



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
September 9, 2024, 3:00 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	5	0
George Farrell	A	1	4
Carlos Lang	P	5	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	5	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	5	0

City Staff

Garrett Pingol, Chief, Administrative
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Liaison
Daniel Oatmeyer, Battalion Chief

Other

Karen Cruitt, Prototype, Recording Secretary

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Scott, to send a communication to the City Commission to request that they evaluate how to incorporate AEDs as part of the approval criteria to meet Broward County Code F-121 and support the County initiative to provide early intervention in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang, to recommend the City Commission extend the term of the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee for an additional 24 months so that this Board can continue to provide feedback and advise the Commission on future planning and growth for the Citizens and Fire Department. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 12, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ulmer to approve the August 12, 2024 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

○ **Administrative**

Chief Bacic stated that Mr. Farrell was unable to attend three meetings in a row due to other commitments and could no longer serve on the Board. He shared that Mr. Farrell enjoyed working with the Board and wished members the best in moving forward. Chair Brown requested that Chief Bacic arrange for a letter to be sent to thank Mr. Farrell for his service on behalf of the Fire Department.

○ **AED Tracking**

Assistant Chief Daniel Chief Oatmeyer was present to provide an overview of the inspection process and answer questions from the Board.

Ms. Scott inquired if he was involved with making sure AEDs were being put in place and are notified. Chief Oatmeyer stated that was not the case.

Mr. Lang asked if his team was treating AEDs like fire extinguishers. Chief Oatmeyer advised that a process needs to be established.

Ms. Scott asked if they were just following up with installations; Chief Oatmeyer replied that was correct.

Chair Brown inquired if there is a procedure to track when an AED was used and whether there was a save such as in condominium buildings. Chief Oatmeyer indicated they would be advised by the crew that responded to the call. Chief Pingol added that for cardiac arrest events, there is a possibility in Image Trends to document whether an AED was used prior to arrival by adding that question as a required field.

Ms. Scott stated that she wanted the City to be more proactive in getting AEDs in place because they save lives.

Chief Pingol acknowledged that Ms. Scott has been advocating that the City promote the devices to increase early compliance through proactive communications, and this would ensure more devices are implemented by the time they are due for inspection.

Chair Brown said now that AEDs are required in condominium buildings, increased awareness could prompt someone to look for one in the event of a cardiac event.

Mr. Lang suggested they consider requiring that AEDs be included as part of final inspections when there is new construction or a new business. Chief Pingol said that would be a question for Chief Lucas as part of the Certificate of Occupancy process. Ms. Scott also suggested the Department investigate finding a way for the Development Review Committee or Planning and Zoning to incorporate AEDs as part of their process for buildings. Chief Pingol stated their plan would include looking for new or changed Certificates of Occupancy to require compliance with the current code.

Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Scott, to send a communication to the City Commission to request that they evaluate how to incorporate AEDs as part of the approval criteria to meet Broward County Code F-121 and support the County initiative to provide early intervention in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Pingol shared that pursuant to discussion at the last meeting, he was proud to announce the Department was awarded the SAFER Grant; twenty-six new positions will be added, and six rescues will get a third person within the next 12 months. Current staffing is seven rescues staffed at three; six more in this fiscal year will bring the total to 13. The grant will fund \$11.6 million over three years.

Chair Brown requested clarification on whether that meant that budget year October 2027-2028 would begin the fourth year, meaning that the City would have to fully fund the 26 positions starting with the fiscal year beginning October 2027. Chief Pingol acknowledged that was correct, adding that while the grant would fund fire fighters for the third seat, the City agreed through Commission voting and the City Manager's office, to cover medical designation pay and the difference in salary to add 26 Lieutenants. Chief Pingol further explained that compliance would require the City to continue funding once the grant ends in three years; it would pay a higher percentage of the salaries the first year then cascade down, allowing the City to ease into the budgetary impact over a three-year period. He stated this would add nine new fire fighters to each shift.

Chair Brown inquired about the anticipated hiring date. Chief Pingol said they would post in October or November, and they were expecting eight to ten for the next class which starts in two weeks; he then further explained the process to train and develop a Lieutenant list.

- Chair Brown asked whether the new Public Information Officer could attend the next meeting to talk about the initiatives of that position moving forward, as the Board is seeking ways to increase education and get messages out to the community.
- Chief Pingol gave an overview of a new initiative that will be launched by the end of September to enable Ocean Rescue to respond more quickly to all medical emergencies on the beach and in the water. Four lieutenants and one chief on the beach will facilitate faster responses for offshore medical emergencies, overturned vessels, drownings, heart attacks and other marine events. The proactive measure will decrease patient contact time and is a great step forward to make more saves in severe medical emergencies.
- **Holiday meeting schedule**
The next meeting will be on October 14, 2024; the Board will vote on the November and December meetings at that time.

Chair Brown reminded members that the Board will Sunset at the end of this year. Discussion ensued on whether to Sunset as scheduled or request more time since there is more work to be done; the main objective would be to pursue a new taxing district.

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang, to recommend the City Commission extend the term of the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee for an additional 24 months so that this Board can continue to provide feedback and advise the Commission on future planning and growth for the Citizens and Fire Department. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

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