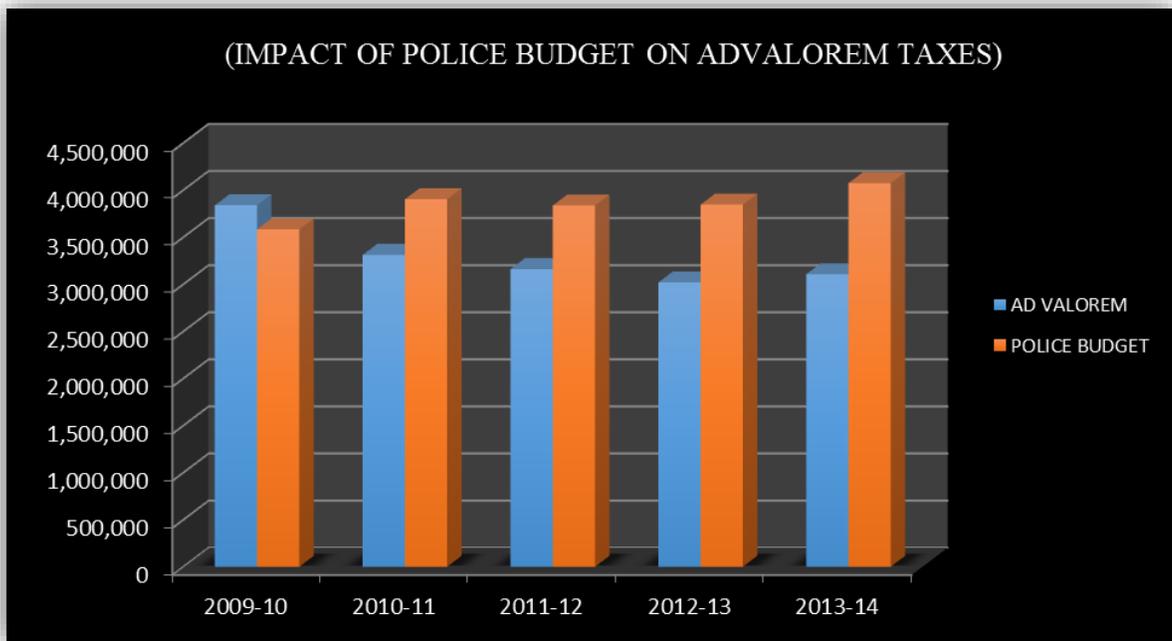
When property values declined (during the recent economic downturn nationwide), the City did not increase millage to generate revenue. Instead, the millage adjusted up to allow for approximately the same ad valorem revenue (taxes), while keeping the level of service and in some cases, increasing the level of service. For details, please visit the City’s website at www.cityofwestpark.org and click “Finance” under the “Departments” from the top navigation tab. The Adopted Budget books for Fiscal Years 2010-11 to the current year are located on the “Finance” page, for review.



As shown in the above chart (History of Annual Tax), after five (5) consecutive years of decline in taxes (like other cities), we are projected to realize a 2.86 % or \$86,466 increase from last year, in tax for the current year (FY 2013-14) due to increases in property values. Meanwhile the Budget submitted by Broward Sheriff’s Office (BSO) for police services increased by \$228,156 or approximately 6% increase from prior year. Clearly the slight increase of \$86,466 that we are projected to receive in ad valorem revenue will not cover the increase in expenses of \$228,156 submitted by BSO for police services. So, if the City had decided to reduce the millage by the slight property value increase that generated \$86,466 (or approximately \$5.00 credit per property), public safety would be

compromised. The following charts show the impact of the police budget on taxes from Fiscal Year 2009-10 to 2013-14.

POLICE BUDGET COMPARED TO AD VALOREM (TAXES)			
ITEM	YEAR	AD VALOREM	POLICE BUDGET
1	2009-10	3,838,807	3,583,741
2	2010-11	3,312,379	3,902,785
3	2011-12	3,162,212	3,836,224
4	2012-13	3,019,659	3,845,198
5	2013-14	3,106,125	4,073,354



It is obvious from the above chart and graph that the cost of police services for the current fiscal year (FY 2013-14) of \$4,073,354.00 is a lot higher than the taxes received. So, the slight increase in the property value this year that generated \$86,466 in taxes more than prior years was useful to fund some of the increases in the Police Budget, while the City subsidized the rest from other revenues.

page, item “C” labeled *Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study Area “A”* is the plan for Miami Gardens Area. At the conclusion of the plan, the neighborhood residents selected the installation of the following traffic calming devices for Sutton Road:



- **Neighborhood Traffic circle / round about at:**

1. Sutton Road and Ronald Road Intersection
2. Intersection of Sutton Road and Allen Road



- **Raised Intersection at:**

3. Intersection of Thomas Road and Sutton Road
4. Intersection of Sutton Road and Clifton Road

Immediately after the plan was completed the traffic circle proposed for Sutton Road and Ronald Road was completed; the raised intersection proposed for Sutton Road and Clifton Road was completed; and speed tables were also installed along Harvard Road as recommended in the plan.



Traffic Circle at Sutton Road and Ronald Road



Raised Intersection at Sutton Road & Clifton Road



Speed Table at Harvard Road

16. Need food programs to help individuals in prison

The City does not provide services for people in prison. However in an attempt to address this question/comment, we contacted the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC). A staff of FDC (Ms. Brittany Dover) informed us that, in addition to the meals provided to inmates daily, the

department has a canteen in every institution that is available for inmates to purchase items. The Department also allows relatives of inmates to send quarterly care packages to inmates through a private vendor authorized by the Department. For more information, please visit the State of Florida Department of Corrections' website: <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/>

17. Need more effective lake spraying program to control weeds.

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

The optimal word is control which the Board does not have at this time. No chemical spraying program will work until weeds are noticeably reduced manually to help make spraying program more effective.

18. Homeowners want to purchase mowers to help homeowners pitch in to take care of lake – at a cost of approximately \$2,500 each.

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

It is the Committee's intent to recommend the purchase of equipment to conquer our aquatic weed dilemma.

19. Want more resident participation in budget development for resident special lake tax revenue

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

As always every lake resident is encouraged to attend the Twin Lakes HOA meetings, the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board meetings, and the City Commission meetings to participate in the process.

20. Look into more frequent use of blue dye treatments to filter sunlight and stunt weed growth while beautifying lakes

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

This was discussed at the last TLWCDAB and TLHOA meetings and everyone was in agreement. A motion was made at both meetings to gather more information and move forward with blue dye treatments.

21. *The City should consider hiring lake residents to pull weeds themselves*

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

Manually pulling of weeds by hand seems to be an insurmountable task and makes no common sense. The only logical way to remove weeds is with mechanical harvesting.

22. *The City should consider taking out a temporary insurance policy to cover residents pulling weeds*

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

This was discussed at the last TLWCDAB meeting and a motion was made to gather more information about the liabilities and coverage options for residents using weed harvesting equipment.

23. *Need regular calendar of community events in Twin Lakes to bring the community together*

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

The advisory board does not think the outside community should have any events on the private lakes.

24. *Need to revisit the old weed spraying service performed by Ed Miller*

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

In the past, the advisory board agreed that Ed Miller had the aquatic weeds under control, but they are now out of control and the only feasible way to resolve the weed problem is with mechanical harvesting. The advisory board agreed that Ed Miller's spray as needed or requested method worked better.

25. *Develop a by-laws committee to provide resident input into the ordinances that govern how homeowners use the lakes*

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

The advisory board does not see any need for another committee, especially as the City of West Park is already involved. Residents should share their input at TLHOA or TLWCDAB meetings.

26. Need to explore an organic weed control solution (i.e., state license to add triploid carp)

(Response submitted by the Twin Lakes Water Control District Advisory Board):

The advisory board does not object to adding more carp. The license is relatively uncomplicated to obtain and the Board feels this will yield better results, if they get the weeds under control first, which will optimize the use of grass carp.