**MINUTES**
**City of Cocoa**
**Mayor's Town Hall Meeting**

**June 15, 2021**

The Mayor's Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at the Cocoa Civic Center, 430 Delannoy Ave., in Cocoa, Florida 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Goins provided the invocation and Councilmember Dyal led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PRESENT: | Michael C. Blake | Mayor |
| | James Goins | Deputy Mayor |
| | Rip Dyal | Councilmember |
| | Lavander Hearn | Councilmember |
| | Lorraine Koss | Councilmember |
| | Stockton Whitten | City Manager |
| | Monica Arsenault | Assistant City Clerk |

ABSENT:

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew Fuhrer, Assistant City Manager; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Evander Collier, Police Chief; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; Robert Bobay, Police Lieutenant; and Abby Diaz, Assistant Public Works Director.

II. Welcome by Mayor Blake

III. Introductions of Council & Staff by Mayor Blake and City Manager Whitten

IV. Project Updates:

Assistant City Manager Fuhrer shared the following updates on Public Works projects:

- High Point Infiltration Project (Phase 2) – Completed
- Phase 1 Roadway Resurfacing Project (4.56 Lane Miles) - Completed
- Cocoa Village Stamped Asphalt Crosswalks –In Progress
- Police Department Renovations -In Progress
- Fiske and Broadmoor Acres Drainage Project (FEMA Grant) –Agreement has been executed. CST anticipated to begin later this year, pending FEMA review bid package
- Phase 2 Roadway Resurfacing Project (4.96 Lane Miles)–Anticipated start date in August
- Fleet Fuel Tank Replacement Project –Anticipated start date in August
- Parks Improvements (City-wide) –Currently in Planning Phase with Architect
- Cocoa Village Dredging and Boat Ramp Project (FIND Grant) –Currently in design, CST next year
- Diamond Square Stormwater Piping Retrofit and Interconnect –Currently in design, CST next year
- Bracco STA Outfall Upsizing –Currently in design, CST next year

Additionally, Assistant City Manager Fuhrer shared an update on the City's solid waste contract. He explained that the current contract is set to expire on September 30, 2021. Council approved to negotiate a contract with the current provider, Waste Management of Florida, as opposed to soliciting bids due to the cost increases recently seen from new contracts around the State. The proposed residential rates between the City and Contractor have been held to a rate at or below $17.50, per Council's direction. Residential bulk green waste calls will be routed through the City to Waste Management for service requests.

The new contract is currently in legal review and is anticipated to be complete by the end of June. Once legal review and pricing is finalized, the contract will come to Council for final approval in late July or early August. The new contract will initiate on October 1, 2021, for a base length of seven years.

Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director, shared information on the City's new program, Upstart Cocoa. She pointed out that this is a small business program that offers a three-year deferred forgivable loan. The City has partnered with WeVenture who will offer a twenty-four-week program for successful business training. Ms. Neuterman also noted that this program is

geared specifically towards minority-owned and or women-owned small businesses that are for-profit.

Furthermore, Ms. Neuterman discussed the American Rescue Plan and how it helped to rescue Save-A-Lot. There was a grand re-opening celebration on Friday, May 28th and it was a great event.

Lastly, Ms. Neuterman reviewed the City's housing development projects. There are four single family developments and four multi-family development projects being built in the City.

Evander Collier, Chief of Police, shared crime stats, strategies and highlights of the Police Department. In 2021, there was an increase in the number of violent crimes reported. There was a total of three hundred fifty-seven violent crimes reported year to date which is an increase of seventeen percent compared to 2020. The number of property crimes have also increased by thirty-four percent from 2020. The total number of arrests for violent crimes in 2021 was twenty-nine and property crime arrests decreased by twenty four percent from 2020.

Chief Collier highlighted significant cases in 2021 which included a citizen complaint involving a credit card skimmer, a homicide related to a shooting, a kidnapping where the suspect was arrested and an armed robbery where two arrests were made in connection to the crime.

Lastly, Chief Collier discussed crime reduction strategies. These strategies include:

- Improving crime analysis data sharing (internally and externally)
- Monthly crime meeting with command staff
- Adjusting road patrol work hours to deter staffing issues
- Community monthly meetings
- Community walks
- Working closely with Code Enforcement and Public Works to identify dilapidated areas city wide
- Working directly with victim services to identify all the services available to the public with the goal to better assist the community's needs

Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief, provided an update on current Covid-19 statistics. He encouraged everyone to follow CDC guidelines.

He also discussed hurricane preparedness. He expressed the importance of having a plan ahead of time which should include where to keep pets, storing important documents in a safe, knowing where your local shelters are and making sure you are stocked up on any medications you must have. It is also a good idea to have at least five days' worth of food and water on hand along with batteries, candles and other common-sense items.

Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director, gave a budget development update. She noted that the fiscal year runs October 1st to September 30th each year. The budget must be balanced per Florida Statute and must be adopted by October 1st.

During the budget process the following must be adopted:

- Proposed millage rate
- Proposed budget
- Tentative millage rate and budget
- Final millage rate and budget
- Must be completed by dates established in TRIM

Ms. Bowman reviewed all of the previous budget meetings the City has had so far this year and what was discussed. She also provided the FY22 budget calendar for upcoming meetings.

Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager and PR Specialist, shared upcoming special events as follows:

- Juneteenth – June 19, 2021 from 11am-1pm @ Riverfront Park
- Independence Day Celebration – July 4, 2021 from 8-9:30pm @ Riverfront Park
- School Supply Drive at City facilities for the entire month of July
- Food Truck event and School Supply Giveaway – August 7, 2021 from 11am-2pm @ Provost Park

Mayor Blake opened the meeting up for public questions and comments.

Mr. Ed Lanni asked about the construction of The Cottages and why it is taking so long. In response, Ms. Neuterman explained they are moving slower than staff would like but they are slowly making progress.

A citizen wished to point out, on the topic of hurricane preparedness, that people need to secure boats and other marina items to avoid any hurricane damage similar to what happened when Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma hit.

Mr. John Niland inquired about the fluoride in the City's water, to which Jack Walsh, Utilities Director, provided an explanation.

Mr. Aleck Greenwood asked about the RFP for 915 Florida Avenue. In response, City Manager Whitten shared that a RFP has not been put out yet as the City is working through litigation.

Mr. Gregg Stoll asked if the City will be increasing their impact fees as he thought a new bill would be signed in Tallahassee. In response, Ms. Bowman provided an explanation.

Ms. Senger also wished to point out that the City is now accepting applications for the next Citizen's Academy. Applications will be accepted until September.

Mayor Blake concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming out and participating in the meeting.

**The Mayor's Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

**Michael C. Blake, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

City of Cape Coral SEAL FLORIDA

**Carie E. Shealy, MMC, City Clerk**
**(Transcribed by M. Arsenault, Asst. City Clerk)**




# Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

June 15, 2021

# Agenda

Welcome/Introductions – Mayor Blake

- Welcome
- Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- City Council, City Manager, Staff Introductions

Project Updates

- Public Works Updates
- UpStart Cocoa Program
- Save-A-Lot Reopening
- Housing Update

Other Topics of Discussion

- Police Department Update
- Hurricane Preparedness & COVID Updates
- Update on the Budget Process
- Upcoming Special Events

Questions/Citizen input



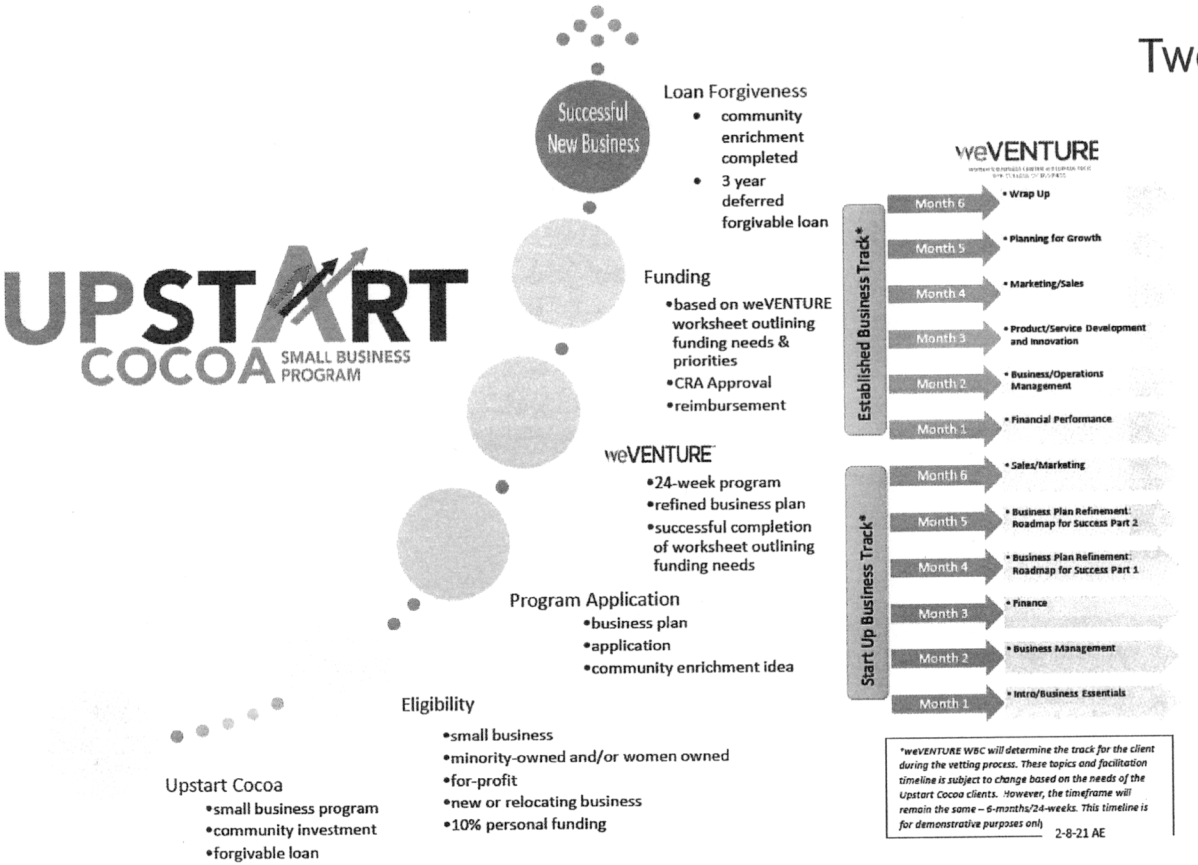
# Public Works Project Updates

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- Phase 1 Roadway Resurfacing Project ( 4.56 Lane Miles) - Completed
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# Solid Waste Contract Updates

- The current contract is set to expire on September 30, 2021
- Council approved to negotiate a contract with the current provider, Waste Management of Florida, as opposed to soliciting bids due to the cost increases recently seen from new contracts around the State
- The proposed residential rates between the City and Contractor have been held to a rate at or below $17.50, per Council's direction
- Residential bulk green waste calls will be routed through the City to Waste Management for service requests
- The new contract is currently in legal review and is anticipated to be complete by the end of June.
- Once legal review and pricing is finalized, the contract will come to Council for final approval in late July or early August
- The new contract will initiate on October 1, 2021, for a base length of 7 years

# UPSTART COCOA SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM



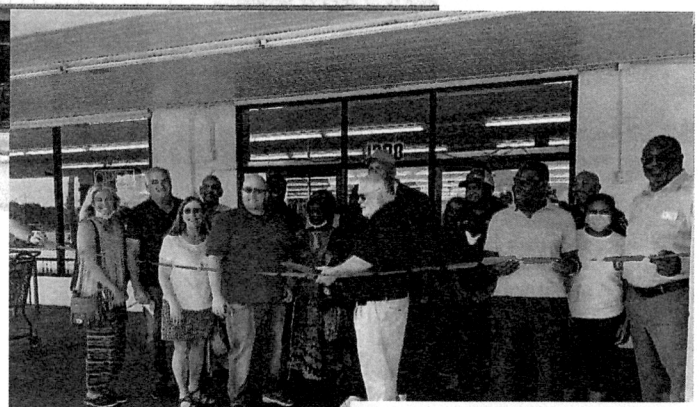

## Two Loans

- Citywide
- Diamond Square
- 55 Applications
  - 21 Business Plans

COCOA FLORIDA

# American Rescue Plan – Save A Lot






## In a low-income area of Cocoa, there's new hope for a shuttered store amid food desert fears

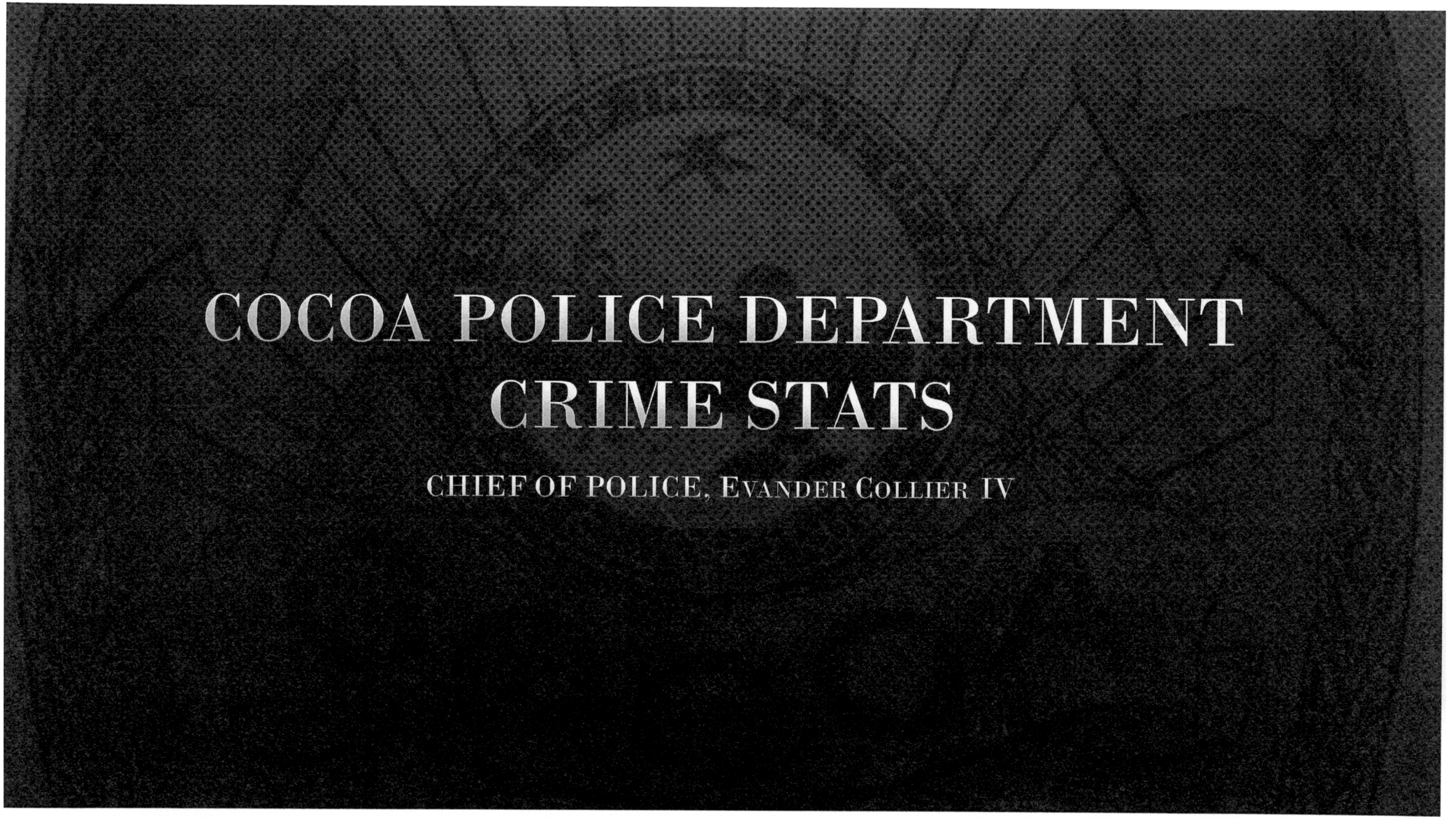
**Britt Kennerly** Florida Today

Published 8:00 a.m. ET Apr. 22, 2021

COCOA FLORIDA

# City of Cocoa Housing Development Projects

| Project | District | Number of Units |
|---|---|---|
| Lakeside Palms West (single family) | 1 | 86 |
| Cocoa Grand Apts. (multi-family) | 1 | 268 |
| Riverwalk (single family) | 2 | 26 |
| Adamson Creek Ph 1C (single family) | 3 | 155 |
| Adamson Creek Ph 2 (single family) | 3 | 30 |
| Cirrus Apts. (multi-family) | 3 | 280 |
| Integra Apts. (multi-family) | 3 | 249 |
| Quail Ridge Apts. (multi-family) | 3 | 41 |


COCOA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME STATS
CHIEF OF POLICE, EVANDER COLLIER IV

# COCOA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OBJECTIVES:

- Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Stats
- Significant Cases Highlights
- Crime Reduction Strategies

# Cocoa Police Department

## UCR Crime Totals & Comparison (2020 – 2021)

| UCR Offenses | *2020* | 2021 | % Change | 2021 YTD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Homicide** | 1 | 1 | n/a | **1** |
| **Rape/Sex Offenses** | 0 | 6 | 100% | **6** |
| **Robbery** | 17 | 19 | 12% | **19** |
| **Aggravated Assaults** | 63 | 56 | -11% | **56** |
| **Simple Assault** | 225 | 275 | 22% | **275** |
| **Burglary** | 41 | 66 | 61% | **66** |
| **Larceny** | 311 | 399 | 28% | **399** |
| **Motor Vehicle Thefts** | 23 | 37 | 61% | **37** |

*The totals YTD for 2020 reflect the same time period as of 2021 YTD*
(January 1ST through June 10th)

**NOTE: These totals are subject to change if a case report is reported or edited after this information is finalized and presented.**

- In 2021, there was an increase in the number of violent crimes reported. Violent crimes include crimes against persons. There were a total of 357 violent crimes reported year to date. This is an increase of 17% compared to 2020.
- The number of property crimes have also increased by 34% from 2020.
- The total number of arrests for violent crimes in 2021 was 29.
- Property crime arrests decreased by 24% from 2020.

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

# Cocoa Police Department

## Significant Cases Highlights

- Multi Agencies- On May 6, 2021, a subject stole a police vehicle and led officers on high speed chase, then stole a second vehicle and led officers on another high speed chase. **Suspect was stopped in Volusia County and taken into custody.**
- Citizen Complaint- On June 2, 2021, a Credit **Card skimmer** was found on a gas pump at 2009 North Cocoa Blvd., ongoing investigation.
- Homicide- On May 1, 2021, officers responded to a shooting. One subject was found deceased. **One person has been arrested during the course of the investigation.** Ongoing investigation.
- Kidnapping- On May 26, 2021, the suspect kidnapped two victims at knife point. **Patrol units were able to locate the suspect fleeing the area and suspect was arrested.**
- Armed Robbery- June 4, 2021, the victim was robbed at gunpoint and battered. **Two arrests were made in connection to the robbery.**

# Cocoa Police Department

## Crime Reduction Strategies

- Improve Crime Analysis data sharing (Internally & Externally)
- Monthly crime meeting with command personnel
- Adjust Road Patrol work hours to deter staffing issues and increase Law Enforcement proactivity
- Community monthly meetings
- Community walks
- Work closely with code enforcement and public works to identify dilapidated areas city wide
- Work directly with the victims services to identify all the services currently available to the public, with the goal to better assist our community's needs




# Hurricane Preparedness & COVID-19 Update

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, Jonathan Lamm

# Budget Development

- Fiscal year is 10/1 to 9/30
- Budget must be balanced per Florida Statutes
- Must be adopted by Oct. 1 of each year
- Must adopt during the budget process:
  - Proposed Millage Rate
  - Proposed Budget
  - Tentative Millage Rate and Budget
  - Final Millage Rate and Budget
  - Must be completed by dates established in TRIM

# Previous Meetings

- 4/16/21 Budget Priorities Workshop
  - Reviewed FY21 actuals to-date; FY22 revenue projections/increases in FY22 expenditures , American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), use of fund balance, FY22 budget priorities
- 4/19/21- Budget Priorities Workshop #2
  - Reviewed possible projects to utilize the ARPA grant funding
- 4/26/21 – Council Workshop
  - Reviewed ARPA, FY22 revenue projections/increases in FY22 expenditures, Parks Master plan, accepted FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant, use of Assigned fund balance ($8.8M), FY22 budget priorities
- 6/1/21 – Budget Workshop #3
  - Reviewed ARPA Council priorities, parks update, FY22 revenue projections/increases in FY22 expenditures
- 7/8/21 – Budget Workshop #4
  - Council priorities, FY22 revenue projections/increases in FY22 expenditures, FY22 budget

COCOA FLORIDA

# FY 2022 Budget Calendar

**July 8, 2021**
- Budget Workshop

**July 20, 2021**
- Tentative Millage (TRIM)

**August 10, 2021**
- First Fire & Stormwater Assessment and Water/Sewer Public Hearings

**August 24, 2021**
- Final Fire & Stormwater Assessment Public Hearings

**September 14, 2021**
- First Millage/Budget Hearing

**September 22, 2021**
- Final Millage/Budget Hearing

COCOA FLORIDA

# Special Events

Juneteenth

- June 19, 2021, 11am-1pm, Riverfront Park

Independence Day Celebration with a concert from the Brevard Symphony Orchestra and Fireworks over the Indian River

- July 4, 2021, 8-9:30pm, Riverfront Park

School Supply Drive and Food Truck Event

- School supply drive the month of July at City facilities
- Food Truck event and school supply give-away, August 7, 2021, 11am-2pm Provost Park




# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS