FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 2020
TO: George Tablack, CPA Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Lori Fortenberry, Investment \& Finance Coordinator Finance and Administrative Services Department


RE: Portfolio and Economic Summary - September 30, 2020
As of September 30, 2020, the Broward County Investment Portfolio had a par value of $\$ 3.70$ billion and a Yield to Maturity of $0.76 \%$. The yield exceeded the benchmark Bank of America Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Treasury \& Agency Index by 61 basis points ( $0.15 \%$ as of September 30, 2020).

The Federal Reserve Bank (the "Fed") left the Fed Funds Rate unchanged at its latest meeting, on September 16, 2020, and have pledged to keep rates low until the economy returns to maximum employment. In addition, the Fed announced they would redefine their $2 \%$ inflation target as an average to be achieved over time and would allow inflation to rise above the $2 \%$ target when following periods of low inflation. Fed Chairman, Jerome Powell, has warned that without sufficient government aid, the recovery will be weak, and further stated that providing too much stimulus would not be a problem. The Fed Funds Rate is expected to remain at current levels through 2023.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to upend everyone's lives, there are signs that data is improving. Retail sales data have now surpassed pre-pandemic levels with gains increasing at almost $2 \%$, month over month. And, while not back to pre-pandemic levels, the airline industry and home sales have shown some bright spots. The number of passengers flying in the U.S. surpassed one million in midOctober, a milestone not reached since March. While the number of travelers is less than half during the same period last year, it represents a slow but steady recovery from levels reported during the early days of the pandemic. Home sales have been energetic, fueled by low interest rates and buyers needing more space as they work from home indefinitely. The demand for housing is mirroring the typically high summer season with homes selling faster and, in some metropolitan areas, at higher prices than the year prior. In addition, with demand exceeding supply, bidding wars are becoming more common. Casting a shadow over this nascent recovery is the spike in new coronavirus cases across the U.S. and the rest of the world with France and Germany proposing new lockdowns. The spike in cases could temper the slow recovery in employment. The unemployment rate in the U.S. was $7.9 \%$ in September which was more than double the rate from February but down from a high of $14.7 \%$ in April. The latest reported continuing claims in October were 8,373 which, while lower than the high of 24,912 this past May, was still higher than in May 2009 (the peak of the recession) when continuing claims were 6,635 .

Please see the attached pages showcasing portfolio detail and key economic data as of the end of the period.
Quarterly Portfolio Analysis - September 30, 2020


