

From District IV Commissioner, Romney Rogers



After much analysis and debate, we have our budget for 2009/2010. I would like to thank all of you who attended the Budget Hearings and brought to the forefront, the human experience and impact of a down economy. It is important that we, Commission and management, hear you and address your concerns. This is just the first step in “tightening our belts”. For this fiscal year, we have managed to maintain a millage rate of 4.1193 for all general city purposes. This is the same millage rate as last year and it represents a 10.46% decrease in the millage rate under the rolled-back rate of 4.5995 mills.

Needless to say, funding is vitally important at this time. You can help protect federal funding for our city’s social services, community development block grants and other grant programs essential to our communities. Please, make sure you, your friends and neighbors are all counted in the 2010 Census. For each person not counted, there is a loss of \$1,268 of federal funding per year. In the 2000 Census, Broward County had an estimated undercount of nearly 20,000 people. One possible deterrent for some may be misunderstanding about how census data is used. Be assured that any identifiable information remains confidential for no less than 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone, including code enforcement, welfare or immigration agencies. The 2010 Census has made it even easier for you to be counted by simplifying the forms, now only requiring a few minutes of your time. Remember, the results of this data are also used to allocate Congressional seats (congressional apportionment) and electoral votes. The census is just another means of participating in your government.

In some neighborhood news...The Harbordale and adjoining neighborhood of Poinciana Park had a very successful Crime Walk on Friday September 25th. Our police chief, Frank Adderley (along with the horse, bike and motorcycle patrols) joined Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts, a large group of neighborhood folks and myself on a walk through the South Miami Road area to emphasis the solidarity of the neighborhood and police department’s efforts against crime. Thanks to everyone involved, including the CVC (Citizens Volunteer Corp) who adopted this effort as one of their many community activities.

Some footage of the event is on youtube, thanks to Cal Deal, a Poinciana Park resident. If you have not seen it yet, take a look at these links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3_npJzYd3w

and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAirzf0BKVw>. Thanks Cal!