

2023

Annual REPORT



GENARO "CHIP" IGLESIAS
CITY MANAGER

CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI

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305.663.6330



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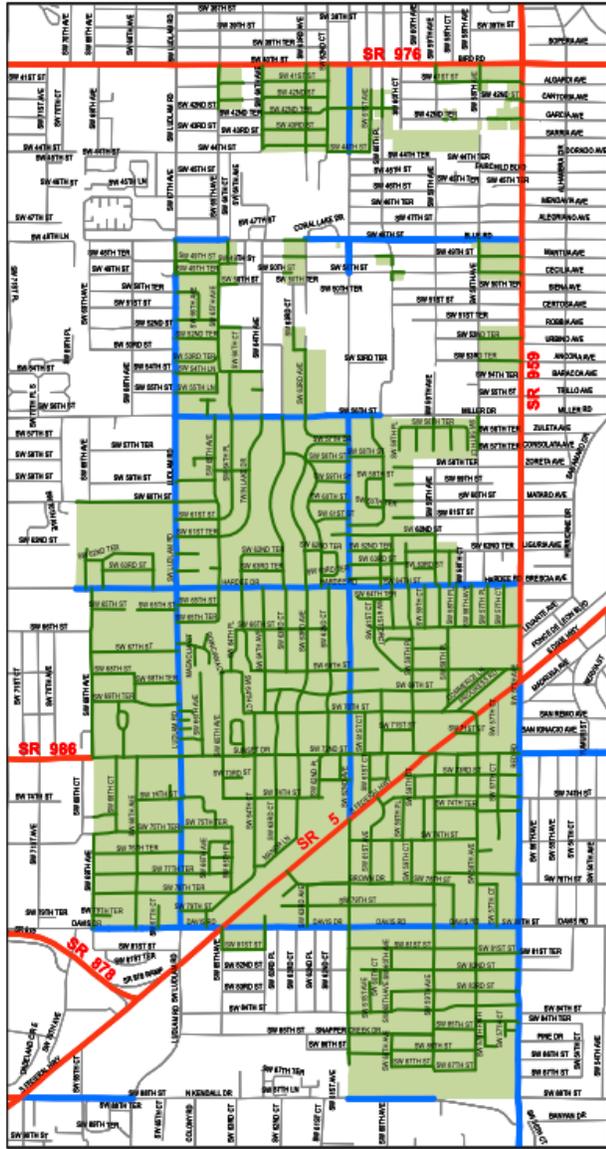


First City Hall - The Second Store From the Right (1927)

OVERVIEW

The history of South Miami traces back to Native American habitation, but its recorded beginning emerged at the turn of the century. Pioneers, lured by the rich farmlands of South Dade, ventured through Little Hunting Ground to Big Hunting Ground (now Coconut Grove and Cutler, respectively). In 1897, W.A. Larkins, a key figure and founder, established a small dairy and post office, marking the initial steps in the city's formation. With the completion of the Miami to Homestead railway in 1906, Larkins expanded and became the namesake for the community. The population surged by 1917, and the 1920s real estate boom, centered around the Riviera Theater, greatly impacted the area. In 1926, citizens voted to incorporate, defining the city boundaries that persist today.

THE CITY OF PLEASANT LIVING



Aerial View of the City of South Miami



In 2001 the City of South Miami was awarded the All-America City Award, which is given by the National Civic League annually to ten cities in the United States. This award is the oldest community recognition program in the nation and recognizes communities whose citizens' work together to identify and tackle community-wide challenges and achieve uncommon results. Through all these years, the City of South Miami preserved its hometown feel and the residents are proud to call it - The City of Pleasant Living.

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

GENARO "CHIP" IGLESIAS



As we compile the annual report for the year 2023, we reflect on a period marked by significant achievements and challenges that have tested our resilience and commitment to the community of South Miami. This year, our city has seen remarkable progress in funding for infrastructure improvements, staffing, community engagement initiatives, and service enhancements, demonstrating our unwavering dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Infrastructure projects and park improvements have been pivotal in supporting our city's needs, ensuring that our roads, public spaces, and services meet the needs of our community. Moreover, our community engagement and outreach initiatives have fostered a spirit of unity and cooperation to contribute to our city's vibrant culture and prosperity.

As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism and a renewed sense of purpose, ready to embrace future opportunities. We sincerely thank our city staff, residents, and community partners for their hard work, dedication, and collaboration. It is through our collective efforts that South Miami continues to thrive and excel.

We look forward to building on our accomplishments and facing the future with confidence and enthusiasm.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Genaro Iglesias Jr." in a cursive style.

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

FY 2022 - 2023



Mayor
Javier Fernandez



Vice Mayor
Lisa Bonich



Commissioner
Steve Calle



Commissioner
Josh Liebman



Commissioner
Brian Corey



City Clerk
Nkenga Payne, CMC



City Manager
Genaro "Chip" Iglesias

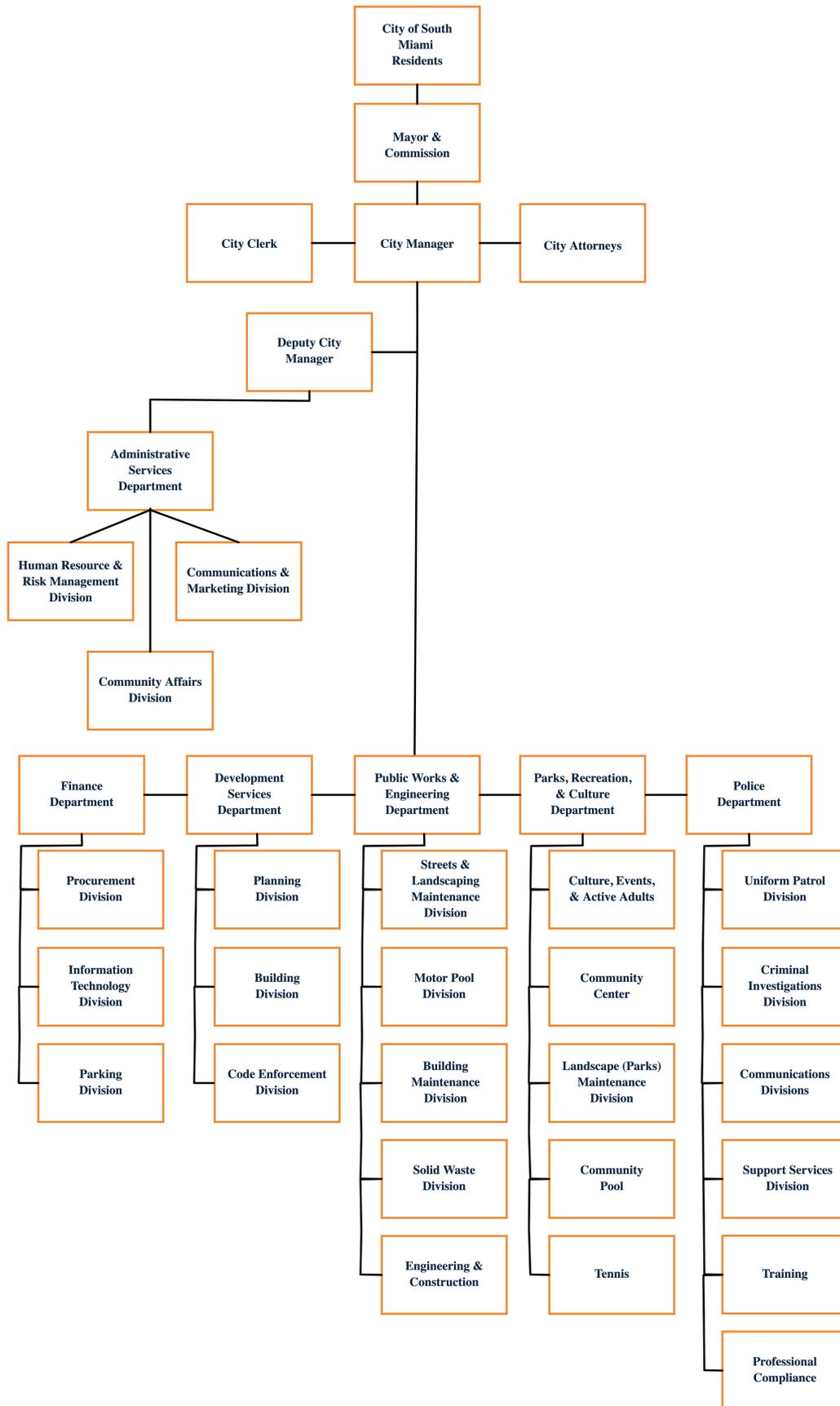


City Attorney
Anthony L. Recio



City Attorney
Lillian M. Arango

CITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Services include processing accounts payable, accounts receivable, central collections, general ledger fund accounting, preparation of applicable state and federal reports, grants and appropriations, periodic financial reports to management, administering debt service, and investment of City funds.



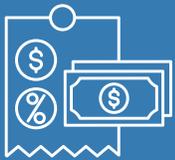
TOTAL ONLINE PAYMENTS
SINCE MAY 12TH:
671



ONLINE ALARM
PAYMENTS:
218



GFOA'S
CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
FOR EXCELLENCE IN
FINANCIALS FOR
FY 2022

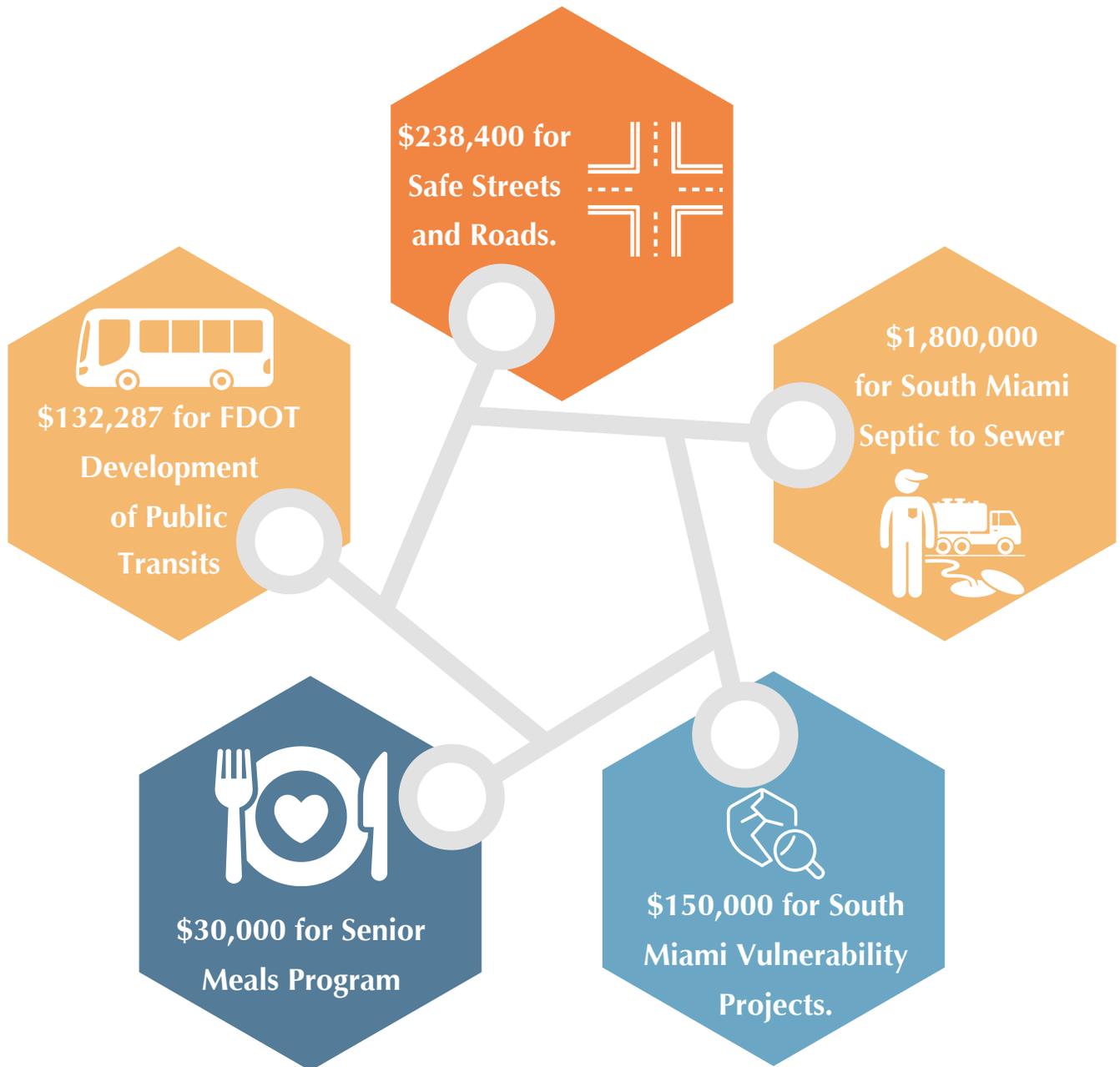


LICENSE/PERMIT
ONLINE PAYMENTS:
449



CUSTOMERS AT
CASHIER WINDOW:
6,024

GRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

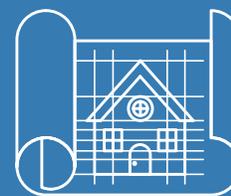


DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

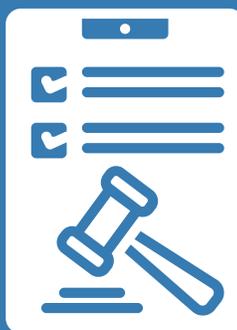
Our customer-friendly services include review, processing, issuance, planning, code enforcement, inspection of building permits and assurance that construction in the City complies with the provisions of all applicable codes.



BUILDING PERMITS
ISSUED: 1,436



PLANS REVIEWED:
694



CODE ENFORCEMENT:
256 CASES OPENED
617 CASES CLOSED



BUILDING
INSPECTIONS
PERFORMED: 4,324



PERMIT FEES COLLECTED:
\$3,111,906.37



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Updated regulations for the mixed-use Market in the Transit Oriented Development District, allowing construction to start at (5850 SW 73rd Street).
- The maximum building and impervious coverage have been increased by amending the dimensional requirements of the residential zoning district of the city.
- The land use designation and zoning district classification for the property located at 5795 Sunset Drive has been modified to be part of the Shops at Sunset Place site's redevelopment plan.
- Processed various special use permit, and variance applications that were reviewed by the City Commission throughout the year.
- Amendments to the Land Development Code were processed, including changes to the City's signage, accessory structure, boat, and home garage regulations.
- Amended the Land Development Code to create dimensional requirement regulations for the Religious Zoning District
- CO/TCO/CC/TCC Issued- 68
- 30-year & 10-year re-certifications processed – 23
- Building Department Public Records Requests fulfilled- 174
- Open Permit searches performed- 218

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Human Resources
- Communications and Marketing
- Community Affairs

Dedicated to delivering support both internally to City staff as well as externally to residents and business owners. Through strategic collaboration, the Department aims to optimize City services for residents and businesses, promoting efficiency, innovation, and stakeholder satisfaction.



- EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS: 311
- JOB RECLASSIFICATIONS: 10
- INTERNAL PROMOTIONS: 6
- IMPRESSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA: 251,499
- WEBSITE VISITS: 177,338



COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS

- Internal Communication and Marketing Structure Created and Implemented.
- City Instagram, Facebook, Twitter (X) Accounts Verified.
- SoMi PD Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter (X) Accounts Verified.
- City LinkedIn and TikTok accounts created.
- SoMi Connect App Modernization in Progress.
- City Website Modernization in Progress.
- SoMi Insider Redesign completed and sending Bi-Monthly.
- City Wide Email Signature Policy Created and Implemented.
- Internal HR Newsletter Redesigned and Implemented.
- Town Center Outreach and Engagement (In person/Digital Outreach).
- Business Connections (51 total)
- Reimagined Social Media Content Citywide (Flyer/Video production).
- Facebook/Nextdoor Events Implemented to help promote City Events to residents.

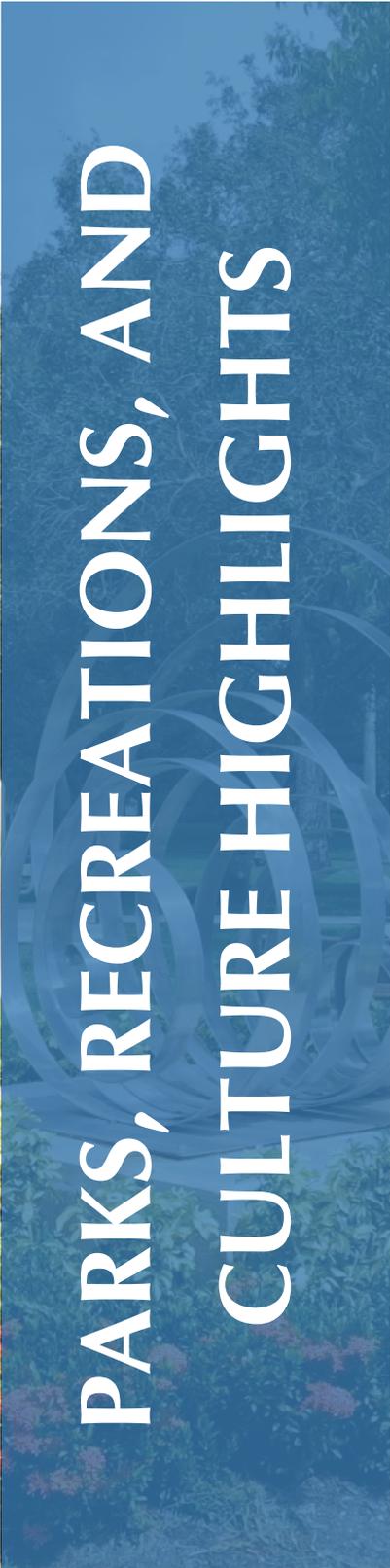
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

Responsible for managing all public parks and coordinating all recreation programs and activities in the City. The Department is comprised of five major service areas that include Administration, Capital Improvement Projects, Park Maintenance and Landscaping, Recreation, and Special Events.



PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAMS: 46,104
FACILITY RENTALS: 579
SPECIAL EVENTS EXECUTED: 32
COMPLETED PARKS MAINTENANCE: 914
NEW PARK DEVELOPMENTS: 2





PARKS, RECREATIONS, AND CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual Senior Games event at Dante Fascell Park resumed after a 3-year COVID hiatus with 210 participants.
- Celebrated the opening of Paseo Park.
- The 2023 Santa's Parade of the Elves featured nearly 70 local groups who marched down Sunset Drive to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- The City of South Miami opened its new Sensory Lab in honor of Autism Awareness Month with a ribbon-cutting event on April 14th.
- The tennis courts #4-#6 at Dante Fascell Park have undergone reconstruction and resurfacing.
- There are now four mini-libraries in the city's parks, including a new one at Van Smith Park.
- 50 participants celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Vice Mayor Robert C. Welsh Jr. Park.
- Installed 1,200 ft. of low-pressure force main piping along the north boundary of South Miami Park.
- New sensory play equipment - Chill Spinner, We-Saw, and Xylofun panel - added to Murray Park's playground.
- Basketball courts at Dante Fascell Park and Murray Park have been resurfaced and restriped.
- New outdoor fitness equipment has been installed and the monument display is 100% completed at Marshall Williamson Park.
- Improvements are 100% completed at Fuchs Park.



PARKS, RECREATIONS, AND CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

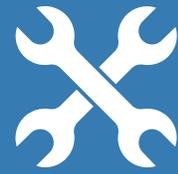
- Hosted various special events: MLK Freedom Breakfast, Seniors Valentine's Day Party, Movie Night Under the Stars (77 participants), Seniors St. Patrick's Day Party, Seniors Frost Science Field Trip (16 participants), Easter Egg Hunt (200 participants), Arbor Day (15 participants), Seniors Mother's Day/Medical and Nutrition Seminar, Employee Family Fun Day (100 employees participated), Fourth of July (2,000 guest), Q&A Seminar: SoMi Parc Development, Seniors Dominoes Tournament, Seniors Fathers Day, Back-to-School Splash Bash pool party (50 Participants), Dunkin' for Pumpkins (115 Participants), Mayor's State of the City (150 participants), Veterans Day (40 participants), Thanksgiving Boxed meals Giveaway event, and Holiday Toy Giveaway (150 participants).
- Programs hosted included: STEM Afterschool Initiative, Youth Tennis Enrichment Program, Summer Camp program, Expanded Senior Grocery Shopping Program, Afterschool (homework assistance, anti-bullying martial arts, dance, and STEM) enrichment activities, Senior Meals Program, Free Tennis Lessons, and Home Team Afterschool Program/Field Trip.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Our team includes office administration, management, and five divisions: Solid Waste, Streets and Landscaping, Building Maintenance, Equipment Maintenance, and Engineering. Each division provides critical services to maintain and improve the city's needs and support all city departments.



EXCESS TRASH INVOICE:
135 TICKETS (\$22,206)



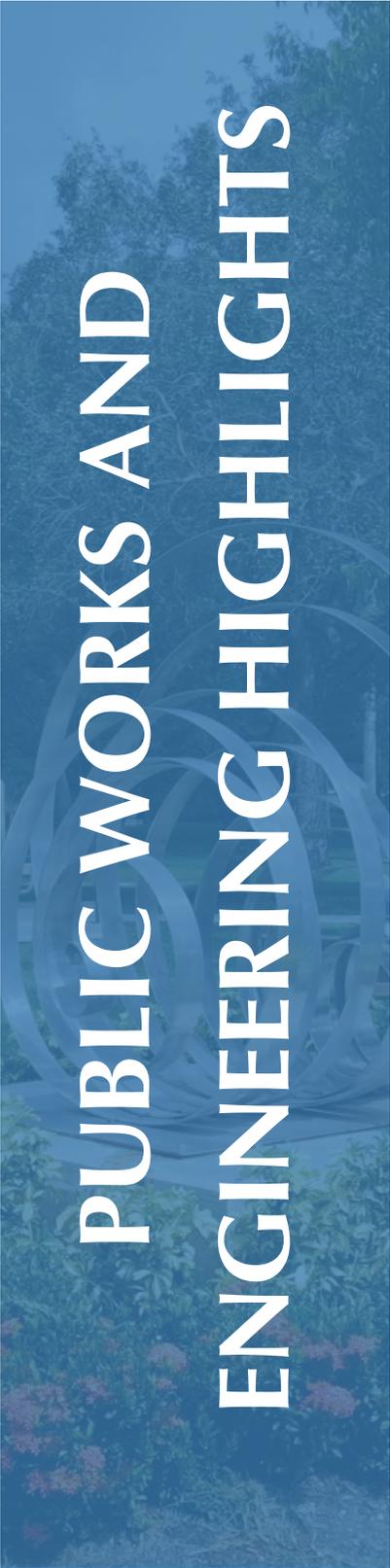
BUILDING AND
MAINTENANCE
REQUESTS: 475



TRASH HOLES FILLED
WITH RECYCLED
ASPHALT: 74



STREETS AND
LANDSCAPING
REQUESTS: 206



PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS

- The City reduced the number of outside repairs by vendors, by repairing vehicles in-house.
- Replace the fuel pump dispenser at Public Works and City Hall, as well as the monitoring system.
- The motor pool supervisor is now certified in underground storage tanks for classes A, B, and C after receiving training.
- Completed significant projects, such as adding new lighting throughout the parking lot at Public Works.
- City Hall's second floor was remodeled which included painting, electrical repairs, and tile installation.
- City Hall's hallway was painted, while the Mayor' and Commission's offices and Ci'ty Deputy Clerk's office were remodeled by the staff.
- Remodeled Public Work's main office which consisted of removing and installing tiles, painting, electrical repairs, and changing all the ceiling tiles.
- Worked with Code Enforcement to identify illegal dumping in seven different areas.
- Staff notified residents of the ordinance regulating side trash piles which reduced, which also reduced the amount of illegal dumping.
- The team planted hedges and installed sod, which controlled the illegal dumping.
- Replaced 63 garbage containers requested by residents.



PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS

- Responded to resident requests for maintenance via email, phone, or SoMi Connect app including tree trimming, potholes, sign repairs, graffiti, and pressure cleaning.
- There are striped parking spaces in the municipal parking garage and the City Hall parking lot.
- Installed handicap signs and added blue striping to parking spaces throughout the city.
- Our Town Center sidewalks were pressure-cleaned, and we responded to three emergency calls regarding fallen trees during after-hours.
- was conducted behind the library: trees were trimmed, trash was removed, and new sod was installed. A major cleanup
- Staff re-striped parking spaces on the city parking lot on 41st Street.
- We planted nine trees as per residents' requests through the Tree Planting Initiative form.
- Replaced dead palm trees throughout the Town Center.
- The Municipal Parking Garage was pressure cleaned and painted. New plant material was added on 73rd St from 57th Ct to 58th Ct.
- Trees on 72nd and 73rd St were trimmed and lights removed for new installation.
- New lights were installed and trees throughout our Town Center.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

We are a full-service law enforcement agency with 51 sworn positions and eight civilian staff serving our 2.3-square-mile city. The full-time residential, multi-ethnic population is approximately 12,026, but the number of people served and protected by the SMPD is much greater due to several factors.



3825 MOVING VIOLATIONS
2826 NON-MOVING VIOLATIONS
2231 WARNINGS
539 TRAFFIC PTA'S
18 TRAFFIC ARRESTS
779 CRIMINAL OFFENSE
235 CRIMINAL ARREST
35 HOMELESS OUTREACH
12 NEW POLICE VEHICLES





POLICE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Miami Police Department (SMPD) received its third reaccreditation award by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA).
- Upgraded GPS installed in 38 patrol vehicles increasing officer safety through accurate accountability of vehicle location/usage.
- Upgraded internal security camera system. Initiated replacement of existing cameras to 6-8mps (megapixels) to capture higher quality images/videos.
- Wal-Mart provided SMPD with Naloxone (NARCAN) free of cost through the State of Florida's program called, "Helping Heroes". Luckily, we only had to use this life-saving method one time this year.
- SMPD Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a member of the State Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Task Force. Investigations in South Miami led to eleven prostitution arrests and one for human trafficking, which also led to one person being rescued along with a child being reunited with the rescued mother.
- The Community Affairs unit holds Homeless Solutions Outreach meetings at the South Miami Library with Coral Gables PD and Pinecrest PD. The program has grown to include additional departments with similar units and challenges.

THANK YOU



As part of our mission, the City of South Miami strives to be a friendly, peaceful, safe, and beautiful place for residents and businesses to live and work. We believe that this year's report provides educational and statistical evidence that the City is performing at a high level. Also, the City Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager, and Staff are consistently working on maintaining those standards and enhancing the quality of life for all. We look forward to continuing to provide quality services to the City we serve in the new fiscal year.

“The City of Pleasant Living”

