



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-063

Date: July 8, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: FY 2022 Proposed Budget Neighbor Engagement Tool Live

The City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to providing continual opportunities for neighbor engagement and participation. Balancing Act is a tool specifically designed for governments to engage their residents in the budget process while promoting financial transparency and accountability. The tool enables neighbors to view a model of the City's Proposed General Fund Budget, modify the allocated funding, and see how their changes affect the overall budget.

The Office Management and Budget Office has prepared a Balancing Act simulation based upon FY 2022 General Fund revenue forecasts and proposed operating budgets. The simulation includes all program modification (decision package) requests submitted by departments and indicates the decision package requests that are included in the FY 2022 Proposed Budget. Balancing Act is available on the City's website, <https://fortlauderdale.abalancingact.com/>, and works best with Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Using the software tool, neighbors will be able to interact with a model of the FY 2022 Proposed General Fund Budget to: 1) increase or decrease department allocations, 2) include or remove departments' decision package requests, and 3) adjust policy-driven revenue sources (i.e., the City's property tax rate or the Fire Assessment Fee). Through this interactive exercise, neighbors become more informed about the City's budgeting process and build trust on where the money comes from and where the money goes. The tool also allows the City to collect neighbor input and recommendations for a balanced (or unbalanced) FY 2022 Proposed Budget. Neighbor recommendations and comments will be taken into consideration prior to the final City Commission adoption in September 2021.

c: Tarlesha W. Smith, Esq., Assistant City Manager
Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk
John C. Herbst, City Auditor
Department Directors
Budget Advisory Board