



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-235

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: November 12, 2025
**SUBJECT: Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show 2025 – Public Safety
Coordination and After-Action Summary**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide a summary of the coordination and management of the 2025 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS). This LTC highlights Fire Rescue and Police Department operations, interagency collaboration, and the overall effectiveness of public safety planning and execution during the event. Internal after-action reports are conducted following large-scale incidents to identify opportunities to enhance service delivery and promote public safety. Our primary objective remains to ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and event personnel through proactive coordination and efficient incident management.

The 2025 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show was conducted successfully with no major incidents or safety disruptions. Fire Rescue and Police maintained continuous oversight under a Unified Command structure, working in coordination with interagency partners, event logistics personnel, and federal partners. Both departments provided emergency medical, fire suppression, security, and public safety services throughout the five-day event, ensuring a rapid and coordinated response to all incidents.

Public safety personnel remained actively engaged throughout the event, responding to thirty-nine (39) Fire Rescue calls for service, forty-eight (48) rescue-related calls through Police Command, and five (5) medical transports requiring both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) interventions. Incidents ranged from critical medical emergencies and minor injuries to domestic disturbances and a marine-related incident involving an overturned vessel, all of which were effectively mitigated through preparedness and rapid response. The coordinated presence of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Police ensured safe drone operations, monitoring 233 flights and enforcing airspace regulations.

These incidents reflect the critical need for public safety resources and the continued importance of Fire Rescue and Police presence at major public events. This level of public safety planning, coordination, and staffing demonstrates the value of proactive management, ensuring timely response to emergencies, safeguarding attendees, and

maintaining operational readiness without disrupting the delivery of day-to-day emergency services to the community.

Operations and Coordination

Despite high attendance, restricted access points, significant traffic impacts and changing weather conditions, emergency crews maintained readiness and ensured rapid response capability. Fire-Rescue strategically deployed suppression-capable units across the venue to improve response times and coverage for large vessels with high fire loads, while interagency coordination among Fire Rescue, Police, SWAT, and the BSO Aviation Unit ensured a unified and efficient approach to crowd management, public safety, and incident mitigation. This coordinated framework was instrumental in maintaining safety and operational continuity throughout the duration of the event.

Conclusion

The 2025 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show was successfully managed with no major safety incidents. The coordinated efforts of Fire Rescue, Police, and partner agencies ensured public safety, maintained medical readiness, and delivered effective emergency response throughout the event. Continued collaboration and unified planning among public safety partners will remain essential to the success and safety of future large-scale events hosted within the City of Fort Lauderdale.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
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