



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022

Broward County Commission on the Status of  
Women

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls, and their families in our county.

## Who We Are

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or Board) advisory board is a non-partisan body with a focus on raising awareness and celebrating the contributions and successes of all residents of Broward County. It especially provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues that affect women, girls and their families in our county.

## What We Do

CSW assesses County institutions, facilities, services and programs focusing on women or affecting women and their families, and recommends plans and programs to address these concerns. The Board:

- Identifies and helps resolve economic, health, social and other issues concerning women's lives through education and advocacy.
- Celebrates the achievements of women in Broward County by recognizing leaders including during Women's History Month annually in March.
- Holds annual events to bring organizations together and educates the public about the needs facing Broward County women. Through forums, round table discussions and other venue events, CSW provides invaluable feedback to the Broward County Commission consist with its mission.



## Broward Commission on the Status of Women

Governmental Center, 115 S.  
Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

### Board Members

- Jasmen Rogers – CHAIR\*
- Jeanne Kacprzak – 1<sup>st</sup> chair\*
- Julie Carson – 2<sup>nd</sup> chair\*
- Lauren Alperstein
- Elaine Blattner \*
- Susan Buzzi \*
- Emma Collum \*
- Cathleen Dean \*
- Toby Feuer \*
- Nancy Fry \*
- Naima Khan-Ghany
- Linda Thompson Gonzalez \*
- Gail Grahn \*
- Alex Heathcock
- Alexandra Hershorn \*
- Eugenia Nikitina
- Christiane Paulhus \*
- Sherry Rini
- Udaya Thomas \*

\* current members as of 12/31/2022

Board Coordinator – Chad Zurko

### Committees

- CEDAW
- Communications
- Women's Issues
- Women's VOTE

### Social Media Handles

- Instagram – BrowardWomen
- Twitter - @BrowardWomen
- Facebook -  
<https://www.facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen>

### Websites

- <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/Pages/default.aspx>

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Following a year of re-establishing our purpose, 2022 has been a year of growth and renewed engagement.

Through partnerships with County Commissioners and community organizations, we have increased our membership and participation, building a board that reflects the deep diversity of Broward County.

As practitioners, engineers, attorneys, creatives, executives, artists, travelers, partners, and so much more, we are excited and invigorated for the work of improving the status of women in Broward County. We are proud of the strides we have made and look forward to continuing in the work of equity for all of us.

Thank you to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and staff for affirming our work and participating when called upon. Thank you to every resident who has engaged with us and supported the uplift of women. And incredible thanks to our Board Coordinator, Chad Zurko, for creating the frameworks for us to succeed.

As we set our sights on 2023, we are excited to continue recruiting and retaining our membership, while building trust and recognition within the County.

*Jasmen Rogers*

*Chair, Broward Commission on the Status of Women, 2022*

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## COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### STATE OF THE COUNTY-Mayor Michael Udine

Chair Rogers introduced Broward Mayor Michael Udine, who spoke about the state of the County and the need to develop a community that embraces diversity. He also addressed affordable housing and how ad valorem taxes are used toward this along with the Commissioners' work to raise the Living Wage. Next, he touched on the importance of mental and physical health and expanding the County's services in these areas. The Mayor also serves on the Canvassing Board and spoke about voter education especially with mail-in ballots. Finally, he spoke about the need for infrastructure resiliency and the effects of sea level rising (many canals are at a critical point resulting in longer drainage times). Mayor Udine took questions from Board Members and stated that he welcomed the opportunity to speak at another meeting later in the year.

### COUNTY UPDATE - Senator Nan Rich, current Broward County Commissioner

Chair Rogers introduced Senator Nan Rich and asked her about her priorities as they related to women in Broward County, and how the CSW could support the commission's goals. She spoke about her top priority of Affordable Housing and how we don't have some of the advantages of Miami-Dade County, such as a surtax. as well as how to use the Sadowski Fund and other general fund monies. Senator Rich explained that additional funds will be available in coming years as the Commission has agreed to add 50% of the funds from the CRA, which is "sunsetting." The results of the Census will determine how they proceed (the data is currently being compiled by staff at FAU). Furthermore, she noted that \$47 million in funds will also become available from the Federal Infrastructure; therefore, several affordable communities are being planned even though the County is reaching buildout. The Senator also spoke about the unconscionable increase in rents and other fees and their efforts to pass an ordinance against this. There are, however, a several developments that have been constructed recently, including for homeless and a 200-unit complex in Pembroke Pines, and one in Wilton Manors for senior residents. She stressed that they are always looking for other "shovel ready" projects

Senator Rich went on to talk about the Alimony bill which presumes that children should spend equal time (6 months each) with both parents. The Senator felt this should be up to a Family Court Judge and urged everyone to ask the Governor to veto it. Finally, she spoke about the CEDAW ordinance which was to be reviewed every other year like Miami-Dade's, and thus this is scheduled for 2023.



Finally, the CSW shared plans for increasing the awareness of the Board Meetings with the public and working on ways to host events to engage with the community. Sen. Rich suggested she work with her office as she would like the CSW to have a higher profile as well.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### WOMEN'S ISSUES – Chair Jasmen Rogers

Chair Rogers was active in mobilizing around the state, including a visit to Tallahassee regarding restrictions on abortion access. She has been able to discuss these activities with the board.

### WOMEN'S VOTE- Chair TBD

- The Florida Commission on the Status of Women sponsored a Lunch and Learn with Supervisors of Elections Joe Scott of Broward, and Wendy Sartory Link from Palm Beach County. Members of the Broward CSW joined their counterparts from Palm Beach CSW and the Florida CSW to listen to both speakers. You can hear them here -<https://youtu.be/7eC20JCWHsM>
- This year the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women hosted Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott. Mr. Scott emphasized the importance of getting your vote in either early or through Vote by Mail. He discussed the plans for increasing drop boxes in the county in the coming year, to make it easier to get the ballots in on time. You can get all the information you need by going to [www.browardvotes.gov](http://www.browardvotes.gov).
- With the election season in full swing, Supervisor of Elections outlined his plans to make voting accessible to everyone. The Broward CSW encouraged women to get out to vote through social media. There was also discussion about whether women in South Florida were more engaged due to the issues of reproductive freedom being on the ballot.



## COMMISSION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) – Chair Julie Carson

On November 5, 2019, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the enactment of Ordinance 2019-35, creating Article V, Sections 16 ½ -81 and 16 ½ 82, of the Broward County Code of Ordinances, adopting the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW provides an international standard for protecting and promoting women's human rights and is frequently referred to as the "Bill of Rights" for women.

The Status of Women in Broward County Report 2021 was presented to the Broward Commission by Commissioner Nan Rich at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Rich tasked the Broward CSW with finding solutions and bringing those to the Broward Commission.

The Committee under Chair Carson has been reviewing the report. The recent overturning of Roe v. Wade and how it disproportionately affects women of color and lower economic means should be addressed. Another statistic that needs attention is affordable housing as Senator Rich spoke about at the last meeting.

Each report spans 2 years, with the next report expected in 2023. A copy of the report can be requested through the board coordinator – Chad Zurko at [czurko@broward.org](mailto:czurko@broward.org).

## CSW SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Jeanne Kacprzak

The Broward CSW uses social media to encourage participation in events affecting women and to bring light to issues in the community.

The CSW will look to put our meeting agenda and calendar on the Broward Public Channel.

### Social Media Handles

- Instagram – BrowardWomen
- Twitter - @BrowardWomen
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BCStatusofWomen>

### Websites

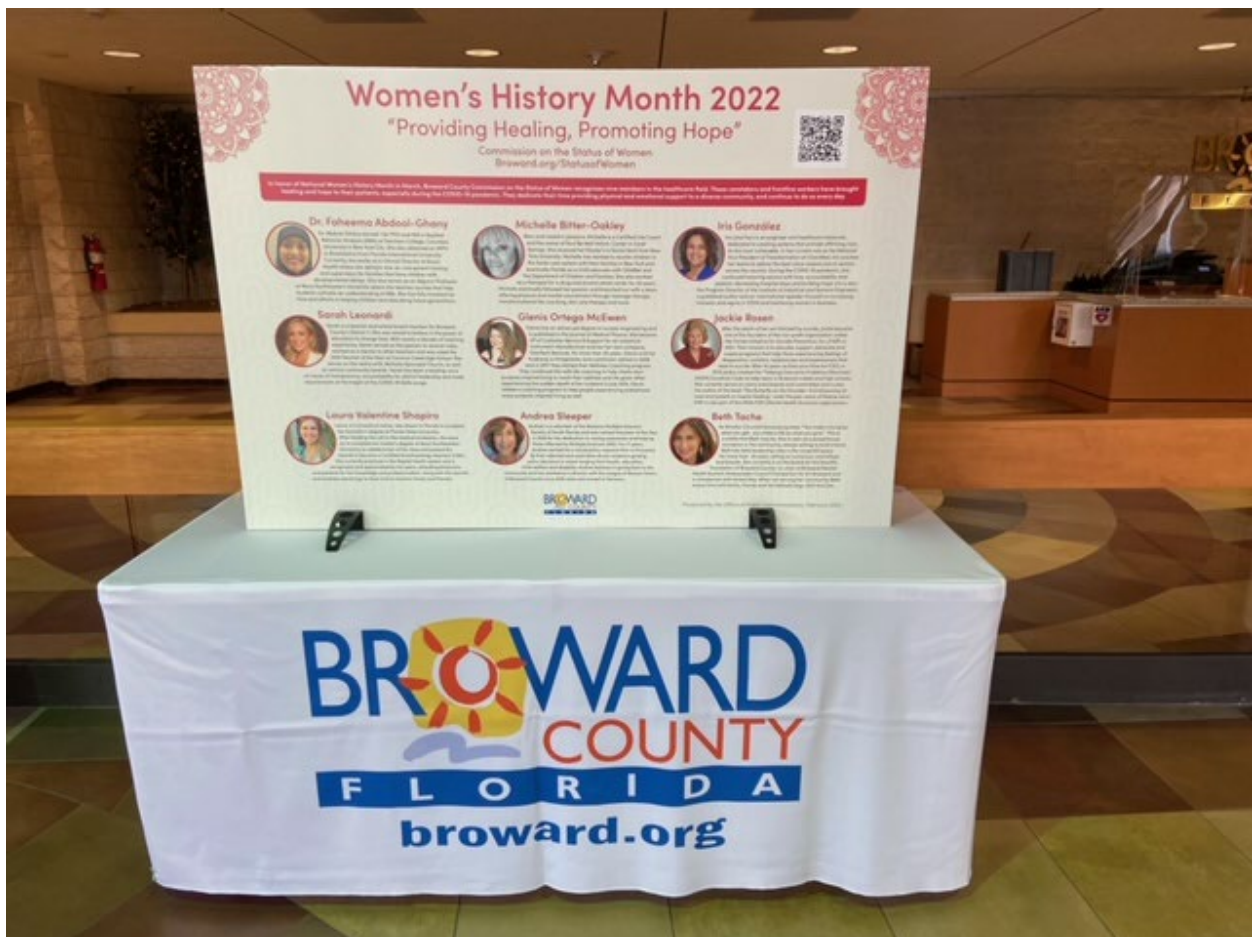
- <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/Pages/default.aspx>





## WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

On March 1st, the Board of the Broward County Commissioners designated the month of March 2022 as "Women's History Month" in Broward County, Florida. The theme of Women’s History Month was “Providing Healing, Promoting Hope”. Commissioner Nan Rich presented the Proclamation and recognized the nine women in the healthcare field nominated by the Broward CSW. These caretakers and frontline workers have brought healing and hope to their patients, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They dedicate their time providing physical and emotional support to a diverse community and continue to do so every day. Below is the display shown in the lobby of the Government Center throughout the month of March.



See our nominees here - <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/Pages/womenhistorymonth.aspx>



# BROWARD WOMEN AT THE COMMISSION

APRIL 2022

## Black Maternal Health

This year, Commissioner Torey Alston agreed to sponsor the Black Maternal Health Week Proclamation during a special meeting on April 11th at 10am. 2022 marked the 5th year the Black Mamas Matter Alliance has increased attention to the state of black maternal health in the US. As the CSW, it's crucial that we remain committed to the uplift of all women.





## Denim Day

The Broward CSW joined Broward County Commissioners as they presented a proclamation recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 26 as Denim Day in Broward County. The Nancy J. Cotterman Center, Broward County's only certified Rape Crisis and Children's Advocacy Center, encourages everyone to wear denim or denim ribbons on Tuesday, April 26, Denim Day in Broward County. By wearing denim, you will help increase awareness of sexual violence and child abuse and ultimately foster greater understanding and prevention.

Shown here are Commissioner Nan Rich, State Attorney Harold J. Pryor with CSW Chair Jasmien Rogers.



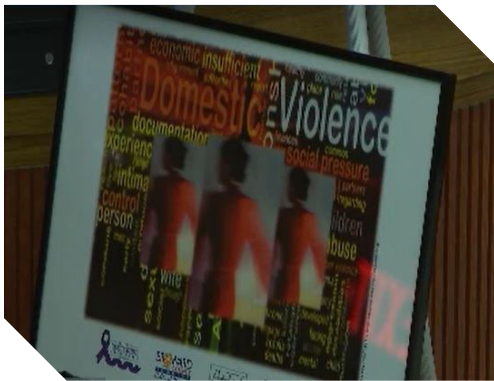
Commissioner Jared Moskowitz, Harold J. Pryor and Jasmien Rogers.



## OCTOBER 2022

### Domestic Violence Awareness

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mayor Udine presented a proclamation to the Broward CSW at the Oct 11th meeting in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness. Chair Jasmen Rogers received the proclamation on behalf of the Broward CSW. CSW member Susan Buzzi presented artwork to the



Commission from an Individual Artist Grant funded by the Broward Cultural Division. You can see the presentation in the commissions recording around the 36-minute mark at this link. [https://broward.granicus.com/player/clip/4510?vview\\_id=15&redirect=true&h=ed7aa84cd581fldbd12dfd5ced27551a](https://broward.granicus.com/player/clip/4510?view_id=15&redirect=true&h=ed7aa84cd581fldbd12dfd5ced27551a)

# Proclamation

REQUESTED BY  
BROWARD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Broward County are our most precious resource and ensuring their safety, well-being and positive development is a priority and a responsibility that we all share; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of physical violence by a close partner within their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, the exposure of young children to such violence is occurring at an alarming rate. The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and fatalities in this County; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ individuals are found to be far more vulnerable and at risk to domestic violence and abuse than those engaged in heterosexual relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women advisory board is a non-partisan body which provides a collaborative platform for those seeking information on issues affecting women, girls, and their families in our county; and

**WHEREAS**, by providing individuals with education about healthy relationships, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we work to stop domestic violence for Broward County residents; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

That the Board hereby designates, **October 2022**, as "**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**" in Broward County, Florida and urge everyone to respond and work toward ending domestic violence by supporting their communities' efforts to empower and assist victims in finding and accessing the resources they need, and by promoting awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

10/11/22  
Date

BROWARD  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA

Mayor



## MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

CSW Board members represent an intersection of industries, interests, and expertise. We are proud of our members who participate in several other ways throughout the county.

- Broward CSW Board member Susan Buzzi received a grant from Cultural Committee to produce artwork on Domestic Violence. Susan Buzzi and Commissioner Michael Udine held a reception for the kickoff of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.
- Dr. Udaya Thomas, drafted a statement, with input from other mindfulness practitioners on the benefits of mindfulness meditation in the context of increasing public safety, available evidence based research, and potential actionable steps. She presented it to the CSW to read for consideration to adopt.
- Dr. Thomas was an advisor to the grant-funded project, Juneteenth for Joy, and co-presented the project in a plenary session at the national Integrative Medicine for the Underserved (IM4US) 2022 Conference.
- Ms. Toby Feuer reported that one of the organizations she belongs to, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), sponsored eight \$1000 STEM scholarships for area high school students to attend college.
- Ms. Susan Buzzi reported that last month she attended a Human Trafficking Academy at St. Thomas Law School. She had also sent out an invitation for her exhibit on Domestic Violence, which opened in September.
- Ms. Linda Gonzalez participated in receiving proclamations related to gun safety awareness sponsored throughout the year by the League of Women Voters and by Moms Demand Action on Gun Safety.
- Elaine Blattner, Emma Collum, Nancy Fry and Linda Gonzalez participated in multiple community Voter Registration programs throughout the year.



## CONCLUSION

### 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE – SECOND WEDNESDAY

- JANUARY 12
- FEBRUARY 9
- MARCH 9
- AUGUST 10
- OCTOBER 12
- NOVEMBER 9
- DECEMBER 14

## JOIN US

You can get involved with CSW by serving on the advisory board. Broward County Commissioners appoint two representatives, and one must reside within the Commissioner's district. You can also attend CSW Board meeting and events. Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month as determined during the annual planning meeting in January. See our website for latest information regarding meeting dates and locations - <https://www.broward.org/StatusofWomen/pages/default.aspx>

## SUMMARY and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Broward CSW is comprised of a diverse set of women who bring a vast amount of experience from their professional and personal lives.

The CSW has worked to partner with the community and the Broward County Commission.

The Broward CSW Acknowledges the Broward County Commission for listening to the concerns of women in Broward County and for working tirelessly for the community. We would also like to thank the Board Coordinator, Chad Zurko for coordinating meetings and important county trainings. We would also like to thank the Ethics trainers and legal staff who provide direction to the board.

