



Mayor Mitchell's State of the City Report 2023

A look at the City's accomplishments in 2023 and insight as to what is coming up in Miami Springs for 2024.



Maria Puente Mitchell
Mayor, City of Miami Springs



Mayor Maria Mitchell's State of the City Report for 2023

January 2024

Happy 2024 To Our Miami Springs Community!

As we start another year we have so much to be proud of in our beautiful City. I wanted to share some of what we have accomplished together as a community in 2023 and some of the plans for 2024. In addition to increasing public safety and investing in expanding our programming and services to meet the needs of our residents and businesses, we:

- Maintained our residents' millage rate steady (no increase), despite this year's challenges of unprecedented inflation, rising insurance, labor and other costs
- Secured significant State appropriation dollars for our Senior Center Meals and new War Memorial, thanks to the support of our Senator Bryan Avila and Representative Alex Rizo
- Created a Committee to plan for the City's 2026 Centennial Celebration.
- Invested in necessary (30-year intervals) re-sodding of the golf course to ensure our City's top-notch golf course status
- Completed the South Royal Poinciana Improvement Project
- Completed the bid and selected the contractor for the East Drive/Oakwood Avenue Project stormwater improvement projects
- Received the Business and Economic Development Task Force report and held a townhall meeting to discuss recommendations
- Held several public workshops including ones for the City's budget and Strategic Plan

- Continued to improve and expand communications with our community via the City's newsletters, social media, surveys, website and emergency alert system
- Increased awareness of City Council decisions by posting "Actions Taken Summary" of meetings
- Initiated collaborations with Miami Springs hotel owners/managers to foster a joint vision for opportunities and success
- Secured a grant for a parking study for our Central Business District and will be holding a workshop in 2024
- Instructed our Parks Advisory Board to work on update of City's tree ordinance to better protect and expand our valued tree canopy
- Increased the City's recreation opportunities with the addition of pickleball
- Saw impressive progress of new construction project in our southeast business district for the Miami Realtors Association Global Headquarters
- Heard FDOT presentations on three proposed projects and we will continue discussions with them to ensure the planned projects are successful for both FDOT and our City
- Hired the firm of Calvin, Giordano and Associates as our city planners and we are working with them to improve the economic vitality of our business districts
- This was an election year for our City and we bid farewell to Councilman Bob Best who was termed out, and welcomed Councilman Jorge Santin and Councilman Victor Vazquez
- We also voted on a charter amendment to provide for uninterrupted Council representation should a Councilmember not be able to fulfill their term
- We welcomed Chris Chiocca as our Finance Director
- We congratulated former City Manager William Alonso on his retirement
- We welcomed our new City Manager JC Jimenez and share his commitment to excellence to serve the community

And so much more!

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Our continued commitment to support and improve public safety, City services and quality of life is unwavering. Here are some numbers of what took place during calendar year 2023.

Fiscal Management

0% increase	No increase in City's millage (tax) rate for fiscal year 2023/24
\$ 28.1 million	Fiscal Year 2022/23 operating budget
\$ 675 thousand	Estimated fiscal year 2022/23 end surplus
\$ 31.9 million	Adopted Fiscal 2023/24 operating budget
\$ 7.2 million	Estimated reserves for FY 2023/24 (This is above both the GFOA recommendation and City requirement for reserves.)
\$ 6.2 million	Requested in State appropriations for 2024 projects
\$3.9 million	Approx. investment in re-sodding of golf course. (This is a 30-year maintenance investment to ensure continued protection and high quality of one of our City's most valuable asset.)
464	Active businesses operating in the City

City Council and City Clerk

20	City Council regular meetings
13	City Council special workshops
85	Ordinances and resolutions adopted
47	Advisory board meetings
644	Notary services provided

Department of State approved the City of Miami Springs as a new Passport Acceptance Facility; expected in 2024.

Public Safety / Police Department

1	Additional police officer position approved in budget
3	New police vehicles approved in budget
4	Community document shred events to reduce identity theft
24	Community police public safety programs & meetings
35	Stolen vehicles recovered
546	Arrests made
1,995	Speeding citations issued
2,1632	Red light camera citations issued

Public Works Department

4,216	Tons of garbage collected
8,377	Tons of trash collected
517	Households serviced for recycling
373	Mature trees trimmed
89	New trees planted

Infrastructure & Capital Improvements

4	Roadway & Infrastructure projects completed or underway
115,449	Square feet of sidewalk repaired or installed
20,565	Square yards of roadway paved
	Golf course re-sodding project (30 year maintenance)

Building Department

1,392	Building permits issued
5,038	Building inspections conducted
1,474	Code violations issued

Parks and Recreation Department

14	Different recreation programs offered (pickleball added in 2023)
24	Community special events and holiday events held
167	Children enrolled in summer camp
45	Children enrolled in school holiday camps
894	Swim class attendees (youth and adult)

Adult Community Center

1,442	Seniors registered at Adult Community Center
1,654	Classes and programs held at Adult Community Center (1261 Fitness / 393 Recreation)
47,800	Meals served at Adult Community Center
71,395	Meals delivered to home-bound residents

Communications

8	Community surveys
52	City newsletters published
742	Social media posts
3,034	Facebook followers
2,380	Twitter followers
8,234	Instagram followers
4,000	Residents registered for our city's emergency alert system

And so much more!

I encourage you to be engaged in your City and to rely on official City sources of communication to keep up to date with what's happening in Miami Springs. We have so many ways for us to stay connected!

You can subscribe have our official City newsletter sent to your email every week. If you use social media, be sure to follow our City's Facebook, Instagram, or X (formerly Twitter). Our official City website www.miamisprings-fl.gov is easy to use and full of valuable information on everything about the City.

We are so proud of all that we have accomplished together in 2023 thanks to the collective talent of our community! As we start 2024, we are excited about new plans and opportunities which we will be sharing throughout the year!

There is no other city in South Florida with a richer history, more ideal location, or a better quality of life than ours. Indeed, we are the benefactors of what has been an extraordinary process for almost 100 years as Miami Springs has continually improved as a city, while steadfastly maintaining its unique identity and charm in the heart of Miami-Dade County.

And our City's future is brighter than ever. Our City Council is committed to listen, serve, protect our community and our quality of life, discover opportunities for continued improvement, and lead with vision. Our City staff, regardless of the job title, are all true professionals in every sense of the word. Their hard work and expertise keep our City safe and humming and they are always ready to go the extra mile!

Our residents, businesses and civic organizations have never been more highly engaged and provide valued input that helps us continually improve our services and our community.

Clearly, there is no better place than right here to live, work or visit! And yet, as we approach our second centennial, I truly believe the very best years are still ahead for Miami Springs!

As for me, I will continue to serve you and our beloved City, grateful for the trust and responsibility you have given me. As always, I'm available to chat . . . just reach out by phone, email, or if you see me around town!

I wish you and your crew many wonderful adventures in 2024! May God continue to bless and watch over our amazing City of Miami Springs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Maria Puente Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" being the most prominent.

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

City of Miami Springs

