

CITY OF HOMESTEAD CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

August 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 CITY
MANAGER'S
MESSAGE

02 CALENDAR

03 PRIORITY
PROJECTS

04 DEPARTMENT
UPDATES

21 EVENT
HIGHLIGHTS



ELECTED OFFICIALS 2024



Mayor

Steven D. Losner



Vice Mayor

Sean L. Fletcher
Seat 2



Councilman

Tom Davis
Seat 1



Councilman

Larry Roth
Seat 3



Councilwoman

Jenifer N. Bailey
Seat 4



Councilwoman

Erica G. Ávila
Seat 5



Councilman

Clemente Canabal
Seat 6

CITY MANAGER MESSAGE



Zerry Ihekwaba,
PhD, PE

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am pleased to provide this update on key initiatives and projects that have been a focus for the City of Homestead in recent months. The collaboration and leadership demonstrated by this Council have allowed us to make substantial progress across several important areas.

As you are aware, the August Council meeting marked a significant milestone in the City's efforts to utilize funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). With the allocation of these funds now finalized, we are well underway in executing a range of critical projects aimed at benefiting our community. These projects are designed to enhance our infrastructure, improve public services, drive improvement of our processes by leveraging technology, and ensure a sustainable future for Homestead. We will continue to provide regular updates as we advance these initiatives and track their positive impact on our residents and businesses.

In response to an imminent threat to public health, safety, and environmental contamination, the City of Homestead has declared a State of Emergency. This urgent action was necessary following the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) placing an Absolute Moratorium on the sewer basin serviced by Pump Station #22. The station has consistently exceeded the maximum nominal allowable daily average runtime hours, highlighting a significant risk of infrastructure failure.

Addressing this challenge is a top priority, as the failure of Pump Station #22 could result in catastrophic outcomes, including widespread public health hazards and contamination of nearby water bodies, such as the C-103 Canal. Our team is working closely with DERM and other partners to mitigate these risks and ensure that essential services are protected for the Homestead community.

The Finance & Budget Department has been diligently working on the FY 2025 Proposed Budget. The focus of this year's budget is on infrastructure improvements that include reorganizing and realigning resources to support process improvements and streamline operations across City departments. These efforts are essential to better serving our residents and enhancing the quality of life in Homestead.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support in driving these efforts forward. Together, we remain committed to serving the people of Homestead and ensuring a prosperous future for our City.

Sincerely,

Zerry Ihekwaba, PhD, PE

Sept 14 Councilwoman Bailey Voter
Registration Event

Sept 18 2nd Public Budget Hearing
Council Meeting

Sept 21 Eats & Beats Summer Concert Series
Featuring 3RG Miami

Visit the City of Homestead's
Flickr account to see event
photos.

[HOMESTEADFL.GOV/FLICKR](https://www.homesteadfl.gov/flickr)



[HOMESTEADFL.GOV/CALENDAR](https://www.homesteadfl.gov/calendar)



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PRIORITY PROJECTS

PUMP STATION #22/BASIN MORATORIUM (ARPA CONTRIBUTION \$3,641,905)

Residents were recently informed that the City of Homestead's Public Works Department is initiating construction to bring Pump Station #22 into compliance with Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department regulations. The project will involve the installation of approximately 4,500 linear feet of 20-inch sewer force main, which will extend from the City's wastewater treatment facility to Pump Station #22, along SE 6th Avenue and E Mowry Drive.

Construction is set to begin in early September 2024 and is expected to be completed by mid-December 2024, though these dates are subject to change. To minimize the impact on residents and businesses, a carefully designed Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will be implemented. Detours and temporary lane closures will be scheduled during non-peak hours to reduce traffic disruptions. The contractor will also take all necessary steps to minimize the effects of construction on the community. The project is funded through a combination of ARPA & Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).



HOMESTEAD REGIONAL PARK (ARPA CONTRIBUTION \$750,600)

The City of Homestead has developed a comprehensive master plan for the 85-acre Homestead Regional Park (HRP) and is moving forward with a six-phase approach to develop this multi-use sports and recreational facility. The total design and construction cost is estimated at approximately \$63 million.



Phase 1 has reached **90%** design completion, and **the Building Department permit process** is now underway, which will be followed by processing the other regulator permits.

We are amending the Homestead Master Plan to accommodate the new scope that will be presented to Mayor and Council for approval. The City has received funding to add a mini-soccer field, reconstruct the existing parking lot, and conduct soil investigations needed to complete the design of the pavilion and bathrooms. The department is currently reviewing and looking for a vendor to complete the design work.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Exchange Online Migration & Entra ID: (\$45,618)

The IT Department is working on migrating our email infrastructure from our on-premises servers to Microsoft Cloud. This would provide access from anywhere, reliability, scalability, easy to administer and maintain, as well as cost savings.

- Status: Migration implementation to start September 9th.

Citywide Permitting Software: (\$400,000)

The IT Department coordinated demos from five solutions providers (OpenGov, Cianti, Oracle, Tyler Tech, and Accela) with all departments involved in the Community Development process. Permit and Inspections, Business Licensing, Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, Public Works, and Homestead Energy.

Citywide Workstation Replacement: (\$246,000)

Due to end of hardware warranty on the existing workstations, the IT Department is replacing all the workstations citywide over a 3-year period. This project will transition our current setup to a more mobile friendly environment, by replacing stationary workstations with mobile laptops, and docking stations.

- Status: Pending revised quote

Broadband Infrastructure (\$170,225)

This includes:

- **Deployment of Wi-Fi to the City Parks:**

This project consists in deploying Wi-Fi in city parks which can significantly enhance the park experience, support smart city initiatives, and provide a range of social, economic, and operational benefits.

- Status: Conducting an assessment of park infrastructure to design a reliable network and obtaining quotes from various providers.



- **Upgrade Internet Circuit:**

As the City of Homestead transitions its core applications to the cloud, there is a need to upgrade our internet circuit to higher bandwidth. Upgrading the internet circuit can significantly enhance performance, reliability, and overall user experience.

- Status: Pending quote from vendor to design a new circuit

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACES

Portable Solar Athletic Lighting (\$137,200)

Current Phase: Planning

Key Milestones Achieved: Received product information and specifications from the manufacturer. Currently, verifying references to ensure the reliability of the lights.

Percentage Completion: 20%

Expected Completion Date: 12/31/2024

JD Redd Park - Court Resurfacing (\$105,000)

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: A meeting has been set for September 3rd with Gordian to explore the application of a JOC contract to complete the project.

Percentage Completion: 20%

Expected Completion Date: 12/31/2024



Mayor Roscoe Warren Municipal Park Basketball Court Resurfacing (\$27,000)

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: A meeting has been set for September 3rd with Gordian to explore the application of a JOC contract to complete the project.

Percentage Completion: 20%

Expected Completion Date: 12/31/2024

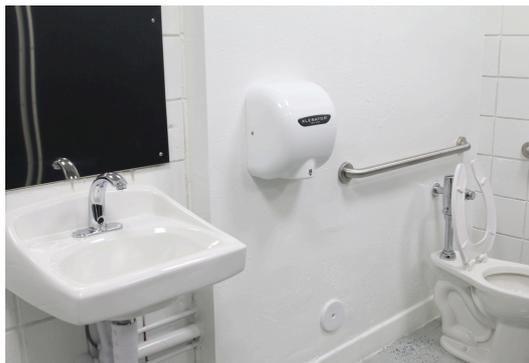
James Archer Smith Park Restroom Refinishing (\$35,000)

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: The vendor has performed a site visit and provided a proposal. Next step will be to verify references and then issue a PO.

Percentage Completion: 30%

Expected Completion Date: 12/31/2024



PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

The City Clerk's Department continues to work on process improvements and efficiencies. Due to the City Attorney being on site, they have been able to improve the turnaround time for the execution of Ordinances and Resolutions from council meetings. The processing time is reduced from 10 days to 7 days.

Due to Code Compliance's increased responsiveness, lien search results are delivered before the due date.

WE'RE LIVE!

The City Clerk and staff have completed training on our new platform, JUSTFOIA, a workflow system for managing public records requests. This new method will streamline the process of accepting and responding to requests efficiently.

COMMUNICATIONS | PIO

The City of Homestead Communications Department has been actively working to enhance the delivery of important information and programming to our residents. Recently, the division successfully produced and filmed the first episode of **Community Matters**. The new show will feature sit-down style interviews with representatives from various city departments, community organizations, and other stakeholders. The aim is to present and discuss new initiatives that impact the residents of Homestead, ensuring that our community remains informed and engaged. The inaugural episode featured representatives from the Code Compliance and Homestead Police Department. This episode focused on the collaborative efforts of the Interdepartmental Quality of Life Task Force, addressing key issues such as illegal dumping, bulk trash, and the critical role residents can play in maintaining a clean and safe community.



Additionally, the department launched the first edition of the City Manager's Report. This comprehensive report, which provides valuable updates on city projects and initiatives, has been distributed to the Mayor and Council and made available to the public on the City's website. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our community informed and engaged.

CODE COMPLIANCE

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Training and development have been a major focus for the Code Compliance Department with two recently hired code officers completing their training and are already servicing the city. One code officer trainee will finish training in mid-October.

The department is currently exploring different options to develop a more streamlined approach to its operations.

They include:

- Amending the City Municipal Code to create a more robust citation process, enhancing the special master requirement, and providing a more transparent courtesy noticing system.
- Revamp the Code Officer technological apparatus to increase efficiency, better process data, and improve caseload creation and management in order to better tackle code compliance issues within the community.

CITATIONS UPDATE

In August, Code Compliance Officers opened **216** cases involving over **354** code violations. These cases included Courtesy Notices, Notices of Violations, and Citations, with more than **150** related to quality-of-life violations.

TOP 10 VIOLATIONS FOR AUGUST

Violation	Cases Opened
Improper Bulk Trash Disposal	42
Overgrown Vacant Property	33
Non Permitted Structure or Work	30
Overgrown Improved Property	29
Fence Erected Without a Permit	27
Improper Landscaping Maintenance	23
Property in Littered Condition	14
Animal Impound	13
Accumulated Garbage, Trash, Junk, and/or Debris	12
Garbage Containers Out at Wrong Hour	9

TOP 10 VIOLATIONS FOR JULY

Violation	Cases Opened
Non Permitted Structure or Work	35
Improper Landscaping Maintenance	30
Improper Bulk Trash Disposal	25
Overgrown Improved Property	23
Overgrown Vacant Property	19
Maintaining a Public Nuisance	15
Fence Erected Without a Permit	12
Accumulated Garbage, Trash, Junk, and/or Debris	11
Improper Garbage Disposal	11
Obstructing Public Right of Way	10

CIP PROJECT UPDATE

In Progress

SW 4th Street Beautification: Landscaping & Commercial Painting

Current Phase: Phase II (6th Ave - 14th Ave/ Redland Rd)

Key Milestones Achieved: 1 of 6 Commercial Properties completed

Percentage Completion: 17%

Expected Completion Date: 9/27/24

Project Description:

Phase II of the SW 4th Street Beautification Project continues previous efforts to enhance commercial buildings in the Southwest Neighborhood and CRA. Focused on eliminating slum and blight, the project includes painting, façade improvements, and landscaping upgrades to revitalize the area.

The locations pertaining to this phase are:

Completed

- Touching Miami with Love 1350 SW 4th St

In Progress

- New Code building 653 SW 4th St
- Pentacostal Church of the Living GOD 830 SW 4th St
- The Elks Lodge 422 SW 11th Ave

Planning & Design

- Brothers Supermarket 1050 SW 4th St

Pending

- Historic New Mt. Zion AME Church 890 SW 4th St - Pending Certificate of Appropriateness

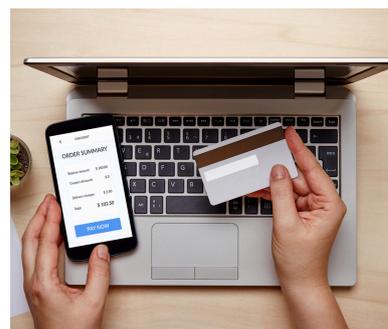


CUSTOMER SERVICE | HPS

The Customer Service Department continues to enhance operations to improve services to residents. This includes the implementation of same-day service connections when applying online offering greater convenience and efficiency.

They have also implemented an enhanced security feature to mask customers' sensitive information on online applications, ensuring greater protection of personal data.

To streamline operation all Customer Service field work orders have transitioned to a 100% paperless system, with assignments and closures now handled entirely electronically.



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The Development Services Department is currently focused on three key activities that are vital to the growth and regulation of our community:

1. Planning: The department is actively involved in granting development entitlements and ensuring that all applications are thoroughly reviewed and measured against existing codes and regulations.
2. Permitting and Inspections: They oversee the permitting process and conduct inspections for approved developments, ensuring that projects meet all required standards before they proceed.
3. Business Tax Receipts: After a business opens, we issue and update business tax receipts, ensuring that all operating businesses comply with city requirements.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Homestead has posted the RFP #202436 for Professional Services for Permitting, Plan Review, and Inspection Services. Interested parties are invited to submit their proposals by the due date: September 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

PLANNING

Planning has one item scheduled for the September council meeting: two plats, a special exception, and a second reading for a code amendment.

BUSINESS LICENCING

In late July, the Business Licensing division sent out **3,500** renewal notices. With the September 30th deadline approaching, the department has been actively processing the influx of renewals, making this a particularly busy month for business licensing. The team is working diligently to ensure that all renewals are handled efficiently and on time.

BUILDING PERMITS

As of the month of August, there were **1,595** permits received, **993** of those were issued permit numbers. This includes items such as permit application submissions, questions and inquiries. There were **123** permits processed for D.R.Horton and **533** permits processed for Lennar.

The current review queue contains a total of **753** items, categorized as follows:

- Building: 575
- Electrical: 210
- Structural: 215
- Plumbing: 110
- Mechanical: 51
- Zoning: 77
- Roofing: 90



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Willian Krome Sculpture:

The Professional Service Agreement is in process. The artist Lee Leuning has completed the bronze casting of the sculpture, which now enters a 30-day welding phase. The scope for the sculpture base has been developed and submitted to consultants, and we're awaiting pricing and timeline estimates. Efforts are also underway, with Keystone Products assisting, to source a large piece of fieldstone as a potential base

option. The earliest projected completion for the base and installation at Losner Park is November. A specific site within the park has been identified for the sculpture, following council direction.



Seminole Theatre Murals:

Contracts with the artists Kenny Macguire and AJ Davis are being prepared. The contract for refinishing and sealing the theater's exterior walls will be presented for approval at the September City Council meeting. Once approved, the contractor and mural artists will collaborate on the refinishing and waterproofing process, allowing the artists to properly plan and implement the murals. A timeline for completion will follow.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The Emergency Manager is coordinating additional training for staff. This includes a commitment from Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management to conduct an in-person WebEOC training for administrative staff. Training is also underway for the Crisis Track System. Directors, Assistants and Supervisors in Public Works and Parks and Recreation have already completed their training. Energy and Solid Waste is next in line. The system will not only help with accurate damage tracking but could help the City qualify for federal and state grants, particularly in areas with repetitive flooding.

The Florida Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) is now open and Homestead has qualified for advanced reimbursements of up to 48% for disaster-related expenditures.

EOC IMPROVEMENTS

Ongoing planning and design are focused on creating a more advanced Emergency Operations Center to meet the needs of our growing community. The new design will emphasize enhanced communications, intelligence gathering, and improved ergonomics.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Homestead's Energy rates continue to be among the lowest in the state. For the month of July 2024, Homestead's average residential rate ranks third lowest out of 37 Municipal and Investor-owned Electric Utilities in Florida. The economic dispatch performed on a daily basis by HPS-Energy allows for the dispatching of the most cost-effective power supply resources first and helps to keep prices low.

CIP PROJECT UPDATE

In Progress

Donnie Avocado Substation Construction

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: Council Approval of recommended EPC vendor received on 8/6/24.

Moving forward with steps to provide Notice to Proceed.

Percentage Completion: 25 %

Expected Completion Date: Q1 2026

ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

(Outside of Homestead, Within Electrical Service Area)

The Electric Utilities Department is advising on the following Residential and Commercial electrical infrastructure projects located in Miami-Dade County. There is currently sufficient electrical capacity for these projects.

Stein Assemblage (SW 292 Street and SW 162 Ave)

Unit Quantity: 345 residential homes

Status: Electrical infrastructure and construction of homes is 90% complete.

To Do: Install street Lights via a Special Taxing District

Expected Completion Date: November 2024

Rambo Subdivision (SW 169 Ave and SW 292 St)

Unit Quantity: 148 residential homes.

Status: Home construction and electrical infrastructure is 100% complete.

To Do: Street Lights via a Special Taxing District are now being installed.

Commercial Car Wash (28799 Old Dixie Highway)

Status: Awaiting application review

To Do: Application for electrical service just received.

Expected Start Date: 2025



4 Aces Subdivision (Krome and SW 288 St)

Unit Quantity: 97 homes.

Status: Planning

To Do: Site Plan received. HPS is currently creating electrical design plans.

Expected Start Date: Q1 of 2025

Abess Subdivision (Krome and SW 286 St)

Unit Quantity: 85 residential homes.

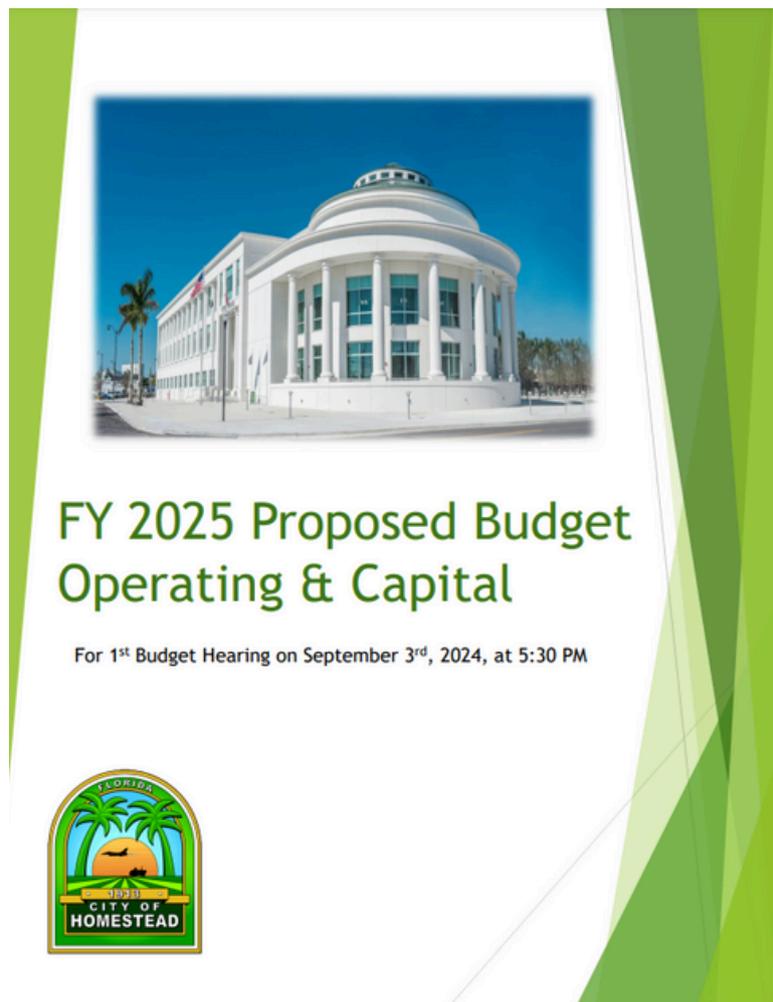
Status: Site Plan received.

To Do: HPS is currently creating electrical design plans.

Expected Start Date: Q1 of 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance & Budget Department conducted a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The workshop focused on the FY 2025 Proposed Budget, examining how the allocation of funds supports the City's initiatives to reorganize and realign resources. These efforts aim to enhance process improvements and streamline operations to better serve our residents and improve the quality of life in Homestead. Having held the first Budget Hearing on Tuesday, September 3rd at 5:30 pm, our Department is looking forward to hold the Second and Final Budget Hearing on September 18th at 5:01 pm. Stakeholders can access the most recent budget book on the City's website, located on the Finance & Budget webpage.



**FY 2025 Proposed Budget
Operating & Capital**

For 1st Budget Hearing on September 3rd, 2024, at 5:30 PM

CDBG UPDATES

The City of Homestead has fulfilled the timeliness requirement for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), in accordance with HUD regulations. CDBG recipients are required to commit and utilize their entitlement funds within a set period, specifically spending at least 70% of their CDBG allocation within three years. Non-compliance with this mandate may result in decreased future allocations.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

During the month of August, the City of Homestead submitted six (6) grant applications totaling \$12,646,350 in grant funding requests and was awarded one (1) grant in the amount of totaling to \$132,180. While there was only one (1) grant awarded in August, there are 4 pre-awarded grants totaling \$2,761,225 awaiting grant agreements.

Accepted Grants:

The City was awarded a \$132,180 Energy Efficient Community Block Grant from the United States Department of Energy for the Citywide Streetlight LED Retrofit Project. This project will retrofit approximately 225 older, less efficient, High-Pressure Sodium and Metal Halide streetlights with energy efficient LED fixtures throughout the City on main thoroughfares.

Grants Applied For:

The City submitted two (2) Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant applications to Miami-Dade County totaling \$446,350.

- One application was for the City Hall Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Upgrades project requesting \$188,850 to enhance the existing EOC to a permanent, fully operational facility. As a hub of MDC's EOC in deep South Dade, the City of Homestead requires a fully capable fixed/permanent EOC rather than the current "pop-up-style" operation. This will reduce response times, ensure the coordination and unity of effort among multiple emergency management organizations, agencies and jurisdictions.
- The second application requested \$257,500 in funding for License Plate Readers project. The purchase of twenty-five (25) License Plate Readers (LPR's,) to enhance public safety utilizing technology that will be strategically placed within the City of Homestead. LPR's will be utilized at strategic points to identify vehicles that are associated with suspicious activity or by license plate numbers that are linked to a database of vehicles in which the driver is a person of interest by law enforcement.

A request was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative Technical Assistance. While this request has no-cost, this technical assistance allows for one-on-one climate change risk assessment support using EPA's Resilient Strategies Guide, Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool, and Climate and Weather Data Maps. The City of Homestead was added to their list of interested communities.

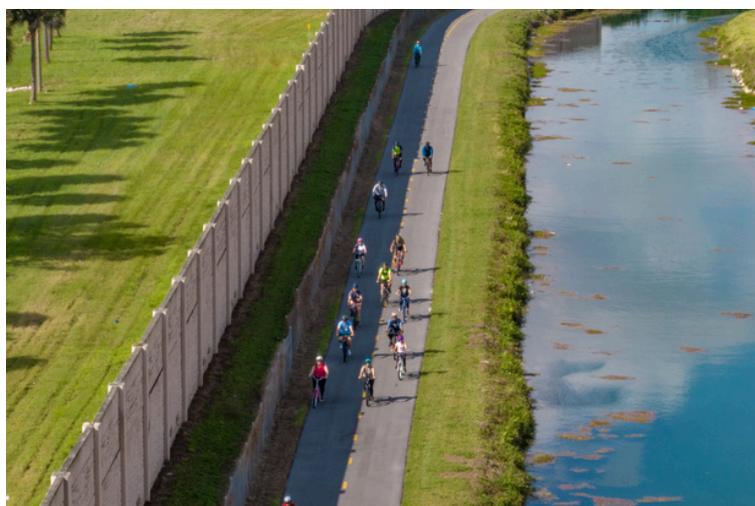
The City applied for two (2) Resilient Florida grants totaling \$12,000,000.

- A Resilient Florida grant application was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requesting \$7,000,000 for the Lift Station Hardening project. The project will harden 70 lift stations located throughout the City. If any of the lift stations experience power loss and service interrupted, it could lead to major health impacts that would be immediate and not only hinder recovery efforts but also long-term impacts such as contamination of the surrounding environment.



- Another Resilient Florida grant application was submitted to the FDEP requesting \$5,000,000 for the construction of a Wastewater Treatment Facility Emergency Operations Center. The project will harden Homestead's Wastewater Treatment Plant through the construction of an Operations & Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Building. The construction of a new resilient EOC and Operations Facility is needed to protect the facility and community-wide operations against the impacts of severe weather or natural disasters. The project will also benefit the environment by preventing potential impacts from backups in the distribution system or the release of untreated wastewater into the ground and nearby natural resources.

A **TRAIL-GO** grant application was submitted to the FDEP requesting \$200,000 for the Biscayne Everglades Greenway Trail Crosswalks project. This project includes the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at SW 162 Avenue, SW 152 Avenue, and SW 147 Avenue where the multi-use trail along the South Florida Water Management District canal crosses City of Homestead roads. The scope of services also includes street lighting, at the crossing locations to illuminate the area and increases the pedestrian and bicyclist visibility at night. By clearly marking where pedestrians can cross, they enhance the visibility, increase driver awareness; therefore, reduce the risk of accidents and collisions with vehicles.



RECRUITMENT UPDATES

The Human Resources Department is actively working to fill City vacancies.

For the month of August, there was:

- Job applications processed- **250**
- Hired employees- **7**
 - Permit Clerk - **1**
 - Part-Time Recreation Leaders I for Parks and Recreation Department - **3**
 - Assistant Director for Innovation and Technology Department- **1**
 - Police dispatcher Trainee - **1**
 - 1City Planner - **1**

Currently, the City has **73** vacancies.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

On August 13th, 2024, the Human Resources department held Safety Training classes. This month's topic was **Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Hazard Communication**.

The Next Generation of Leaders

The Human Resources Department hosted the final presentation for the inaugural Summer College Internship Program in early August. During the event, interns had the opportunity to share their experiences with an audience of their mentors, who presented them with certificates of completion in recognition of their participation. City manager, Zerry Ihekwaba also attended and offered some insightful advice as they head to their next career journey.



The interns gained valuable experience working across various departments, including the City Clerk's Office, City Manager's Office, Emergency Management, Human Resources, Innovation and Technology Department, Parks & Recreation, Public Information Office, Public Works, and Electric Utilities.



On August 22nd, 2024, held the **2nd Quarter Employee Birthday Luncheon** for employees whose birthdays are in April, May, & June. Employees were able to share a meal with their fellow birthday celebrators and play Bingo and spin the Wheel of Prizes for a chance to win some birthday prizes.

Life Scan Testing began on August 26, 2024, and includes all Police Officers and select classifications. This testing will continue until September 20, 2024.

The employee newsletter, **The City Scoop, Volume 2**, was issued on August 26th, 2024, highlighting departmental and individual City employees' achievements which included several graduations from bachelors' and graduate programs via the City's Tuition Reimbursement program.

Homestead Elected Officials Pension Board Meeting and the Homestead General Employees' Pension Board Meeting were both held on August 29, 2024.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



The Innovation & Technology Department would like to welcome our new Assistant Director Juan M. Lopez, CPTM. Mr. Lopez holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and an Associate Degree in Computer Programming and Analysis both with honors from Broward College.

Additionally, he holds several certifications, including an Advanced Technical Certificate in Network Administration, an Information Technology Management Certificate, and a Computer Programming Specialist certification. In 2023, he obtained his Certified Public Technology Manager (CPTM) certification from Florida State University.

Mr. Lopez has more than 8 years in government experience, his proficiencies are around ERP systems, land management permitting systems, telecommunications and telephony, databases, and audio/video tools. In his spare time, Juan loves to play video games, travel, and play with his dog.

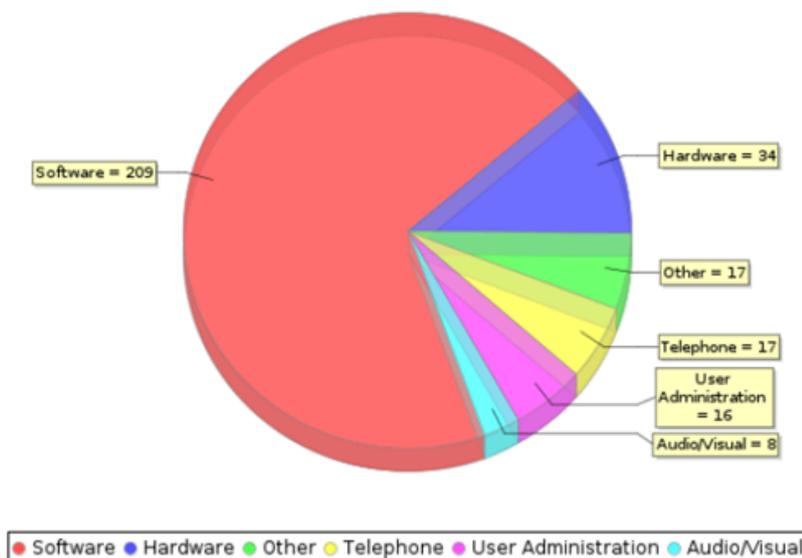
OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The Innovation and Technology Department is in the process of upgrading the Wi-Fi infrastructure on the 3rd floor of City Hall. This project includes replacing and expanding the Wi-Fi network to improve coverage, reduce dropouts, and lower maintenance costs. It will also provide secure Wi-Fi for city employees while offering a separate public network for visitors. The necessary equipment has been ordered, and new wiring services have been procured.

Helpdesk Ticketing Statistics:

IT closed a total of **301** tickets.

BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY AND PRIORITY



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department has been actively improving and enhancing facilities across the city. Recent updates include:



Harris Field Park:

Parks staff received new ballfield maintenance equipment and began addressing the infield edges to improve playability.



Playground Upgrades:

The playground shades at JD Redd Park and Mayor Roscoe Warren Municipal Park were replaced this month, providing better protection from the sun for visitors.



Beach Volleyball Courts:

At Mayor Roscoe Warren Municipal Park, the beach volleyball courts were refreshed with new nets, post pads, and three truckloads of fresh sand.



Fleet Expansion:

The department received an order of four Ford Maverick Pick-Up trucks that had been on back-order since November 2023.

SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

The Department hosted the Teen Movie Night at Losner Park featuring Transformers: Ride of the Beats movie. The event had a great turnout!

CIP PROJECT UPDATE

JD Redd Park - Roof Replacement

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: Procurement is working with legal to resolve the PO language issue with the vendor.

Percentage Completion: 0%

Expected Completion Date: TBD upon PO issuance

Harris Field Park - Baseball Restroom Renovations

Current Phase: Permitting

Key Milestones Achieved: An additional plan revision was submitted to the Building Department on August 28th, 2024.

Percentage Completion: 20%

Expected Completion Date: 90 Days after Permit issuance

JD Redd Park - Door Replacements

Current Phase: Substantial Completion

Key Milestones Achieved: Vendor has installed doors and roll-ups. A final walk-through will be performed on September 3rd.

Percentage Completion: 95%

Expected Completion Date: 09/03/24

James Archer Smith Splashpad Renovation

Current Phase: Permitting

Key Milestones Achieved: The splashpad equipment and park amenities for the area are already on site at Parks and Rec Yard. Currently working with Architect for plan revisions from building department comments.

Percentage Completion: 60%

Expected Completion Date: 60 Days after Permit issuance



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Uniform Patrol:

The Homestead Police Department Uniform Patrol Division has sworn in **4** new Police Officers and welcomed one new Corrections Officer. Throughout the month, the department conducted TASER training for both recertification and new certifications, holding eight classes with nine officers per class, for a total of **72** officers certified. Additionally, K9 Officer Rivera and his partner successfully completed a nine-week training course, earning certification as a gun detection team.

Community Policing Unit:

On August 6, the Community Policing Unit (CPU) met with Representation from the New Hope Organization in efforts to build upon our current relationship to combat Homelessness and mental illness in the community.

August 9, 2024- CPU attended and participated in a “Back to School Fair” in the Vineyards community.

August 13, 2024-Back to School shopping extravaganza. The “Keys 4 Greatness” Foundation chose five deserving students from the Police Athletic League (PAL) and Police Explorer programs and treated them to a shopping trip for school supplies and uniforms at our local Target. The Community Policing unit participated in escorting the youth and family as they shopped.



August 17, 2024-CPU and PAL members participated in the City’s “Back to School Bash” held at Losner Park.

August 31, 2024-CPU participated in the “Pledging for a Safer Future” Town Hall Meeting.



PROCUREMENT & FLEET MANAGEMENT

Procurement has continued to work with OpenGov to assist in finalizing the contract module and anticipates completion by September 30th.

The Procurement & Contract Services will be closed to perform end of year inventory commencing September 24th through September 30th.



The Fleet Division will also be closed on September 30th to complete their end of year inventory.

CIP PROJECT UPDATE

Procurement:

In Progress

Phase II Construction of New Windows

Current Phase: Permitting

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

Expected Completion Date: 60 - 90 days

Fleet Division:

In Progress

Forklift Replacement

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

Expected Completion Date: 09/30/24

Shop Extractors

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

Expected Completion Date: 09/30/24

Garage Door Motors and Door

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

Expected Completion Date: 09/30/24



Anticipated to be moved to FY 2025

EV Charging Station Infrastructure

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

Charging Station for Electric Vehicles

Current Phase: Bidding

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 0%

CIP PROJECT UPDATE

In Progress

FTA Grant- Roadway and Transit Improvements

Current Phase: Design

Key Milestones Achieved: N/A

Percentage Completion: 60%

Project Description:

Installation of new sidewalks and ADA ramps for pedestrian connectivity on SW 2 Ave. through SW 5 Ave. and NW 4 Ave. between SW 4 St and Mowry Dr.; bus shelters (20- locations) and Krome Avenue (between MDC Busway and NW 4 St.) roadway, drainage, landscaping and lighting improvements.

Traffic Signal Installation- SW 152 Avenue & Alex Muxo Jr. Blvd

Current Phase: Permitting

Key Milestones Achieved: Award of Construction contract to AUM construction Inc., on August 21, 2024.

Percentage Completion: 20%

Expected Completion Date: 8-10 months once approved

Project Description:

The project encompasses several key infrastructure upgrades aimed at improving safety and functionality. This includes installing new traffic signal mast arms with pedestrian signals, milling and resurfacing asphalt, adding new pavement markings and signage, and installing streetlights by Florida Power and Light (FPL) to enhance safety and visibility.

SOLID WASTE | HPS

The Solid Waste Department has partnered with our supercan manufacturer to participate in a recycling rewards program. Through this initiative, decommissioned supercans are salvaged, ground into flake material, and repurposed into the production of new supercans.

Key outcomes of the program include:

- 210 supercans reclaimed
 - (95-gallon residential garbage and recycling cans).
- 6,300 pounds of plastic diverted from landfills.
- A reduced carbon footprint for the City.
- Billing credits on future supercan orders.
- Cost savings on landfill disposal tipping fees.
- Extension of the life cycle of our waste containers.



COH EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Homestead recently hosted a successful Movies in the Park event at Losner Park, featuring Transformers: Rise of the Beasts. Residents gathered to enjoy the movie under the stars, bringing blankets and lawn chairs to watch the film on the lawn in front of a giant screen. The event fostered a sense of community as families and neighbors came together for a fun and relaxing evening outdoors.



Homestead kicked off the new school year with a Back-to-School Bash hosted by Councilwoman Jenifer Bailey at Losner Park. The event featured a giveaway of back-to-school supplies, fun games, free uniforms, and a variety of community and health resources to support local families. It was a great opportunity for residents to gather, prepare for the school year, and enjoy a day of family-friendly activities.



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