





## » WE ARE COMMUNITY

*We are a neighborhood of neighborhoods.*

The character of our community is woven through the fabric of our neighborhoods. Today, in 2035, Fort Lauderdale has evolved into an exciting, healthy, friendly and close knit community. It is now common to see groups of diverse neighbors from across our City enjoying the sunshine as they walk together to board the Wave, go to work, attend school, or tend to their neighborhood **community garden**. They smile as they engage in friendly conversation about what awaits them at their destination, about their children's recent field trip to the **Fort Lauderdale Aquarium**, or about upcoming events in each of their neighborhoods. This dynamic interactive environment has become the norm in Fort Lauderdale. We are a neighborhood of neighborhoods, a community of communities, **each maintaining their own unique character**, but connected by the people that call this great place home.

A number of initiatives have been put in place to help nurture and develop the sense of community that is now enjoyed throughout the City. **Physical and visual barriers between neighborhoods have been removed**, creating a welcoming and inviting atmosphere and enabling neighbors to **move seamlessly from one neighborhood to the next**. Neighborhoods have developed into destinations that provide amenities that go far beyond traditional housing. Community safety is no longer a pressing issue, and with all new development projects required to include a percentage of reasonably priced units, everyone can find the perfect place to call home. We are community, inclusive and understanding of all segments of the population.

## How would you rate your neighborhood beauty and aesthetics?



In 2035, Fort Lauderdale offers a neighborhood for everyone. Major progress in neighborhood enhancement began as a result of **changes made to the City's Codes of Ordinances** in the late 2010s. These changes allowed neighborhood development to become more **mixed-use, diverse, sustainable, and affordable**. Transit-oriented developments helped many neighborhoods evolve to fully integrated destinations where neighbors are truly **living, working, and playing**. It is now common to see residences built above and adjacent to dining, shopping, and offices. Homes are equipped with the latest renewable energy features, including **solar panels** and **roof gardens**, and **neighborhood associations have a strong voice in the design of public parks** and outdoor community centers that collectively form a network of key neighborhood linkages. In addition, with the 2012 passage of a **community gardens** ordinance, nearly every neighborhood experiences the health and educational benefits of growing their own produce. As Fort Lauderdale grows and develops, we are proud of our community's progress. Our historic preservation efforts continue to ensure that our City's rich, colorful heritage is preserved, while our sustainable development plan enables us to meet today's needs while leaving a brighter tomorrow for future generations.

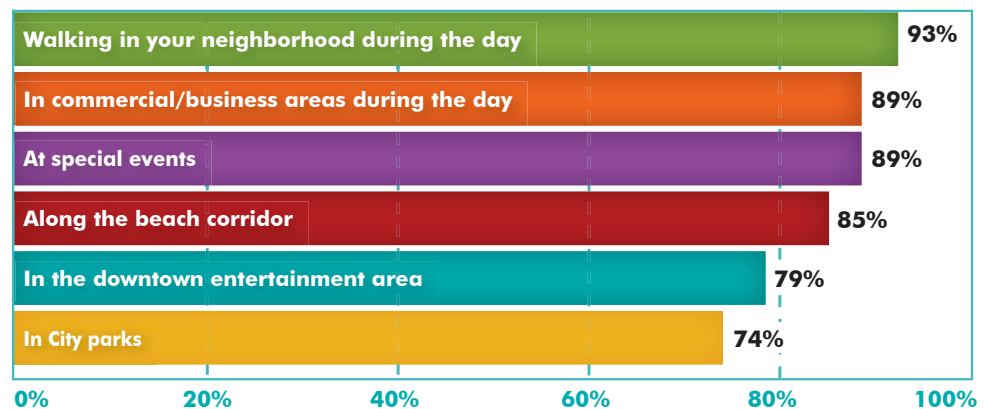
***"Affordability for the youth who grew up and are growing up here to be able to live here as they complete their education in the residential areas in which they grew up." - Open House Meeting, 2011***

No neighborhood was left behind as changes took hold and improvements began to enhance the general look, feel, and perception of our community. Areas that were once forgotten or neglected are now experiencing an influx of visitors and an increased interest in residential living. Additionally, the City's extensive **code education** effort has created a community of **homeowners who are well-informed and considerate of the peaceful habitation of others**, as well as the care and maintenance of their property. Today, it is rare to see a home suffering from extreme code violations. It is widely evident that neighbors care about their homes, their immediate neighbors, and the community-at-large. This caring sense of community is reflected in our City's efforts to address crime and homelessness, both of which have seen dramatic reductions over the past 22 years.



A Neighbor Survey conducted by the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2012 found that neighbors felt safe in their neighborhoods (93%) and in the downtown (79%). However, crime prevention remained a high priority, with 50% satisfaction, for leaders to focus on in the immediate future. At the same time, the City of Fort Lauderdale reported it was experiencing a 10-year downward trend in its crime rate. In addition, the Visioning initiative generated more than 60 ideas that reflected a need to **make neighborhoods and parks safer for children** and to **reduce crime** through grass roots public safety programs such as **Crime Watch**, the **Citizens Police Academy**, **community policing**, and the development of **more activities and programs for youths**.

### How safe do you feel in Fort Lauderdale?



ETC Institute  
2012 Neighbor Survey, Fort Lauderdale, FL



To answer the community's call for more crime prevention, Fort Lauderdale implemented a number of new initiatives during the past 22 years that have resulted in a dramatically different level of safety within the City. Instead of addressing crime, Fort Lauderdale is now a national leader in preventing crime. In 2013, crime prevention efforts were jump started with a research and development partnership. This initiative examined our data and technology to uncover crime trends before they became systemic issues or criminal events, and enhance resource coordination. This innovative approach set a new standard for crime

***“We are unique because we occupy the middle ground, the best of both worlds, urban and suburban. Let’s improve them both and not lose either.” - OurVisionFTL.com, 2012***

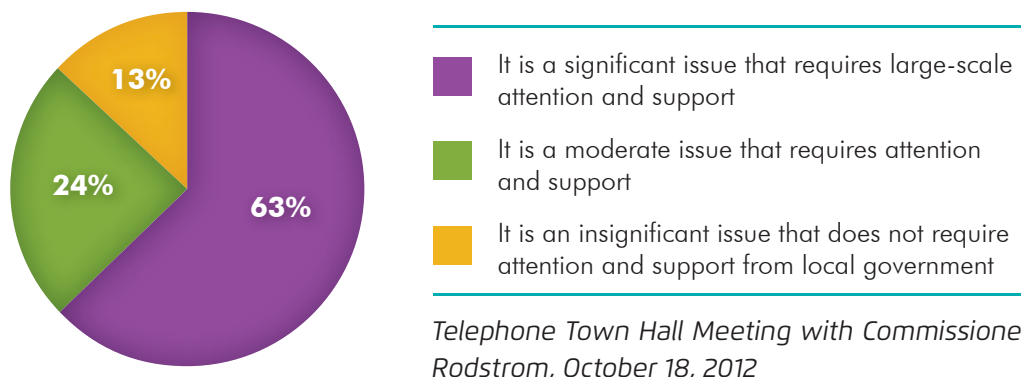
prevention and became a national model for other communities to emulate. Our many crime prevention efforts have led to a Fort Lauderdale community that works with one another, helps one another, and looks out for one another. Children in all areas of our City are now playing outside in neighborhood parks until called in for dinner. Parents are not worried about their safety and fellow neighbors are not concerned about the children causing any trouble.

In 2035, protection of life and property through fire-rescue response remains an important element of providing a safe and secure City. Improved traffic controls and a more pedestrian friendly environment have reduced injuries and fatalities. Structures continue to be upgraded in compliance with state-of-the-art fire codes, while losses due to fire remain on a steady decline. In 2012, only 44% of our community was satisfied with the availability of preventive health care. In 2035, the scope of our emergency medical response has expanded to include the delivery of in-home preventative care through partnerships with local medical care facilities.

## “Fort Lauderdale has solved its homeless crisis, making downtown Fort Lauderdale an oasis of arts, history, and commerce.” – Meetings-In-A-Box, 2012

Homelessness was also a major issue for the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2012. Thirty-seven ideas from the Visioning initiative specifically addressed providing **more assistance** to helping this group of people find **permanent housing** and **quality jobs**. At the time, there were roughly 3,800 homeless individuals within Fort Lauderdale of which 1,276 were chronically homeless.

To what degree do you think homelessness is an issue in Fort Lauderdale?



The year 2012 was a turning point in addressing homelessness. That year, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development redefined the business model for providing homeless assistance. Homeless assistance went from a four-step continuum of care to a two-step model aimed at moving individuals into housing as soon as possible. Individuals who were homeless were no longer seen as blight on the City, but rather, as equal members of our community who were struggling and in need of assistance to get back on their feet. As developments throughout the City began to accommodate **senior, retired, disabled, and single-parent** residents of all income levels, thousands of individuals who were once homeless, became able to find a quality place to live in Fort Lauderdale.

Fort Lauderdaleians have realized the benefits of being one community. We care for one another with more **supportive services**, as demonstrated in the safety of our neighborhoods and the inclusiveness of our City. Ordinances have been developed to enhance the places we call home, to beautify our City, and to physically and socially connect our community. We have found purpose and value in social, healthy, and active lifestyles, creating the perfect balance in our hectic, but simple lives. While we have always had a sufficient amount of good places to go in our City, the need for great places to gather has only been enhanced by these new community values. *We are community and we are here.*



*“By 2035, Fort Lauderdale will make the most of space by utilizing pocket parks, greenways, rooftop gardens/spaces, promenades, centralized plazas, and areas will be connected by wide sidewalks, tree coverage, and visually appealing by integrating art into regular infrastructure (bike racks, light poles, etc.)”  
- Neighbor Summit, 2012*



## » IMAGINE 2035

*“Sistrunk Boulevard – dreams have now become realities. Why? Because now Sistrunk Boulevard has been transformed from a thoroughfare to a destination for all of Broward County. Shops, restaurants, etc., attract all. Economic development has also become a reality.” - Open House Meeting, 2011*

As I stand at the corner of South Andrews Avenue and Las Olas Boulevard waiting for the Wave, I strike up a conversation with one of our many visitors. They have been in town for a few days, have seen the beach, and want to experience something more. “Where can I go to really experience Fort Lauderdale; its culture, food, history, and people?” My response, as always, is the **Historic Northwest District**. That area, which includes the Sistrunk Corridor, is one of our most active, diverse and popular neighborhoods. It is Fort Lauderdale – a place rich in culture and history, a culinary splendor of South Florida seafood, and the region’s number one jazz and blues destination.

After infrastructure improvements were made to Sistrunk Boulevard in 2012, businesses saw the potential of the area and invested in it as a place for development and mentoring of our youth. As a result, the Sistrunk Corridor is now one of our most vibrant thriving City Centers. The area continues to experience an influx of **mixed demographic residents** and visitors. It has become Fort Lauderdale’s hip, urban core, where a diverse mix of young professionals relish living within the famous Sistrunk upper floor housing. They are close to the companies that have invested in their development and provided them with valuable career options, as well as the exciting nightlife that is anchored by South Florida’s most-frequented **House of Blues**. The young professionals living and working in the area are truly vested in our City, returning the educational investment the community has made in them over the past decade by contributing their talents to the local economy, adding value to the area, and leaving their legacy as a path for the next generation to follow.

As the Sistrunk Corridor developed into the destination it is today, it was vital that its historical significance was preserved. In order to help protect and promote the area’s history, local students came up with the idea for the City’s **History Walk**. Now, neighbors and visitors can walk through Fort Lauderdale’s history as they follow the trail of historic markers that line the neighborhood and lead to the City’s **Gospel Museum**. We all experience, appreciate and revel in the culture and history that has always been here, but is now being recognized and emphasized.