

Commissioner Sue Gunzburger

Broward County Commission, District 6

New Passport Regulations Delayed through September

Following a backlog in processing passport applications, the U.S. Government temporarily eased requirements for air travelers to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Bahamas. Until the end of September, travelers will be allowed to fly without a passport if they present a State Department receipt, showing they had applied for a passport, and government-issued identification, such as a driver's license. The new regulations were issued following a backlog of U.S. passport applications since January 2007.

This new regulation does not exempt Americans from meeting the entry requirements of Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas and other countries in the Caribbean region. Some require a passport, certified birth certificate, or other evidence of citizenship for entry. You need to check with your travel agent or airline.

Residents contemplating a future trip overseas should plan now to obtain a passport, before the regulations are reinstated in the fall.

U.S. residents can apply for a passport at Broward County's Passport Application Center (Revenue Collection Division), Governmental Center Annex, 1st Floor, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale (metered parking is available on surrounding north/south streets or at the City of Fort Lauderdale parking garage on S.E. 2nd Avenue). Hours: Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. **There are no delays or lines at the Broward County office.**

Passport renewals or changes may also be done by mail. For additional information on obtaining or renewing a passport, visit www.broward.org/revenue and click on *Passport Applications*.

Interesting Statistics On Broward County 2007

Did you know Broward County has a larger population than 13 states? Think about it—if Broward County were a state it would be tied with Nebraska for the 37th most populous state in the union. Broward County's current population is 1,757,590—although

it would probably be safe to say the count is about 1.8 million. That makes us the fifteenth largest county in the United States. For a county that will not observe its 100th birthday until 2015, that speaks volumes about growth and development. In 1915, when the County was created from portions of Dade and Palm Beach Counties, Broward's population was just 4,763. There were three municipalities—Dania (now Dania Beach), Pompano (now Pompano Beach) and Fort Lauderdale. Today, there are 31 municipalities in the County, from tiny Lazy Lake with 41 people, to Fort Lauderdale, the County's largest city, with 175,836 permanent residents.

The statistics have been gathered by Broward County's Planning Services Division and the Public Communications Office for the County's website, www.broward.org.

Some other interesting statistics include the number of housing units in the County—790,303; home ownership—70%; and, the median household income, \$46,673. The County's largest public sector employer is the School Board, with 36,853 employees; Broward County government is in second place with approximately 7,000 employees. The largest private sector employer is American Express with 4,200 workers; Motorola is in the second largest with 3,800.

Not to anyone's surprise, there are 1.6 million registered vehicles on Broward County's roadways—and that does not include out-of-state and out-of-county vehicles. That translates to practically one vehicle per person.

As you can see, growth and development over the years have created a number of challenges as we plan for the future. That's why your input is important to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to share your concerns and priorities. I can be reached at 954-357-7006 or you can e-mail me at sgunzburger@broward.org.

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