



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
August 12, 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	4	0
George Farrell	A	1	3
Carlos Lang	P	4	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	4	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	4	0

City Staff

Garrett Pingol, Deputy Chief, Operations
 Robert Bacic, Deputy Chief, Liaison
 Scott Bayne, Union President
 Lesly St. Fleur, Assistant Chief
 Monique Young, Community Health Coordinator

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang, to send a communication to the City Commission to re-iterate the previous recommendation voted upon by the Committee on March 18, 2024, to add a third person to two rescue units each budget year to maintain the cycle that is currently in place. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.



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Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief, Liaison
Scott Bayne, Union President
Lesly St. Fleur, Assistant Chief
Monique Young, Community Health Coordinator

Other

Karen Cruitt, Prototype, Recording Secretary

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ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 17, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the June 17, 2024 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Brown said it was disappointing that after making a strong recommendation to the City Commission that they fund two rescues per year at three persons, the Acting City Manager cut that back to one in the next budget year, only funding the last six months. He recommended the Committee encourage the City Commission to stay on track with at least two per year and avoid falling behind the curve.

Motion by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Lang, to send a communication to the City Commission to re-iterate the previous recommendation voted upon by the Committee on March 18, 2024, to add a third person to two rescue units each budget year to maintain the cycle that is currently in place. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

○ **MIH Statistics**

Assistant Chief Lesly St. Fleur provided a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on homeless outreach efforts through the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program. Ms. Monique Young, Community Health Coordinator, was introduced as the face of the program and provided input during the presentation.

Ms. Scott said she wished the residents of the City knew everything that the program was doing.

Chair Brown challenged the data point on the percentage of homeless population in the City; he estimated it was well over 50% of the Broward County total instead of the 31% presented and questioned whether all municipalities put the same amount of resources behind the data collected. Chief St Fleur and Ms. Young agreed the actual percentage was likely higher. Ms. Young pointed out there are a lot of substance abuse treatment services in Fort Lauderdale, and that many patients stay in the area after treatment. Chief St. Fleur added they are challenged by having Broward County Jail, BCT and Broward General in the City as many of those discharged also tend to stay in the area. Chief St. Fleur also stated they need to find a way to bridge the gaps caused by mental and substance abuse.

Chair Brown asked whether there was data on transports versus the 7.5% of total calls directly related to homelessness concerns as he heard it is very high. Chief St. Fleur said it is high, that at times individuals do not have identification or an address, and numbers are skewed because there is a cycle. He added that he will work to get that information.

Chief Pingol said that a unique aspect of the MIH program is that for the first time in a long time, it provides pre-hospital advocacy.

Ms. Scott stated she appreciates everything MIH is doing.

Chair Brown asked whether there was anticipated impact on the Fire Department as of October 1st with House Bill 1365. Chief St. Fleur said the process of vacating properties may create more calls for transports to the hospital as a way to avoid being arrested. Ms. Young added it would primarily be up to private property owners to take action.

Chair Brown asked if there is a distinction between the truly homeless and people that are working during the day and sleeping in their cars because they cannot afford housing. Ms. Young advised there are different terms and the chronic homeless are those that have been homeless for some time and do not wish to be helped.

Ms. Scott asked if there was a large percentage of people that work but sleep in their cars because they cannot afford an apartment. Ms. Young said they see those individuals but do not have the data. Chief St. Fleur said he would try to get that information for the Committee. Ms. Scott inquired if there was an opportunity through the HAC. Ms. Young said they are at capacity and structured differently.

Mr. Ulmer said those that sleep in their cars will likely accept help. Chief St. Fleur responded by saying that every case is different depending on past trauma and individual life experience.

Mr. Lang asked if there is a plan for the large chronic homeless population. Ms. Young said that outside of working with the Police Department, there was none. Chief St. Fleur invited the Committee to come to Community Court, shadow them and see for themselves.

Chair Brown thanked Chief St. Fleur and Ms. Young on behalf of the Committee for the work they are doing, invited them to come back and communicate any support needs they may have.

- **AED Tracking**

Deputy Fire Chief Bacic updated the Committee on efforts to track data related to AED compliance. There has been some community outreach under Emergency Management; Chief Oatmeyer has been doing the training and spearheading the effort. There is now a portal on their website for registrations, however, they are not coming in as often as AEDs are going into service. They are doing a deep dive to dig through and lay a path to moving forward; it will include additional outreach and education, and he expects to be able to show progress in the next two meetings.

Ms. Scott said it seemed there should be private entities that would do training and there should be data from the annual fire inspections. Chief Bacic said there is no mandated enforcement arm. Mr. Lang agreed with Ms. Scott and added the department should determine how they want to enforce the ordinance or give people more time to implement.

Chief Bacic said there is some data within the prevention bureau from online submittals in addition to other data that Chief Oatmeyer is looking at; he will compile the information, and they need to finish gathering the data so they can see where the holes are.

Ms. Scott felt too many people were involved and it was not a very coordinated effort.

Chief Pingol said they knew it would take at least full year of annual fire inspections to catch the compliance through attrition. He will fall back with Chief Lucas to determine how they are tracking the information from fire inspections and will also pull data from the County; those would be the two key informational sources.

Chief Bacic added that the goal is to get to a single data source.

Chair Brown suggested there should be an end date for compliance and a grace period especially for annual inspections that are not due until September or October.

Ms. Scott asked about the enforceability of the ordinance. Mr. Lang advised the ordinance indicates that each city can deem how to enforce it; the power falls back on the Fire Department. He suggested that the Department provide a form for people that have annual inspections late in the year to capture previously unreported AEDs so those locations can be documented by the City.

Chief Pingol said they were looking at 25% that would not have had their inspection yet and he would follow-up with Chief Lucas.

NEW BUSINESS

The Fire Chief was unable to be present and provide his report due to a scheduling conflict. In his absence, Chief Pingol offered to answer questions on the areas he covers. He provided feedback on the MSD Committee meeting last month, stating he was impressed by their advancement forward, including the staffing, training, increased accountability, improved call answer times, automation of Police and Fire and medical alarms, implementation of technologies and working with the P1 CAD. Chief Pingol added they are still pushing for more through the Fire Chief's Association which will recommend they adopt NFPA standards for dispatch as a goal to strive for.

Chief Pingol also advised that the Department is in full swing with all contiguous agencies that border the City in the Fastest Unit Response program, stating that it had

not negatively impacted their system as they are receiving more automatic aide than they are giving. He added the Department is helping the neighboring agencies that are being challenged by the new initiative.

Chair Brown requested an update on the facilities of the substation and FS13. Chief Bacic advised that the bid for the Design Criteria Package (DCP) for stations FS13 and FS88 went out on Friday and would be on the street for 30 days. Chief Bacic further explained they decided to do one design/build RFQ solicitation for the two stations to increase economies of scale and are shooting for February or March to be able to award a bid for the design/build.

Chair Brown asked if the trailer at Vistamar was still unoccupied. Chief Bacic said that they are moving staff into the trailer on Thursday.

Chair Brown asked whether Ocean Rescue would stay there. Chief Bacic said Ocean Rescue would stay there until their trailer is ready; that the contractor was required to do boring samples of the trailer site, and that Public Works is going through the permitting process to be able to put the trailer on Las Olas Circle.

Chair Brown asked for an update on the mold study that he understood the Chief had ordered on all stations. Chief Bacic said he would have to check with Logistics to find out.

Chair Brown also asked about the parking garage station at Station 117. Chief Bacic said there was some contractual work being done and expected it to go to Commission in September. Chief Pingol added that visual inspections were completed, most of it was mitigated on the spot and no one had to be removed.

The Committee agreed that agenda items for the September meeting should include:

- AED Update
- Pre-plan of the Boat Show in October
- Fire Boat 49 Update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM.

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