FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 513 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301•954-357-7130•FAX 954-357-7134•Email: finance@broward.org

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 2022
TO: George Tablack, CPA Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Lori Fortenberry, Acting Finance Manager Finance and Administrative Services Department


Art Richards, Investment \& Finance Coordinator Finance and Administrative Services Department
Portfolio and Economic Summary - March 31, 2022
As of March 31, 2022, the Broward County (County) Investment Portfolio had a par value of $\$ 4.94$ billion and a Yield to Maturity of $0.66 \%$. In comparison, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury \& Agency Index benchmark of 1.83 \% exceeded the yield on County's portfolio by 117 basis points. In a rapidly rising rate environment, it is typical for Index yields to increase quicker as they can incorporate changes at a faster pace. The yield on County's Portfolio will continue to increase as upcoming maturities are reinvested at higher yields. Accordingly, adjusted interest earnings on County's Portfolio increased nearly $\$ 600 \mathrm{k}$ from previous quarter.

The Labor Department showed the March consumer price index increased $8.5 \%$ from a year earlier which follows a $7.9 \%$ annual gain in February. Against a backdrop of accelerating inflation, the Federal Reserve Bank (the "Fed") raised rates by a quarter point last month and signaled to further lift rates to $1.9 \%$ by end of 2022 and $2.8 \%$ by the end of next year. Most recently, Fed officials said that they are open to moving faster, if needed, to quell the hottest inflation in four decades, including hiking by a half a point at their May 3-4 meeting. Additionally, Fed officials intend to reduce its massive bond holdings at a maximum pace of $\$ 95$ billion a month, further tightening credit across the economy.

With the Fed mired in what's expected to be the most aggressive tightening cycle since 1994, the drumbeat of recession warnings is getting louder particularly with commodity cost pressures and global economic impacts of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. Treasuries have sold off, with the 10-year yield climbing through $2.75 \%$. A Bloomberg index tracking government bonds is down almost $2 \%$ in April, on course for its fifth straight monthly decline, the longest since 2016. Deutsche Bank strategists anticipate the S\&P 500 to drop 20\% from peak to trough in late 2023.

Rising interest rates are threatening the municipal bond boom on Wall Street, leaving governments less willing to borrow and households less willing to invest in the $\$ 4$ trillion market. Bond issuance by state and local governments dropped $8 \%$ in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the same period a year earlier. Benchmark yields on triple-A 10-year, tax exempt general-obligation municipal bonds were $2.34 \%$ this past week compared with $1.03 \%$ from a year earlier. However, some Bankers say the municipal market is due to rebound and valuations are now attractive in second quarter.

Please see the attached pages showing portfolio detail and key economic data as of the end of the period.

BROWARD COUNTY
115 S. ANDREWS AVE A430
FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Quarterly Portfolio Analysis - March 31, 2022


