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City of Hialeah

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Community Background Report

City of Hialeah

County

Miami-Dade

Boundaries

North: N.W. 170th Street
South: Okeechobee Rd. to NW 36th Street
West: N.W. 36th Street
East: N.W. 37th Avenue

Community Type

Municipality

History

The city of Hialeah was incorporated in 1925 with a population of 1,5000. Seventy-nine years later the population of Hialeah has grown to over 240,000. The name Hialeah is derived from the Seminole Indian language meaning "High Prairies". Hialeah is home to the famous Hialeah Park were many thoroughbred racehorses have raced into the history books. Hialeah was the starting point for the ill-fated final trip of America's greatest female aviator Amelia Earhart. Hialeah has been graced with the presence of such famous individuals as Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, J.P. Morgan and members of the Kennedy family. Hialeah has produced such notable individuals as entertainer John Secada, pitchers Alex Fernandez and Charlie Hough, and footballer Vince Kendrick.

Community Dynamics

Over ninety percent of Hialeah's population is Hispanic; Hialeah residents have assimilated their cultural heritage and traditions into a hard-working community. The community is committed to preserving a quality atmosphere for working class families. Residential properties are characterized by mostly small parcels with one-level single family structures.

A drastic increase in population growth has created a need to improve transportation initiatives. In 1998 Mayor Raul Martinez greeted the City of Hialeah's Circulator with great enthusiasm. Since then there have been attempts to enhance the two community transit circulators. A recent transportation study for the Hialeah Transit System Services and Opportunities Study makes recommendations to improve the City's transit service (Hialeah Transit System).

Hialeah's location in the northwest of Miami-Dade County has influenced the path of transportation networks. The following highways can be accessed from Hialeah either directly or indirectly: I-95, I-75, the Palmetto, the Dolphin, and the Florida's Turnpike. Hialeah also provides direct economical access to Opa-Locka Airport, Miami International Airport, and the Port of Miami. Tri-Rail and Metrorail stations are conveniently located within the city.

According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, forty-three percent of households were built before 1970 and the demographic information is as follows:

- 2.6 percent Black, 94 percent Hispanic, and 5 percent White, Not-Hispanic
- 20 percent are under the age of 18 and 20 percent of the population is aged 65 of over
- 8 percent of family households are headed by single women with kids
- 65 percent of residents aged 25 or older have attained a high school degree or higher while 14 percent have attained a bachelor degree or higher. The County percentage of residents holding high school diplomas is 77 percent and 26 percent have bachelor degrees or higher.
- An average of 4.4 percent of the civilian workforce was unemployed between 2005 and 2009
- The Census estimates 95 percent of all housing units are occupied
- The median household income is $32,297
- 16 percent of families are in poverty; this is higher than the County's 13.5 percent poverty rate.
- 53 percent of households are owner occupied

Business Landscape

Hialeah is an important city in the Northwest section of the county, because of its workforce size and industrial sector. Its many major corridors have a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential properties. The City, three major hospitals, parcel delivery companies, and distributors account for the largest employers. Manufacturing accounts for approximately one third of employment.

Sources

City of Hialeah Chamber of Commerce and Industries. City of Hialeah Newcomer Information.

City of Hialeah. 2008. Hialeah Transit System, Hialeah Transit System Express Bus Route and Enhanced Service, draft.

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hialeah,_Florida