



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#19-0278

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: March 5, 2019

TITLE: Resolution Urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation that would
Authorize Tactical Medical Professionals to Possess and Carry Firearms
during Certain Tactical Law Enforcement Operations

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution encouraging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation authorizing Tactical Medical Professionals to possess and carry firearms during high-risk incidents as part of a tactical law enforcement operation.

Background

The use of tactical law enforcement operations are necessary to address high-risk incidents, which include, but are not limited to, hostage incidents, narcotics raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents, armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspects, high-risk felony warrant service, fugitives refusing to surrender, and active killer shooter incidents. Due to the nature of these incidents, there is a greater likelihood that civilians and first responders may suffer serious injuries, which may require immediate medical intervention. Customarily, emergency medical personnel will not enter an active high-risk scene until law enforcement determines that the scene is safe for entry. This delay in providing medical intervention can impair the ability of medical professionals to save lives or prevent further injury to civilians or first responders located inside an active high-risk scene. Embedding tactically trained medical professionals with tactical law enforcement teams would ensure the prompt medical treatment of injured civilians and first responders located within a high-risk scene.

Currently, Florida law does not permit tactical medical professionals, who are not certified law enforcement officers, to possess firearms in locations where high-risk incidents can occur. These locations include, but are not limited to, schools, courthouses, arenas and certain governmental functions.

There is presently before the Florida Legislature Senate Bill 722 and House Bill 487, which propose that a tactical medical professional, who is actively operating in direct support of a tactical operation by a law enforcement agency, is permitted to possess firearms, upon certain conditions being met, during high risk incidents.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 9: Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- Objective 2: Provide quick and exceptional fire, medical, and emergency response.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Rick J. Maglione, Chief of Police

Department Director: Rick J. Maglione, Chief of Police