



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
April 15, 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	2	0
George Farrell	A	1	1
Carlos Lang	P	2	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	2	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	2	0

City Staff

Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Liaison
 Scott Bayne, Union President
 Karen Cruitt, Prototype, Recording Secretary

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

None

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 18, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Communication to the City Commission Document**

Chief Bacic had finalized the document to include all of the Committee’s suggestions. He said the City had agreed to having three-person staffing on two more rescues. He stated they were also applying for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response [SAFER] grant, which the City supported using for additional staffing on the rest of the rescues. Ms. Scott wanted to change “continue pursuing” to “continue implementation”

of the additional personnel on the rescues. Chair Brown noted that on the current timeline, it would take five years for full three-person staffing on all rescues. He stated the creation of a special taxing district could help expedite the process. Chief Bacic noted the State had recently limited the funding municipalities could get from special taxing districts. Committee members agreed to the change Ms. Scott had suggested.

Ms. Scott asked that the Communication include additional information about special taxing districts, such as other municipalities that had implemented them. Chair Brown recommended the wording "Consider the possibility of an EMS taxing district or alternative funding to meet the needs for Fire Rescue." He said he would provide information on Pompano Beach's special Taxing District for EMS.

Chair Brown asked that this be pushed to the City Commission's May 21 agenda because he would be out of town on May 7. He said they would also request a workshop during the presentation at that meeting. He later stated that he would be able to go to the May 7 meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Scott to approve the Communication to the City Commission as amended. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Bacic reported ACAI, the design team for Fire Station 13, had notified the City that they were going out of business. The City's team was working on moving this forward now. They hoped to use the 60% or 90% plans [which they had not received yet] to put it out to bid as a single contract, not a design/bid/build. This presented a significant delay. Chief Bacic said the change in the plat would also require a land use amendment, which could take up to 12 months. He said Fire Chief Pingol would determine if the personnel should stay in the current building or move into the temporary station. Chair Brown suggested Chief Pingol consider how the reconstruction of the Sunrise bridge would affect their ability to respond.

Chair Brown asked if the City could get a run-load increase for the past five years of the increased call volume in the CRA, Flagler Village, Progresso Village and Sistrunk. He said all ad valorem for this this CRA went into the CRA fund and none was being used to fund Police or Fire. He was unsure if they were allowed to use CRA funds to fund Police and Fire but recalled they had used CRA funds for a Police substation. Chair Brown stated that CRA was slated to sunset in 2025 and they were asking to be extended. He said the community was concerned about increased call volume in the area and the ad valorem going into the CRA. Chief Bacic discussed the City's population growth and the effect this had on call volume. He noted the steps they had taken to improve their ability to respond in the future.

Chair Brown said OSHA was changing language on staffing that gave more strength to the minimum staffing requirements and requested a presentation. Ms. Scott requested an update on the AED implementation. Mr. Lang stated only one business on Las Olas had purchased an AED unit: Cuba Libre. Others had indicated they would wait until it became mandatory.

Chair Brown requested an update on mobile integration. Chief Bacic described the evolution of the Fire Department responsibilities over the years. He stated there were now programs in the country that offered community paramedicine through their fire departments. Last year, the City had initiated the Mobile Integrated Health Team, which was designed to address the health issues of frequent callers. They were now receiving referrals to conduct home assessments. They were expanding the program this year with grant funds.

OTHER ITEMS AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Lang asked for information on maximum capacity inspections.

Ms. Scott asked if the City had just one set of bunker gear for the firefighters. Chief Bacic said this was true but their existing gear was top of the line. He said instead of a second set, firefighters were provided a loaner set while the set was cleaned and repaired.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

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