



A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY: 2014 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT IN BRIEF

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On October 14, 2014, I presented the 2014 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.

In 2014, Leon County government continued to provide a stark contrast to what people may expect from government and what the citizens of Leon County actually get. As reflected in the 2014 Annual Report, people needed to look no further than their county government to find an example of government which doesn't hesitate to take the lead and to actively seek partnerships on important issues facing our community; one which is committed to being a powerful incubator for innovation, a catalyst for progress and a responsive, professional service provider.



Vincent S. Long

The Annual Report shows County employees living our "People Focused, Performance Driven" culture through our core practices, and our continued focus on aligning the optimized resources of Leon County government with the Board's top priorities: to grow and diversify our local economy; to be a responsible steward of our natural resources and protect our environment; to enhance Leon County's quality of life, so it is a place where people are healthy, safe and connected to their community; and to continuously improve how we govern.

The Annual Report highlights measures Leon County has taken to engage citizens as co-creators of their community; game changing infrastructure projects that came to life, sparking revitalization and private-sector investment; and strategic initiatives that are enhancing our quality of life and growing our tourism economy.

Through the vision and leadership provided by the Board of County Commissioners, and hard work of dedicated employees, I am proud to report that in 2014, Leon County has proven to be a government that our citizens can believe in and others can benchmark against. What follows are excerpts from the Annual Report. I invite you to read the full report and view the Annual Report video at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport and I always welcome your feedback.

PRESERVING LIFE, IMPROVING HEALTH, PROMOTING SAFETY

Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received 33,735 calls for service in 2014; a 24% increase since 2004, which was its first year of operation. 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, Train to Save a Life and CPR Sunday, training more than 1,400 residents in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Cardiac Survival Rate

7% National Average

33% Leon County



INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING AND A LIFE OF LEARNING

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System welcomed more than 1 million visitors in 2014, a number greater than the population of Rhode Island. Leon County residents checked out more than 1.9 million books and other media, and downloaded 57,000 eBooks and audio materials from its collection. To further increase access to digital resources, Leon County redesigned and modernized the library website, giving patrons easy access to a new online catalog and other resources. You may learn more about Leon County's libraries and download eBooks and audio books at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Library.



2014 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT VIDEO

This year's Annual Report video visually engages citizens in the accomplishments of their County government like never before by telling a year-long story of County services in the community.



To view the video, please visit:

www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport

TRANSFORMING & SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Through a public-private partnership with Domi Ventures, Leon County opened the new Domi Station business incubator in May 2014, providing missing entrepreneurial support to the startup business community at no operational cost to tax-payers. Also, in partnership with the City, Cascades Park opened in March 2014 to provide residents and tourists alike an opportunity to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. The Park also serves as an innovative stormwater facility, providing flood relief to downtown and nearby neighborhoods. Lastly, work concluded on the Leon County Sales Tax Committee, which after two years of public hearings and meetings involving over a thousand citizens, a list of future penny sales tax projects was approved by the County and City Commissions. If approved by voters in November, the penny sales tax projects will create and promote jobs and continue to improve our community for generations to come.



INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY AND CREATING JOBS (FY14 & FY15)

Over the past few years, the Board has focused resources on maintaining jobs, investing in the community, and making local infrastructure improvements. These steps include committing \$85.8 million towards capital projects. Based on analysis performed by the Economic Development Council, for every \$1 million spent, 9.2 jobs are created; therefore, 740 jobs were created from these capital project investments.



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT Return On Investment

Each dollar spent on Tourism generates many more for the local economy.



2013 data includes more categories for consideration, which accounts for the marked increase in ROI.

ENGAGING CITIZENS AS CO-CREATORS

The County partnered with the Village Square to create the Club of Honest Citizens. The forum was dedicated to promoting a true sense of attachment between citizens and their community, because we know this connection is one of the best predictors of the performance of public institutions, the economic success of communities and even the health and well-being of individuals. The theme of the Club of Honest Citizens was "if government is the problem, what is the solution?" Citizens were invited to participate in dialogues on the roles of County government and citizens in shaping the community. This created a forum for fierce community collaboration as citizens, County Commissioners, and County staff exchanged information and ideas, while building long-term and engaging relationships.



VALUING VETERANS

Leon County has a long tradition of supporting its veteran community, and was honored to be a partner on the inaugural Honor Flight Tallahassee for WWII Veterans; to host Operation Thank You to honor our World War II veterans; and to partner in Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Leon County's Veterans Services Division assisted almost 5,000 veterans with face-to-face consultations, and facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than \$8.8 million in new awards. The County also developed and approved funding for the Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides emergency financial assistance to help veterans meet critical, basic needs.

