



Accomplishments Report

2022

www.iop.net

Who we are

City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina



The Isle of Palms is a seven-mile-long barrier island located eight miles east of Charleston on the South Carolina coast. The island is bounded on the north by Hamlin Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway, on the east by Dewees Inlet and Dewees Island, on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west by Breach Inlet and Sullivan's Island.

Isle of Palms is primarily a residential community with resort amenities and a relatively large commercial base when compared to other barrier island communities in the area.

The City is home to approximately 4,347 residents with a median age of 52. The City has a highly skilled and educated citizenry, with 99.2% of the City's population having at least a high school graduate degree or higher.

The median property value in Isle of Palms is \$815,300 which is over 3 times larger than the national average. The median household income is \$134,917, more than double the national average.

Isle of Palms has a total of 4,485 housing units, 1,887 of which are occupied by year-round residents.



Mayor Phillip Pounds



Councilmember Jan
Anderson



Councilmember John
Bogosian



Councilmember Blair
Hahn

Isle of Palms City Council



Councilmember Katie
Miers



Councilmember Scott
Pierce



Councilmember Kevin
Popson



Councilmember Rusty
Streetman



Councilmember Jimmy
Ward

Managing pressure from areas population growth

- Collaborated with SCDOT in a comprehensive study of the IOP Connector and development and presentation of alternative lane configurations to move traffic on and off the island more efficiently.
- Participated in the “Know B4 you Go” Campaign - Partnerships with the Town of Mount Pleasant, Town of Sullivan’s Island, Charleston County Parks and ABC News 4 to raise awareness and promote beach information for visitors to better plan their trips to the beach.
- Collaborated with the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments and the Town of Mount Pleasant to continue the seasonal operation of the CARTA beach shuttle, a free service to alleviate parking and traffic congestion on the island.
- City Council adopted zoning amendments to expand the existing conservation district to include preservation of public and private recreation facilities, including the golf courses inside and outside Wild Dunes and the tennis facility inside Wild Dunes, and to cap the density in the Wild Dunes PRD to reflect the current existing units and approved lots.
- Implemented an island wide speed limit of 25 mph on all secondary roads.

Effective, consistent and timely communications

- Created Public Relations and Tourism Coordinator position. This position will be cost shared between the City and the Charleston Area Visitors Bureau and is expected to be filled by early 2023 to help meet the City's strategic priority and improve City communication efforts with the community.
- Staff held quarterly meetings with our local business owners to facilitate effective communication between our business community and City government and provide them with current information about City events, policies, projects and programs that may impact their operations.
- Created social media accounts and presence for the Fire Department.
- Installed a new Audio-Visual system in Council Chambers.

Financial sustainability

- Ended Fiscal Year 2022 with over \$30M in cash reserves.
- Maintained the highest credit rating possible and have a manageable debt load with rates ranging from 1.6% to 4.14% with a significant portion maturing in the next five (5) years.
- Received a clean opinion from the auditors for FY22.

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS FY22 ACTUAL

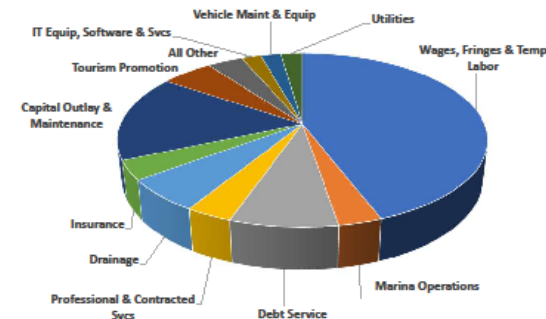
Where the Money Came From



FY 2023 Revenue Summary - All Funds		
Property Taxes	4,897,121	18%
Local Option Sales Tax	1,111,813	4%
Permits/Licenses/Fees	6,401,712	24%
Parking	1,412,945	5%
All Other	1,136,296	4%
Accommodations Tax	6,055,894	23%
Hospitality Tax	1,146,816	4%
Marina	321,270	2%
Beach Preservation Fee	1,818,174	7%
Grants	123,140	0%
Lease Proceeds	1,989,394	7%
Total Revenues	26,614,533	100%

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS FY22 ACTUAL

Where the Money Went



FY 2022 Expenditure Summary - All Funds		
Wages, Fringes & Temp Labor	8,576,674	44%
Marina Operations	623,505	3%
Debt Service	1,341,969	8%
Professional & Contracted Svcs	669,905	3%
Drainage	1,182,462	6%
Insurance	692,645	4%
Capital Outlay & Maintenance	3,122,622	16%
Tourism Promotion	1,044,725	5%
All Other	721,105	4%
IT Equip, Software & Svcs	391,143	2%
Vehicle Maint & Equip	409,921	2%
Utilities	437,043	2%
Total Expenses	19,413,722	100%

Total Increase in Fund Balances \$ 7,200,811

Impact of STR's on resident's quality of life

- Facilitated Planning Commission's review of short-term rental regulations and development of recommendations for Council.
- Facilitated several community listening sessions to get community feedback regarding short term rental regulations.
- Created an additional Livability Officer position.
- Initiated work to modify the noise ordinance to better address disruptions from short term rentals.



Environmental protection efforts

Initiatives recommended by the newly appointed Environmental Advisory Committee:

- Implemented a glass recycling program in partnership with Harris Teeter and IOP Marina tenants
- Installed educational signage at each public beach access path regarding turtle nests, lights and trash on the beach
- Initiated water quality testing efforts with advice from Charleston Waterkeepers
- Collaborated with the local IOP Beach Cleanup Crew for the installation of a Fill A Bag bucket station and a No Toys Left Behind station by the Public Restrooms and ADA boardwalk on Front Beach



Employee retention and succession planning

- Implemented competitive market-based wage and compensation adjustments for all City employees.
- Adjusted the annual leave accrual rates and policy to increase competitiveness.
- Added the day after Christmas as additional holiday.
- Implemented a onetime cost of living adjustment of \$5K and 2.5% adjustment to go into effect 1/1/23.
- Held the annual Employee Appreciation Event where 19 employees were recognized for their longevity and the Employee of the Year award was presented to Debbie Suggs, Finance Director.
- Held a Holiday party for all city employees, Councilmembers and volunteers who serve on Boards and Commissions.
- Police Department held an Annual Awards ceremony where Det. Tumminelli was recognized as the Officer of the Year, Patrol Officer Kowsky as Rookie of the Year, Sergeant Storen as Supervisor of the Year, and Code Enforcement Officer Kowsky as Professional Staff of the Year. Additionally, local restaurant Luke n' Ollies was presented with the Community Partnership Award.
- Initiated the renovation of employee fitness centers at Public Safety Building and Fire Station 2.
- City appointed Craig Oliverius as the new Fire Chief to lead the Fire Department after a thorough recruitment process.

Community Enhancements- Drainage

- Began construction of outfall improvements at 30th Avenue and 36th Avenue to stop tidal intrusion and improve storm water and tidal drainage across the island.
- Pursued environmental permits for a third outfall at 41st Avenue to stop tidal intrusion and improve storm water drainage.
- In collaboration with SCDOT, the City completed a drainage project at 25th which involved the installation of a berm and valves to stop tidal waters from inundating the road while allowing stormwater to drain into the Intracoastal Waterway. This project has dramatically improved conditions in the area.
- Acquired a jet-vac system to improve capabilities to maintain drainage systems.
- Began working on a comprehensive drainage masterplan to identify storm water management needs and priorities into the future.



Community Enhancements- Marina

- Completion of the replacement of the marina docks along Morgan Creek.
- City integrated the new public dock at the marina as a new amenity for island residents and general public. City offered free weekly meditation classes and in partnership with local operator, Coastal Expeditions, developed a series of free itineraries exclusively for Isle of Palms residents.
- City engaged designers for upgrades to the new public dock including widening the pier and adding an ADA accessible ramp and kayak launch facilities.
- City executed a contract to enhance the bulkhead adjacent to the public dock with a new boardwalk.
- City Council approved the assignment of the marina operations and marina store leases to Coastal Marinas LLC. Both the store and the marina parking lot will be renovated at the new operator's expense.



Community Enhancements- Recreation Center

- Added portable pickleball nets to the tennis courts to accommodate the demand of pickleball players.
- Added new climbing structure to the playground.
- Replaced old playground swings with new swings.
- Installed a paved brick walkway along the front of the recreation building and added a paved access to the gym restrooms. The brick walkway will also be used as an opportunity for community members to pay and have their names engraved on the bricks.



Community Enhancements:



- Started construction of ADA compliant beach access path and two handicap parking spaces at 34A beach access path. Project expected to be completed in early 2023.
- City launched the Beach Wheelchair Program which offers daily use of beach wheelchairs at no charge. This service was used 74 times by beach visitors.
- Pursued and received a permit from OCRM to extend accessibility mat at 42nd beach access path to enhance access to the water for folks with disabilities.
- Installed accessibility mat to new handicap parking spaces adjacent to the new public dock at the marina
- City is working with SCDOT on the installation of an audible pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Palm Boulevard and the IOP Connector.

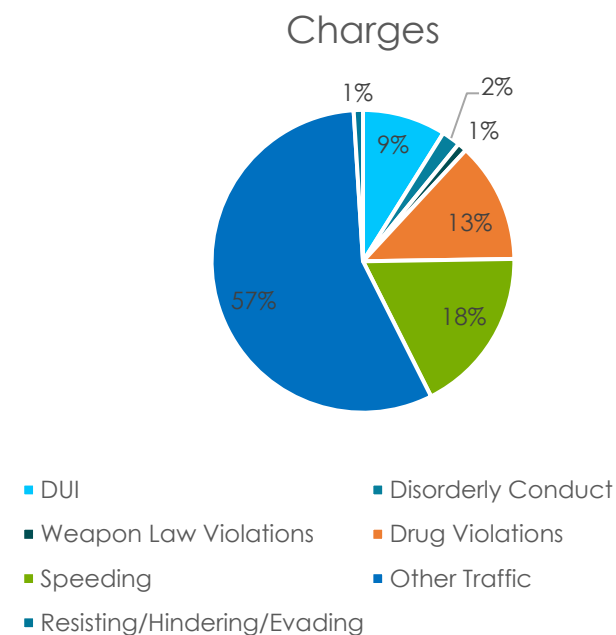
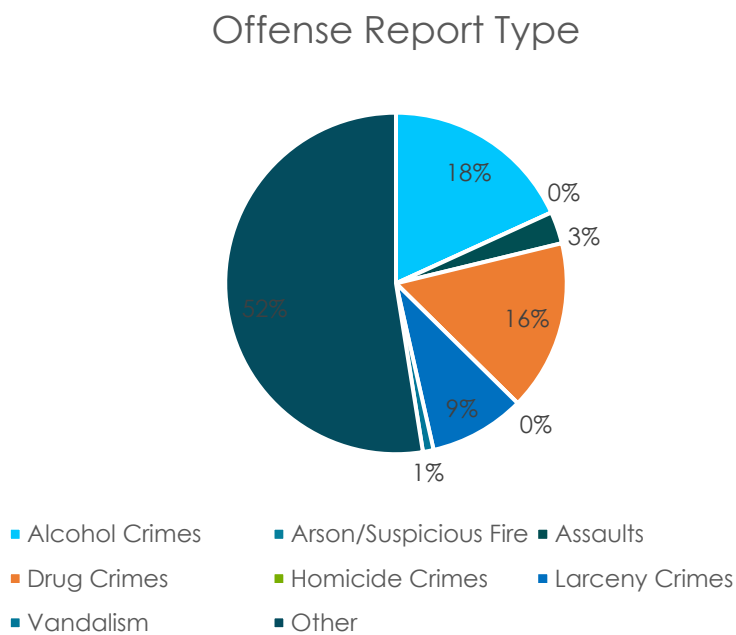
Emergency Management

- City joined the Interlocal Agreement for Automatic Aid and Response between City of Charleston, City of North Charleston, St. Andrews PSD, James Island PSD, St. Johns Fire District and the Town of Mount Pleasant, to increase efficient use of Fire Department resources and improve public service to residents.
- The Police Department was honored with a National Award for the 2022 National Night Out that was hosted in October 2022 at the Isle of Palms Recreation Center.
- Responded to two (2) weather events that impacted IOP.
- Conducted tabletop exercises with Charleston County Emergency Management to enhance our staff's emergency preparedness.
- Entered into multiple Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with various stakeholders and partners to enhance our community's response and recovery capabilities.



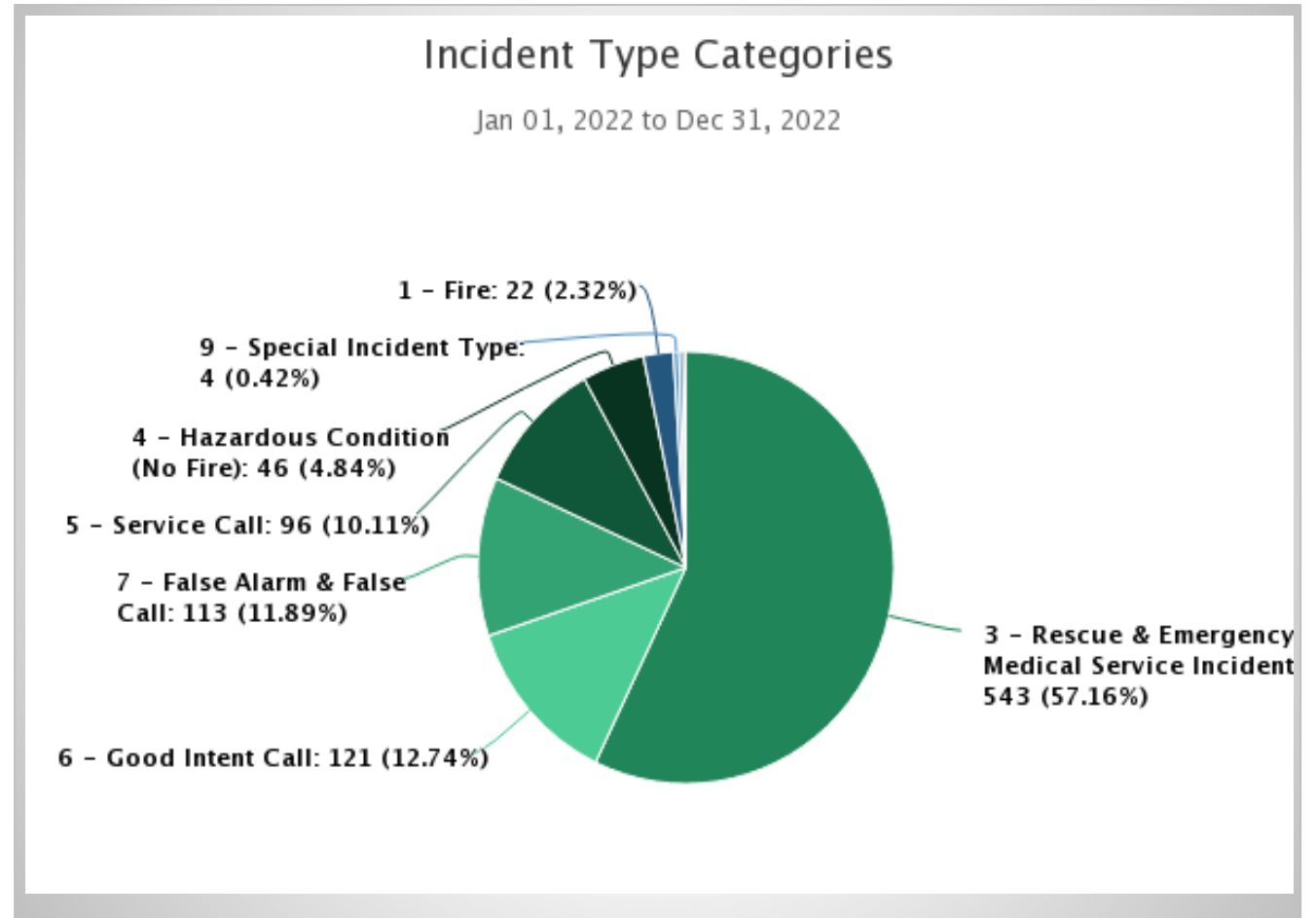
Protecting our City – IOPPD Stats

- Police Department responded to 10,339 calls for service in 2022, compared to 10,612 calls in 2021.
- In 2022, the Police Department conducted 3,521 traffic stops, issued 2,856 parking citations, served 84 warrants and made 479 arrests.



Protecting our City – IOPFD Stats

- Fire Department responded to 950 calls for service in 2022.
- In 2022, the Fire Department responded to 543 rescue and emergency medical calls, 22 fires and 20 missing persons calls.
- Fire Department personnel completed 11,285 hours of training in 2022, which is an increase in over 50% from 2021 (7,361 hours).



Special Community Events

The Recreation Department successfully planned and executed the following programs, events and activities:

- Camp Summershine
- Youth Basketball, Soccer and Volleyball summer camps
- Youth Spring Break Soccer Camp
- Youth Basketball, Baseball and Soccer leagues
- Adult 3 on 3 Basketball, Table Tennis, Pickleball and 6 vs 6 soccer Leagues
- Variety of Fitness classes
- Free meditation classes
- Doggie Day at the Rec
- Easter Bunny Brunch & Egg Hunt
- Annual Yard Sale
- Music in the Park
- Front Beach Fest
- Sand Sculpting Competition
- IOP Beach Run
- IOP Farmer's Market
- Outdoor Halloween Movie
- Annual Half Rubber Tournament
- IOP Connector Run & Walk
- Ghostly Tide Tales
- Halloween Golf Cart Parade & Drive through Haunted House & Carnival
- Holiday Street Festival
- Wellness Fair and Blood testing and Flu Vaccines



Community Partnerships

- Supported the development of the IOP Chamber of Commerce with a grant of \$10,000 for the development of social media presence.
- Supported the IOP Exchange Club's Law Enforcement Neighborhood Support program, which aims to support the IOP Police Department, strengthen community relations and improve public safety on the island.
- Supported the local VFW Post 3137 with a grant of \$15,000 to widen and renovate their beach access path and \$30,000 to support the replacement of their elevator.
- City Council created the Spirit of the Island award to recognize individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the life and wellbeing of the Isle of Palms. This year two (2) island residents received this award: Jim Thompson for his unselfish service to the IOP Exchange Club and Geoffrey Fourqurean who has prepared and delivered hundreds of free meals to island residents.
- City Council awarded the Signal 30 award to Harold Hirshman for saving his neighbor's life.
- Completed a golf cart path reconfiguration project at Ocean Park Plaza to improve safe golf cart access to commercial district.
- Improved traffic flow in the commercial district by creating a new loading zone in front of The Windjammer
- Began construction of a new concrete compactor enclosure at the Municipal Parking Lot to improve functionality, aesthetics and sanitation in the commercially used trash site.

Grants

- Efforts between the City, the City's lobbying firm and Representative Bustos resulted in securing an allocation of \$1.5M towards a future dredging project at the IOP Marina
- Received a grant award of \$2.13M through the SC Infrastructure Investment Program for the construction of the drainage outfall project at 41st Avenue, including piping the ditch along 41st and Waterway Boulevard.
- City received \$120K in grant funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program for the construction of an ADA compliant board walk at 34 A public beach access path. This project is under construction and expected to be completed early 2023.
- City submitted a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$1.2M for the design, engineering, and construction of the Waterway Boulevard Path Elevation Project to increase the level of protection from tidal inundation.
- City submitted a grant to the SC Infrastructure Investment Program in the amount of \$6.8M for the design and construction of stormwater infrastructure improvements along Ocean Boulevard and Charleston Boulevard to provide resilience and prevent flooding of properties and the road.