



A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY: 2012 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT IN BRIEF

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On November 20, 2012, I presented the 2012 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. It is now my pleasure, as Leon County Administrator, to present this report to the residents of our community.



Vincent S. Long

Fiscal Year 2012 was another economically challenging year for Leon County government and for those we serve. Not surprisingly, the continued decline in property and sales tax revenues made it difficult for the Board of County Commissioners to balance the budget and maintain quality services. The recently passed FY 2012/2013 Leon County budget of \$223,090,504 represents a \$12.5 million decrease (-5.3%) from the prior year. Since FY 2007/2008, the Board has reduced the budget by \$61.6 million or 22%. Leon County continues to rank among the most efficient counties. Among like-sized Florida counties, Leon County once again has the lowest net budget per resident, and the lowest number of employees per 1,000 residents.

It was also a year of change for Leon County government. We introduced a "People Focused, Performance Driven" culture, which is reflected in everything we do, and continued to focus upon proving our value, conveying greater relevance, and strengthening partnerships. We instituted a new strategic planning process, guided by the Board's Vision for the Leon County community and significant citizen involvement. This process culminated with the alignment of the optimized resources of Leon County government with the County's top priorities for strengthening the local economy, protecting our precious natural environment, enhancing our unique quality of life, and continuously improving how we govern.

I am proud to report that, even in the most difficult times, in 2012 Leon County has proven to be a government that citizens can believe in and others can benchmark against. What follows are excerpts from the annual report. I invite you to see the full report at www.LeonCountyFL.gov and I always welcome your feedback.

PRESERVING LIFE, IMPROVING HEALTH, PROMOTING SAFETY

Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) made 23,593 patient transports in 2012, a 42% increase in transports since 2004, which was its first year of operation after Tallahassee Memorial Hospital discontinued its ambulance service. EMS' *Heart Ready* initiative has improved cardiac arrest survival rates to 33.6% upon arrival at the emergency room, which is 400 times better than the 7% national average. EMS hosted *Press the Chest* and *CPR Saturday* events, which trained more than 450 residents in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).



INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING AND A LIFE OF LEARNING

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System grew in Fiscal Year 2012 with the opening of three branch libraries and more than 1 million visitors - greater than the population of Rhode Island. The Lake Jackson Branch Library relocated to a larger, newly renovated space within Huntington Oaks Plaza, through the reuse of a vacant big box store, which will anchor a catalytic sense of place initiative for the surrounding area. The Eastside Branch Library, located on Pedrick Pond Park, was constructed to meet LEED standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).



The Woodville Branch Library was constructed as an expansion to the Woodville Community Center.



SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY AND SPURRING PRIVATE INVESTMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

Construction of the Public Safety Complex, in partnership with the City of Tallahassee and the Leon County Sheriff's Office, is well underway and demonstrates our commitments to emergency response and readiness. It will house the public safety emergency communications center, a regional transportation management center, Leon County's EMS and Emergency Operations Center, and the City's Fire Department when it opens in 2013. Strong partnerships and public investments were also evident with the adoption of the Countywide Minimum Environmental Regulations Ordinance, in partnership with the City and a citizen committee, and projects like Mahan Drive, Cascade Park and Gaines Street revitalization, which paved the way for significant private investment to follow. Such projects inspire confidence that Leon County government effectively engages citizens and efficiently executes projects. With this backdrop, citizens on the Sales Tax Committee, convened in 2012, could imagine the possibilities for the future of our community.



INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY AND CREATING JOBS (FY12 & FY13)

Over the past two years, the Board has focused resources on maintaining jobs, investing in the community, and making local infrastructure improvements. The Board accelerated the construction schedule for many projects in response to the state of the local economy, particularly the construction industry.

PROJECTS	PROJECT COSTS	JOBS CREATED
Public Safety Complex (includes City and State funding)	\$45.0 million	414
Branch Libraries	\$4.6 million	43
Stormwater Improvements	\$14.2 million	130
Transportation Improvements	\$29.5 million	271
FY12 (Actual) & FY13 (Projected) Total Spending	\$93.3 million	858

Based on analysis performed by the Economic Development Council, for every \$1 million spent, 9.2 jobs are created; therefore, the job creation from capital project investments is 858 jobs.

Since their inception, Leon County has invested over \$15.6 million in the Frenchtown/Southside Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and the Downtown CRA. These CRAs, formed to revitalize downtown and areas to the north and south of downtown, partially funded major construction projects, including: Marriott Residence Inn (at Gaines St./Railroad Ave.), Aloft Hotel (at Call/Monroe Streets), Alliance Center (S. Monroe St.), College Town, Goodbread Hills (nearly 100 low and very low-income apartments), and Cascade Park.

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND ENGAGEMENT

Leon County engaged citizens as stakeholders in their County government as never before. The County initiated the *Citizen Engagement Series*, which provides unique and immersive ways for citizens and government to learn from each other and build a better community together. We launched a new website with features like *Your Checkbook*, which conveys our belief that citizens have the right to a transparent and accessible government and the blue *Citizens Connect* button, which brought online customer service to a new level. Then, with a new app, we took *Citizens Connect* mobile. Leon County received national recognition for such innovations, including *Sunshine Review's Sunny Award* for website transparency and open



government, and was deemed a *Citizen Engaged Community* by the Public Technology Institute for effectively using technology to provide fast, friendly and responsive service.

VALUING VETERANS

We stopped as a community to honor and thank our military and veterans, and helped better prepare those returning home for civilian life. Leon County launched the *30 Days of Thank You* campaign, leading up to the *Operation Thank You* downtown block party, opened the Leon County Veterans Resource Center to provide access to many resources under one roof, assisted more than 2,000 veterans in person and more than 16,600 by phone or mail, and facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than \$9.2 million in new awards. More than 30 unemployed veterans received money for retraining through the newly established Veterans Retraining Assistance Program since May 15th.

