RESOLUTION NO. 19-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE TACTICAL MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO POSSESS AND CARRY FIREARMS DURING CERTAIN TACTICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS; PROVIDING FOR DISTRUBUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, these high-risk incidents may result in serious injuries to civilians and first responders, who may be in need of immediate medical intervention by medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, due to the dangers to life during these high-risk incidents, medical professionals customarily do not enter the active scene until declared safe by law enforcement thereby causing a delay in providing medical assistance to civilians and first responders in need of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the delay in receiving medical assistance can impair the ability of medical professionals to save lives or prevent further injury to civilians or first responders located inside the active high-risk scene; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Florida law does not permit a tactical medical professionals, who is not a certified law enforcement officer to possess firearms in locations where high-risk incidents can occur, which include but are not limited to schools, courthouses, arenas and certain governmental functions; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 722 and House Bill 487 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 under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 722 and House Bill 487 define "tactical medical professional" as a paramedic, as defined in Florida Statutes Section 401.23, or a physician, as defined in Florida Statutes Section 458.305, who is appointed to provide direct support to a tactical law enforcement unit by providing medical services at high-risk incidents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are specifically made part of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby encourages the Florida Legislature to pass legislation authorizing tactical medical professionals to possess firearms during high-risk incidents which include, but are not limited to, hostages incidents, narcotics raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents, armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspects, high-risk felony warrant service, fugitives refusing to surrender, and active shooter incidents, under certain conditions.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to distribute this Resolution to all municipal and county governments in Broward County, Florida the Broward County Legislative Delegation, the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County, the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Florida Police Association, the Broward Sheriff's Office, and municipal law enforcement agencies and fire departments not served by the Broward Sheriff's Office.

SECTION 4. Effective Date: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of March, 2019.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODERELLI