



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
June 19, 2023, 3pm
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 St
Fort Lauderdale Fla. 33311**

Committee Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 3/2023-2/2024	
		Present	Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	3	0
George Farrell	A	2	1
Arlon Kennedy Sr.	A	0	2
Carlos Lang	P	3	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	3	0

City Staff

Garrett Pingol, Acting Fire Chief
 Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Committee Liaison
 Fire Marshall Jeff Lucas
 Scott Bayne, President of the Firefighter’s Union
 Chaplin Ron Perkins
 Carla Blair, Prototype, Recording Secretary

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

The Committee had consensus to recommend to the City Commission that they expand the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee from five to seven members, which was the original intent in the presentation by Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue to the City Commission on the establishment of this advisory committee. The two additional members would be appointed by consensus.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 15, 2023

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the minutes of the Committee's May 15, 2023 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Countywide AED Program**

Fire Marshall Jeff Lucas provided handouts with information requested by the Committee. He described the evolution of the program. He said this was all part of Community Risk Reduction. Fire Marshall Lucas said AEDs in condominiums were at his discretion. The new code would take effect on October 1, 2023 and they would start enforcement at the beginning of 2024 with the annual inspections. Committee members wanted to ensure there was community outreach prior to enforcement. Fire Marshall Lucas stated every AED must be registered with the County so 911 responders could be informed about an AED's location when responding to a particular address. He stated he had met with several condominium groups to discuss this.

Chief Bacic agreed to coordinate a plan with Strategic Communications for community education.

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang, that the Fire Department will work with the City's Strategic Communications to see what community strategic communication outreach they can do within their budget because we've substantially increased that budget for the new City-wide magazine on a quarterly basis, maybe do a dedicated article and explain the process as far as direction with the County if we could identify how many businesses meet that 20,000 square foot, plus how many condos and dental offices and make them aware. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

- **Response Times**

Chief Pingol provided a report on response times. He believed the records were off and said they would conduct an exercise, running through an actual call to determine where the time was actually going. He suspected that County-wide, the busier the agency, the more potential to create outliers.

Ms. Scott asked who responded to Fort Lauderdale calls and Chief Pingol said Fort Lauderdale was busy enough to have its own channel and a dedicated dispatcher. Ms. Scott asked if some Fort Lauderdale calls could be directed to another dispatcher who had no calls when Fort Lauderdale received multiple calls and Chief Pingol noted there was only one radio channel to provide the information.

Chair Brown asked about Miami and Mr. Lang said Miami Beach had its own dispatch center and they could patch City of Miami or Metro Dade into their channel if they needed mutual aid.

Chief Pingol said they were able to get extra dispatchers for special events. Staffing was based on the Fitch Report, which calculated based on the number of calls per year.

Chair Brown said when the Committee reported back to the City Commission, they should include the improvements Chief Pingol had seen. Chief Pingol pointed out that travel time was the one component they could not control without new stations and staffing. Ms. Scott wanted to know which areas of the City had the worst response times and Chair Brown stated they would discuss this at the next meeting. Chief Bacic said the reason it was important to identify the time for each step was then they knew where to focus efforts to reduce the time.

- **Regional Dispatch**

Chief Pingol had provided an update. Chair Brown recalled the City Commission had asked the City Manager to consider the City having its own dispatch system but believed this was financially untenable. Additional funds could be used instead toward staffing and equipment.

- **Flooding Response**

Chief Pingol provided a presentation on the flooding response.

Chair Brown said a unified message from a joint information center should have been provided. Chief Pingol said this issue had been discussed. He said Strategic Communications was involved in providing information. Chief Lucas said from the City Manager's team down, they were all on the same page but other offices may have been "doing their own thing" but the City Manager was now addressing that.

Chief Pingol discussed the Survey 1-2-3 app, and said it was inexpensive and customizable, allowing them to perform damage assessment. It was also easy for users to learn.

Mr. Lang asked if they staged mock disasters and Chief Lucas stated Emergency Management held a full EOC exercise annually and they had used the flood event in April as their test for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Scott remarked that this Committee needed more members to be effective and to allow more community outreach and education. She wanted to ask the City Commission to add more members. Ms. Scott had spoken to Commissioner Glassman and Mayor Trantalis about this and they suggested the Committee send a Communication to the City Commission.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Chair Brown said they would discuss station locations at the next meeting. Chief Pingol recalled in the past, they had the objective of three people per rescue but this had been dropped after a change in City management. Chair Brown requested a presentation on planning for future growth.

Mr. Lang asked about Station 8 and Chief Bacic stated the original plan was to put the HAZMAT team there but they had moved a Battalion Chief to Station 8 instead. The station had an extra bay and seven bunks. Mr. Lang suggested that when the stations were constructed or improved, they should include additional space in case the area needed additional capacity in the future. Chief Bacic noted they had discovered they could reduce response times best by adding locations, which meant shorter travel times.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.