



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
April 14, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

Committee Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/2025-12/2026*	
		Present	Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	4	0
Dr. Amanda Chalfant	P	3	1
Frederick Nesbitt	P	4	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	4	0

** Cumulative Attendance reflects meeting participation as of January 2025, as confirmed by the Office of the City Attorney.*

City Staff

Stephen Gollan, Fire Chief
Garrett Pingol, Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Owen, Assistant Fire Chief
Jason Miller, Fire Marshal
Frank Guzman, Public Information Officer
Keisha Costa

Communication to the City Commission

Motion by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, to approve the Strategic Plan for the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee for 2025-2026 to be communicated to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

[A copy of the Plan will be attached to these minutes]

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 1:11 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.



2nd DRAFT

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ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 1:11 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 10, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, to approve the March 10, 2025 minutes as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

o Strategic Plan for the FRAC in 2025-2026

A draft of the proposed two-year strategic plan was previously distributed for review by Members; Chair Brown thanked Staff for incorporating Committee feedback and opened discussion on the plan as presented. While Mr. Nesbitt felt the draft was excellent, he proposed expanding language on public safety initiatives under bullet three of the fourth objective: Assessing and Recommending Community Needs. Members agreed that that language should encompass the broader range of fire and life safety initiatives in all occupancies; CPR and AED education; emergency response protocols; and whole blood donations.

Additional discussion resulted in agreement to limit specificity at this stage; the strategic plan should be considered a "living document", subject to ongoing revision and updates as needed to support community needs. Members expressed unanimous satisfaction with the plan with the amendment discussed.

Chief Gollan provided a report on the following:

- Recruits. All 35 firefighter recruits were currently in week six of training which is progressing as scheduled. The firefighter graduation ceremony will be on May 8, 2025 at the Nova Southeastern Museum downtown.
- Awards and Promotion Ceremony. The ceremony for 28 new lieutenants is scheduled for May 17, 2025 at First Baptist Church downtown.
- Flood Training and Equipment. Swift water and storm weather training was recently conducted, marking the two-year anniversary of the flood. The Department acquired two flood trucks by repurposing older vehicles slated for auction; this was a cost-effective solution for flood response. Additional flood equipment, including dry suits, throw bags, and shallow-water boats, have been procured through donations and emergency funding to enhance the self-sufficiency of the Department during the initial 72 hours of large-scale emergencies. Over 100 firefighters were successfully trained.
- Tortuga Music Festival. There were over 25,000 attendees, and the event was successfully managed. The implemented incident action plan included strategic staging of units along A1A, and facilitated effective response times. An on-site emergency room staffed by Broward Health streamlined medical care, and minimized the need to transport to outside facilities; most incidents were related to intoxication and sub-chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Assistant Fire Chief Owen added that at the end of multiple nights during the event, every rescue truck that was staged, and transfer unit that was assigned to the detail, was being utilized; this was in addition to normal operational units that came in. The additional staffing

negotiated with the vendor mitigated operational challenges, so response times were maintained.

- Upcoming Large Events. Fleet Week was anticipated in two weeks; the Air Show would be the following week. Chief Owen added insight on the new uniform program for details at large events that would involve chief officers and cameras; bright red shirts and/or vests would be used for easier identification by the public and Staff. It was clarified that additional administrative and equipment costs would be incorporated into event budgets; City events would be at time-and-a-half, and managed through the general fund.

Chair Brown complemented the Department, after receiving positive feedback on traffic and crowd management from high-rise condominiums in the area.

- Spring Break. Activities were managed effectively, without major medical incidents or resource deployments beyond normal operations; the exception was a single incident involving local high school students that resulted in a temporary shutdown of A1A. It was noted that Spring Break outcomes contrasted with challenges experienced by other municipalities

Chair Brown commended the Mr. Guzman, Public Information Officer, for doing a great job with social media content and engagement. Mr. Guzman noted that engagement had increased by approximately 70% across platforms, particularly Instagram and Facebook, due to high-quality content and increased public interaction.

Chair Brown inquired whether there were plans for the surplus property at Station 29. Chief Gollan acknowledged the need for a training facility. A City assessment revealed that renovation would be cost-prohibitive so demolition is planned; the land will likely become an extension of the adjacent park due to space limitations.

Discussion returned to amending the wording for the third bullet under Objective Four of the Strategic Plan for the FRAC regarding life safety initiatives. Members approved the following wording as proposed by Chief Owen: *Life safety initiatives that are inclusive of all occupancy types, to include both Fire and medical training and/or awareness for the public.* A fourth [dark] bullet was to be added: *Consider and highlight benefits of such initiatives, especially when community impact justifies the cost.* A copy of the revised document is available in the public record.

Motion by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, to approve the Strategic Plan for the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee for 2025-2026 to be communicated to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Dr. Chalfant, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, to cancel the meeting scheduled for May 12, 2025. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brown strongly encouraged Members to attend either the graduation on May 8, 2025, or the awards and promotions ceremony on May 17, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

[Prepared by : K. Cruitt, Prototype, Inc.]

Strategic Plan for the FRAC in 2025-2026

Purpose:

This communication outlines the strategic direction of the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) as discussed and developed during recent Committee meetings. The Committee seeks to provide high-level guidance, feedback, and recommendations that support the long-term goals of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue (FLFR) while maintaining strong community engagement and transparency.

Background:

The Fire Rescue Advisory Committee's role has evolved significantly over the past two years. The Committee now plays a more proactive advisory role in shaping the direction and public engagement of FLFR. The FRAC will focus on the importance of establishing high-level strategic goals, particularly emphasizing the need for future fire station planning and community outreach.

Strategic Objectives of the Committee:

The committee has identified the following objectives as guiding principles for the FRAC's work moving forward:

1. Planning for Future Infrastructure

- Assess and provide advisory recommendations on:
 - Future fire station locations to address community growth and service needs.
 - The potential development of a centralized training academy to support firefighter readiness and departmental excellence.

2. Enhancing Community Engagement

- Support community outreach initiatives to:
 - Raise awareness of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue's mission, services, and programs.
 - Increase Department visibility and credibility, especially in underserved areas.
 - Ensure that FLFR's value and importance are clearly communicated to the public.

3. Strengthening Community Relations

- Provide feedback, input, and guidance to FLFR staff and the City Commission on key issues that influence community trust and collaboration.
- Serve as an alternative forum for citizens to voice fire rescue-related concerns and suggestions, complementing formal appearances before the City Commission.

4. Assessing and Recommending Community Needs

- Evaluate and advise on resources that serve the public interest, including:
 - New or expanded fire stations
 - Training facilities
 - Life Safety initiatives that are inclusive of all occupancy types, and to include fire training, medical training and awareness for the public.
- Consider and highlight benefits of such initiatives, especially when community impact justifies the cost.

Conclusion:

The Fire Rescue Advisory Committee remains committed to supporting the safety and well-being of Fort Lauderdale residents through strategic, transparent, and community-centered advisory efforts. The Committee welcomes further discussion with the City Commission to ensure its work continues to support the broader mission of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue.