



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
June 17, 2024, 3 P.M.
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

Committee Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 3/2024-2/2025	
		Present	Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	3	0
George Farrell	A	1	2
Carlos Lang	P	3	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	3	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	3	0

City Staff

Robert Bacic, Deputy Chief, Liaison
 Scott Bayne, Union President
 Lesly St. Fleur, Assistant Chief
 Jeff Lucas, Fire Marshall
 Lt. Jermain Gaspard, Fire, MIH Program
 Karen Cruitt, Prototype, Recording Secretary

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

None

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM. Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the April 15, 2024 minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Brown stated that the Committee’s recommendations were well received at the May 7 Commission meeting; questions were fielded on response, the numbers and staffing. The Mayor had been under the impression that the department’s staffing needs were met

previously; Mr. Brown pointed out that rescue units need to be staffed by three over a period of time; he also said that was back in this year's budget.

Chair Brown also noted that they agreed to have a workshop with the Committee and that on the issue of a taxing district of EMS, Commissioner Herbst asked the City Attorney to report back on who that taxing authority would report to, and who would approve the budget. Mr. Brown felt there was some support from the dais on exploring that.

Ms. Scott asked if the Pompano ordinance was included in the packet; Chief Bacic advised he referenced the information in the communication as well as the state statute which allows municipalities to establish a special district. As requested by the Committee, he will send more information on the ordinance to the City Attorney.

Mr. Lang inquired about the timeline. Chair Brown estimated it would be 2026 due to the need to allow time to educate the public, draft the ordinance and have two public hearings. Ms. Scott added that the 2026 election cycle would be the perfect time to have this as an ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Marshall Jeff Lucas updated the Committee on the training and enforcement of the AED program, noting that a lot of people are opting to lease them, and the companies leasing them are providing training; Chief Oatmeyer has also been doing classes for condos. Enforcement efforts include giving six-month's notice for them to be installed. The Committee requested information on compliance to include who has them and the number of six-month notices given. Chief Bacic indicated he would provide a report at the next meeting and will ask that they be provided on a bi-monthly basis.

As requested at the last meeting, Mr. Lucas also provided an update on maximum capacity inspections, stating that this is a more reactive program. He outlined their process for handling complaints noting that they are more proactive during Spring Break. On-call investigators require managers to shut their doors until the numbers go down and if there is no compliance in 30 minutes, lights are turned on and music is turned off.

Assistant Chief Lesly St. Fleur provided a PowerPoint presentation on Mobile Integrated Health (MIH). Ms. Scott felt the program is extremely important and asked how it would be funded. Chief Bacic explained they are currently finalizing a \$500,000 grant from Broward Health Coalition that will fund two more positions over the next year to help achieve a lot of the milestones and benchmarks they are looking at, adding that partnerships are critical such as 911 and Broward Health. Mr. Lucas added the grant would be on the July 2nd agenda as a resolution to accept the grant and in the budget modification to accept the funding. Chair Brown stated he is a supporter of the program and advised that success will be "stat driven"; more tracking and statistics on successes of the program will help with the funding mechanism. Chief Bacic will get statistics on a quarterly basis as suggested by Chair Brown.

Chief Bacic provided the Committee with an article on OSHA regulations and noted that while Florida is not an OSHA state, its board adopted all the OSHA rules as its own; any regulation changes and staffing recommendations will be implemented and then monitored.

As requested at the last meeting, Chief Bacic provided a call volume analysis for the Flagler, Progresso and Sistrunk CRAs. Mr. Brown noted that since Covid, Progresso Village's call volume more than doubled in 2023, the CRA is about to be sunset and the Commission is taking up what to do. He added that about \$10 million in tax revenue could go back into CRA redevelopment with none going into the City's operating budget for police, service or public works, putting a strain on the resources of fire and public safety. He shared several options and said the Commission is considering the Budget Advisory Board's recommendations.

OTHER ITEMS AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chair Brown stated that the Chief has asked for an alternative meeting date due to conflicts with his pre-agenda meetings at the City Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ulmer to approve a change in meeting date to the 2nd Monday of the month at 3:00pm. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on July 8.

It was agreed Chief Bacic would provide statics on AEDs and a dashboard on MIH for discussion at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.

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