



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-044

Date: March 12, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Mar 15, 2024 12:47 EDT)

Re: Public Safety Staffing Benchmarking

In response to a City Commission request, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide benchmarking data to show how the City of Fort Lauderdale's public safety staffing compares to other municipalities.

The purpose of this analysis is to summarize the City of Fort Lauderdale's Public Safety personnel level to Fort Lauderdale's resident population and average daily population, compared to other select cities in Florida. The scope of the benchmarking is to compare the number of sworn police and fire positions in each City based upon resident population and average daily population.

Definitions:

The 2022 resident population is based on the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. The average daily population is calculated by a daily average of the total number of residents, workers, and visitors at any given hours based on Placer AI analytics data for September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023. Residents for purposes of this comparison are individuals with a registered Fort Lauderdale residence; workers are employees traveling to the businesses in Fort Lauderdale for work; and visitors are individuals that do not live or work in Fort Lauderdale. Staffing level information was collected from published Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget documents for each City.

Key Findings:

Overall

- In 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale's residential population was 183,146.
- In 2022, the City of Fort Lauderdale's average daily population was 302,072.

Police Positions

- In FY 2022 the City of Fort Lauderdale's Police Department had an approved staffing level of 726 of which 530 were sworn police positions.

- Fort Lauderdale's ratio of sworn police positions per 1,000 residents is 2.9, which is higher compared to benchmarked cities' average ratio of 2.1.
- Fort Lauderdale's ratio of sworn police positions per 1,000 average daily population is 1.8, which is higher compared to benchmarked cities' average ratio of 1.6.

Fire Positions

- In FY 2022 the City of Fort Lauderdale's Fire Rescue Department had an approved staffing level of 492 of which 429 were sworn fire positions.
- Fort Lauderdale's ratio of sworn fire positions per 1,000 residents is 2.3, which is higher compared to benchmarked cities' average ratio of 1.6.
- Fort Lauderdale's ratio of sworn fire positions per 1,000 average daily population is 1.4, which is higher compared to benchmarked cities' average ratio of 1.1.

In summary, the City of Fort Lauderdale's public safety staffing levels compare favorably to other Florida Cities selected for benchmarking, even when adjusted for average daily population. If you have further questions about this analysis, please contact Laura Reece, Director of the Office of Management and Budget at lreece@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment: City of Fort Lauderdale Public Safety Staffing Benchmarking

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbrosio, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers

City of Fort Lauderdale Public Safety Staffing Benchmarking for 2022

City	Resident Population ¹	Average Daily Population ²	Sworn Police FTEs	Sworn Fire FTEs	Police Department FTEs	Fire Department FTEs	Sworn Police Positions / 1,000 Residents Population	Sworn Fire Positions / 1,000 Residents Population	Sworn Police Positions / 1,000 Average Daily Population	Sworn Fire Positions / 1,000 Average Daily Population	FY 2022 Millage Rate
Hollywood	152,650	120,092	327	242	459	281	2.14	1.59	2.72	2.02	7.4810
Miami Beach	80,017	176,812	433	216	533	414	5.41	2.70	2.45	1.22	5.7626
Port St. Lucie	231,790	128,324	273	N/A ³	361	N/A ³	1.18	N/A ³	2.13	N/A ³	4.8807
Fort Myers	95,949	120,254	248	154	351	162	2.58	1.61	2.06	1.28	7.5875
Cape Coral	216,992	147,370	289	247	390	263	1.33	1.14	1.96	1.68	6.2500
Pompano Beach	112,302	161,099	N/A ³	223	N/A ³	252	N/A ³	1.99	N/A ³	1.38	5.1875
St. Petersburg	261,256	408,853	600	358	826	391	2.30	1.37	1.47	0.88	6.6550
Tampa	398,173	637,874	953	732	1,246	799	2.39	1.84	1.49	1.15	6.2076
Hialeah ⁴	220,292	240,318	326	249	441	264	1.48	1.13	1.36	1.04	6.3018
Clearwater	117,027	197,821	246	196	375	221	2.10	1.67	1.24	0.99	5.9550
Boca Raton	99,009	182,684	216	242	327	258	2.18	2.44	1.18	1.32	3.5789
Palm Bay	129,234	154,907	170	125	262	136	1.32	0.97	1.10	0.81	7.5995
Pembroke Pines	169,876	233,937	291	216	374	220	1.71	1.27	1.24	0.92	5.6690
Gainesville	145,214	256,927	286	191	405	204	1.97	1.32	1.11	0.74	5.5000
Coral Springs	133,369	190,609	215	186	315	205	1.61	1.39	1.13	0.98	6.0232
Miramar	137,228	268,588	229	150	311	165	1.67	1.09	0.85	0.56	7.1172
Fort Lauderdale⁴	183,146	302,072	530	429	726	492	2.89	2.34	1.75	1.42	4.1193
Municipalities Average⁵							2.09	1.57	1.57	1.13	6.1098

¹ Resident Population is based on the annual estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Florida: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022 (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division).

² Average Daily Population represents the average total number of residents, workers, and visitors at any given hour of the day. Figures are based on Placer AI analytics from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023, which differs from the Resident Populations reporting period.

³ N/A indicates that the municipality contracts out with the County or some other governmental entity for these public safety services.

⁴ Fort Lauderdale's sworn police positions have increased to 564 with the adoption of the FY 2024 budget. Sworn fire positions have increased to 454.

⁵ Average excludes Fort Lauderdale






Commission Memo 24-044 Public Safety Staffing Benchmarking

Final Audit Report

2024-03-15

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