



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
May 15, 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 [via Zoom]	P	2	0
George Farrell	P	2	0
Arlon Kennedy Sr.	A	0	1
Carlos Lang	P	2	0
Jacquelyn Scott [until 4:14]	P	2	0

City Staff

Garrett Pingol, Executive Chief Officer
 Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Committee Liaison
 Steven Gollan, Fire Chief
 Scott Bayne, President of the Firefighter's Union
 Chaplin Perkins
 Carla Blair, Prototype, Recording Secretary

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.

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Farrell to allow Chair Brown to attend via Zoom.
 In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brown thanked Fire Rescue for their excellent service during the April flooding event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 20, 2023

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the minutes of the Committee's March 20, 2023 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Brown recalled the Committee had agreed to wait until all members were present to vote for a Vice Chair, but all members were not present. Committee members agreed to wait for the fifth member to elect a Vice Chair.

- **911 System Presentation – Executive Chief Garrett Pingol**

Chief Pingol gave a Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes for the public record.

Chief Pingol covered the following topics: Call Taking, Dispatching, Run Cards, the Effective Response Force (ERF), Closest Unit Response (CUR) versus Fastest Unit Response (FUR), Response Times and the impact of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) time.

Fire Chief Steven Gollan temporarily interrupted the presentation to introduce himself to the Committee and thank them for their participation. He acknowledged there was room for improvement, with high call volume and minimum staffing. He discussed the delay waiting for a new building downtown to get a Certificate of Occupancy and pay fire fees. He said they needed to get their level of service to match that of the County: three-person rescues, which would allow them to use one vehicle instead of two when responding to calls. Then they needed to add units.

Chair Brown asked if there was any way to get interim fees from buildings that had a temporary Certificate of Occupancy and Chief Gollan said some municipalities were hiring outside consultants to evaluate the impacts the building would have on the community before releasing the Certificate of Occupancy. This required an ordinance change. Chair Brown wished to discuss this and determine if it was viable for the City.

Chief Gollan said the City's population had remained fairly level, per the census, but there was an influx of one million people into the City per weekday. He said they needed to see that the elected officials understood that there were public safety service ramifications to putting more buildings downtown. Committee members agreed to bring Chief Gollan's talking points back as a discussion item on a future agenda.

Chief Pingol returned to the presentation. Mr. Lang asked about the cost of sending/receiving aid to Oakland Park and Chief Pingol stated the number of calls broke even, but because the Fort Lauderdale station locations, one Fort Lauderdale station: 35, responded to 90% of all Closet Unit calls, while Oakland Park had three stations responding in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Scott asked if the City was reimbursed for responding

in Oakland Park and Chief Gollan stated it was not. He explained the billing for transporting a person from another city.

Regarding 911 calls that were not answered promptly, Chair Brown asked if instead of repeated ringing, a caller could hear a recording asking them to wait on the line instead of calling back, which would move them to the back of the queue. Chief Gollan recalled he had made this recommendation months ago, but thought there were challenges on the communication side, even though the system had this capability. Also, since the call-taking center had recovered full staffing, it was rare that more than two or three seconds would pass for a call to be answered. He agreed to follow up.

Mr. Farrell asked to see statistics regarding how many calls required two units to respond. Chief Pingol said they had evaluated sending just one unit for certain types of medical calls but they were not comfortable trimming back this way. He agreed to get the data for Mr. Farrell.

Ms. Scott wanted to know why condominiums were not required to have AEDs, and why security personnel were not required to be trained to use them. Chief Gollan said this was dependent on the HOAs. The County ordinance required AEDs, but did not require security staff to be trained. Chief Bacic noted they performed outreach and CPR training at beach high rises.

Ms. Scott left the meeting at 4:15.

Mr. Lang wanted to ask the City Commission to institute a pilot program at a firehouse with a single engine and a single rescue with three people on each and collect the data. They could then determine if it was needed or if what they had in place was sufficient.

Scott Bayne, President of the Firefighters Union, explained how staffing at stations was evaluated based on call volume each year. He said they looked forward to a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant that would allow them to hire 28 additional positions. They were also requesting another 14 positions in the next budget cycle.

Chair Brown asked about Tactical Channel Operators and Chief Pingol explained that they were back to full staffing, more Tac Operators were available, and they doubled as call takers.

Mr. Farrell asked about manning and call volume and Chief Pingol described the dynamic between the types of calls and volume. He stated they were spending more and more time on calls as well. Mr. Farrell then asked about reflex times and Chief Pingol said unfortunately, some data was inaccurate and said they needed to police themselves.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Bacic agreed to create the agenda for the next meeting and send it to Committee members to review and comment on. Chair Brown asked for Chief Lucas to provide an update on the County AED ordinance.

Mr. Lang requested information on how the department responded to the flooding emergency in April and how they viewed their EOC. Chief Bacic agreed to bring their Post Incident Analysis to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 PM.

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

Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.