



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 20-065**

**Date:** July 13, 2020

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**Re:** Balancing Act Software FY 2021 Proposed Budget

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The City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to providing continual opportunities for neighbor engagement and participation. Balancing Act is a tool specifically designed for governments to engage their residents in the budget process while promoting financial transparency and accountability. The tool enables neighbors to view a model of the City's Proposed General Fund Budget, modify the allocated funding, and see how their changes affect the overall budget. Through this exercise, neighbors become more informed about the City's budgeting process. The tool also allows the City to collect meaningful neighbor input and feedback regarding the FY 2021 Proposed Budget.

The Office Management and Budget Office has prepared a Balancing Act simulation based upon FY 2021 General Fund revenue forecasts and proposed operating budgets. The simulation includes all decision package requests submitted by operating departments and indicates the decision package requests that are included in the FY 2021 Proposed Budget. Balancing Act is available on the City's website, <https://fortlauderdale.abalancingact.com/fy-2021-proposed-budget,works> and works best with Firefox, Edge, or Google Chrome browsers.

Using the software tool, neighbors will be able to interact with a model of FY 2021's proposed General Fund budget to increase or decrease department allocations, include or remove departments' decision package requests, and adjust policy-driven revenue sources such as the City's portion of the property tax rate or the Fire Assessment Fee.

Neighbors have the option to submit their recommended balanced (or unbalanced) budget for the FY 2021 General Fund Budget. Neighbor recommendations and comments will be taken into consideration prior to final City Commission adoption in September 2020.

C: Tarlesha W. Smith, Assistant City Manager  
Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney  
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk  
John C. Herbst, City Auditor  
Department Directors  
Budget Advisory Board