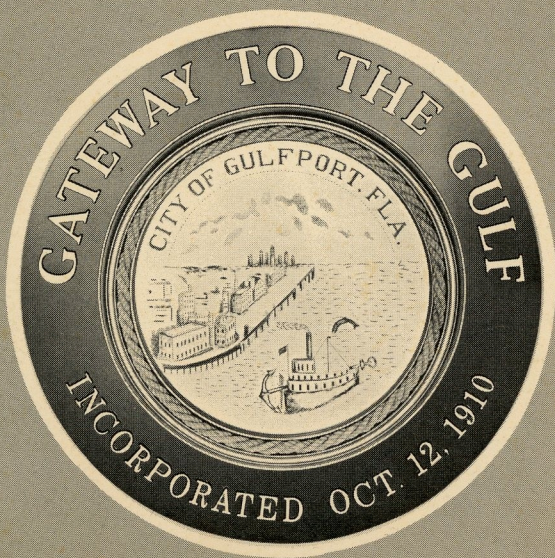


# 4 City Govt



1965 1966

**GULFPORT**

ANNUAL REPORT



# *City of* GULFPORT, FLORIDA

To The Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council  
and Citizens of Gulfport

Each year the City Manager has the responsibility to present to you an Annual Report portraying the inner workings of the City departments and inform the citizens of the City about their government and its operations and activities.

Problems of providing for the Municipal needs are being met each year as your City Government remains alert by planning for the future and providing facilities to meet the needs they desire.

The City's administrative staff and employees are indeed grateful for the wonderful spirit of harmony which has been enjoyed during the past year, and for the cooperation given to the Acting City Manager during the months of his administering to the City Government. Due to this cooperation, a smooth changeover of City Managers enabled the City to continue its great advance.

This report is to give to you a basic knowledge of the operation of the different departments within your City government, and a better knowledge of how the tax dollars have been managed. One of our paramount objectives is to keep the public informed, and through your keen interest it is believed that your City will grow and progress. We have been pleased with the assistance and encouragement of civic groups and individual citizens on the projects undertaken by us; and little could have been accomplished without their friendly cooperation.

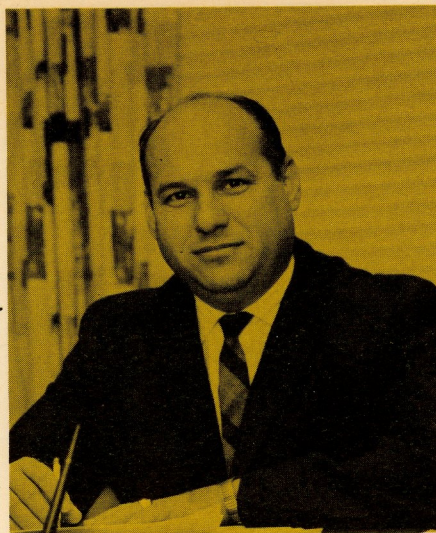
We will continue confidently to meet the needs of our growing City and continuation of the progress that has been made in our City development. The future of Gulfport can only be bright.

Very truly yours,

*Charles R. Davis*

Charles R. Davis  
City Manager

CRD/dmh





# CITY COUNCIL

**JOHN T. ROBINSON**  
Mayor



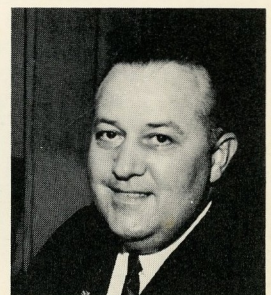
**JAY P. CLYMER**  
Ward 1



**D. E. SKINNER**  
Ward 2



**E. S. (BUD) MARKHAM**  
Ward 3



**F. RALPH HOWARD**  
Ward 4



**BERNICE DePICO**  
City Clerk

The City Clerk is appointed by the Council and is responsible for providing various services to the Council and the residents of Gulfport.

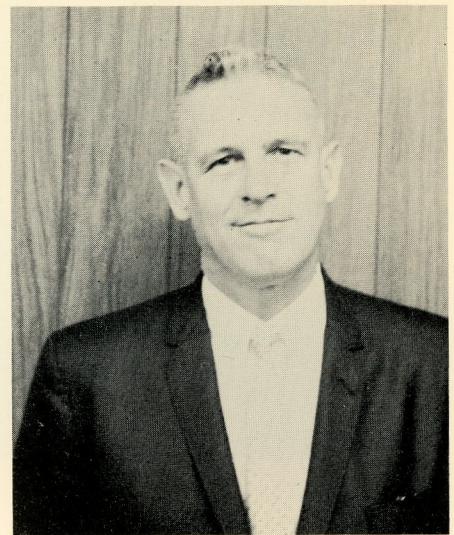
The City Clerk attends all Council meetings, prepares the agenda, records the minutes, processes ordinances and resolutions, receives petitions and correspondence addressed to the Council, and is keeper of the City Seal. The Clerk supervises all municipal elections, takes applications for homestead exemptions, and acts as secretary to the various boards appointed by Council.

The City Clerk acts as Clerk of the Municipal Court and prepares the docket and such legal documents necessary, and keeps the Court records.



# COURT JUDGE

**JUDGE HARRY FOGLE**



The Charter of the City of Gulfport establishes a municipal court for the trial of all offenders against municipal ordinances, and for such violations to impose such penalties or fines as may be prescribed. The judge of the municipal court is appointed by the City Council and holds office at their pleasure.

The regular established time of the court sessions of the City of Gulfport is weekly, Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. Safeguarding your liberty is the function of our Municipal Court. In providing for the safeguard, the court recognizes the importance of the individual and does all in its power to see that justice is administered to all who come before it.



# CITY ATTORNEY

**JAMES T. RUSSELL**

The City Attorney is appointed by the City Council in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 132 of the City Charter. He serves as the legal advisor to the City Council and to other administrative officials on matters of an official nature, defends the City in suits brought against it, and prosecutes action

for the City. Unlike a business, a City such as ours is subject to a great many laws and restrictions, some of which are very complicated. It is necessary for the City Attorney not only to know our City Charter but he must be familiar with the special and general acts of the General Legislature and how they affect the City.

The City Attorney attends all work sessions and regular meetings of the City Council. He prepares all ordinances, leases, agreements, and handles all legal work involved for the City.





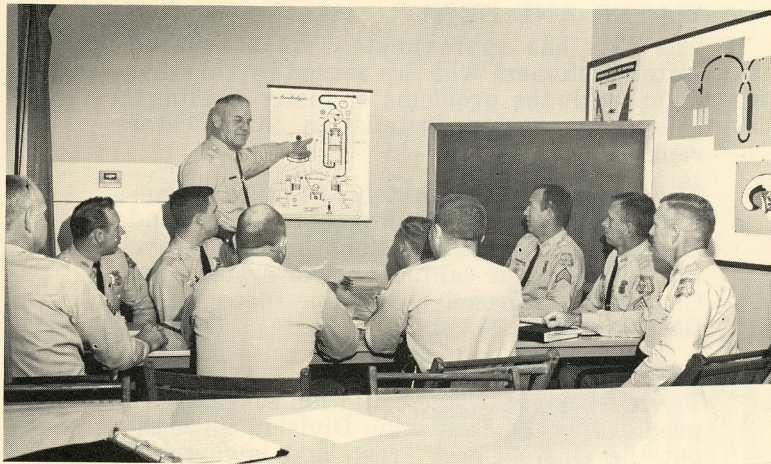
**CHIEF R. ROTH**

# POLICE

A force of thirteen men, under capable leadership, provide Gulfport with protection offered to very few towns of the same size.

Continuing emphasis is placed on in-service training and attending training institutes. Eleven of our policemen have completed courses given by the F.B.I., Pinellas County Sheriff's Department, St. Petersburg Police Academy and St. Petersburg Junior College. At this time one man is attending the St. Petersburg Police Academy and two men are taking advanced training at St. Petersburg Junior College.

Along with our in-service training, the Police Department is completely up to date and provide the necessary equipment to provide safety and protection for all of our citizens; and this department is in immediate contact by radio with all Police Departments within Pinellas County.



**LeVERNE POUNDS**  
Fire Marshall

# FIRE DEPT.

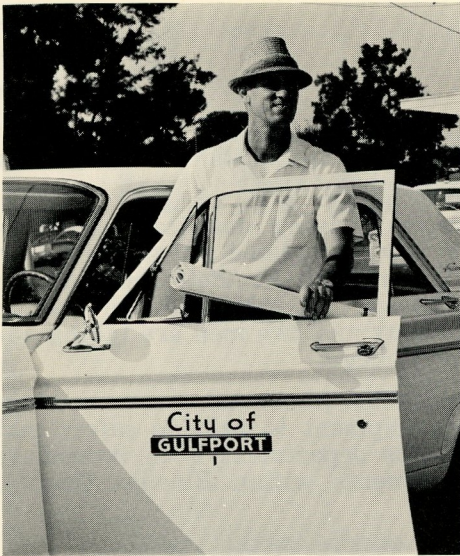
The function of the department is to provide safety inspections and quick response for emergency calls.

The Fire Department is composed of twenty volunteer firemen with the latest equipment available for fire fighting. The Fire Marshall, a full-time employee conducts inspections for fire prevention and reports on all fire activities. He also serves in the capacity of Civil Defense Director for the City.

The Fire Department has continuous training throughout the year and annually the Florida Fire College conducts a week-long training session for the firemen.







## PUBLIC WORKS

The largest department in the City is the Public Works Department. This Department provides a wide variety of services for the citizens of Gulfport and it has four major divisions which are: General Maintenance; Street Maintenance; Sanitation; and Water and Sewer.

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The services of this division include building maintenance and repair, tree removal, and maintenance of storm drainage facilities.

### STREET MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of more than fifty miles of streets and twenty-five miles of alleys and right-of-ways in the City is the major responsibility for this division. During the year, we have completed the double surface pavement of streets providing nearly all of our citizens with a dust free, hard surface for driving.

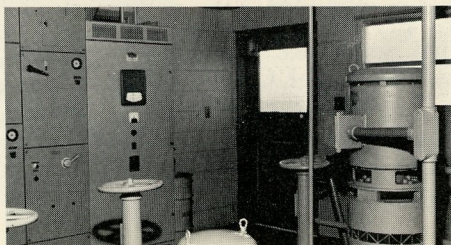
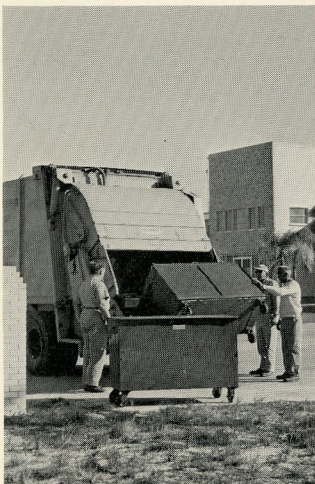
### WATER AND SEWER

The City has approximately 4,410 metered water customers who are served by this division, with the problems of meter readings, collections, meter installation, and water repairs.

The City has approximately 104 miles of sanitary sewer lines including both trunk and laterals and two lift stations in the system. To help with our sanitary sewer system, the City has purchased a variable-speed pump for lift station No. 2.

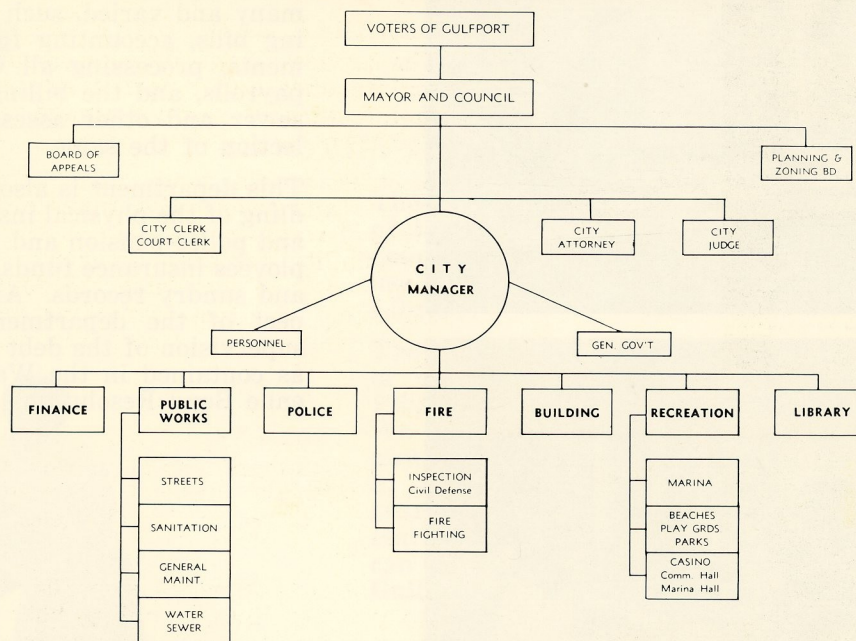
### SANITATION

Twice weekly garbage collection services are provided by the Sanitation Division throughout the entire City. Trash and lawn trimmings are picked up at regular intervals. The paramount problem confronting this division is that of a thirty-mile round trip area for the disposal of trash and garbage.





# ORGANIZATION CHART



## HISTORICAL SKETCH

On October 12, 1966, Gulfport celebrated the 56th Anniversary of its incorporation. However, the history of our City can be traced back another 50 years to the building of the first permanent residence on the Pinellas Peninsula. In 1868, James Barnett built his home in what is now Gulfport. A few other settlers, mostly fishermen and farmers, followed, taking their livelihood from the land and sea.

In 1884, Hamilton Disston of Philadelphia took an interest in the area and formed the Disston City Land Company. The Company constructed a 26-room hotel, a pier, a warehouse, three stores, and a number of homes. Advertisements were placed in northern cities and in England and the area known as Disston City had its first boom. As early as 1886, a newspaper called the *Seabreeze* was started by William J. McPherson. By the late 1890's Disston City was on the decline. A hurricane on May 3, 1901 wrecked the hotel, washed away the pier, and damaged many of the other buildings. The total population in 1901 consisted of nine families.

In 1905, two gentlemen, A. F. Davis and Captain J. F. Chase were instrumental in having the St. Petersburg trolley extended to provide transportation into Disston City. Captain Chase was a Civil War Veteran and envisioned the building of a City where veterans could retire in the warm sunshine and natural beauty of the area. As a result, Disston City became known as Veteran's City. The Captain's plan proved to be unsuccessful.

Very few veterans came, and those who did soon moved away.

By 1910, there were 38 registered voters, and on August 24th of that year there was an election to decide whether or not the area should be incorporated. There were 23 votes in favor of incorporation and seven against. Consequently, the actual incorporation of the City and the adoption of its new name, Gulfport, took place on October 12, 1910. Gulfport embarked upon a period of uneventful but continuous growth. By 1920, the official population reached 300. By 1930, the population had reached 851, and in 1940 there were more than 1,580 residents. The rate of growth increased considerably during the next ten years, and by 1950 the population had reached 3,701. During these years, the City operated under a Mayor-Council or Commissioner form of government. However, this was changed in 1954 by the adoption of a new Charter which provided for Council-Manager government.

The City experienced its greatest period of expansion during the 1950's. In this decade the population tripled. By the 1960 census, it had reached a mark of 9,730. While the development of the City and its physical improvements were expanded to meet the influx of residents, the rate of growth has reached a plateau and is currently estimated at approximately 11,500. This figure is greatly increased, however, during the winter months when there is an influx of visitors from the northern climate.



## FINANCE DEPT.

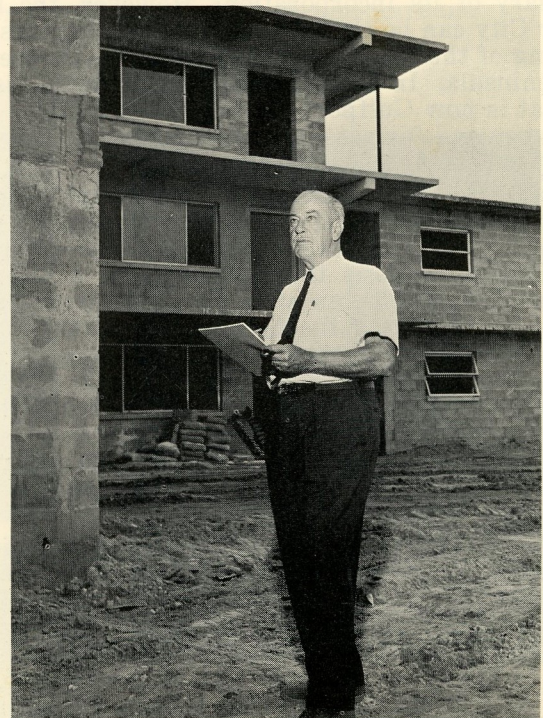
The responsibilities of this department are many and varied, such as Tabulating, mailing bills, accounting for permits, lien payments, processing all City purchases, City payrolls, and the billing of water, garbage, sewer and other assessments and the collection of the same.

This department is also responsible for handling of the physical insurance program, fire and police pension and insurance funds, employees insurance funds, and keeping various and sundry records. Another important aspect of the department's function is the supervision of the debt service requirements as contained in the Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Resolution.

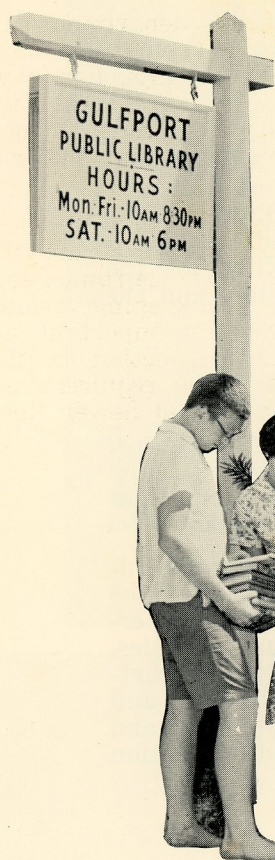


## BUILDING

The Building Director enforces the Building Code as adopted by the City and insures that the minimum safety standards of this code are met in such items as structural conditions, electrical, and plumbing. He issues permits for the City for all construction within the City where a permit is required. A nominal fee is charged for these permits and inspections to insure adequate control and adherence to required regulations.







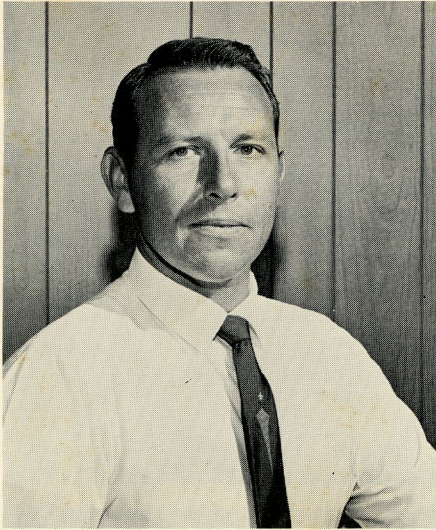
## LIBRARY DEPT.

The Library facility is open to all residents of the City six days a week. There is no charge to the residents of the City for the use of, and the enjoyment found at our Library.

The Library has completed thirty one years of operation and has reached a total of 120,000 books circulated during the year. We have been fortunate to have during the past years, dedicated and trained personnel to serve the residents as they use our Library. Our book selection ranges from research material to novels and fiction that can be enjoyed by the youth and adults of Gulfport.







# PARKS & RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Department has the responsibility for the organization and supervision of such activities as swimming, tennis, tumbling, judo, sailing, softball, baseball, volleyball, basketball, art classes, and sewing instructions. Its four major areas of responsibilities are the beaches, parks and playgrounds, Marina, Casino, and the new Community Center.

This department is responsible for the maintenance and beautification of Chase Park, Wood Ibis Park, Hoyt Field, the swimming beach, Municipal Pier, and the playgrounds.

The Marina with 179 open and covered slips is a complete and modern facility. This division is one of the department's major revenue-producing areas.

The Gulfport Casino is known throughout the United States as one of the finest dancing areas in the country. The Casino can accommodate up to 1,000 persons for dancing

and is a favorite meeting place for groups, societies, and clubs to hold socials. The average attendance per year is more than 100,000 persons for all activities.

Our new Community Center will provide added area for recreation activities as well as replace our old Community Hall for a gathering place for small groups and societies. The new building will provide this department with a gymnasium, auditorium, and meeting rooms for a wide range of uses, and house the office of the Parks and Recreation Director.









# GATEWAY TO THE FLORIDA GULF



## LICENSES

**Dog Licenses** — must be obtained annually by January 1.

**Occupational Licenses** — must be obtained annually by October 31.

**Garbage Collection Fee** — \$2.25 per month, twice weekly service.

**Water Charges** — minimum of \$2.00 for 2,000 gallons.

**Sewer Service Charge** — minimum of \$2.25, plus percentage based on water consumption.

**Fire Permit** — issued by Fire Inspector, no fee.

**Building Permit** — issued by Building Inspector.

## AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Community Center  
Casino

Phone 345-7605

## CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

Church of Christ  
Community Baptist Church  
First Methodist Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Gulfport Community Church  
Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jewish Community Center

Boca Ciega High School  
Disston Junior High School  
Gulfport Elementary School  
Holy Name Parochial School

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police	342-2221
Fire	341-5111
City Hall (All Departments Listed)	342-8011
City Clerk	
City Manager	
Finance Director	
Public Works Director	
Building Director	
Fire Marshall	
License Information	
Community Center	345-7605
Parks & Recreation Director	345-7605
Library	343-9151
Casino	345-5405
Marina	347-0172

## MEETINGS AT CITY HALL

**City Council** —  
1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.

**Municipal Court** —  
Every Monday at 7:00 P.M.

**Planning & Zoning Board** —  
3rd Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.

**Appeals Board** —  
2nd Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.

## HOURS

**City Hall** 8:30 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.  
Monday through Friday

**Library** 10:00 A.M. — 8:30 P.M.  
Monday through Friday  
10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M.  
Saturday