

## From Commissioner Romney Rogers



Can you believe the summer passed so quickly and school is back in session? I hope all of you took time out with your families for fun and relaxation and are ready for the work ahead. Like you, my family and I shared a little time together. Candace and I got our youngest settled as he begins law school. Of course, time spent with my family was needed, but the concerns of the city were never far from my mind. The month of August was productive and afforded me the opportunity to dig through budget issues.

Now that the Commission is back in session, we are examining both the operating and capital improvement issues line by line. As you know, we have already had a budget workshop and one of the budget hearings. If you have not attended, please come and give your input. Many of you have voiced concerns not only for the current budget, but also for the budget in the coming years based on these lean times and the unknowns of the economic recovery.

The Commission has given the City Manager the directive of not raising taxes and still maintaining essential city services. The preliminary millage rate and fire fee call for no increases. I believe Fort Lauderdale is the only city in the county with no tax or fire fee proposed increase. The Mayor, Commission and City Manager and staff have all worked very hard to put the City in this position and I am sure all of you, like me, are grateful for the efforts.

This is a good start, and with the help of the budget advisory board, I believe we can make more progress in right sizing government to bring savings of your hard earned tax dollars.

I will give my final report on the budget in next month's edition.

Don't forget the International Boat Show festivities begin on October 29<sup>th</sup> and continue through November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you there.