



Board of County Commissioners

Ken Keechl

Commissioner - District 4

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 412 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7004 • FAX
954-357-7798

February 2007 Newsletter

"Looking Out For District Four" by Broward County Commissioner, Ken Keechl

If you haven't figured it out yet, I hope to utilize your monthly newsletter to keep you informed about my activities as your County Commissioner. I also believe you have the right to know what is transpiring before the Broward County Commission. And you have the right to hear it from your County Commissioner.

During the election, I pledged to be your "neighborhood" Commissioner. In addition to attending your homeowners' meetings and being available to hear your concerns, I have spent a great deal of time since my election, meeting with those City Commissioners located within District 4. I have now visited some or all of the City Commissioners in Dania Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Wilton Manors, Oakland Park, Lighthouse Point, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach. Whether Democrat or Republican, I want your City Commissioners to understand that to better represent your interests, I need to hear from them as well. As I see it, while my job is to represent all 1.7 million residents of Broward County, I have a special obligation to protect the interests of the residents of District 4—after all you elected me for that specific reason.

So how have I been looking out for District 4?

Well, in the last month, I worked closely with Ft. Lauderdale Commissioner Christine Teel to finalize the purchase of a piece of property located on Bayview Drive. We did this by combining Broward County Park Bond funds with Ft. Lauderdale general revenue funds. Working together, we were able to create a small, but priceless, piece of green space in Coral Ridge on which the city will establish a small park for local residents in East Ft. Lauderdale. I don't have to tell you the importance of preserving every last piece of green space. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. Sadly, District 4 probably has less green space than most, if not all, of the other eight districts in Broward County. Preserving as much green space as possible, while I represent you, is extremely important to me. The future quality of life for our families depends on our actions now.

Ft. Lauderdale Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom and I have met repeatedly and we are working together to address issues of importance to those residents living on the central portion of Ft. Lauderdale Beach. She and I share a common vision. We want less growth and density on our barrier island. I am confident that together we can make our vision a reality. Similarly, I have met with Deerfield Beach Commissioner Pam Militello to strategize about a joint effort to tackle a variety of environmental issues of importance in Deerfield Beach. She also shares our vision. I will be telling you more about our collaborative efforts in the near future.

From the dais of the Broward County Commission, I have been looking out for our interests as well. When the Baltimore Orioles recently returned to the Broward County Commission to renegotiate several portions of their contract, I ensured that no changes were

made that would affect the future availability of Broward County bed taxes for beach shoreline restoration purposes. I doubt I would have voted to utilize our bed tax dollars for this venture in the first place, but the deal was done before my election. So when the Baltimore Orioles returned seeking more concessions, my job was simply to ensure that this project wouldn't effect future funding for the beach shoreline restoration. I'm happy to say that I succeeded.

Lastly, the Broward County Commission is in the process of approving a contract for vegetative debris removal for Deerfield Island Park. As many of you know, Deerfield Island Park, along with several other parks, incurred tree devastation and loss due to Hurricane Wilma. As this is an environmentally sensitive park, hand labor will be utilized instead of heavy equipment.

In the upcoming month, the Broward County Commission will be holding a workshop to begin the budget process. I will continue to advocate my unwavering position—no increased property taxes. Also, the Broward County Commission will be holding a workshop to discuss the status of the Central Broward Regional Park. There have been unacceptable cost overruns associated with this project. As a result, my colleagues and I have been closely monitoring this project. We are now considering how to recoup some of this money, possibly by selling naming rights and by allowing advertising at the park once it opens. We have a property tax crisis on our hands. So, it shouldn't be a surprise that I am in favor of utilizing innovative ways to increase revenue.

As usual, if you have questions, comments, or concerns I can be reached at 954 357 7004 or KKeechl@Broward.org.

Until next month.....

Ken Keechl, Broward County Commissioner