



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-265

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: December 15, 2025
**SUBJECT: Fire Chief's Association of Broward County Awards -
Fire Chief of the Year and Firefighter of the Year**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission is to inform the City Commission that on December 4, 2025, the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County (FCABC) recognized Fire Chief Stephen Gollan as the *Fire Chief of the Year* and Driver Engineer Alexander Pritchard as the *Firefighter of the Year*.

On an annual basis, the FCABC recognizes members of the fire service in various award categories. The Fire Chief of the Year award is bestowed upon a Fire Chief who has acted in a situation or in a manner that was above or beyond the call of duty or demonstrated exceptional performance in the professional practice as the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Gollan's nomination and selection amongst his peers in Broward County reflects his strong commitment and the measurable progress the Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department has made during his tenure as Fire Chief. Chief Gollan and his team have driven improvements in response times, staffing, fiscal management, and community engagement. In 2025, the City secured an \$11.4 million SAFER grant to hire twenty-eight (28) firefighters and expand three (3)-person rescue staffing. Under Chief Gollan's leadership, the Department reduced overtime costs by more than \$1.3 million, strengthened the Fire Prevention Bureau, and launched data-driven inspection analytics. Chief Gollan also led the public-private partnership planning of Fire Station 117, the City's first new suppression company in over 30 years.

The Firefighter of the Year award is given to an individual who has acted in a situation or in a manner that was above or beyond the call of duty or an individual who has demonstrated exceptional performance in the professional practice of a Firefighter. Excellence in professional practice may be demonstrated by a significant rescue call or a series of activities or performances that promote the good of the fire service or contribute to the improvement or well-being of the community.

Driver Engineer (DE) Pritchard played a critical role during a dangerous residential fire in Wilton Manors where multiple people were reported trapped inside. Acting quickly, he

and his crew entered the burning home through heavy smoke and fire conditions and located two (2) victims in a back bedroom. DE Pritchard carried the first victim outside to rescue crews, then immediately went back inside with additional teams to free and remove a second victim who was trapped in a mobility sling. Despite deteriorating conditions, he remained calm, focused, and effective, actions that directly contributed to saving a woman's life. She later made a full recovery and was reunited with the crews who rescued her. DE Pritchard's skill, courage, and dedication exemplify the highest standards of the public safety profession.

Please join me in congratulating Fire Chief Gollan and DE Pritchard.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Director