

**COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION
FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
April 25, 2019**

**City Hall, 1st Floor Commission Chambers
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Thursday, April 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

Committee Members		Attendance – January / December 2019	
		Present	Absent
Thornie Jarrett, Chair	P	3	0
Douglas Meade, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Mark Booth	P	1	2
Raymond Dettmann	P	3	0
Patrick McTigue	P	2	1
Frederick Nesbitt	P	3	0
Frank Snedaker	P	3	0
Charles Tatelbaum	P	2	1

Staff

Marlon Lobban, Senior Project Manager and Liaison
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief
Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer
Tatiana Guerrier, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Call to Order

Chair Jarrett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

Communication to the City Commission

Mr. Dettmann asked if Ocean Rescue will be housed at a Fire Station. Mr. Lobban advised that Ocean Rescue headquarters is temporarily located at FS #13 in space previously used for training. The Fire Department is actively seeking new options for these headquarters.

Mr. Dettmann continued that he had spoken with his City Commissioner regarding fire impact fees, and was encouraged to have the Committee send another communication to the City Commission regarding this issue.

Motion made by Mr. Tatelbaum to recommend to the Commission to designate two EMS substations that they consider the implementation of a Fire/EMS impact fee in connection with all new construction in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Tatelbaum **amended** his **motion** to include the following: to designate two EMS substations.

It was suggested that the Committee appoint Mr. Tatelbaum to write down the **motion** and send it to the City Commission. Mr. Tatelbaum stated that he would look at the City's regulations regarding funding and word the **motion** appropriately.

Mr. Booth **seconded** Mr. Tatelbaum's **motion**. [The **motion** was not voted upon.]

Motion made to allow [Mr. Tatelbaum] to do this and submit it.

It was determined that once the **motion** is sent to the City Commission, Staff would distribute copies of the document to the Committee members.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**City of Fort Lauderdale
Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee**

Blue Ribbon Committee

Thornie Jarrett, Chairman
Douglas Meade, Vice Chair

Members:

Mark Booth
Raymond Dettmann
Patrick McTigue
Frederick Nesbitt
Frank Snedaker
Charles Tatelbaum

April 29, 2019

Mayor Dean Trantallis
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Commissioner Heather Moraitis
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Commissioner Steven Glassman
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Commissioner Ben Sorensen
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Mr. Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager
Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Re: Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond
Issue Blue Ribbon Committee

Lady and Gentlemen:

Blue Ribbon Committee (the "Committee") as a result of a unanimous resolution

that was passed at the Committee's most recent meeting held on April 25, 2019. All of the Committee members were present at the meeting, and all voted in favor of the resolution which will be detailed below. Because of the importance of the issue, and because following the April 25, 2019 meeting of the Committee, three of the Committee members will have been termed out, the Committee felt that important to have me designated to communicate with you directly to set forth the Committee's resolution.

At a Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 27, 2018, the Committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the City Commission the consideration for the implementation of a fire-rescue impact fee for all new construction in Fort Lauderdale. It is my understanding that this resolution was communicated to you through the "normal channels" of communication with respect to the Committee's activities.

On April 25, 2019, the Committee again unanimously resolved to recommend to the City Commission the consideration for the implementation of a fire-rescue impact fee for all new construction in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Committee members strongly believe that with the rapid development and growth of both commercial and residential construction and development within the City of Fort Lauderdale, the capital needs of the City with respect to the City's fire and rescue operations will be strained, and without such a dedicated impact fee being implemented, future budgets approved by the Commission will not have sufficient wherewithal in order to meet the current and future capital needs of the fire-rescue operations of the City.

The Committee thinks that it is important to provide you with some history as to why the Committee has taken this step to make this recommendation to the Commission. We are very fortunate as are the residents of the City to have fellow Committee members who have literally served on the Committee for decades, and provided their time and experience for the benefit of the City by continuing as members of the Committee. Our outgoing Chair, Thornie Jarrett, and several other long tenured Committee members have been serving longer than anyone presently on the City Commission, the present Mayor, the present City Manager, or the City's fire chief and all but one of her deputy chiefs. Thus, these Committee members have institutional knowledge and experience that is unparalleled within the City administration, and a valuable commodity which should be utilized by all who seek to improve the welfare of those living in Fort Lauderdale.

Prior to the most recent Mayor/Commission election, the Committee members became focused upon the then remaining three fire stations that are subject to the Fire Facilities Bond issue. In particular, fire station #8 has been extremely important to those living and working in the downtown Fort Lauderdale area, and, even more importantly, those residing on the east side in the areas surrounding and including Rio Vista. It was brought to the attention of all who were involved with the City and its welfare that the response time for medical emergencies for those in the downtown and eastside areas is longer than anywhere else in the City, and beyond the limits of what is acceptable.

Despite the objections of the Committee members and the misgivings of leadership of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department (and its Union leaders), station #8 was located at the extremity of its service area due to the political considerations connected with the acquisition of a parcel of land that was to be partially utilized by the

now-defunct Wave. Please understand that the Committee and the fire department leadership objected to this location long before it was too late to substitute another location, so that the eleventh hour scurrying to find another location during the summer of last year was a self-created deadline.

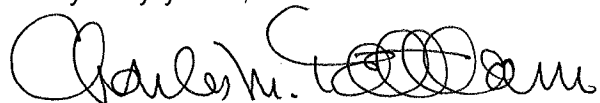
Prior to your election, the prior Commission at a workshop assured the Committee members and residents of the east side of Fort Lauderdale that \$3 million would be set aside in the next City budget to build a two bay EMS station in order to provide timely critical medical emergency service to the downtown and eastside areas of Fort Lauderdale. While this was not a specific quid pro quo, the prior constituted Commission, apparently recognizing the critical deficiencies that were going to be created with the location of station #8, sought to ameliorate this recognized deficiency with the promise of the new EMS station.

As you are aware, when the City's budget was finally approved, the \$3 million that had been promised for the construction of the EMS station was removed. Given the understandable unwillingness of the Commissioners to increase real estate taxes, it is now only speculative as to when and if funds will be allocated to construct the previously committed EMS station.

At the April 25 Committee meeting, the Committee members, recognizing that the scope and authority of the Committee is only to oversee the bond issue for the construction of the fire stations, nevertheless, as part of their civic responsibility and commitment to the health and welfare of the City residents, and based on their decades of experience discussed other methods that could be recommended to the Commission so that the eastside EMS station and others that may be needed with a growing population in Fort Lauderdale could be promptly constructed if funds are not available within the City budget. It is for that reason that the Committee members after careful deliberation voted to have the Committee formally request the City Commission to favorably consider and implement a fire-rescue impact fee for all new construction so that the current untenable situation can be promptly resolved, and similar situations in the future can be eliminated.

The Committee will be pleased to provide you with any additional information that you would like.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles M. Tatelbaum", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles M. Tatelbaum
On behalf of the Committee

CMT:map

Postscript

The following statement is my own, and it has not been authorized by the Committee, although I believe that the sentiments are shared by all of the Committee members.

While I understand that under normal circumstances it is good to modify the composition of committees such as this with new members, it is, nevertheless, hard to understand why the Commission chose at this time to replace the three most tenured members of the Committee, including the Chair, who possess the most significant institutional history of the disposition of the bond funds, which history and experience cannot be replicated with their loss. There are only two fire stations remaining to be constructed from the fire bond funds, and institutional history and knowledge concerning the construction of the previous fire stations is critical in order to carry out the Committee's responsibilities in making sure that the bond funds are properly spent. At this point, it will be virtually impossible to acquaint new members of the Committee with all of the history concerning the bond funds' expenditures in connection with the construction of the already completed fire stations.

The three members of the Committee who have not been reappointed have all served for more than a decade as volunteers and without any compensation or even appropriate public recognition. They have served the residents and taxpayers of the City of Fort Lauderdale extremely well, and are willing to do so in the future. Thus, my subjective and objective comment after 52 years of practicing law in dealing with distressed businesses is to urge the Commission members to reappoint the three members who have been previously not reappointed. To do otherwise is to provide a disservice to the residents and taxpayers of Fort Lauderdale.