



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

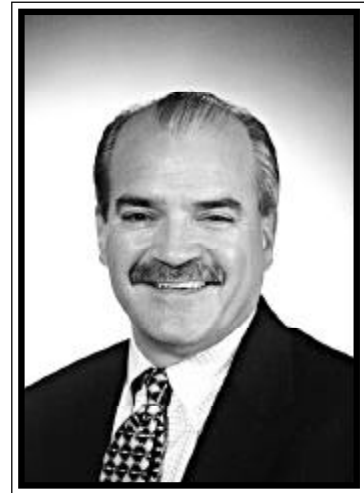
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7350

December 20, 2002

To the Mayor and Members of the Board of County Commissioners,
and Citizens of Broward County, Florida

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to forward to you the Broward County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002. These financial statements are presented in the new format required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, and have been audited by independent Certified Public Accountants. The financial position of Broward County remains sound and strong even as select services have been expanded.



During the year, the Board held their fifth annual Goal-Setting Workshop to review the progress and status of their strategic goals established in previous years. The Board decided that a new set of Challenge Goals was required to guide the organization to a new level of achievement: (1) create a sense of place; (2) expand economic opportunity; (3) strengthen the social safety net; (4) lead in quality public services; and (5) implement Fire Rescue study recommendations. These goals will guide our plans and actions in the coming years.

Some significant accomplishments in Fiscal 2002 toward your Challenge Goals were: moving to acquire 21 properties under the Land Preservation Bond Program; completing the African American Research Library and Cultural Center; continuing the construction and expansion program at the Airport; expanding Port Everglades; opening a new 200-bed North Homeless Assistance Center; and developing a comprehensive regional communications plan. Your staff constantly seeks innovative ways to provide necessary services, and to build partnerships in the community whenever possible.

The Board's policy direction and conservative management approach resulted in a fifth consecutive year without an increase in the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2003. The County's financial strength was recognized by favorable bond rating reviews during the year, including the Airport Revenue Bonds in the wake of September 11. This strong financial condition provides a solid foundation for the future, especially as the economy struggles to rebound from recession.

Broward County is a dynamic and exciting place to live and work, and it has been my privilege to serve as your County Administrator during this past year. I greatly appreciate the Board's support and direction over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "R. Desjarlais". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger J. Desjarlais
County Administrator