



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
November 20, 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<br/>3/2023-2/2024</b> |               |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------|
|                          |                   | <b>Present</b>                                 | <b>Absent</b> |
| William Brown, Chair     | P                 | 7  | 0             |
| George Farrell           | P                 | 5  | 2             |
| Carlos Lang              | P                 | 7  | 0             |
| Jacquelyn Scott          | P                 | 6  | 1             |
| Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair | P                 | 1  | 0             |

**City Staff**

Garrett Pingol, Administrative Chief  
Scott Bayne, Union President  
Carla Blair, Prototype, Recording Secretary

**COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION**

None

**ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 19, 2023**

**Motion** made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the August 19, 2023 minutes. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**Elect Vice Chair**

Ms. Scott nominated Mr. Ulmer for Vice Chair, seconded by Chair Brown.

Mr. Lang nominated Mr. Farrell for Vice Chair. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Lang nominated himself for Vice Chair. Motion died for lack of a second.

In a roll call vote, Mr. Ulmer was elected Vice Chair 3-2 with Mr. Lang and Mr. Farrell opposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Commission Communication of October 17**

Chief Pingol agreed to revisit this with the Committee in a few months.

- **Response Times**

Chief Pingol said they were conducting their annual appraisals of operations now. They were also talking with neighboring agencies regarding Closest/Fastest Unit Response. He noted there was a significant improvement in Return of Spontaneous Circulation for medical calls, which he attributed to improved response times. He hoped to have a yearly comparison report in the next month or so.

- **Regional Dispatch**

Chief Pingol stated as of the last report, they were back to 100% staffing. In January, everyone in place would be signed off to work as a sole dispatcher. He confirmed for Chair Brown that the County had agreed to increase pay to make the position more competitive.

- **Defining Workload**

Chief Pingol noted how well-located Fort Lauderdale's stations were and said they were working with other agencies to look at mapping and determine where they could better adjust the workload while also sending one of the fastest trucks possible to respond to an emergency. He stated there was one station in Lauderhill, four blocks from the Fort Lauderdale border, that had the fastest unit response in Zone 46 in Fort Lauderdale 150 times to 1. This had a huge impact on their station.

Chief Pingol said he told the County he wanted to see how many times the out of jurisdictional unit was first on the scene, and what the average time savings was. If the other jurisdiction was not beating them 50% of the time, they needed to consider a holistic modification to ensure they did not create a workload issue for their neighbor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Marine Team Presentation**

Chief Pingol could not open the presentation so this was postponed to the next meeting.

Chief Pingol stated the biggest challenge was getting the current marine team adequately staffed and responding in an efficient way. He said currently, they used adaptive response: when a marine call came in, they took a suppression unit out of service from station 49 and moved equipment to the fire boat to respond. He said there was an occasional challenge when there was only one truck at the station. Chief Pingol said Marine Coordinator Battalion Chief Knowles had discussed with the Marine Advisory Board a desire to have another boat downriver but they would need to find a way to staff it. Mr. Farrell wanted the Committee to make a recommendation to help

accomplish these needs. Chair Brown said they should identify a funding source, which could include a subsidy from the marine industry.

Chief Pingol said the most efficient staffing they had come up with in Miami Beach was to have one assigned boat driver and then they had dual units in the station that would take marine calls. Chair Brown requested a presentation on this, with options, so the Committee could make a recommendation. Chief Pingol said they were conducting the analysis now and he could inform the Committee what the marine team needed by February. He stated they had been discussing possible revenue streams for decades. He thought a recommendation from the Committee may elicit a favorable response from the City Commission.

- **December Meeting**

Chair Brown said their meeting was scheduled for December 18. At their December meeting, they would discuss changing the date of the January meeting.

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

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 PM.

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