



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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

January 9, 2004

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 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003. These financial statements have been audited by independent Certified Public Accountants. The financial position of Broward County remains sound and strong.

During the year, substantial progress was made in support of the Board’s Challenge Goals, including creating a sense of place, expanding economic opportunity, strengthening the social safety net and leading in quality public services.



Significant accomplishments in fiscal 2003 toward your Challenge Goals include:

- acquiring nearly 370 acres of natural lands and open space;
- creating the Office of Urban Planning and Redevelopment and initiating the concept for a Governmental Center Downtown Campus;
- implementing the Library Bond Program on an accelerated basis and completing several major projects;
- increasing funding for affordable housing by over \$61 million; and,
- as evidence of our commitment to delivering quality public services, numerous prestigious awards were received by County agencies over the past year.

The Board’s policy direction and conservative management approach resulted in a sixth consecutive year without an increase in the property tax millage rate for fiscal year 2003. The County’s various bond ratings were either affirmed or improved during the year. The County was also successful in receiving substantial state and federal grants during the year. Broward County enjoys a strong financial position that supports its delivery of vital services.

County agencies have been innovative and creative in improving both their service effectiveness and efficiencies during the past year. These innovations included an Advanced Public Transportation System demonstration project, increasing direct spending with certified SDBE firms by \$26 million, and leading the formation of a Florida Water Environmental Association to study the near shore marine environment. We are grateful for the direction, support and leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, which is integral to our success as an organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger J. Desjarlais
County Administrator

