

# City of Aventura



# Annual Report 2008



# City of Aventura



## Office of the City Mayor

Dear City of Aventura Residents:

It is my pleasure as your Mayor to present the City's Annual Report for 2008. It has been four years since you elected me to the Office of Mayor. During that period of time, much has been addressed in response to your concerns and we will continue to do so on an ongoing basis.

Now more than ever, our goal is to meet the needs of today's residents, while both literally and figuratively planting the seeds that will grow to better sustain our community. It has always been the vision of your City Commission to maintain a City where one can live, work and play by ensuring that all the amenities are in place to provide these opportunities to all age groups. This can be witnessed by the growth of the City's park system, the creation of a charter school, the activities available at the Community Recreation Center and the expansion of our free shuttle bus service. In light of these economic times and increased fuel costs it is even more important now to continue our efforts to provide a sustainable community for our residents to enjoy.

To that end, much has been accomplished this past year to make the City's new Arts and Cultural Center a reality. The 325-seat, 15,000-square-foot facility will provide a variety of performing arts and cultural programming for all age groups. It can be easily accessed from the Community Recreation Center on NE 188th Street. The City entered into an agreement with the Broward Performing Arts Center Authority to provide startup services and manage the facility. The City Commission created an Arts and Cultural Center Advisory Board that will provide valuable input. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2009 and be completed by April 2010. The design includes the elements necessary to be classified as an environmentally friendly "green" building. The Center will provide opportunities for our residents to enjoy a variety of events within our community and expand drama and arts programming at our Charter School. The majority of funding for the proposed facility will come from the Miami-Dade County's GOB Program.

The City Commission and I have expanded our "Go Green" efforts in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change. This past year the City recognized those businesses and condominiums that developed and implemented programs to reduce energy consumption and encourage more recycling. We also introduced single-stream recycling containers at all City buildings and parks. This eliminates the need for sorting your recyclables. Residents are encouraged to use these containers at the City parks. We have also purchased two electric cars that will be on the road shortly. In addition, we purchased a third hybrid vehicle, which illustrates our ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and gasoline consumption by replacing low-mileage vehicles with smaller, fuel-efficient ones. Our landscaping contractor has also "Gone Green" by introducing LP gas-powered lawnmowers. These mowers do not use any gasoline, produce less greenhouse gases, and are much quieter to operate. Over time, these initiatives will also reduce our annual operating costs and negative impact on the environment.

The Aventura City of Excellence School obtained an "A" rating again from the State of Florida and has been recognized nationally for its character education programs. We are proud of its accomplishments.

The constitutional amendment reducing property taxes that was passed by the voters in January 2008 has adversely affected local governments throughout Florida. In addition, the national economic recession characterized by decreased property taxes and sales tax revenue will also have an effect on the City of Aventura. We recognize that this situation impacts all our residents and businesses and want to assure you that the City Commission and I are committed to providing quality services to this community at the lowest possible cost. These are challenging times for all of us. Your City government has taken steps in the past and continues to adhere to sound fiscal policies to place us in a better position to respond to the economic downturn.

As we begin 2009, I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for its valuable support during the past year as we addressed many difficult and important issues on behalf of the future of Aventura.

Sincerely,

Susan Gottlieb  
Mayor

City of Aventura Government Center  
19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, Florida 33180

Main Number .....	305-466-8900
Main Fax Number .....	305-466-8939
Mayor and Commission .....	305-466-8901
City Manager .....	305-466-8910
City Clerk .....	305-466-8901
Finance .....	305-466-8920
Community Services.....	305-466-8930
Community Development .....	305-466-8940
Police Department .....	305-466-8989
Charter School .....	305-466-1499
Job Hotline .....	305-466-8955
Customer Service (Office of the City Manager).....	305-466-8911

## City Commission



Zev Auerbach



Bob Diamond



Teri Holzberg



Billy Joel



Michael Stern



Luz Urbáez-Weinberg



















