

November 27, 2007



**Mayor
Josephus Eggleton, Jr.
Broward County Commission
FY2006 - 2007**

Excerpts... State of the County Address

When I first took office as the Mayor of Broward County, I promised to bring consensus to this Board so we could move forward on the pressing issues facing us in the year ahead.

Shortly after I assumed my duties as Mayor last November, I knew that we had an obligation to reduce spending and streamline operations. We all heard the concerns and demands for lower taxes.

We took the initiative before state lawmakers even began discussing the subject. We pushed forward a zero-based budget that was based on performance, expense and need.

I presided over five budget workshops in the spring and summer and for the first time public participation was promoted and publicized so that the public could have an early say in forming the budget. From the very beginning members of the public engaged in the budget process, came to these meetings, told us what they wanted and in the end we would make history.

We created and adopted [Fiscal Year 2008] budget with a precedent-setting decrease in the millage rate of 13 percent, the largest known reduction ever made in Broward County.

This is a major contraction of government. We were determined to make this happen, no matter what mandates were handed down by state lawmakers, because we know that County government is the government closest to the people and that we are obligated to reflect their wishes, hopes and concerns.

As I reflect on our accomplishments and achievements, I am pleased to report that the state of the County is excellent.

...but we face significant challenges ahead. Government can not be all things to all people. We must always remember that there is a price tag for every service and program we provide.

While each of us seeks to represent the residents in our respective districts, we must always remember that we are a regional government and our decisions affect the entire County.

There will always be differences of opinion and issues that divide us. This is democracy in its truest form. But, in the end, we must come together with one voice to speak for the residents of Broward County.

Josephus Eggleton, Jr.



Central Broward Regional Park