



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
September 18, 2023, 3 P.M.  
Fire Station #2  
528 NW 2 Street  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance 3/2023-2/2024</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
William Brown, Chair	P	5	0
George Farrell	A	3	2
Carlos Lang	P	5	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	5	0

**City Staff**

Garrett Pingol, Administrative Chief  
 Steven Gollan, Fire Chief  
 Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Committee Liaison  
 Chaplin Ron Perkins  
 Scott Bayne, president, Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 765  
 Carla Blair, Prototype, Recording Secretary

**COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

**Motion** made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Chair Brown, to expand the Committee to include two additional members, one to be appointed by the Mayor and one to be appointed by City Commission consensus. This would be a significant step toward better serving the community's interests. The additional members would help foster a stronger connection between our Fire Department and this Committee. Motion passed 2-1.

**Motion** made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Scott, to ask the City Commission for a proclamation recognizing Jean Coker on November 10, 2023. Motion passed 3-0.

**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 – August 19, 2023**

**Motion** by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the minutes of the Committee's August 19, 2023 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Response Times**

Chief Pingol reported that since January 1, 2023, they had given fastest response aid to Oakland Park 1,038 times, most of the responses from Station 35. The City had received aid from Oakland Park 1,358 times. Chief Pingol said the call time savings in the Station 35/Oakland Park Station 7 area were nominal but were improved by minutes in the Station 53/Oakland Park Station 87 area. They also provided aid to Oakland Park 54 times this year from Station 46, near Mills Pond Park and received aid almost 700 times from nearby Oakland Park stations.

- **Regional Dispatch**

Chief Pingol stated they anticipated good call processing time statistics next month once the April 12 flood event was removed.

Chief Pingol said a group was meeting to discuss the better long-term modality for which type of trucks should go across jurisdictional lines.

Chief Pingol stated the Fastest Unit Response [FUR] system was currently working as intended. As they kept rolling the system out, he anticipated similar positive impacts. Chair Brown recalled a Finance analysis that included patient hand-off times at hospitals. Chief Pingol noted that hospitals experienced peak hours and said they had checks and balances for when backups happened. Chief Bacic agreed to provide Committee members with a station map. He also agreed to provide a map indicating call volumes at the stations.

- **Defining Workload**

Not discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Presentation – Behavioral Health Access Program (BHAP) - Fire Rescue**  
Chaplain Ron Perkins

Chaplain Perkins provided a Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes for the public record.

Chair Brown asked how the community could help the department expand the Behavioral Health Access Program to meet the needs of the department. Chief Bacic said they should bring it to the City Commission's attention but noted they should also be better about collaborating. Chaplain Perkins said they already had a very strong peer support

team and the County-wide CISM team that was deployed after an incident. There were also online referrals available. Chaplain Perkins said they also had referrals to clinicians and he felt their weak spot was they did not have enough clinicians.

Committee members thanked Chaplain for his work on the program.

Mr. Bayne said Chaplain Perkins had done an amazing job. He thought funding was a challenge. He stated they had created a 501(c)(3) in order to be able to accept funding from anywhere.

Chaplain Perkins said his annual budget was \$120,000 - \$130,000. This covered one person, office space in Station 29, and car expenses. The City had contributed for the past two years and there would be a contribution for this year. Fort Lauderdale was contributing \$30,000; Coral Springs was contributing \$22,000 and Tamarack was contributing \$6,000. The remainder they accumulated through fundraising. Their annual prayer breakfast fundraiser, from which they usually raised \$25,000 to \$40,000, would be held on November 10 at the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club at 7:30 AM.

### **COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

**Motion** made by Ms. Scott to expand the Committee to include two additional members, one to be appointed by the Mayor and one by City Commission consensus. This would be a significant step toward better serving the community's interests. The additional members would help foster a stronger connection between our Fire Department and this Committee.

**Motion** made by Mr. Lang to table Ms. Scott's motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

Chair Brown seconded Ms. Scott's motion. Ms. Scott's motion passed 2-1 with Mr. Lang opposed.

**Motion** made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Scott to ask the City Commission for a proclamation recognizing Jean Coker on November 10, 2023. Motion passed 3-0.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS DISCUSSION**

- October Agenda

Chair Brown said Training had some initiatives they wished to bring to the Committee. Mr. Lang wanted to know more about the Marine Division, perhaps at the November meeting.

Chair Brown asked about the Boat Show and Chief Bacic said there were staffing and response plans specific to the Boat Show. Chair Brown wanted to know about the costs and what the organizer contributed. He also wanted a presentation on the Marine Division, with a review of equipment and staffing and the events in which they participated.

Chair Bacic invited Committee members to send ideas for the next agenda to him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

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